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G/12 CONF

opened Sept. 18,

Sept. 1943 - M

10000/120/965

G/12 CONFERENCES

Opened Sept 18, 1943. Closed May 5, 1944

Sept. 1943 - May 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

Army Sub Com
Lecc *4/13*
41

C. J. K.

Ref/137/2/CA

5 May 1944

SUBJECT: Regional Commissioners Conference.

TO : Distribution below.

1. The next conference will be held in Naples on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday May 30, 31 and June 1, 1944.

2. The Chief Commissioner will preside on Tuesday May 30. The meeting will commence at 0930 hours.

The agenda will be:

a) Reports by Regional Commissioners and SCAO's Armies AMG.

b) Address by Chief Commissioner.

c) Reports by Heads of Sub-Commissions (to be so prepared that they can be delivered in a maximum of 5 minutes) and Vice Presidents of Sections.

3. *Noted*
2.5
a) Vice Presidents are asked to furnish to the Secretary General precis of the proposed remarks of the Directors of Sub-Commissions in their sections by 1200 hours on Monday May 29, 1944.

b) Regional Commissioners and S.C.A.O.'s AMG, Armies will submit their precis to the Director, Civil Affairs Branch (R.C. & M.G. Section) by 1200 hours on Sunday May 28, 1944. **3168**

4. The Executive Commissioner will preside on Wednesday May 31. The meeting will commence at 0930 hours. Vice presidents and Directors of Sub-Commissions may be invited to attend the discussion of agenda items affecting their departments at times to be notified before the meeting.

X | 5. Regional Commissioners and heads of Sub-Commissions are invited to submit suggestions for inclusion in the agenda of the Wednesday meeting. The suggestions should be accompanied by a brief statement on the points to be discussed, which will be circulated to all concerned before the meeting. Suggestions should reach R.C. & M.G. Section Civil Affairs Branch, not later than 13 May 1944.

6. Regional Commissioners and SCAO's AMG Armies are invited to bring one of their Provincial Commissioners with them. Officers attending from outlying stations should assemble in Naples at least one day prior to the opening of the conference. R.C. & M.G. Section should be notified of expected time of arrival in order that accommodation and transport may be arranged where necessary.

(C)

Minutes of a Conference held at 13 CRASC (Sup Units) on 3 May 44
on Formation of a School for Instruction in Italian Army Supply
Accounting.

ST/59

The conference started at 1430 hrs; following were present:

It. Col. H.B. Finch, MC.	ADST, LMIA.
Major Cann.	ADST, LMIA.
" Papineau,	Sup L.O., CATANZARO. (LMIA)
" Bascelles,	ADST, 71 Sub Area.
" Carlton,	OC, 43 BSD, RASC.
" Davidson,	OC, 28 BSD, RASC.
" Dodds,	2nd i/c 29 LofC Tpt Coln.
Captain Craig,	S/Capt, S&T, LMIA.
Lieutenant Freeland,	Sup L.O., LECCS. (LMIA)

Italian Liaison Officers (English speaking)

Col. Core, Cap Pasqualini, Ten Baccani, S/Ten Ciancio
S/Ten Pasoglio.

1. Opening Remarks.

It. Col Finch took the chair in the unavoidable absence of Lt. Col White, 13 CRASC.

On opening the conference, ADST explained the purpose of the meeting, viz that it was proposed to form a School to give instruction in Italian Supply Accounting.

2. Object of Courses.

a. The main object of these Courses was, he explained, to compromise between Italian and British Army Supply Accounting in order that accurate records necessary to LMIA and efficient running of Italian Supply Depots be maintained. The ultimate results would ensure that accounts were submitted correctly and punctually and would prevent over-issuing of rations.

b. ADST stated that Major Papineau was obtaining detailed information as to the Italian Supply Accounting at present in force. In the meantime he requested Officers from 71 Sub Area to give assistance by preparing lectures on general lines of British Supply Accounting, detailed system not being required by them.

3. Method.

The method to be employed was explained in detail by ADST:

- To train Italian Officers, WOs and NCOs to operate Supply Accounting correctly and accurately.
- To provide every Commissariato HQ and Depot with a trained Instructor in Supply Accounting.
- To organise a School ultimately entirely Italian run that will instruct the whole of the Italian Commissariato.

4. Difficulties.

The language difficulty and lack of sufficient instructors in LMIA would be surmounted by the provision of four English speaking

3167

5. Plan of Courses.
Col Finch explained that the School would be started in 3 phases:
a. By using Officers of STIMIA and borrowing Officers from 71 Sub Area as Instructors to teach the Italian Interpreter Officers to be Instructors, and the Italian non-English speaking Officers to be Syndicate Leaders, i.e. in 4 Syndicates of each, 1 Interpreter Officer and 3 other non-English speaking Italian Officers.
b. By using Officers of IMIA and Italian Interpreter Officers as

OUT

2.

5. Plan of Courses (continued)

- b. as/ Instructors to teach the non-English speaking Italian Officers and 60 WOs and NCOs, i.e. in 12 Syndicates of each 1 Italian non-English speaking Officer (Syndicate Leader) and 5 WOs or NCOs.
- c. By using all Italian Instructors, selected after those (b) above has been carried out.

Each Course will last 2 weeks, divided into 3 lectures in the morning and a visit to a Supply Installation in the afternoon, for each of the 12 days. Lectures to last 45 minutes, with 15 minutes for questions.

The first lecture from 0900 to 1000 hrs will be given by Major Papineau; the second from 1000 to 1100 hrs to be given by Officers of 71 Sub Area, and the third lecture from 1130 hrs to 1230 hrs to be given by Officers of MIA.

6. Lectures.

ASST requested visiting officers to prepare their lectures in detail and forward them to him so that they could be translated into Italian. Copies would then be given to all students.

It was stated that Major Papineau, MIA, had been appointed CO the School. At this juncture Major Papineau took over the chair.

7. Policy.

Major Papineau stated that in his opinion, the situation should still be regarded as fluid and open to discussion. The main problems of MIA as he saw them were:

- To obtain a clear receipt from the Italian authorities for Supplies furnished to them.
- To control stock positions to ensure maintenance and to obtain balanced distribution between areas.
- To control issues to ensure compliance with the prescribed Ration Scale.

He inferred that there were many good elements in the present Supply Personnel and in the present Italian System of Accounting, and the latter must be fully reviewed with Commissariato HQ before launching the School.

In his opinion, lectures from Officers of 71 Sub Area should be divided into 5 stages as follows. It was agreed that the Officers named below would be responsible for arranging the lectures:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Lecture from Officer of 54 Port Det RASC. | (Capt. Edwards) |
| b. " " " " " " " " | (Major Davidson) |
| c. " " " " " " " " | (Capt. Watson) |
| d. " " " " " " " " | (Major Dodds : on Unit Messing) |
| e. " " " " " " " " | (13 CRASC (Sup Units), (Major Carlton, for Lt. Col. White.) |

He suggested that following the lecture, the Officer concerned should take the students on a tour of his own installation. This was generally agreed.

Papineau; the second from 1000 to 1100 hrs to be given by Major of 71 Sub Area, and the third lecture from 1130 hrs to 1230 hrs to be given by Officers of 1111.

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11ST requested visiting officers to prepare their lectures in detail and forward them to him so that they could be translated into Italian. Copies would then be given to all students.

It was stated that Major Papineau, 1111A, had been appointed OC the School. At this juncture Major Papineau took over the chair.

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- To control stock positions to ensure maintenance and to obtain balanced distribution between areas.
- To control issues to ensure compliance with the prescribed Retion Scale.

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- | | |
|---|------------------|
| a. Lecture from Officer of 54 Port Det RASC. | (Capt. Edwards) |
| b. " " " " 28 or 45 BSD, RASC. | (Major Davidson) |
| c. " " " " 38 DID, RASC. | (Capt. Watson) |
| d. " " " " 29 Lofc Tpt Coln. (Major Dodds : on Unit Messing) | |
| e. " " " " 15 CRASC (Sup Units). (Major Carlton, for Lt. Col. White.) | |

He suggested that following the lecture, the Officer concerned should take the students on a tour of his own installation. This was generally agreed.

It was arranged that Lecturer's notes would be completed by 11 May 44, and forwarded to Lt. Col. Finch by Major Dodds. Major Papineau requested that they be given in simple language.

8. General View of Course.

a General discussion on the course then followed. Col. Core stated that he considered the course necessary, but that it would probably be more satisfactory to see more of the Italian system first, as suggested by Major Papineau. Major Carlton entirely agreed.

Lt. Col. Finch pointed out the difficulties through which the Italian Army had been passing and that Dogots were gradually being straightened out. The Italian Supply Accounting System was being translated, he said, and it would take some weeks to formulate the basic principles on which to work.

3.

8. General View of Course. (continued)

Major Lascelles appeared uncertain as to the basis upon which outside lectures were to be given, as Italian Army Accounting was unknown to them.

Lt.Col Finch stressed that only lectures on general principles of supply were required in order that students could appreciate the value of an accurate and closely interwoven system.

To assist outside lecturers, copies of the programme for lectures prepared by MMIA were then distributed.

9. Closing Remarks.

a. Lt.Col Finch said that it was vital that four of the five Italian Officers present must stay on the course.

b. Major Papineau stated that he hoped it would be possible to commence the first course on 29 May 44.

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The meeting closed at 1545 hrs.

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Main HQ (MMIA)
LEQUILA (LECCE).
5 May 44.

S. W. Evans
Major,
for Lieut.Colonel,
ADST, Army Sub Commission, ACC.

DISTRIBUTION: Comdr. —
Italian War Ministry.
Officers present at Conference.

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3166



MINUTES of a Conference. Main HQ. Sub  
Commission, A.C.C. (Main HQ.) MIA.

on

S.T. LIAISON OFFICERS.

The Conference started at 1500 hrs.

The following were present:

|                             |                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lieut Colonel H.B. FINCH    | A.D.S.T.                          | - In the Chair, |
| Lieut Colonel G.H. MORLARTY | Chief Liaison Officer,            |                 |
| Lieut Colonel SHIPLEY       | G - 4 ex-FLAMEO.                  |                 |
| Major CANN                  | D.A.D.S.T. MIA.                   |                 |
| Major PAPINEAU              | D.A.D.S.T. CALABRIA Sector,       |                 |
| Major BROWN                 | O.C., Cadre to 1001 It. G.T. Coy  |                 |
|                             | (PALO del COLLE)                  |                 |
| Major CHRISTMAS             | O.C., Cadre to 1002 It. G.T. Coy  |                 |
|                             | (BRINDISI)                        |                 |
| Major TAYLOR                | O.C., Cadre to 1001 It. G.T. Coy: |                 |
|                             | (TARANTO)                         |                 |
| Captain BENATTI             | S/Capt. NAPLES Sector             |                 |
| Captain CRAIG               | S/Capt. MIA.                      |                 |
| Lieutenant FREELAND         | S/Capt. LECCE Sector.             |                 |

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Lieut Colonel FINCH opened the Conference by explaining the purpose of this first meeting of S.T. Liaison Officers. AMST said that although reports were submitted to his branch it was a better plan for the Liaison Officers to call and discuss their reports in person so that any matters not quite clear or which needed clarification could be done on the spot. Personal discussion was better as the risk of misunderstanding by writing was eliminated.

2. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.

Stressing the importance of reports by Liaison Officers, A.D.S.T. explained that it was essential that the report contained all details of the working and general state of the sector under supervision by the LOs. He added that it was of greater value to have an over-written report than one outlining barely the activities of the various sectors. In clarification of the method in which reports should be rendered Lt Col FINCH paid special tribute to those of Major PAPINEAU, said that his reports contained all the required information. These reports were co-ordinated, extracts made and included in MIA A.Q. Weekly Admin Bulletin by Capt CRAIG.

3. CHECKING FEEDING STRENGTHS - LOs SUPERVISION.

In order that a close check could be kept on the alleged feeding strengths supplied by Distribution Depots, A.D.S.T. said that he wanted the Supervising LOs to personally go round one Depot and obtain from the Comd of that Depot

3165

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|               |           |                                                      |
|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Lieut Colonel | SHIPLEY   | G - 4 ex-FLAMBO.                                     |
| Major         | CANN      | D.A.D.S.T. MILA.                                     |
| Major         | PAPINEAU  | D.A.D.S.T. CALABRIA Sector.                          |
| Major         | BROWN     | O.C., Cadre to 1001 It. G.T. Coy<br>(PAIO del COLLE) |
| Major         | CHRISTMAS | O.C., Cadre to 1002 It. G.T. Coy<br>(BRINDISI)       |
| Major         | TAYLOR    | O.C., Cadre to 1001 It. G.T. Coy.<br>(TARANTO)       |
| Captain       | BENATTI   | S/Capt. NAPLES Sector                                |
| Captain       | CRAIG     | S/Capt. MILA.                                        |
| Lieutenant    | FREELAND  | S/Capt. LECCE Sector.                                |

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In order that a close check could be kept on the alleged feeding strengths supplied by Distribution Depots, A.D.S.T. said that he wanted the Supervising LOs to personally go round one Depot and obtain from the Comd of that Depot the complete list of units rationed. In a small Depot 20 - 30 units were supplied with rations, and it was to these units that A.D.S.T. wanted the LOs to tour, obtaining the following information:

- (a) Actual ration strength of units.
- (b) System of recording rations issued.
- (c) System of agreeing parade states with ration strengths.

A.D.S.T. made it clear that unless close supervision was kept on such Units and Depots a system of swindling would come into being and as proof of this he quoted a recent discovery. Comd of a certain Italian unit submitted a ration indent for strength 500. This figure was a true figure but on days when bread and meat was issued the ration strength of this unit soared to 800, and on days

sheet 2/..



## CHECKING FEEDING STANCHIONS - LOS SUPERVISION. (contd)

days/ when Biscuits etc were issued the figure dropped to 200. Thus this Unit had, on days when pasta was issued, 300 rations of meat and bread and only 200 pasta etc though in the decade the rations in total added up correctly.

### 4. SYSTEM OF DISCIPLINE.

After questioning the LOs on the state of discipline in their various areas it was stated by Major X that there was an instance in a certain Unit where a Corporal complained about the food. The Italian officer commanding this unit heard about this complaint, sent for the NCO and awarded him 14 days CB for gross indiscipline.

Major TAYLOR doubted the fact that the Corporal in question would, in fact, be confined to Barracks, said that many men were awarded 40 days imprisonment one day, but the day after their trial they were out driving lorries. He expressed the belief that all such awards were merely "paper transactions".

Lt.Col. MORIARTY explained that he had recently visited the Ministry of War on the matter of discipline and they were looking into it, but added that the present system of discipline in the Italian Army was one of long standing and stamping out or altering of it would be difficult.

ADST agreed, said that the Italian does not understand our system of discipline.

Capt BENATTI said that there was an interesting change in Italians who were trained Drivers from the POLIGNANO driving school. These men were on the strength of 22 and 25 Truck Coys being formed for A.C.C. They were excellent soldiers and well disciplined. Their appearance was smarter because of the new battledress and equipment which had recently been issued.

Lt. FREDLAND also praised a unit of 500 soldiers stationed in LECCE, said that they were all clean and appeared to be well disciplined.

### 5. PRO-FORMA FOR TOURS OF INSPECTION.

It was agreed by Major PAPINEAU and Capt BENATTI to submit to ADST a pro-forma of tour of inspection of all depots day by day. ADST explained that this was required so that he could tell at a glance how long it would take to tour and inspect a whole sector. This was also designed to plan the most economical tour in knowing exactly where the Depots were situated and to eliminate any unnecessary journeys.

### 6. SPECCHIOS - STOCK SHEETS.

Furnishing each LO with a specchio ADST said that the checking up and expediting of these by Supervising LOs would help enormously in the checking of stocks by this office. Lt.Col FINCH asked Supervising LOs to make their own specchio out as then they would be able to keep an even closer check on stocks, in their own sectors.

### 7. CLOTHING & BOOTS.

In a brief review of the clothing situation in their areas, LOs were agreed on the need for more clothing and boots to be supplied to the Italians. ADST said that he was already familiar with the need of these items but explained that there was at present about 50% of each item available for issue and divided the priority of issue into two groups. These were:-

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##### 7. CLOTHING & BOOTS.

In a brief review of the clothing situation in their areas, IOs were agreed on the need for more clothing and boots to be supplied to the Italians. ADST said that he was already familiar with the need of these items but explained that there was at present about 50% of each item available for issue and divided the priority of issue into two groups. These were:-

- (a) Operational Troops.
- (b) Those actively engaged in directly assisting the Allies.

Socks, explained ADST, were difficult to get and issues would be made as and when these stocks became available.

Major BROWN said that we expected Italian soldiers to do a hard day's work like British soldiers, but we were not able to supply them with the equipment and clothing they badly needed. This lack of equipment, said Major BROWN, was probably the cause of their falling down on the job.

In reply to a question from Major TAYLOR, about the issue of summer clothing Lt.Col FINCH said that he understood that a stock of such summer clothing, originally designed for Italians in N.AFRICA, was available in ITI Depots. Such summer clothing would be issued by the Italians. There is only a very little available.



3.

### 9. STOCKS IN DEPOTS - REDUCTION OF.

ADST instructed IOs to check up on holdings of rations in Distribution Depots, and reduce stocks to not more than 20 days. A close check was needed too, on flour stocks, all IOs agreed to take stock of all Flour stocks in all their Depots and report any irregularity to ADST. Flour was the commodity to be checked during the next month.

### 9. REINFORCEMENTS - SPECIALISTS - TRADESMEN.

Major BROWN asked for reinforcements in artificers and specialist tradesmen who were urgently needed. Clerks, blacksmiths, engineers were all badly needed, and Major BROWN asked if it was possible to have these men.

Replying ADST said that in the 5 Italian CT Coys now formed there was a great shortage of skilled men and there was no likelihood of getting such reinforcements.

Lt. Col MORIARTY pointed out that all men who were any good at all were sent to N. AFRICA and were now PW. In this part of Italy at present we were finding our reinforcement difficulty of skilled personnel because of this. All Italian Labour Bns had been combed out and had produced only a few.

### 10. UNLOADING OF ITI SUPPLIES.

Unloading and distribution of rations designed for the Italians was raised by Capt BENNETTI who said that boxes arriving in NAPLES and not marked ITI were being sent into American depots in NAPLES. Subsequently these rations never reached the Italians and unless these crates were marked correctly there would be a serious shortage of ITI stocks in the future.

ADST proposed a greater liaison with NAPLES Port Authorities in this connection, stressed the importance of advanced planning with regard to unloading and distribution of food. A complete report with actual figures on the loss of food was requested from Capt BENNETTI and ADST said that the matter would be investigated thoroughly and taken up with Higher Authority.

### 11. ISSUE OF ANTI MALARIAL EQUIPMENT.

Major BROWN asked what steps had been taken to supply Anti Malarial equipment to ITI soldiers. Asserting that steps had been taken in this direction, Major CANN said that a policy had been worked out, agreed and that the entire matter of anti malarial equipment for Italian soldiers settled.

The meeting ended at 1700 hrs.

Lieut. Colonel,

3164



3164

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The meeting ended at 1700 hrs.

16 Apr 44.

DISTRIBUTION: Comdr.

Original to: Comdr.

Copies to : C(SD)

Q

ST

Circ File.

Major BROWN

Major CHRISTMAS.

Major TAYLOR.

L.O. NAPLES.

L.O. BARI.

L.O. CATANZARO.

L.O. SALERNO.

+ by DO letter.

ADST, Army Sub Comm. ACC.  
Lieut. Colonel,



61 to see  
see 812

612 639

SECRET

See for

1. REPORT ON MEETING BETWEEN GEN. OKILIA AND  
BRIG MILES, COMD FORCE 266 - 7 APRIL AT HQ 2 DISTRICT

(a) General

The meeting lasted ten minutes.

(b) Gen OKILIA stated that:

- He had been recommended to meet Brig MILES by Major HUNTER, BHM to Marshal TITO.
- He was anxious to know the channels of provision and method of demanding supplies and stores for ITALIAN tps in MONTENEGRO, especially CARIBALDI Div and Partisans set to it.
- He wanted to ensure that such stores and supplies i.e. money, replacement of certain technical eqpt, Easter parcels etc actually reached the ITALIAN tps for whom they were intended and were not bypassed by Partisans before delivery.

(c) Brig MILES replied that:

- This was a political question on which he, as a soldier, could not give a decision.
- He would notify AFHQ under whose direct comd Force 266 came, and his Branch in CAIRO of what Gen OKILIA had discussed with him.
- The amount of supplies available and their method of transport to MONTENEGRO were decided by AFHQ after consultation between the YUGOSLAV Gov't and his Branch in CAIRO.
- The allotment of stores and supplies as they arrived in MONTENEGRO was made by the local comd according to needs of ITALIANS and Partisans as a whole.
- The question should be referred to Chief Commissioner A.C.C.

(d) Decisions

- Gen OKILIA would write a personal letter to Gen MACFARLANE whom he had known in BUDAPEST as Military Attache.
- Gen OKILIA would put up his case officially to HQ Allied Control Commission through HMIA.

8 Apr 44

3163  
By C. H. Hume  
Maj

2. MEETING BETWEEN BRIG DUCHESNE AND GEN OKILIA  
on 8 APRIL 44

- (a) Gen OKILIA stated that the CARIBALDI Div had to live on local resources in arrangement with the Partisans who attached supply officers to them for the purpose of requisitioning supplies.



- b) He was anxious to know the channels of provision and method of demanding supplies and stores for ITALIAN tps in MONTENEGRO, especially CARIBALDI Div and Partisans att to it.
- c) He wanted to ensure that such stores and supplies i.e. money, replacement of certain technical eqpt, Easter parcels etc actually reached the ITALIAN tps for whom they were intended and were not bypassed by Partisans before delivery.

(c) Brig HILLS replied that:

- a) This was a political question on which he, as a soldier, could not give a decision.
- b) He would notify AFHQ under whose direct comd Force 266 came, and his Branch in CAIRO of what Gen GILIA had discussed with him.
- c) The amount of supplies available and their method of transport to MONTENEGRO were decided by AFHQ after consultation between the YUGOSLAV Gov't and his Branch in CAIRO.
- d) The allotment of stores and supplies as they arrived in MONTENEGRO was made by the local comd according to needs of ITALIANS and Partisans as a whole.
- e) The question should be referred to Chief Commissioner A.C.C.

(d) Decisions

- a) Gen GILIA would write a personal letter to Gen MACFARLANE whom he had known in BUDAPEST as Military Attache.
- b) Gen GILIA would put up his case officially to HQ Allied Control Commission through WIA.

8 Apr 44

3163  
Maj

2. MEETING BETWEEN BRIG DI CESSE AND GEN GILIA  
on 8 APRIL 44

- (a) Gen GILIA stated that the CARIBALDI Div had to live on local resources in arrangement with the Partisans who attached supply officers to them for the purpose of requisitioning supplies.
- (b) At present he was only anxious to ensure that parcels of stores of Italian (as opposed to Allied) origin sent by air through Force 266 and specifically addressed to CARIBALDI Div duly reached them: quantities were small.
- (c) Anything he writes will be through, or with copy to, Marshal MESSE to avoid duplication.

AEC 9 APR 44

*John J. ...*

Brigadier,  
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.



Continuation of Report Visit to Naples between 6 & 10 Jan 44  
by Lt. Col. E. J. FLENNY ADJUTANT ARMY Sub Corps AGO.

1. Visited NAPLES Port accompanied by Capt CRAIG on 8 Feb.  
(a) Asked Port (American) Office if they were in a position to say what quantities had been discharged to Italian Depots from USAGS. "John Karchner" (vide ARMY ADV Adm Ech Letter 4012/574 dated 2 Feb 44). They were unable to tell from checkers tallies. It is apparent that by the American system of discharging shipping it would be quite impossible for them to obtain any form of really accurate receipt for stores handed over by them to the Italians.  
(b) Went on the quay. An Italian 2nd Lt. was actually checking the cases of cups as they were loaded into Army lorries. It was noticeable that none of the cases had been tampered with and there were no signs of any pilferage.  
(c) Italian Officer appeared to understand what he was intended to do and was doing it efficiently.

2. Visited Italian Supply Depot, NAPLES.  
(a) Noticed that there were seven lorry loads of cups or boxes awaiting off-loading. Only two lorries were actually being worked. The last lorry had been waiting half an hour. The Depot only having one very narrow passage through it does not permit more lorries to be worked at the same time.  
(b) It was suggested to the Depot Centre that he should clear and clean up the ground in the immediate vicinity of the Depot, wire fence it in, and thereby provide himself with more room for expansion.  
(c) It was observed that once again green vegetables were being delivered by Contractor and that they had long unmarketable stores attached. This point was observed in my inspection 23rd Jan para 2(c) and pointed out to the Italian Representatives. The Contractor had men cutting off the unnecessarily long stems in the actual Depot. It is thought that this was being done for my benefit.  
(d) The cups were filling up all the existing storage space in the Depot. The stacking was so congested that it would be quite impossible to take stock in the Depot.  
(e) There was an Italian 2nd Lt. and Lieut checking cups into the Depot and Italian civilians labouring. It was remarkable that there was no pilferage observed.

3. Visited Ufficio Comandamento Via Roma, Box 14, Col. de Maglio.  
(a) Explained that it is necessary that more accommodation for cups be found, if possible in the vicinity of the existing Italian Depot. Pointed out that it was not necessary to put canned goods under cover. It would be sufficient to clear open ground and wire fence it in.  
(b) Pointed out the importance of not keeping lorries under load. It is essential that lorries be off-loaded immediately on arrival at the Italian Depot. The further accommodation should enable this to be done.  
(c) Pointed out that it is desirable that the same officers be employed at discharging unloading in the dock and that these officers should endeavour to get acquainted with the Allied Officers they may be working with.

4. On 9 Feb visited Italian Supply Depot NAPLES.  
(a) Ref my inspection dated 29th Jan para 7, it was recommended to British A.C. Troops that the accommodation provided for the Italian cup Depot was most unsuitable and that in consequence of the semi-decayed building being employed the stores were becoming increasingly damaged by weather. British 3rd Troops had pointed out to do something.  
(b) It is observed that though a fortnight had elapsed nothing has been done and the Italian cups are still heaped in the same accommodation.  
5. On 10th Feb reported to ST BRITISH accompanied by Capt WILSON.  
(a) Asked Maj Col Warner if it would be possible to provide two additional clerks and six extra drivers for Army Sub Corps. This is quite impossible.  
(b) It was discussed that 2nd Italian 2nd Lt. would be pleased at the disposal of AGO for distribution of food to civilian population.

3162



2. Visited Italian Supply Depot, HAZEL.
- (a) Noted that there were seven lorry loads of bags on docks awaiting off-loading. Only two lorries were actually being worked. The last lorry had been waiting half an hour. The Depot only having one very narrow passage through it does not permit more lorries to be worked at the same time.
- (b) It was suggested to the Depot Comdr that he should clear and clean up the ground in the immediate vicinity of the Depot, wire fence it in, and thereby provide himself with more room for expansion.
- (c) It was observed that once again green vegetables were being delivered by Contractor and that they had long unmarketable stems attached. This point was observed in my inspection 25rd Jan para 2(c) and pointed out to the Italian Representative. The Contractor had been cutting off the unnecessarily long stems in the actual Depot. It is thought that this was being done for my benefit.
- (d) The bags were filling up all the existing storage space in the Depot. The stacking was so congested that it would be quite impossible to take stock in the Depot.
- (e) There was an Italian 2nd Lieut checking bags into the Depot and Italian civilians labouring. It was remarkable that there was no pilferage observed.
3. Visited Ufficio Commissariato Via Roma, San 16, Col. de la Jolla.
- (a) Explained that it is necessary that there be accommodation for bags be found, if possible in the vicinity of the existing Italian Depot. Pointed out that it was not necessary to put cases goods under cover. It would be sufficient to clear open ground and wire fence it in.
- (b) Pointed out the importance of not keeping lorries under loads. It is essential that lorries be off-loaded immediately on arrival at the Italian Depot. The further accommodation should enable this to be done.
- (c) Pointed out that it is desirable that the same officers be employed at discharging shipping in the docks and that those officers should endeavour to get acquainted with the Allied Officers they may be working with.
4. On 9 Feb visited Italian Supply Depot KATINA.
- (a) After my inspection dated 25th Jan para 7, it was recommended to British S.A. Troops that the accommodation provided for the Italian Supply Depot was most unsuitable and that in consequence of the bad-weather building being employed the stores were becoming damaged by weather. British S.A. Troops had promised to do something.
- (b) It is observed that though a fortnight had elapsed nothing has been done and the Italian bags are still heaped in the same accommodation.
5. On 10th Feb reported to at HAZEL accompanied by Cape Military.
- (a) Asked Major and Warner if it would be possible to provide two additional elements and six extra drivers for Army Sub Com. This is quite impossible.
- (b) It was discussed that 20th Italian Coy would be placed at the disposal of ADU for distribution of food to civilian population. ADU intended to send 1000 to ADU and completely wash their hands of them. They intended to remove the British Centre, intended to hand over the British vehicles entirely to the Italians. They also intended to reduce the strength of the Italian personnel to approx 250 Italian CAs and transfer the remainder to 1002 Italian Coy to bring them up to strength.
- (c) It would appear that training at KATINA of 1002 Italian Coy has come to a standstill because of lack of petrol. This matter was recommended to ADU (Lt. Col. Logan) and it was recommended that the Order 558 Motor Tank Coy be asked to issue fuel. It was later arranged unofficially with 558 Motor Tank Coy that this should be done. ADU signal No. 550 dated 9 Feb refers.

(d) .....  
 785020



-2-

5. (continued)

(4) DISTO DISTRO wanted to know about the conference of Cadre Commanders of Italianized Units convened by Army Sub Com, to be held at LAMZIA at 1500 hrs Saturday 12 Feb. ADST, Army Sub Com pointed out that it was an endeavour to smooth out difficulties and would discuss matters regarding clothing, pay and rations etc. DISTRO was invited to send a representative to attend. WELA signal No. 57/50 dated 4 Feb refers.

In the Field.  
11 Feb 44.  
DZ

Original to: Gnd  
Copies to : G(ED) ✓

SE  
Circs File.  
Policy File (SE).

*David H. Ford*  
Lt. Col,  
ADST, WELA,  
Army Sub Com, MOA.

PAGE



REPORT VISIT TO NAPLES WITH COL. ZELLARS, AMERICAN  
ARMY BETWEEN 6th and 10th FEB by Lt Col H.B. FINCH, ADST, MMLA.

1. Reported at 1000 hrs 7th Feb to Room 13, Second Floor, HQ A.C.C. Naples. Present were Col. ZELLARS, Lt Col FINCH, Major CHOWN, Major HALL and Capt. CRAIG.
2. Col. ZELLARS went in to see General MASON MACFARLANE, then returned stating that he would have to go because General MACFARLANE had ordered him back to C.E.M.E.G. He left us and Brig. GUNTERBOCK called us into his room.
3. Brig. GUNTERBOCK asked if "Q" MMLA was represented. Lt Col FINCH stated that he would be prepared to act for "Q" in addition to S.T.
4. Brig. GUNTERBOCK handed me a letter attached, and said:
- Sups for Italian Army would be found from several different sources.
  - It was necessary to obtain a signature at Port for all commodities and quantities handed over in the first place.
  - There must be some sort of supervision as to how supplies should be used and disposed of in addition.
  - MMLA was chiefly concerned with Italian Army but other forces (Air Force and Navy) also came into it.
  - Present system of supply for Allied sources in Italy presented no difficulties but supplies shipped direct would be difficult.
  - An organisation to accept stores in bulk must be set up.
  - Then there must be a percentage check made periodically.
  - This organisation cannot come from A.C.C.
  - What is to happen to receipts after they are obtained will have to be decided later. Signatures must be obtained on receipts to support accounts to be submitted later at final settlement.
  - Col. FINCH to see Col. GRAFFIN SMITH, Chief Accountant, top floor, and discuss type of receipts etc., required.
  - Col. FINCH to see Brig Gen HANDELER, Deputy to Gen ROBERTSON to arrange American and British co-operation.
  - Col. FINCH to see Col. FINCH, in A.C.C. with a view to getting Transport co-operation.

5. Reported to Col. GRAFFIN SMITH with whom was Col. CRAWSHAW.
- Record of all transactions must be kept, but A.C.C. were not in a position to provide an Auditor or Accounts Officer.
  - A.C.C. required a statement every month of all receipts the Italians acknowledge having received during the month.
  - M.M.L.A. is in a position to obtain from the Italians a statement every month of what they have received. This must be considered as final. A.C.C. would call upon Allies to provide receipts for all sups handled by them to Italians.
  - Discrepancy between Allied Statement and Italian Statement would have to be disposed of later.
  - It would have to be decided as to which figure would be acceptable.
  - Two statements would be necessary showing sups as provided by - One Americans - two British.
  - M.M.L.A. not in a position to price statements, and statements though consolidated and in bulk would be in considerable detail.

6. Reported to Col. VERE PAINTER, Quartermaster P.B.S.
- Col. FINCH explained situation.
  - Americans appear to have Services Liaison Officers in their Ports.

These not similarly to British Services Port Detachments in British Ports.

3161



and quantities handed over in the first place.  
 (c) There must be some sort of supervision as to how supplies should be used and disposed of in addition.  
 (d) M.M.I.A. was chiefly concerned with Italian Army but other forces (Air Force and Navy) also came into it.  
 (e) Present system of supply for Allied sources in Italy presented no difficulties but supplies shipped direct would be difficult.  
 (f) An organisation to accept stores in bulk must be set up.  
 (g) Then there must be a percentage check made periodically.  
 (h) This organisation cannot come from A.C.C.  
 (i) What is to happen to receipts after they are obtained will have to be decided later. Signatures must be obtained on receipts to support accounts to be submitted later at final settlement.  
 (j) Col. FINCH to see Col. GRAFFY SMITH, Chief Accountant, top floor, and discuss type of receipts etc., required.  
 (k) Col. FINCH to see Brig Gen HAMELIN, Deputy to Gen ROBERTSON to arrange American and British co-operation.  
 (l) Col. FINCH to see Col. FITCH, Th A.C.C. with a view to getting Transport co-operation.

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(f) Two statements would be necessary showing sups as provided by - One Americans - two British.

(g) M.M.I.A. not in a position to price statements, and statements thought consolidated and in bulk would be in considerable detail.

6. Reported to Col. VERE PALMER, Quartermaster P.B.S.

(a) Col. FINCH explained situation.

(b) Americans appear to have Services Liaison Officers in their Ports.

(c) Col. PALMER stated that no staffs could be found.

(d) American Liaison Officers in Ports could not obtain receipts for supplies as handed over to Italians.

(e) Americans were prepared to clear Port and Dumps, Sups in Italian warehouses, but would not be responsible for quantities.

(f) Col. PALMER did not agree with American responsibility for correctness of quantities as handed over to the Italians. He considered that this a duty of M.M.I.A.

3161

2/....



-2-

Reported to Lt Col FOSTER, G 4, P.B.S.

7. (a) Was prepared to obtain a receipt on General Forms only for Italians for stocks dumped in their Depots.  
(b) Relating personnel in Port could not obtain detailed receipt and P.B.S. could not find the personnel to do it.

8. Reported to Brig Gen HAMELIN, Deputy to Gen. ROBERTSON.

- (a) Explained situation and showed letters, as attached.  
(b) Brig Gen HAMELIN convened a meeting for 5 P.M. 8th Feb.

9. Reported to Lt. Col. POWELL, A.D.S.T. FLANDRO.

- (a) Col. POWELL did not wish to intervene a link between sups sent from America and handed over to Italians.  
(b) He agreed that a type of Port Detachment consisting of Italians with an Allied Officer and an Allied clerk would be required.  
(c) He did not agree that this should be ~~that~~ ~~that~~ ~~that~~ responsible to the Port and District Organizations. He considered that it should be responsible to M.M.I.A.

10. Reported to Col. ACKERLEY, MOV 5, FLANDRO.

- (a) He stated that only one ship at a time could go to TARANTO. At present Italian sups were coming in ships loaded with Allied sups and ships had to be sent to destination where greatest part of cargo had to be off-loaded. Italian sups were only a small portion usually.  
(b) It was quite possible that Italian sups would have to be off-loaded at BRINDISI for above reason.  
(c) Most ships with Italian sups would be discharged at BARI.  
(d) Movement of sups into Italian Depots was acknowledged a Movements responsibility, and Italian sups landed at BARI could be moved to TARANTO without difficulty.  
(e) All transactions for CROTONE come under MOV, REGGIO.  
(f) Col. ACKERLEY agreed to try and obtain details of breakdown of cargoes sent direct to M.M.I.A.

11. Reported to Col. FITCH, Tn Civil, A.C.C. who referred the matter to Major GLANVILLE, his Assistant Tn ANG.

- (a) Major GLANVILLE agreed that CROTONE required a Ports Officer to co-ordinate matters there. He could not provide one.  
(b) With regard to Pack Loading from CROTONE - This would have to be bid for from No. 2 Region, MATERA.  
(c) At present CATANZARO and CROTONE came under Capt. DEMAREST at REGGIO.

3160

CONFERENCE AT 1500 hrs., 7th Feb. D.A.A. & Q.M.G. in Chair.

- (a) Mov to arrange for early information of breakdown to be sent as quickly as possible direct to M.M.I.A.  
(b) M.M.I.A. would have to do provisionally ahead, one month in advance. S.T. MIA would have to make bid through "Q" MIA. MIA will have to attend 10-Day Tonnage Bids.  
(c) Present stocks arriving were presumed to have been estimated by U.S.A.  
(d) No Policy regarding Reserves so far laid down. MIA asked for 30 days reserve including working margin.  
(e) "Q"2, P88 were asked to provide Depots for Italians in NAPLES.



(c) ... not agree that this should be that ~~it~~ should be responsible to the Port and District Organizations. He considered that it should be responsible to M.M.I.A.

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- (c) Present stocks arriving were presumed to have been estimated by U.S.A. reserve including working margin.
- (d) No Policy regarding Reserves so far laid down. MIA asked for 30 days (e) "Q"2, PBS were asked to provide Depots for Italians in NAPLES. They complained that Italians were in a better position to find further accommodation. MIA (Capt. MONICO) was asked to inform Italians that they must find further Depot accommodation.
- (f) PBS agreed to help by clearing accommodation if necessary.
- (g) Nov 5 reported that they had asked that all Italian ships be despatched together in one ship to be discharged at TARANTO.
- (h) In Operational Zone, Italians will be fed from Allied Stocks. Allied stocks so expended to be obtained from nearest Italian Depot in Bear.
- (i) Italian Formations of a Division, or more than 15,000 would be maintained by Pack Train direct from Italian Depot to Italian Formation. Special instructions will be issued when this became necessary.

3/...







all stocks sent to Italian.  
 .....also sufficient Depot account.

TO  
 FROM

- ITALIA was asked to provide more Italian Officers.
- (a) All Italian Officers would inform how amount of accommodation available. When this has been filled, additional stocks are to be added to ITALIA.
- (b) All lines for movements in Calabria must be submitted by Italia for 7 day periods on Thursday for movements commencing week following Monday. Copy to HQ for next 15-17.
- (c) P.O.L. for Operational losses would be found from Allied stocks. Italian running part of Allied Units would draw through their Allied Hq. whether in Operational losses or in Rear.
- (d) Italian Units in Rear would draw from Italian P.O.L. Depots.
- (e) M.H.L. is asked to provide information regarding the situation in Sicily and Calabria.
- (f) Americans stated that they did not feel that they had any responsibility with regard to furnishing figures regarding Out turn of ships. They would off load ships and clear to Italian warehouses, but could give no details.
- (g) S.S. stated that it had been found impossible to obtain Out turn figures for British Depots for British ships. This was a matter at present being taken up with the W.C. They could not do for Italians what ~~was~~ was found already impossible.
- (h) A.C. agreed that an Italian type of Port Detachment with one or two Allied Attaches was required to ensure that Italian Depots were correctly handled, sorted and dispatched to Italian Depots.
- (i) A suggestion was made that the Italians should be asked to supply figures as shown on ships manifest and that it was only fair that they should take their share of shipping losses.
- (j) Chairman decided to refer the matter back to A.S.H.C.
- (k) M.H.L. asked with regard to provision of additional personnel. Chairman agreed to recommend the matter.

3159

12. He asked to Brig. HUGHES R.C.M.C.

Stated that it was very disappointed that a decision had not been reached with regard to matter of accounting for stocks received in ports.

In the Field.  
 10 Feb 44.

Original to: Comd  
 Copy to : - G. H. Q.  
 C. H. Q.  
 C. H. Q.

Circ. File  
 Policy File (ST)

*Donald W. Smith*

1st Col.  
 A.S.H.C. & M.H.L.  
 Army Sub Comm. A.C.C.



Subject: - Conference on Administrative Problems in connection  
with Maintenance of Italian Military Forces.

SECRET

A.F.H. J. Adv Adm Ech,  
C. M. F.

H.M.I.A. (4 copies) ✓  
C(Sd)  
'A'  
Q 1  
Q 2  
Q 3  
Med

S.T.  
Ord  
R.E.M.E.  
Works  
Lab  
Salvage.

62/Q

1 February 1944.

MILITARY MISSION.

Date 3 February 1944.

to  
ITALIAN ARMY.

1. Attached minutes of Conference held on 22 Jan 44 are forwarded for your information and action as necessary.
2. Heads of Services are required to submit draft appendices for an administrative instruction to this branch by 10 Feb 44.

*W. Mackay*  
for

3158

Major General,  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to :- H.Q., A.C.M.F. (2 copies)  
D.Q.M.G.  
G - 4  
H.M.I.A. L.O.

(5)



SECRET

# MINUTES of a Conference held at AFHQ Adv Adm Echelon on 22 Jan 44

on

## ADM POLICY - ITALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

### 1. The following were present :-

|                         |                           |                |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Brig. W.H.D. Ritchie    | D.Q.M.G.                  | - in the chair |
| Brig. C.M. Paton        | D.A.G.                    |                |
| Brig. H.M. Hinde        | D.D.S.T.                  |                |
| Brig. G.O. Crawford     | D.D.O.S.                  |                |
| Brig. R.E. Broadhurst   | D.D.M.E.                  |                |
| Col. T.E. Ferriman      | D.D.L.                    |                |
| Lt-Col. K.W. MacQueen   | G(SD), H.Q., A.C.M.F.     |                |
| Lt-Col. S.H. Ingledew   | G(SD)                     |                |
| Lt-Col. T. Welch        | A.L.G.                    |                |
| Lt-Col. C.C. Parkman    | A.D.W.                    |                |
| Lt-Col. C.E.L.S. Dawson | A.D.S.T. (T).             |                |
| Lt-Col. Cridgall        | A.D.M.E.                  |                |
| Lt-Col. H.B. Finch      | A.D.S.T., M.M.I.A.        |                |
| Lt-Col. Shutto          | C.E.M.E.C.                |                |
| Major W.H. Woodford     | G(SD) U.S.                |                |
| Major Carew Hunt        | D.A.A. & Q.M.G., M.M.I.A. |                |
| Major G.J.F. Mackay     | D.A.A.M.G. (3)            |                |
| Major J.G. Jamieson     | D.A.D.M.S.                |                |
| Major R.A. Chown        | D.A.D.O.S., M.M.I.A.      |                |
| Capt. J.R. Monico       | L.O., M.M.I.A.            |                |
| Capt. B.M. Roberts      | S.O., 'Q' (3).            |                |

### 2. OPENING REMARKS. ✓

DQMG stated that the conference had been called to examine the administrative problems affecting British interests in the maintenance of Italian military forces in the light of recent policy directives from AFHQ. Particular reference was made to AFHQ letter AG 400-1 (ITALY) GDS-AM of 9 Jan, which emphasised that it was essential that the Italians assumed full responsibility for their own administration in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, with minimum Allied assistance. DLA & QMG MLI pointed out that MLI were at present only concerned with the island, and it was decided to limit the discussion to the mainland, and to questions affecting Italian Army only, and exclude Air Force and Navy.

### 3. ITALIAN ORGANISATION.

(a) DLA & QMG MLI stated that under the Italian Organisation, the Ministry of War were responsible for provision and the Stato Maggiore for Distribution, but their respective responsibilities were only just becoming defined. At Corps level and above the Italians had shown themselves keen and efficient, but below Corps level their efficiency was doubtful and they were suspicious of the genuineness of Allied intentions. There were many difficulties in that their organization was very different to ours e.g. different services handled Petrol Oil and Lubricants, Supplies and ammunition, while Signals and Engineering were handled by the Italian Army.



|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brig. H.M. Hinde        | D.D.S.T.                  |
| Brig. G.O. Crawford     | D.D.O.S.                  |
| Brig. R.E. Broadhurst   | D.D.M.E.                  |
| Col. T.E. Pezman        | D.D.L.                    |
| Lt-Col. K.W. MacQueen   | G(SD), H.Q., A.C.M.F.     |
| Lt-Col. S.M. Ingledew   | G(SD)                     |
| Lt-Col. T. Welch        | A.L.G.                    |
| Lt-Col. C.C. Payman     | A.D.W.                    |
| Lt-Col. C.E.L.S. Dawson | A.D.S.T. (T).             |
| Lt-Col. Criddall        | A.D.M.E.                  |
| Lt-Col. H.B. Finch      | A.D.S.T., M.M.I.A.        |
| Lt-Col. Shutte          | C.E.M.E.C.                |
| Major W.H. Woodford     | G(SD) U.S.                |
| Major Carew Hunt        | D.A.A. & O.M.G., M.M.I.A. |
| Major G.J.F. Mackay     | D.A.Q.M.G. (3)            |
| Major J.G. Jamieson     | D.A.D.M.S.                |
| Major R.A. Chown        | D.A.D.O.S., M.M.I.A.      |
| Capt. J.R. Monico       | L.O., M.M.I.A.            |
| Capt. B.M. Roberts      | S.O., 'G' (3).            |

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(b) At present, with Eighth Army, HQ 209 Coast Div was acting as HQ Italian Forces and was itself responsible to Italian 9 Corps. It was proposed to split this HQ and place one part at Army Railroad. In Fifth Army there was an Administrative HQ behind the DAPINO Rd. GSOL(SD) FLAMBO stated it was the intention to organise 227 Coast Div HQ to supervise the administration of all Italian units in 57 Area and 94 Sub-Area, and 210 Coast Div HQ to do the same for all units in Fifth Army and Peninsular Base Section, which would move forward. Under the present set up both these Div HQs would be under administrative command Gen RASSO's HQ.

ACTION : G(SD)

2/.....



- 2 -

4. ALLIED SUPERVISION.

(a) MIIA stressed that too much supervision (i.e. British personnel in the depots permanently) would only upset the Italian temperament, and convince them that we did not trust them. It was <sup>however</sup> agreed that supervision was necessary. At present Italian depots are small and very scattered. A list of contents was being compiled, but for this they had to rely largely on Italian figures. After some discussion it was agreed that supervision might best be carried out under Sub-Area organisation, since MIIA did not possess the staff for this purpose.

ACTION : Heads of services to arrange such supervision through service channels.

(b) MIIA represented that they should control issues from Italian depots on both sides of the country, and make bulk allotments to Peninsular Base Section. At present, Peninsular Base Section controlled depots in Naples Area.

ACTION : 'Q' to examine with G-4.

5. RECEIPT AND STORAGE OF STORES AND SUPPLIES FROM ALLIED SOURCES.

There was considerable discussion on this as a result of which the following were the main conclusions reached :-

(a) Italians must be responsible for transporting stores sent specifically for them from the Docks to their own depots. If they were incapable of doing this MIIA must inform 'Q' Flanbo who must be prepared to render all assistance possible. Supervision to be carried out by Areas under direction from Heads of services concerned.

ACTION : MIIA to co-ordinate with Italians.

(b) Stores specifically sent for Italians were not to be held in British depots.

(c) Satisfactory Italian depots for Ordnance stores existed

|        |   |                                               |
|--------|---|-----------------------------------------------|
| NAPLES | - | Via Garibaldi.                                |
| BARI   | - | Stabilimento La Roca,<br>Estraurale Capruzzi. |

(d) No satisfactory Italian depots existed for acceptance of the tonnage of RASC supplies expected by 30 January.

ACTION : 'Q' in conjunction with MIIA to take this matter up forthwith with No 2 District and Peninsular Base Section.

6. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD SUPPLIES FOR ITALIANS.

(a) At present Italian troops in the forward areas



ACTION : Heads of services to arrange such supervision through service channels.

(b) MIA represented that they should control issues from Italian depots on both sides of the country, and make bulk allotments to Peninsular Base Section. At present, Peninsular Base Section controlled depots in Naples Area.

ACTION : 'Q' to examine with G-4.

# 5. RECEIPT AND STORAGE OF STORES AND SUPPLIES FROM ALLIED SOURCES.

There was considerable discussion on this as a result of which the following were the main conclusions reached :-

(a) Italians must be responsible for transporting stores sent specifically for them from the Docks to their own depots. If they were incapable of doing this MIA must inform 'Q' Flaibo who must prepare to render all assistance possible. Supervision to be carried out by Areas under direction from Heads of services concerned.

ACTION : MIA to co-ordinate with Italians.

(b) Stores specifically sent for Italians were not to be held in British depots.

(c) Satisfactory Italian depots for Ordnance stores existed

NAPLES - Via Garibaldi.

BARI - Stabilimento La Roca,  
Estraurale Caprucci.

(d) No satisfactory Italian depots existed for acceptance of the tonnage of RASC supplies expected by 30 January.

ACTION : 'Q' in conjunction with MIA to take this matter up forthwith with No 2 District and Peninsular Base Section.

# 6. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD SUPPLIES FOR ITALIANS.

(a) At present Italian troops in the forward area were supplied in the normal way from Army Roadhead or Corps P.M.C. It was decided that this system should continue until Italian formations in the forward area were large enough to warrant a special pack train of their own. In this latter event it would become necessary for MIA to submit their train requirement to 'Q' Flaibo.

(b) When special Italian food supplies arrive in this country ST will demand equivalent amounts from MIA to compensate for issues made in the forward area

3/.....



- 3 -

(c) Delivery of supplies to Italian units in British formations in Army areas must normally continue to be a British responsibility. Italian formations must use their own transport for 2nd and 3rd line and be self supporting. At present this only applied to the Dopino Brigade.

(d) Distribution of supplies to Italian units and detachments in rear of Army boundaries must normally be an Italian responsibility.

ACTION : MIIA to inform Italians of their responsibilities.

#### 7. DISTRIBUTION OF STORES FROM ITALIAN DEPOTS (other than Supplies).

(a) It was decided that MIIA must be responsible for the movement of stores, such as clothing, from Italian depots to Army Railroad, and must make the necessary application to MOVEIT for rail space. The Italian Administrative HQ at Army Railroad would be responsible for handling the stores on arrival at Army Railroad.

(b) Responsibility for distribution to units/In 6(c) and (d) above.

ACTION : MIIA as necessary.

#### 8. CLOTHING.

(a) Scale for issue of clothing supplied from Allied sources had been laid down by AFHQ, and sufficient for approximately 200,000 with reserves in certain items are in course of shipment.

(b) The chain of demand would be through Italian channels to MIIA, who would allot priorities of issue.

(c) Future provision must be a matter for AFHQ, but MIIA submitted fortnightly to Flambo an estimate of future requirements for the next four months. This estimate was being passed on to AFHQ.

(d) DDOS brought up the question of issue of Khaki Drill to Italians, but MIIA stated this would not be necessary.

(e) MIIA raised the question of special marking for battle dress issued to the Italians, and said that they had asked if "ITALIA" could be put on the shoulder. No objection was raised to this suggestion in so far as green dyed battledress was concerned, so long as the Italians provided the badges. DDOS said that the small quantity of undyed battledress which had been issued urgently to Italians in 10 Corps had been marked with black collar and black band round legs. It was ruled that distinctive badges would NOT be put on undyed battledress.

ACTION : MIIA to inform Italians of this decision.

(f) DDL asked if boots issued to Italians were to be repaired or worn out. DDOS confirmed that they were to be repaired under Italian

3156



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(b) Responsibility for distribution to units/in <sup>6</sup>(c) and (d) above.

ACTION : MILA as necessary.

### 8. CLOTHING.

(a) Scale for issue of clothing supplied from Allied sources had been laid down by AFHQ, and sufficient for approximately 200,000 with reserves in certain items are in course of shipment.

(b) The chain of demand would be through Italian channels to MILA, who would allot priorities of issue.

(c) Future provision must be a matter for AFHQ, but MILA submitted fortnightly to Flabco an estimate of future requirements for the next four months. This estimate was being passed on to AFHQ.

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3156

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ACTION : MILA to inform Italians of this decision.

(f) DDL asked if boots issued to Italians were to be repaired or worn out. DDOS confirmed that they were to be repaired under Italian arrangements or worn out. They had already been repaired and were below British standard. The question of provision of grindery for repair of Italian boots in Italian workshops had already been taken up with AFHQ by 'Q' and G-4.

### 9. ACCOMMODATION STORES AND GENERAL STORES.

There was no clear policy about provision of these. The system of demand and issue should be through MILA as for clothing. MILA stated they had received no very pressing demands yet for accommodation

4/.....



- 4 -

stores, but Italian stocks were virtually NIL. DADMS pointed out that based on a bed provision of  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  a further 7,500 hospital beds were required.

ACTION : MILA to examine the provision aspect of these stores and advise estimate of necessary requirements. Ordnance to investigate and report on provision of beds.

#### 10. WARLIKE STORES.

(a) AFHQ had placed all Italian stores on the mainland at the disposal of the Italians after release by MILA. Under exceptional circumstances Allied Warlike stores may be released to an Italian unit for a special purpose by the employing Allied formations. The commitment was not considered sufficient to warrant special provision action.

(b) Major requirements such as the re-equipment of Italian formations was a policy matter for AFHQ and HQ ACIF and beyond the scope of the present conference.

#### 11. VEHICLES AND M.V. STORES.

(a) 400 Class III and IV vehicles had already been released for Italian G.T. Companies. It was emphasized that these vehicles were only for training purposes, and later the Italians would take over better vehicles or the vehicles of the British Company when they relieved. MILA were asked to make this clear to the Italians who had apparently shown some resentment at the class of vehicles given to them. DBST stated 10 G.T. Companies were planned, of which 5 were formed and the fourth in process of formation - it did not seem likely that more could be available owing to shortage of drivers. G(SD) HQ ACIF said Freedman had refused their application for release of Prisoner of War drivers.

ACTION : DQIG to ask DQIO to reconsider this application.

(b) Issue of vehicles to Italian units with British cadres would be made to the Italian units, and the British cadre would be responsible for documentation, rendering census returns and issue and indenting for spares etc. Issues to other purely Italian units must be made to a British unit to be nominated by the formation under whom they worked. This British unit would then be responsible for the vehicles.

(c) As regards spares DDOS said there would be no difficulty provided census forms were rendered, as provision based on census was automatic.

(d) The provision of spares for Italian type vehicles was bound to present a problem, and MILA confirmed stocks were very scarce. Q(AE) were investigating what stocks of tyres etc. were available in Misale East, but a large commitment for British vehicles was foreseen. This applied equally to requirements of AEG.

(e) DADMS stated that the formation of one platoon an Ambulance Car Company for use by Italian Hospitals was necessary. G(SD) Please state that...



the disposal of the Italians after release by MILA. Under exceptional circumstances Allied Warlike stores may be released to an Italian unit for a special purpose by the employing Allied formations. The commitment was not considered sufficient to warrant special provision action.

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# 11. VEHICLES AND M.T. STORES.

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ACTION : DQIG to ask DCAO to reconsider this application.

(b) Issue of vehicles to Italian units with British cadres would be made to the Italian units, and the British cadre would be responsible for documentation, rendering census returns and issue and indenting for spares etc. Issues to other purely Italian units must be made to a British unit to be nominated by the formation under whom they worked. This British unit would then be responsible for the vehicles.

(c) As regards spares DDOS said there would be no difficulty provided census forms were rendered, as provision based on census was automatic.

(d) The provision of spares for Italian type vehicles was bound to present a problem, and MILA confirmed stocks were very scarce. Q(AB) were investigating what stocks of tyres etc. were available in Middle East, but a large commitment for British vehicles was foreseen. This applied equally to requirements of ANG.

(e) DADMS stated that the formation of one platoon an Ambulance Car Company for use by Italian Hospitals was necessary. G(SD) Flambo stated that at present all Italian Ambulance Car Companies being formed were for use by British, and the formation of a new unit for Italian domestic use must be considered with the existing priority list.

ACTION : 'Q' to investigate the availability of Ambulance Cars. G(SD) to examine the formation of a new unit.

5/.....



- 5 -

11.

M.T. REPAIRS.

DDME and DDST agreed that

(a) 1st and 2nd line repairs must be done by Italian unit workshops. Isolated units without workshops must be a British commitment.

(b) 3rd and 4th line repairs must be a British commitment.

(c) Repairs to Italian type vehicles would not be possible, where spares were required as there were almost non-existent.

DDMG stated that repairs of AMG vehicles must further be considered a joint British - U.S. commitment.

ACTION : 'Q' to examine in conjunction G-4 with AMG.

13.

ENGINEER STORES AND WORKS SERVICES.

ADW stated at present the method of accounting and recording was laid down by DW, AFHQ Technical Instruction No 13, but no authority for issue of stores or works construction existed.

DDMG stated that the necessity for certain issues and works services must be faced. He directed that MMA specified channels of demands to the Italians, and screen all their demands. Demands would then be passed through normal Area and District channels. Large projects must be authorized by 'Q' Flambo.

ACTION : 'Q' to take up in conjunction DDW with AFHQ.

14.

MEDICAL STORES.

DADMS stated Italian stocks and captured stocks in North Africa were now being consumed and would not last long. Issue of necessary items were already being made from Allied sources, and they were prepared to undertake this commitment, but no authority for such issues existed. The monthly tonnage required was not expected to exceed 30 tons.

ACTION : 'Q' to take up in conjunction DDMS with AFHQ **3155**

15.

HOSPITALIZATION.

It was agreed by MMA and DADMS that hospital accommodation for Italians was insufficient, and 7,500 more beds were required to provide 3 1/2 cover (see para 6 above). DDMG directed that DDMS must consider to what extent hospital sites can be released to Italians as the advance continues. It was agreed that Italian requirements of medical personnel for domestic use must have priority over those required for dilution of British medical units.

ACTION : MMA to produce a medical plan in conjunction with DDMS.



(c) Repairs to Italian type vehicles would not be possible, where spares were required as there were almost non-existent.

DQM stated that repairs of AMG vehicles must further be considered a joint British - U.S. commitment.

ACTION : 'Q' to examine in conjunction G-4 with AMG.

### 13. ENGINEER STORES AND WORKS SERVICES.

ADW stated at present the method of accounting and recording was laid down by DW, AFHQ Technical Instruction No 13, but no authority for issue of stores or works construction existed.

DQM stated that the necessity for certain issues and works services must be faced. He directed that MIA specified channels of demands to the Italians, and screen all their demands. Demands would then be passed through normal Area and District channels. Large projects must be authorized by 'Q' Flambo.

ACTION : 'Q' to take up in conjunction DDW with AFHQ.

### 14. MEDICAL STORES.

DAMES stated Italian stocks and captured stocks in North Africa were now being consumed and would not last long. Issue of necessary items were already being made from Allied sources, and they were prepared to undertake this commitment, but no authority for such issues existed. The monthly tonnage required was not expected to exceed 30 tons.

ACTION : 'Q' to take up in conjunction DMS with AFHQ **3155**  
HOSPITALIZATION.

It was agreed by MIA and DAMES that hospital accommodation for Italians was insufficient, and 7,500 more beds were required to provide 3 1/2 cover (see para 8 above). DQM directed that DMS must consider to what extent hospital sites can be relocated to Italians as the advance continues. It was agreed that Italian requirements of medical personnel for domestic use must have priority over those required for dilution of British medical units.

ACTION : MIA to produce a medical plan in conjunction with DMS.

### 16. SALVAGE.

It was agreed that all salvage must be brought back under British arrangements to British base depots, where it would be sorted, and Italian material handed back to Italians. DMS Salvage to make the necessary arrangements through MIA IO. Italian scrap metal now situated in Italian depots or under Italian Army control was to be made available for British services.

ACTION : Salvage.

6/.....



- 6 -

17.

RATIONS.

It was stated that D/CMO had strongly recommended the adoption of one scale for all Italians, but AFHQ approval had not yet been received.

18.

RE-INFORCEMENTS.

It was agreed that re-inforcements must be provided for existing units at the expense of forming new units.

ACTION : 'L'

19.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

DONG directed that requirements of special technicians should be placed through staff channel and he would raise with D/CMO the need for getting these over from North Africa. At present D/CMO had refused to allow Prisoners of War to enter Italy until the position had been clarified. An Italian Prisoner of War R.E. unit had recently arrived, and it was found that the Italians were being paid on a higher rate than the Italian army.

ACTION : DONG to raise this point with D/CMO.

20.

LABOUR.

DONG directed that services review their requirements of Italian units with a view to using civilians in place of certain units or within the establishment of certain units.

ACTION : Services to submit recommendations to G(SD).

21.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION.

It was agreed that services should produce draft instructions dealing with their particular aspect based on conclusions reach at this conference. Q(3) would co-ordinate and produce covering memo. When agreed an administrative instruction would be published which would form the basis for administrative action between AFHQ and MII.

ACTION : All services to submit draft instruction to 'Q'.





# STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

1° REPARTO - Ufficio Operazioni

P.M. 151 li 31 dicembre 1943

N. 3405 / OP. V. prot.

Allegati 1

Risposta al foglio N. ....

del .....

OGGETTO: Trasmissione relazione.-

AL GENERALE DUCHESNE

Missione Militare presso l'Armata Italiana

\*\*\*\*\*

Si trasmette copia della relazione sulla riunione tenuta in S. Spirito il giorno 20 dicembre.-

From: SMRE G. Ops.  
To: MMIA - Gen. Duchesne

IL SOTTOCAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE  
(Gen. di Div. A. Mariotti)

Subj: Forward of minutes

Herewith copy of minutes of the meeting held on 20.12.43 at S. SPIRITO

Gen. A. MARIOTTI

*Gen. A. Mariotti*

3154



Gerardo Surobrano, etc.

Meeting in the afternoon at 5:30 Dec 43 at S. Spirito at 1522 P.

There present:

- On the Anglo-American Side. Gen Eisenhower. C in C. Allied Forces.
- " Alexander. Comd 5th Army Gp.
- " Smith. COS 4 Gen Eisenhower
- " Richardson. COS 6 Gen Alexander
- " Boyer. President AFSC
- " Taylor. COS 6 Gen. Tooyce.
- " Robinson. Comd AFHQ Adv. Eden.

On the Italian side.

Marchese Messe.

Marchese Badoglio.

1. First of all was discussed the question of the faith that the Anglo-Americans must have in Italian troops, not having this on the Sicilian campaign but rather on the proofs thereof supplied by Italian troops in the great war, in units and as present on the Italian front.
2. The members of the Anglo-American side, after brainning the conduct of the Motorized Bde Gp. affirmed their belief that the Italian would turn and fight as once before though they admitted that this would be a certain amount of time. All the same it was accepted as a principle that the Italian would have a wider share in future operations. It was concluded, if be done as quickly as they would like, it was due to the serious difficulties the Anglo-Americans had met with, in getting the Italian into the order, and supplying them with arms and equipment as a result of the Allied's sea transport position. They also pointed out that the Italian, seeing to the coming and equipping of Italian troops, they would be doing something also for feeding the Italian civilian population. They compared that they had ended in two calculations as to the amount of supplies in this connection.
3. The Italian representation gave it as their opinion that the presence should be given to the civilian population.
4. It was noted that it was covered.

- The Italian troops destined for combat must have arms and equipment not inferior to that of the Anglo-American troops: this would be the Allied's concern.
- Italian troops with an occupational function would have to be armed and equipped by the Italian themselves, Anglo-American

3153



On the Italian side. 7 March 1945  
March 1945

1. This of all was discussed the question of the Anglo-Americans, must have in Italian troops, not basing this on the Sicilian campaign but rather on the troops themselves supplied by Italian troops in the great war, in Tunis and at present on the 5th Army front.
2. The members of the Anglo-American side, after hearing the conduct of the 1st Motorized Bde Gp. affirmed their belief that the Italians would turn and fight as once before, though they admitted that this would be a certain amount of time. All the same it was accepted as a principle that the Italians would have a wider share in future operations. If that could, it be done as quickly as they would like, it was due to the serious difficulties the Anglo-Americans had met with, in getting the Italian troops into order, and supplying them with arms and equipment, as a result of the Allies' sea transportation position. They also pointed out that besides seeing to the carrying and equipping of Italian troops, they wanted to do something also for feeding the Italian civilian population. They confirmed that they had heard in their conversations as to the amount of supplies in this connection.

3153

The Italian representatives gave it as their opinion that the incidence should be given to the civilian population.

4. 2. private him it was agreed -

- That Italian troops destined for combat must have arms and equipment not inferior to that of the Anglo-American troops. This would be the Allies' concern.
- Italian troops with an occupational function would have to be armed and equipped by the Italians themselves. Anglo-American cooperation over clothing was anticipated.

After Italian personnel the Allies would provide the clothing (especially boots) which the Italians could not when they had used up all previous stocks at their disposal.

The D.W. LEGNANO would be put into a state of readiness, as also would the 4th Bn. ordered for Gen. A. GENNARDI.

The 1st Motorized Bde Gp. would be kept up in numbers and efficiency.

On the principles of a wider participation eventually, apart from the LEGNANO Bn. always in relation to the possibility of getting M.T. was accepted.

The request for the use of clothing and equipment on the mainland, was granted as such.

The such material as was in SARGINIA and SICILY, the Italian representatives asked for the use, it being their intention to put it to the disposal of transport by means of the 1st Motorized Bde Gp. as a secondary point.



The Anglo-Americans agreed to this in principle, but said they would reply when they had examined the question of transport.

11. The Anglo-Americans pointed out that they had absolute mastery of the seas for which they had cleared the Italians, because they must increase the movements of the Indochinese population so that these could escape the maximum possible number of German DPs.

12. The Italians pointed out that if they had taken from them, the arms or provisions at their disposal on the mainland and in Sardinia and Sicily, they would not be in a position to run their Occupation DPs.

13. The Anglo-Americans said that they would seek a solution which would take into account both the necessities. With regard to their last strong appeal for arms, they said that they would reexamine the question later and give a decision.

14. An allied General would be nominated to deal directly with SUPREMACY COMMAND for questions of arms and equipment.

15. The Italian asked that the return of prisoners to their country be facilitated, but this had been asked for and there was no doubt it was possible.

The Anglo-Americans promised to do everything possible.

6010



Copia

21 dicembre 1943

-COMANDO SUPREMO-

Ufficio Operazioni

RIUNIONE TENUTA NEL POMERIGGIO DEL 20 DICEMBRE 1943  
IN S. SPIRITO PRESSO LA SEDE DEL XV GRUPPO ARMATE AN-  
GLO-AMERICANO

Presenti :

- parte anglo-americana : Gen. Eisenhower - Comandante in Capo delle Forze Alleate
- Gen. Alexander - Comandante del XV Gruppo Armate
- Gen. Smith - Capo di S.M. del Gen. Eisenhower
- Gen. Richardson - Capo di S.M. del Gen. Alexander
- Gen. Joyce - Presidente della Commissione Alleata di Controllo
- Gen. Taylor - Capo di S.M. della Commissione Alleata di Controllo
- Gen. Robertson - Comandante dello Scaglione Amministrativo avanzato del Comando in Capo Alleato.
- parte italiana : Mar. Badoglio
- Mar. Messe
- \*\*\*\*\*

Si è trattata anzitutto la questione della fiducia che gli anglo-americani devono avere nelle truppe italiane, 3152 indubbiamente dalle prove fornite nelle operazioni della Sicilia, ed in relazione invece a quelle date dai nostri soldati nella Grande Guerra, in Tunisia e attualmente sul fronte della 5<sup>a</sup> Armata.

La parte anglo-americana, dopo aver fatto elogio del comportamento del Raggruppamento Motorizzato, riconosce che si deve ritenere che gli italiani torneranno a battersi come una volta, pure ammettendo che per questo occorrerà un certo tempo.

.../...



- 2 -  
Comunque, è stata accettata, come questione di principio, una più ampia partecipazione italiana alle operazioni avvenire.

Se ciò non si potrà attuare subito, come desiderabile, si deve alle gravi difficoltà incontrate dagli anglo-americani per mettere le truppe italiane in ordine, come armamento ed equipaggiamento, data la crisi alleata nei trasporti via mare.

La parte anglo-americana vuole provvedere anche all'alimentazione della popolazione civile italiana (confessa che sulla entità dei rifornimenti al riguardo erano stati fatti calcoli errati), oltre a provvedere all'armamento ed all'equipaggiamento delle truppe italiane.

Gli italiani ritengono di dover dare la precedenza ai bisogni della popolazione civile.

#### In sede di precisazione, si è stabilito:

- le truppe italiane destinate a combattere devono avere armamento ed equipaggiamento non inferiore a quello anglo-americano: per questo provvederemo gli Alleati;
- le truppe italiane che hanno compito di unità di occupazione, dovranno essere armate ed equipaggiate dalla parte italiana; è previsto il concorso anglo-americano per il vestiario.

Per la manovalanza, gli Alleati forniranno il vestiario (in particolare scarpe) che risulterà mancante alla parte italiana, dopo la utilizzazione dei materiali italiani attualmente a disposizione.

La divisione "Legnano" sarà approntata: e così pure il battaglione Arditi richiesto dal Gen. Alexander.

Sarà mantenuto a numero ed in efficienza il 1° Raggruppamento Motorizzato.

E' accettato il principio di una più larga partecipazione, in seguito, oltre la "Legnano", sempre in relazione alle possibilità dei mezzi di trasporto.

3151



La parte anglo-americana vuole provvedere anche all'alimentazione della popolazione civile italiana (confessa che sulla entità dei rifornimenti al riguardo erano stati fatti calcoli errati), oltre a provvedere all'armamento ed all'equipaggiamento delle truppe italiane.

Gli italiani ritengono di dover dare la precedenza ai bisogni della popolazione civile.

In sede di precisazione, si è stabilito:

- le truppe italiane destinate a combattere devono avere armamento ed equipaggiamento non inferiore a quello anglo-americano: per questo provvederanno gli Alleati;
- le truppe italiane che hanno compito di unità di occupazione, dovranno essere armate ed equipaggiate dalla parte italiana; è previsto il concorso anglo-americano per il vestiario.

Per la manovalanza, gli Alleati forniranno il vestiario (in particolare scarpe) che risulterà mancante alla parte italiana, dopo la utilizzazione dei materiali italiani attualmente a disposizione.

La divisione "Legnano" sarà apprenata: e così pure il battaglione Arditi richiesto dal Gen. Alexander.

Sarà mantenuto e numero ed in efficienza il riciclaggio e rifornimento motorizzato.

E' accettato il principio di una più larga partecipazione, in seguito, oltre la "Legnano", sempre in relazione alle possibilità dei mezzi di trasporto.



- 3 -  
E' accettata senz'altro la richiesta della libera disponibilità del vestiario ed equipaggiamento della Penisola.

Per tale materiale, dislocato nei magazzini della Sardegna e della Sicilia, la parte italiana ne chiede la libera disponibilità, proponendo di studiare la possibilità di trasporto con mezzi di piccolo cabotaggio e con l'utilizzazione, per lo sbarco, dei porti secondari.

La parte anglo-americana aderisce di massima ma si riserva di dare risposta, in base allo studio della questione dei trasporti.

La parte anglo-americana ha assoluto bisogno dell'armamento che ha richiesto alla parte italiana, perchè è necessario aumentare l'armamento dei partigiani jugoslavi, affinché questi possano impegnare il maggior numero possibile di divisioni tedesche.

La parte italiana rappresenta però che se le viene sottratto l'armamento attualmente disponibile nella Penisola, in Sicilia ed in Sardegna, non sarà in grado di armare le divisioni di occupazione.

La parte anglo-americana comunica che studierà una soluzione della questione che tenga conto delle sue necessità: per quanto concerne l'ultima forte richiesta di armi, si riserva di riesaminarla e di deciderla.

Sarà destinato un Generale alleato per trattare direttamente col Comando Supremo le questioni di armamento e di equipaggiamento. \* 3150

La parte italiana chiede che sia facilitato il rientro in Patria dei prigionieri già richiesti e di quelli che lo saranno.

La parte anglo-americana promette di fare al riguardo tutto il possibile.





La parte anglo-americana aderisce di massima ma si riserva di dare risposte, in base allo studio della questione dei trasporti.

La parte anglo-americana ha assoluto bisogno dell'armamento che ha richiesto alla parte italiana, peronè è necessario aumentare l'armamento dei partigiani jugoslavi, affinché questi possano impegnare il maggior numero possibile di divisioni tedesche.

La parte italiana rappresenta però che se la viene sottratto l'armamento attualmente disponibile nella Penisola, in Sicilia ed in Sardegna, non sarà in grado di armare le divisioni di occupazione.

La parte anglo-americana comunica che studierà una soluzione della questione che tenga conto delle due necessità: per quanto concerne l'ultima forte richiesta di armi, si riserva di riesaminare la e di deciderla.

Sarà destinato un Generale alleato per trattare direttamente col Comando Supremo le questioni di armamento e di equipaggiamento.

\* 3150

La parte italiana chiede che sia facilitato il rientro in Patria dei prigionieri già richiesti e di quelli che lo saranno.

La parte anglo-americana promette di fare al riguardo tutto il possibile.





/Ma



# STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

1° REPARTO - Ufficio Operazioni

P.M. 151, li 7 Dicembre 1943

N. 2907 prot. OP.V.Allegati 1

Risposta al foglio N. ....

del .....

OGGETTO: Riunione 29 novembre.-

ALLA MISSIONE MILITARE BRITANNICA  
presso l'Esercito Italiano

~~~~~

Si trasmette, per opportuna conoscenza,
copia del verbale compilato durante la riunione
tenuta il 29 novembre u.s. presso l'Ecc. il Capo
di S.M. del R.E. con la partecipazione del Gen.
Duchesne.-

FROM: S.M.R.E. Ops. Office

TO: MWA.

NO. 2907 DEC. 7 43.

IL SOTTOCAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Gen. di Div. A. Mariotti)

SUBJECT: Meeting on Nov. 29.

3149

We herewith for your info. a copy of the minutes
of the meeting held Nov. 29 between Chief of Staff
Italian Army and Brigadier DUCHESNE, at
the SMRE.

Gen. Mariotti.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SMRT NOV. 22 43 AT 1830 hrs

The following were present;

Chief of Staff Berardi.

Dep. Chief of Staff Mariotti.

Commander MMIA Brig. Duchesne.

Interpreters Col. Vicini Pallavicini and Lieut/Col Moriarty.

Secretary, Lieut/Col. Pizzonia.

1. Reorganization of troops and Coastal Defence.

Said that Messe had shown Gen. Joice a programme for the reorganization of Italian forces, in accordance with the wish expressed by the Allies in their letter of Oct. 17. (The letter was read)

He said that it was in the interest of the Italians themselves to reorganize their forces, so that they could enter Italian territory as it was liberated, with small organized bodies for the maintenance of public order.

It would also be in the interest of the Allies if they, the Italians, reorganized Coastal Defence, so that, should the Germans make any attempt at a landing, the fighting forces of the Allies might not suffer as a result.

Questioned Berardi about coastal defence. He said that he had already spoken about it to Arisio, Pelligra, and Dowler, especially with regard to Calabria.

Calabria, he said, was a mountainous district and was not of particular importance with regard to defence. On the other hand, he pointed out that Puglia, and in particular the Salentina peninsula, was very important in this connexion in view of the fact that it contained the most important ports and airfields, and also because of its proximity to enemy occupied territory.

Asked if the possibilities of an enemy landing there had been considered.

Did not think that there would be a landing in force, but there was always the possibility of landing small forces there together with paratroops whose object it would be to upset the Allied offensive and cooperate in a subsequent German offensive.

Asked if the High Command too were taking in hand the defence of Puglia.

Replied that the question had been brought to the notice of the Supreme Command also; at the moment the Stato Maggiore had the matter in hand. It was, he said, the whole purpose of the Conference that they should proceed in this matter together.

He pointed out that besides the 10 Divs. shown on his programme they had at their disposal a certain number of coastal Divs. of which part was employed already on labour duties, while the rest could be used for coastal defence, even if it was not possible to get them as well equipped as the first 10 Divs. He then asked Berardi what he thought of the idea of their drawing up

by the Allies in their letter of Oct. 17. (The letter was read)
He said that it was in the interest of the Italians themselves to reorganize their forces, so that they could enter Italian territory as it was liberated, with small organized bodies for the maintenance of public order.

It would also be in the interest of the Allies if they, the Italians, reorganized Coastal Defence, so that, should the Germans make any attempt at a landing, the fighting forces of the Allies might not suffer as a result.

B. G. G. G.
Duchessne

Questioned Berardi about coastal defence. He said that he had already spoken about it to Arisio, Pelligra, and Dowler, especially with regard to Calabria.

B.

Calabria, he said, was a mountainous district and was not of particular importance with regard to defence. On the other hand, he pointed out that Puglie, and in particular the Salentina peninsula, was very important in this connexion in view of the fact that it contained the most important ports and airfields, and also because of its proximity to enemy occupied territory.

D.

Asked if the possibilities of an enemy landing there had been considered.

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Did not think that there would be a landing in force, but there was always the possibility of landing small forces there together with paratroops whose object it would be to upset the Allied offensive and cooperate in a subsequent German offensive.

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3148

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Replied that the question had been brought to the notice of the Supreme Command also; at the moment the Stato Maggiore had the matter in hand. It was, he said, the whole purpose of the Conference that they should proceed in this matter together. He pointed out that besides the 10 Divs. shown on his programme they had at their disposal a certain number of coastal Divs. of which part was employed already on labour duties, while the rest could be used for coastal defence, even if it was not possible to get them as well equipped as the first 10 Divs. He then asked Brig. Duchesne what he thought of the idea of their drawing up together a scheme for the employment of these troops.

D.

Replied that he was only a liaison officer and therefore could not take it on.

B.

Said that the questions under consideration at the moment, based on instructions from M. Messe, had also been raised by the Marshal with Gen. Joice. It was fitting that the collaboration between himself and Brig. Duchesne should be as close as that between M. Messe and Gen. Joice.

D.

Said that he foresaw some difference of opinion with regard to coastal defence seeing that the Allies expected Puglie to be garrisoned with nothing more than 12 bns. Said that he thought that would be a very thin force.

Said that it would be a good thing therefore if they decided what the enemy could do.

B. Replied. The enemy can select at will the direction of his attack. While the material and transport at our disposal are small, the distances over which we have to operate are great. We must establish substantial concentration points to enable us to prepare for the unexpected wherever it may present itself. We must not think of continuous defence works, they do not exist nor are they of any use, e.g. Sicily. It is better to have our forces concentrated, the working out of this is in progress. I consider that we need 3 divs. which should be posted at suitable points.

D. Pointed out that these concentration points would, in the view of the Allies, be provided by allied divs. training in the area. He said that he had heard mentioned a training camp in the mountains around Potenza.

B. Thought that this would be too far away from the likely scene of operations and said that he was still of the same opinion regarding coastal defence viz. a warning system and 3 concentration points whose duty it would be to drive the enemy back into the sea.

He continued; "Having drawn the picture of the requirements fore-shadowed in the letter of 17 Oct. and for coastal defence, the thing now is to settle

1) whether we agree about this picture.
2) if we do, then make a definite plan for the reorganization of our forces.

D. Replied that he had no objections regarding the reorganization of the 10 divs. mentioned in the letter. For the others, however, he would have to hear the views of the Commander in Chief. He further pointed out that he did not recall seeing in the original agreement British H.Q. and the Italian Supreme Command, the paragraph about coast defence. He asked Berardi if he knew through Gen. Castellano what Gen. Eisenhower thought.

B. Pointed out that he had no dealings with Gen. Castellano but only with M. Messe whose instructions he followed.

D. Said that he knew they were preparing some scheme at Algiers, regarding the use of the coastal divs. but did not know exactly what. He thought it would be best first to crystallise the question and then make a plan of reorganization.

B. Agreed, because one should always know exactly what one wanted. Up till now, he said, he felt he had been groping about in the dark.

D. Agreed.

2. Stocks of clothing and equipment estimated by g

Said that because it had not yet been decided what precisely to be done he had not been able to grant the many requests made by the 1's. He had however authorized the despatch of 2nd Divs. to CA PAVIA because he could not do otherwise, although he realised that this had probably interfered with the reorganisation programme for these units.

The request for 2 Btys Pack Arty for example impaired the reorganisation of the 10 Divs.

Would go to-morrow to 15 Army Gp and explain the point and tell him the decision.

Stocks of clothing and equipment also had some bearing on the Allied demands. For what purpose should the stocks of clothing in PUGLIE be used? To carry out ^{the} programme of reorganisation they must use clothing stocks in SICILY

Had already found out that about these stocks in SICILY: they were to be used for Allied operations in YUGOSLAVIA.

Said they would have to abandon their reorganisation programme unless Allied uniforms were provided.

Agree that a very definite programme was required, since one could not live indefinitely from hand to mouth.

Said that it was the intention of Marshall MESSE and his own to collaborate with the Allied in the clearest possible way. He thought therefore that it would be best to postpone all demands until a definite programme had been formulated.

Said he would do his best to meet him half-way.

3. Pack Arty. Btys.

Asked where the Btys were.

Replied that 3 Btys were in SARDINIA of which 2 had had ^{31 46} their equipment in CORSIKA. In PUGLIE there is only the Bty. ^{att.} LEGUANO. If that were given to the Allies it would mean the breaking up of LEGUANO - which was against what had been agreed.

Said that it was in fact the intention of the Allies to take the Bty. att LEGUANO: the 518TH Army knew that this Bty was in a state of readiness. He promised to call their attention to the consequence of taking that battery.

Hoped that it would be possible to pull out the Btys in SARDINIA and restore the guns they had left in CORSIKA. He preferred that Italian guns be served by Italian gunners fighting with the Allies, rather than by French gunners who were fighting on their own account. Moreover this artillery was no longer needed in CORSIKA.

D Had already found out that about those stocks in SICILY : they were to be used for Allied operations in YUGOSLAVIA.

B Said they would have to abandon their reorganization programme unless Allied uniforms were provided.

D Agree that a very definite programme was required, since one could not live indefinitely from hand to mouth.

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B Hoped that it would be possible to pull out the Btys in SARDINIA and restore the guns they had left in CORSICA. He preferred that Italian guns be served by Italian gunners fighting with the Allies, rather than by French gunners who were fighting on their own account. Moreover this artillery was no longer needed in CORSICA.

4. Admin Centres

D Pointed out that Italian troops fighting with EIGHTH Army had no admin organisation behind them. He referred to a request by EIGHTH Army for admin units.

B Asked if they might be allowed to alter the establishment laid down by the Allies because they could not find the transport.

D Said that that establishment was only a suggestion and that in any case the transport would be provided by the Allies. The sooner these admin centres could be set up the better. With regard to personnel,

they were at Foggia, two English speaking Italian Officers who could be used. Also Lt. Col. COLEMAN who was with Gen. DAPINO was useful because he spoke English well. There was also Lt. Col. TUZI once Chief of Staff of the Motorised Bde Gp.

B. Concurred with regard to all these officers except TUZI for disciplinary reasons.

5. Mountain Bns

D. Asked BERARDI to reconsider the question of forming the two Mountain Bns requested for the 17 Dec

B. This could be done as it was only a question of two Bns. But their formation depended on clothing supplies. The men needed tunics, trousers, boots, cloaks and blankets. The best way to solve the problem would be to bring the men over from SARDINIA (where there were 6 Bns of ALPINI) by plane. Otherwise the Bns would have to be formed in PUGLIA with men not accustomed to the mountains, and the drawing on these men would have repercussions on the labour supply. The ALPINI were also well officered

D. Asked for a complete list of requirements for these Bns. If these auxiliaries were a success they would take care of them. In a Div 1 ~~8~~ 3 Rgt had to be employed as carriers. The planes for transport were a difficult problem. However he would try to contact ALPINI on the question. If they refused BERARDI would have to consider the possibility of forming them in PUGLIA.

B. Said it would be done but could not guarantee the results. Mountains were serious things and mountain folk were needed to live and fight in them.

D. Agreed and would bring to the notice of the authorities at ALPINI the need for air transport.

6 Port Labour at BARI

3145

B. Said this was also a question of clothing but all their problems would be solved if the depots in SICILY were opened to them. As long as they were handicapped by this restriction they could do nothing. They had no boots; the few in the store were all of large sizes

D. Asked for a list of what they had and promised to see to the settling of the question, for it was vital to secure labour for BARI. There had been complaints about the airmen, on the grounds that they were too young and not disciplined enough.

B. This would be brought to the notice of Marshall MESS.

D. ECC. ARISTO had been present at the BARI conference; he did not know if he had passed on what had been discussed

B. This could be done as it was only a question of two Bns. But their formation depended on clothing supplies. The men needed tunics, trousers, boots, cloaks and blankets. The best way to solve the problem would be to bring the men over from SARDINIA (where there were 6 Bns of ALPINI) by plane. Otherwise the Bns would have to be formed in PUGLIA with men not accustomed to the mountains, and the drawing on these men would have repercussions on the labour supply. The ALPINI were also well officered.

D. Asked for a complete list of requirements for these Bns. If these auxiliaries were a success they would take more of them. In a Div 1 ~~3~~ 3 Regts had to be employed as carriers. The planes for transport were a difficult problem. However he would try to contact ALIERS on the question. If they refused BUTARDI would have to consider the possibility of forming them in PUGLIA.

B. Said it would be done but could not guarantee the results. Mountains were serious things and mountain folk were needed to live and fight in them.

D. Agreed and would bring to the notice of the authorities at ALIERS the need for air transport.

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D. Asked for a list of what they had and promised to see to the settling of the question, for it was vital to secure labour for BARI. There had been complaints about the airmen, on the grounds that they were too young and not disciplined enough.

B. This would be brought to the notice of Marshall ISSER.

D. ECC. ARISIO had been present at the BARI conference; he did not know if he had passed on what had been discussed.

B. Thought he had, because GHO had asked for information about BARI so that they could take the necessary action.

D. Stressed the fundamental importance of the port of BARI for the transportation of Allied troops.

B. Said that they could provide other men but not the means of clothing them. The problem would admit of easier solution if civilian labour were employed.

D. Said that that did not enter into the present discussion, and he was only interested in having at BARI 10,000 workers otherwise

the ships could not be unloaded.

Said it was impossible to send men without clothes. He asked permission to make use of stores in SICILY and that no difficulties should be put in the way of his doing this.

Requested DURANTI not to insist on the question of clothing because the problems at BARI gave them a lot to think about.

"Give us permission to draw clothing and everything that can be done will be done". About 3,600 men are needed at BARI; they will be provided; but then there will be nothing left in the stores. We are forced to have recourse to the stocks in SICILY."

Said he wanted a list of clothing and equipment in SICILY and would give it to Gen ALEXANDER and support the request.

Said that they had reached the limit of their stocks and hoped there would be no more demands as there were no more men. 3,600 men for BARI would be provided before the 5 Dec; the Allied demand had been for the 7.

He made a personal appeal, that, if possible, Italian troops should not be used for discharging coal. He referred only to the 300 men at BRINDISI, and said that it was too humiliating a task for soldiers, on whose behalf he made this appeal to the soldierly instincts of Brig DUCHESNE.

Promised that steps would be taken to see that the discharge of coal was done by civilians.

7. Conduct of British Troops

Said that several instances of misconduct on the part of British troops towards the civilian population had been brought to his notice, e.g. the theft by armed men of 36 turkeys and chickens at 3. VITO. He said that such conduct would in the long run make the population resentful and lead to angry retaliation. He asked that exemplary punishment be meted out to those guilty.

Promised to see about it.

3144

8. Movement of Officers

Said that among steps that were being taken would be an extensive move of officers to HQ Units. They wanted to put regular officers with the units and demobilise the others temporarily. As a result many units would have a change in command. He only mentioned this for information.

9. Wireless Comm

Asked Brig DUCHESNE to look into the question of wireless comm between SRE, HQ CALABRIA District and ANZI Corps. He said that a cipher staff would be required both at SRE and ANZI.

CEN.
MARIOTTI

Said he wanted a list of clothing and equipment in SICILY and would give it to Gen ALEXANDER and support the request.

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Promised that steps would be taken to see that the discharge of coal was done by civilians.

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Said that several instances of misconduct on the part of British troops towards the civilian population had been brought to his notice, e.g. the theft by armed men of 26 turkeys and chickens at S. VITO. He said that such conduct would in the long run make the population resentful and lead to angry retaliation. He asked that exemplary punishment be meted out to those guilty.

Promised to see about it.

8. Movement of Officers

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9. Wireless Comm

Asked Brig DUCHESNE to look into the question of wireless comm between S. RE, HQ CAMPANIA District and IXI Corps. He said that a cipher staff would be required both at HQ CAMPANIA District and S. RE. If men could not be found they could send just an English officer or W.C.C. who, while remaining in exclusive control of the cipher, could be assisted by their men.

Said he would let them know later.

3144

GEN.
MARIOTTI

10. Italian L.Os. with Allied Admin Units

D. Pointed out the need for L.Os. with Districts, Areas and Sub Areas to be on their toes and in a position to give, at once, info to the units they represented, especially in the case of important questions, e.g. the question of the hospital at BARI. He added that it was difficult for the Allied authorities to alter a decision once made.

MARIOTTI Replied that the question of the hospital at BARI had been too important for a decision to be made at once by a Liaison Officer.

D. Said that he had done his best to prevent the Allies making the decision they had in fact made.

B. In cases of this kind the officers should withhold a decision and refer the matter higher up at once. Anyway they would all be called to S.M. for precise instructions as to what to do in such cases.

ECC. B. BARDI said that he was pleased to have had the opportunity to discuss these very important problems and to have found Gen DUCESNE so full of understanding; in thanking him, he said he was convinced that things would go well for the whole time of their working together - a time which he hoped would only be brief.

SUBJECT:- Appreciation of Italian ArmyC.S.I.,
M.M.I.A. ✓HQ 2 DISTRICT CMF
2017 G

24 Nov 43

1. It is understood by this Branch that you have been preparing an "Appreciation of the Italian Forces serving under the BADOGLIO Government".
2. Would you please forward a copy of this "Appreciation", including a map showing locations of units, depots, stores, etc., for the information of the G.O.C. this H.Q.
3. This information is urgently required.

TOS 1745

A

Sealt with verbally by
Capt. [illegible] with 2 [illegible]
Rep who called

N. [illegible]
3142Lt-Col
GS

SUBJECT: AREAS for 7 ITALIAN ARMY

Military Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY
G/12/5
24 Nov 43

2. District

1. Ref your 2064 G of 3 Nov para 7. I enclose a map shewing roughly the present concentration areas of 7 ITALIAN Army. It is a pictorial representation of a typed statement dated 7 Nov and must be regarded as an approximate guide only e.g. figures for BARI, BRINDISI and TARANTO should be understood with the proviso "and district". It is more valuable as a guide to their billeting areas elsewhere.
2. Para 5 of your same letter referred to the possibility of taking over the FOGGIA area. For Italian supply services to be able to do this we shall have to get MT for them. At the moment FLAMBO are making large administrative demands for Italian tps (17,500 in their 62 G of 7 Nov with further to come) and current MT is deteriorating. I have asked FLAMBO to lend me a REME officer to report on Italian transport and repair facilities. The deduction is that I should like as much notice as possible of any take over of FOGGIA province so as to examine the situation.

ABC

C. J. ... 3141
Brig
Comd

SUBJECT: Los Conference

MEMO BARI
" NAPLES
" CATANZARO

Military Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY

6/12/4

23 NOV 43

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Fu

1. The Comd wishes to have a conference here twice a month for each of us to put each other in the picture.

2. Will you please therefore report back here on the evening of 30 Nov.

draft from NAPLES when it will be possible for Capt. Mucchi to leave and a second LO will be sent

ABC

[Signature]

Major
GSO 2

3140

CopiaSTATO MAGGIORE REGIO ESERCITO
- Ufficio Operazioni -

27

P.M. 151, 30 Novembre 1943.

RESOCONTO della riunione tenuta presso lo S.M.R.E. il
29 novembre 1943 alle ore 18,30, presenti

- il Capo di S.M.R.E. : Ecc. Berardi
- il Sottocapo di S.M.: Gen. Mariotti
- il Capo della Missione Mil. Alleata : Gen. brig. Duchesne
- interpreti : Col. Vicino Pallavicini e T.Col. Moriarty
- segretario : T. Col. Pizzonia.-

1. - RIORGANIZZAZIONE DELLE FORZE E DIFESA COSTIERA.

Ecc. Berardi: Il Maresciallo Messe ha esposto al Gen. Joice un programma di riordinamento delle forze italiane sulla base del documento in data 17 ottobre che rappresenta la volontà degli alleati.

(lettura del documento)

E' interesse italiano riorganizzare le nostre forze per poter giungere nei territori italiani man mano liberati un nucleo di forze che consenta il mantenimento dell'O. P.

E' interesse alleato che noi riorganizziamo la difesa costiera perchè nell'eventualità di un tentativo germanico non ne siano danneggiate anche le forze operanti A.A.

Gen. Duchesne: - chiede idee Ecc. Berardi sulla difesa costiera. Egli ne aveva già parlato con Ecc. Arisio, Gen. Pelligra e Gen. Dowler, soprattutto per quanto interessava la Calabria.

Ecc. Berardi : - La Calabria é un paese montano e poi non riveste oggi una particolare importanza ai fini della difesa.

Importante invece é il territorio Pugliese, in ispecie la penisola Salentina; per la presenza dei più importanti porti ed aeroporti ed anche per la sua vicinanza al territorio occupato dal nemico.

Gen. Duchesne: - chiede se sono state studiate anche le possibilità avversarie di sbarco.

.../...

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Ecc. Berardi : - Non crede ad uno sbarco in forze. E' sempre possibile però uno sbarco di pochi elementi col concorso di paracadutisti con lo scopo di disturbare l'offensiva alleata o di concorrere ad un eventuale offensiva germanica.

Gen. Duchesne : - Chiede se anche al Comando Supremo si compiono studi su questa necessità di difesa delle Puglie.

Ecc. Berardi : - La questione è stata rappresentata anche al C. S.; Ora il problema è allo studio presso lo S. M.. Lo scopo di questa riunione è appunto quello di procedere d'accordo. Noi abbiamo disponibile oltre le dieci divisioni previste dal noto documento, un certo numero di divisioni costiere: di queste una parte è già impiegata come manovalanza, il resto conviene sia utilizzato per la difesa costiera, anche se non è possibile portarlo allo stesso grado di approntamento delle prime dieci divisioni da occupazione. Desidera conoscere pensiero Gen. Duchesne per stabilire insieme un programma di utilizzazione di queste forze.

Ge

Gen. Duchesne : - Dice di essere solo un ufficiale di collegamento e quindi non può prendere impegni.

Ecc. Berardi : - Le cose ora rappresentate sulla base di direttive avute dal MaR. Messe sono state anche dette da quest'ultimo al Gen. Joice. Così come è stretto il collegamento fra l'Ecc. Messe e il Gen. Joice è opportuno sia quello fra lui e il Gen. Duchesne.

Gen. Duchesne : - Prevede divergenze di opinione in merito alla difesa costiera, in quanto le idee alleate circa le guarnigioni della Puglia non vanno al di là di 12 Btg..

Ecc. Berardi : - Crede siano scarsi.

Gen. Duchesne : - Dice che è bene perciò mettersi d'accordo anzitutto su quanto il nemico può fare.

Ecc. Berardi : - Il nemico può scegliere la direzione d'attacco che vuole. Noi abbiamo pochi mezzi, pochi autocarri e nello stesso tempo le distanze sono forti. Bisogna costituire dei nuclei di forza importanti in modo da poter parare all'imprevisto dovunque esso si presenti.

Non si può pensare ad una difesa continua di opere (che non ci sono e poi servono a poco - vedi Sicilia), meglio avere le forze riunite. Lo studio è in corso.

Crede che siano necessarie 3 divisioni, da dislocare opportunamente.

Gen. Duchesne : L'idea degli alleati è invece che questi nuclei di forze possano essere rappresentate dalle divisioni alleate in addestramento nella zona.

Ha sentito parlare di campi di addestramento nelle montagne di P. Potenza.

Ecc. Berardi : - Queste sarebbero però molto lontane dalla zona di probabile impiego. E sempre del parere che la difesa costiera sia organizzata come detto prima e cioè: un sistema di avvistamento e tre nuclei forti che devono servire a ributtare in mare il nemico.

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Fatto il quadro completo delle esigenze previste dal documento del 17 ottobre e di quelle per la difesa costiera, si tratta di stabilire:

- 1°) se si è d'accordo su questo quadro;
- 2°) una volta d'accordo, definire un progetto di riordinamento delle forze.

Gen. Duchesne: - Nulla in contrario per quanto riguarda il riordinamento delle 10 divisioni previste dal documento. Per le altre deve sentire il parere del Comandante in Capo.

Inoltre fa notare che non rammenta di aver visto nell'accordo originale fatto fra Comando Inglese e Comando Supremo Italiano il paragrafo riguardante la difesa costiera. Chiede se Ecc. Berardi conosce tramite Gen. Castellano - le idee del Gen. Eisenhower.

Ecc. Berardi : - Non ha relazioni con Gen. Castellano. Ma solo con il Maresciallo Messe, dal quale segue le direttive.

Gen. Duchesne: - Sa che si sta preparando qualcosa in Algeri, circa l'uso delle divisioni costiere; ma non sa di cosa si tratti. Ritene che sia opportuno prima definire la questione e poi fare il piano di riordinamento.

Ecc. Berardi: - E' della stessa opinione perché bisogna sapere sempre quello che si vuole. Ha la sensazione che finora sia andato un po' a tentoni.

Gen. Duchesne: - Concorda.

3137 .

2. - DISPONIBILITA' VESTIARIO ED EQUIPAGGIAMENTO E RICHIESTE DEGLI ALLEATI.

Ecc. Berardi : - Dice di non aver potuto aderire a molte richieste degli alleati perchè non vi è ancora un programma preciso sul da fare.

Ha autorizzato l'invio delle due divisioni costiere in Campania perchè non si poteva fare altrimenti, pur riconoscendo che ciò avrebbe disturbato il programma di riordinamento di queste G.U.

La richiesta dei 2 gruppi somaggiati ad esempio, danneggia la riorganizzazione delle 10 divisioni.

Gen. Duchesne: - Domani si recerà al Comando XV Gruppo Armate e rappresenterà le questioni e farà conoscere le decisioni.

Ecc. Berardi : - Influisce sulle richieste alleate anche la questione disponibilità di vestiario ed equipaggiamento. Per quali esigenze devono essere impiegate le poche serie di vestiario rimaste in Puglia?

E' necessario disporre del vestiario esistente in Sicilia per poter attuare il programma di riordinamento.

.../...

- 4 -

- Gen.Duchesne : - Ha già chiesto notizie circa la destinazione del materiale in Sicilia. Gli è stato risposto che i depositi della Sicilia devono servire per le operazioni che gli alleati svolgeranno in Jugoslavia.
- Ecc.Berardi : - Allora bisognerà rinunciare ai nostri programmi a meno che non siano fornite uniformi alleate.
- Gen.Duchesne : - Concorde anche egli che ci vuole necessariamente un programma ben definito, poichè non si può vivere dall'oggi al domani.
- Ecc.Berardi : - L'intenzione del Mar. Messe e sua è quella di lavorare con gli alleati con la massima chiarezza possibile. Crède perciò che sia meglio rimandare tutte le richieste fatte a quando sarà definito il programma.
- Gen.Duchesne : - Farà del suo meglio per venirci incontro.

3. GRUPPI SOMEGGIATI.

* 3136

- Gen.Duchesne : - Chiede dove sono ora i gruppi someggiati.
- Ecc.Berardi :: - 3 gruppi sono in Sardegna, due di essi hanno dovuto lasciare i loro materiali in Corsica. In Puglia vi è solo il Gruppo della Legnano; cedendolo agli alleati, si verrebbe a disfare la "Legnano", e ciò sarebbe contro ai patti stabiliti.
- Gen.Duchesne : - Dice che l'idea alleata è proprio quella di prendere il gruppo della Legnano; l'8^a Armata sa già che questo gruppo è pronto. Egli farà presente l'inconveniente rappresentato.
- Ecc.Berardi : - Si augura che sia possibile ritirare i gruppi dalla Sardegna, facendo restituire i pezzi rimasti in Corsica. Preferisce che i pezzi italiani siano serviti da artiglieri italiani che combattano con gli alleati, piuttosto che siano serviti da artiglieri francesi i quali combattano per il loro interesse. Tanto più che oggi in Corsica non vi è bisogno di queste artiglierie.

4. - CENTRI AMMINISTRATIVI.

- Gen.Duchesne : - Fa presente che le truppe italiane che combattono con l'8^a Armata non hanno alcuna organizzazione logistica alle spalle. Si riferisce alla richiesta degli enti amministrativi per l'8^a Armata.
- Ecc.Berardi : - Chiede di poter modificare l'organico previsto dagli alleati perchè non possiamo dare i mezzi di trasporto.
- Gen.Duchesne : - Dice che l'organico inviato è soltanto un suggerimento. Ad ogni modo i mezzi di trasporto saranno forniti dagli Alleati. Più presto si costituiranno questi centri meglio è.

.../...

- 5 -

In quanto al personale, vi sono a Foggia due ufficiali italiani che parlano l'Inglese e si possono adoperare: Esclapon e Pellegrini. Anche il Ten. Colonna che era con il Gen. Dapino è utile perchè parla bene inglese. Vi sarebbe anche il Ten. Col. Tuzi, già capo S.M. raggruppamento motorizzato.

Ecc.Berardi : -; Molto bene. Nessuna difficoltà per gli ufficiali proposti, eccetto che per il Ten. Col. Tuzi, per il quale ostano dei motivi disciplinari.

5. - BATTAGLIONI PER SERVIZI DA MONTAGNA.

Gen.Duchesne: - Prega di riesaminare il problema della costituzione dei battaglioni per il servizio da montagna che sono richiesti per il 7 dicembre.

Ecc.Berardi : - Si può accondiscendere, poichè sono soltanto due. Ma la loro costituzione è sempre subordinata alla disponibilità del vestiario. Gli uomini hanno bisogno di giubba, pantaloni, scarpe, pastrano e coperte. Il miglior modo per risolvere il problema è di prenderli dalla Sardegna (dove vi sono 6 btg. alpini) trasportandoli in aereo. Altrimenti bisogna costituirli in Puglia con personale che non è assuefatto alla montagna, e poi la sottrazione di personale inciderebbe sulla disponibilità di lavoratori. Gli alpini sono anche bene inquadrati.

Gen.Duchesne: - Chiede elenco esatto di tutto quello che abbiamo bisogno per equipaggiamento di questi uomini. Se andranno bene questi ausiliari ne prenderemo degli altri. In una divisione si è dovuto impiegare uno dei tre reggimenti per fare dei portatori. E' difficile avere degli aerei per l'aviotrasporto. Ad ogni modo tenterà rivolgersi ad Algeri; se la risposta sarà negativa, prega esaminare, la possibilità di costituirli in Puglia.

Ecc.Berardi : - Sarà fatto, ma non ne garantisce il rendimento. La montagna è una cosa seria e per vivere e combattere in montagna ci vogliono i montanari.

Gen.Duchesne: - Approva - rappresenterà ad Algeri la necessità dell'avio trasporto. 3135

6. - MANOVALANZA PORTO BARI.

Ecc.Berardi : - Anche questa è una questione di vestiario. Se ci saranno aperti i magazzini della Sicilia tutti i problemi saranno risolti. Fino a quando noi saremo "handicappati" da queste restrizioni non potremo far niente. Non abbiamo scarpe: Le

..//..

- 6 -

poche esistenti sono tutte di misura grande.

- Gen. Duchesne : - Chiede un elenco del materiale di vestiario esistente e vedrà poi di risolvere la questione perchè è necessario assicurare i lavoratori al porto di Bari. Vi sono state delle lamentele contro gli avieri perchè sono troppo giovani e poco disciplinati.
- Ecc. Berardi : - Sarà rappresentato all'Ecc. Messe.
- Gen. Duchesne : - Ecc. Arisio era presente alla riunione tenuta a Bari. Non sa se ha riferito quanto discusso.
- Ecc. Berardi : - Crede di sì, perchè Comando Supremo ha chiesto notizie su Bari per prendere dei provvedimenti.
- Gen. Duchesne : - Insiste sulla importanza fondamentale che ha il porto di Bari sui trasporti per le truppe alleate.
- Ecc. Berardi : - Si può dare ancora altra gente, ma non c'è come vestirla. La soluzione del problema potrebbe essere resa più facile se si assumesse della mano d'opera civile.
- Gen. Duchesne : - Non c'entra in questa faccenda. L'interessante per lui è avere a Bari 10 mila lavoratori altrimenti le navi non possono essere scaricate.
- Ecc. Berardi : - E' impossibile mandare gli uomini svestiti. Chiede autorizzazione usufruire magazzini Sicilia e che non siano fraposte difficoltà.
- Gen. Duchesne : - Spera che l'Ecc. Berardi non insista su questo punto di vista, perchè la questione di Bari da molto da pensare.
- Ecc. Berardi : - Autorizzate prelevamento vestiario e noi faremo tutto quello che si potrà fare. Occorrono a Bari ancora 3600 uomini circa, saranno dati, ma poi non vi sarà più niente nei magazzini, bisogna per forza ricorrere a quelli della Sicilia.
- Gen. Duchesne : - Desidera elenco dei materiali di vestiario ed equipaggiamento che sono in Sicilia. Lo presenterà al Gen. Alexander ed appoggerà la richiesta.
- Ecc. Berardi : - Dice che siamo giunti ai limiti delle disponibilità e si augura che non vi siano più richieste, perchè non ci sono più uomini. I 3600 uomini per Bari saranno dati entro il 5 dicembre, la richiesta alleata era per il 7. Rivolge preghiera personale perchè si eviti che la truppa italiana sia impiegata a scaricare carbone. Si tratta solo di 300 uomini a Brindisi. Ciò è troppo umiliante per dei soldati, per cui fa appello al sentimento di soldato del Gen. Duchesne.
- Gen. Duchesne : - Promette di provvedere a che lo scarico del carbone sia fatto da civili.

..../..

- 7 -

7. - CONTEGNO MILITARI INGLESII.

Ecc. Berardi : - Si verificano parecchi atti di prepotenza da parte di militari inglesi verso la popolazione civile (es: furto con minaccia a mano armata di 36 fra tacchini e galli a S. Vito). Ciò può disgustare la popolazione che potrebbe a lungo andare essere portata a commettere degli accessi. Chiede qualche punizione esemplare.

Gen. Duchesne : - Promette d'interessarsene. Ad ogni modo chiede una lettera con fatti e dati precisi.

8. - MOVIMENTO UFFICIALI.

Ecc. Berardi : - Fra i provvedimenti che stiamo per prendere vi sarà quello di un largo movimento di ufficiali al comando dei reparti. Noi vogliamo mettere ai reparti ufficiali in S.P.E. e congedare gli altri. Molte unità cambieranno perciò di comandante. Lo fa presente a solo titolo d'informazione.

9. - COLLEGAMENTO RADIO.

Gen. Mariotti : - Prega esaminare questione collegamenti radio fra S.M.R.E. e com. Campania e XXXI C. A.. Sarebbe necessaria una pattuglia di crittografi presso lo S. M. e presso Com. Campania. Se manca il personale, si potrebbe assegnare soltanto un ufficiale o un sottufficiale inglese; questo, pur continuando a rimanere negli soli in possesso del cifrario, potrebbe essere coadiuvato da nostro personale.

Gen. Duchesne : - Si riserva di decidere. -

10. - UFFICIALI ITALIANI DI COLLEGAMENTO PRESSO GLI ENTI LOGISTICI ALLEATI. 3133

Gen. Duchesne : - Rappresenta la necessità che gli ufficiali di collegamento presso i distretti, le aree, e le sub-aree siano svelti ed in condizioni di informare subito gli enti che li hanno distaccati, specie quando vi sono importanti questioni in esame, ad es. questione Ospedale Bari. Autorità alleate difficilmente mutano una determinazione già presa.

Gen. Mariotti : - Fa presente che questione Ospedale Bari era troppo importante perchè potesse essere decisa subito dagli ufficiali di collegamento.

..../..

- 8 -

Gen. Duchesne : - Dice di aver fatto del suo meglio per evitare la decisione presa in proposito dagli alleati.

Ecc. Berardi : - In caso del genere gli ufficiali devono far riserva di decidere e riferire subito. Ad ogni modo essi saranno chiamati tutti qui alla sede dello S. M. e riceveranno istruzioni precise in merito.

L'Ecc. Berardi si dichiara lieto di aver potuto discutere di questi problemi molto importanti e di aver trovato nel Gen. Duchesne molta comprensione.

Ringrazia e manifesta il convincimento che si potrà andare avanti bene per tutto il periodo del lavoro comune; periodo che spera sia breve.-



P. C. C.
IL COLONNELLO in s.S.M.
Capo Ufficio Operazioni -
(Francesco Lella)

7/11/53

3132

G. V. (24) WL 4429 251 4444 Pad: 3743, B. & S. Ltd. 51-4374

ARMY FORM (2125) (Pads of 100)

MESSAGE FORM

CALL
AND
INSTRUC-
TIONS

IN

OUT

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

TO

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY
ANY MEANS (WIRELESS)THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER
IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL
INTO ENEMY HANDSORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TIME OF ORIGIN

313005
T.H.I.

T.O.R.

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including."

LRLC V LRCT NR 36/464 IMPORTANT T QVR1
FROM MMIA LO DISTWO 111615

TO MMIA

MMIA LO ATT FLAMBO

GR48

P9. PRESENCE BRIG DUCHESNE REQUESTED

1200 HRS 14 DEC AT DISTWO FOR
CONFERENCE WITH GEN DOWLER REF
ITALIAN CIVIL AND MILITARY TPT
DIFFICULTIES. IF BRIG NOT AVAILABLE
PLEASE SEND RESPONSIBLE REP.

ACK SOONEST MMIA LO ATT DISTWO

THI 1635

REPTN NR 36/464 PLP T QVR1 111615

P9 1200 14 1635

SENT EDP VA

P
To
6/12
24
YWRCT
1655

Ack + return to "G"

168 3129
12

H.Q. No 2 Dist. BARI

10¹⁷/₄₃ 73

Dear Brigadier,

I am writing to say
that G.O.C. No 2 Dist. would
be very glad if you would
meet him and R.C.A.O.
No 2 Region (Col. McCaffrey)
at H.Q. No 2 Dist., BARI,
at midday on Dec. 14th to
discuss certain problems.
Will you be so good as
to let me know if 3127

is possible?

I should have done this.
Wright from L.O. here, but
his office is located & he
must be away.

Co. Lincum

Headquarters - Lt. Col.

L.O. A.C.C. at

Hq. No 2 Dist.

78513

T.M.M.1A.

Attached find copy of minutes?
of Conference forwarded to you
at the request of the P.G.S. 72

W. Selby
Capt.

G. Ops
1 Dec 43.

3128

(COPY)

SUBJECT: Minutes of a Conference held at MAIN HQ
EIGHTH ARMY on 20 Nov 43 to discuss
employment of Italian Military Forces
and Civilians.

Main HQ Eighth Army,
 M 1202 G

PRESENT15 ARMY CP

B.G.S.
 Brig. S.D.

EIGHTH ARMY

C of S (Chairman)
 BCS
 Brig A/Q
 AQMG (Main Army)
 AQMG (Rear Army)
 CI RE
 CI Sigs
 GII Ops
 GII GSI(b)
 ADST
 ADOS
 DADOS (Arm)
 ADME
 DADPL
 CATERING ADVISOR
 AMG

ACTION BY

1. Estimate of Italian personnel required for employment by
 Branches.

MILITARY

(a) RE Employ at present 2200. This number should be
 sufficient provided civilian labour also employed is NOT
 called up.

A small staff to control Adm etc. is being provided
 by MILITARY MISSION.

(b) SICS A Line Construction Coy (4 offrs and 120 ORs) has
 been accepted from 15 Army Gp.

50 Military or Civilian personnel are also required.

(c) CATERING ADVISOR. Can accept 40 cooks per month

(d) MEB Require 100 medical personnel to work in CCSs

(e) "G" One Bn already employed for Guard Duties. Another

Bn will probably be required.

(f) Miscellaneous Military Duties Up to 500

(g) Porter Coys Organised as Military Units may be required.

CIVILIAN.

(h) "Q" Require considerable number which varies from time to
 time. Employed at Ports, Rd Hqs, Dumps etc.

(i) RE Are employing 5000 at present. These are required
 as the Army advances.

(j) P and L Stated that a total of 12000 Civilians are
 employed in Army Area. This number would be required and
 could be either Civilian or Military.

2. Organisation for controlling employment of Military
and Civilian personnel.

(a) An organisation to be provided under MILITARY MISSION
 whereby an ITALIAN MILITARY HQ would be set up in the Army
 Areas, capable of sending out to each Corps a small det
ITALIAN MILITARY HQ. This organisation would be responsible
 for providing controlling and administering all ITALIAN
 Military and Civilians employed by Army and Corps.

(b) Decided that Military Coys should be employed as far
 as possible, but that local civilian labour should also

BGS 15 July 48 has undertook
 to work out the details
 of organisation
 required in conjunction
 with MILITARY MISSION.

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(b) Decided that Military Coys should be employed as far as possible, but that local civilian labour should also be employed.

(c) Recommended that ITALIAN Army NCOs should be placed in charge of parties of civilian labour, under service arrangements.

3. Decided that G (SD) would deal with these matters at Army HQ.

4. 15 Army Gp agreed to arrange that civilians would NOT be called up in Army Areas.

BCS 15 Army has undertook to work out the details of organisation required in conjunction with MILITARY MISSION.

- 2 -

ACTION BY

5. BGS 15 Army Gp raised the following points :-

(1) CARABINIERI must be arrested in private, when necessary.

(2) Minimum evacuation of civilians from villages.

6. Brig A/Q Eighth Army stressed the need for a proper organisation to pass refugees quickly through Army Area to ITALIAN authorities. This is being investigated.

7. Brig SD 15 Army Gp asked for suggestions for dilution of Unit WEs by Italians.

Heads of Branches.

(Signed) for

-----Major.

Maj-Gen.
Chief of Staff.

W.L.

DISTRIBUTION:

15 Army Gp (3)

C of S

BCS

G (Ops)

G (SD) (2)

A/Q (2)

"E"

"X"

GSI (2)

"Q" Rear Army

ST

OS

EME

P and L

CA TERING

AUG

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION BY A/Q BRANCH 15 ARMY
GROUP UNDER 15AG/8409/1/AQ DATED 24 NOV 43.

PA to BCS

C (SD)

GSI(1)

AMCCT

FLANBO

SECRET

MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY CAMP
11 14222 SD1

27 Nov 43

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE HELD AT MAIN HQ EIGHTH
ARMY ON 26 NOV TO DISCUSS PROCEDURE AND ANY NECESSARY ACTION
IN CONNECTION WITH ITALIAN MIL OR CIVIL PERSONNEL NOT EMPLOYED
OR REQUIRED FOR DUTY WITHIN EIGHTH ARMY.

Chairman	-	EC3
Present	-	DDPL GI Sigs AJMS GII (C) GII RE DAMC DAQMG Rep AMG LO MIA
Secretary	-	GII SD

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE REACHED:

PROCEDURE - MIL

1. Staff procedure - C.S.:
 - (a) within EIGHTH ARMY, 'C' in conjunction with P & L will coord all adm demands for labour and fwd then to G(SD);
 - (b) specialist demands for ITALIAN personnel which cannot be classified as labour, C.J. Sigs, Med, Cocks, Bakers etc., to be fwded direct to G(SD) or 'C' in accordance with normal Staff procedure;
 - (c) 'C' demands for GI personnel, internal security tps etc., to be fwded direct to G(SD);
 - (d) G(SD) will coord all the above demands and fwd them to MIA (copy to 15 ARMY Gr and all concerned).
2. LO MIA (Maj FREDMAN) located at REAR ARMY HQ, will be the link between EIGHTH ARMY and ITALIAN HQ which will be located in the neighbourhood of REAR ARMY HQ. This ITALIAN HQ will be known as "ITALIAN FORCE HQ". A pool of ITALIAN personnel, administered by ITALIAN FORCE HQ, will be known as ITALIAN Rft Camp.
3. In so far as labour demands are concerned, ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be on an analogous footing to a Pwr Cp HQ. DDPL will, therefore,

present

DDPL

GI Sigs

3125

• Secretary

CII SD

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE REACHED:

PROCEDURES - MIL

1. Chairman ruled that no deviation must be allowed from normal staff procedure - e.g.:

(a) within EIGHTH ARMY, 'G' in conjunction with P & L will coord all adm demands for labour and fwd them to G(SD);

(b) specialist demands for ITALIAN personnel which cannot be classified as labour, e.g. Sigs, Med, Cooks, Bakers etc., to be fwded direct to G(SD) or 'I' in accordance with normal Staff procedure;

(c) 'G' demands for ad personnel, internal security tps etc., to be fwded direct to G(SD);

(d) G(SD) will coord all the above demands and will fwd them to LMIA (copy to 15 ARMY Gp and all concerned).

2. LO MILA (Maj FIZILMAN) located at REAR ARMY HQ, will be the link between EIGHTH ARMY and ITALIAN HQ which will be located in the neighbourhood of REAR ARMY HQ. This ITALIAN HQ will be known as "ITALIAN FORCE HQ". A pool of ITALIAN personnel, administered by ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be known as ITALIAN Pft Camp.

3. In so far as labour demands are concerned, ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be on an analogous footing to a Pwr Gp HQ. DDPL will, therefore, pass demands for personnel direct to LO MILA, who will coord action with ITALIAN FORCE HQ.

PROCEDURE WITHIN CORPS AND FMS

4. This will be at the discretion of the CORPS or fms concerned, but all demands will be passed to ARMY through normal channels, e.g. 'G' demands to G(SD); adm demands to 'I'.

RESPONSIBILITIES

5. (a) ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be responsible:

(1) for the adm control of all ITALIAN tps in EIGHTH ARMY, incl ITALIAN liaison personnel and EIGHTH ARMY units;

....2

5. (a) Contd.

- (ii) liaison in the control of ITALIAN civilian labour employed in EIGHTH ARMY in conjunction with AMG.
- (b) Under para 5(a)(i) the adm of tps will comprise their discipline and maint in pay, clothing and equt; the reporting of casualties through enemy action, sickness or detention; arrangements for keeping units up to strength, the org into units of ITALIAN tps at present unofficially allotted to Allied units.
- (c) Under para 5(a)(ii) civil labour employed from villages in the two CORPS areas numbers some twelve thousand. The ITALIAN Mil HQ in each CORPS area may be called upon to provide offers and VCOs to assist the Allied Mil authorities in the provision and control of ITALIAN civilian labour.
- When ITALIAN personnel are allotted for duties other than labour, it will be the responsibility of the branch or service concerned to ensure that the necessary adm arrangements are made, referring as necessary to the LO MELA. Demands for additional personnel will be fwded to G(SD) or 'Q'.

MED

7. MED will investigate ITALIAN med facilities incl arrangements for evacuation.

PAY

8. ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be responsible for the pay of all ITALIAN mil personnel under comd EIGHTH ARMY.

RATIONS

9. All concerned will ensure that any rations which are authorised for OR ITALIAN personnel are issued direct to HQ i/c parties.

DEPT OF ITALIAN PERSONNEL

10. Noted that 546 ITALIAN Coastal RM was unable to move ex BARLETTA owing lack of tentage. Agreed that ALL will be moving into ARMY area must be equipped for tentage. Gasman personally agreed to take this matter up with 15 ARMY GP.

ORDER OF BATTLE

11. Present Order of Battle of ITALIAN Units in EIGHTH ARMY is shown at APPX 'A'.

ADDITIONAL DEMANDS FOR ITALIAN PERSONNEL

The following additional demands were noted, and will be

3124

HQ in each CORPS area may be called upon to provide office and mess to assist the Allied MIL authorities in the provision and control of ITALIAN civilian labour.

6. When ITALIAN personnel are allotted for duties other than labour, it will be the responsibility of the branch or service concerned to ensure that the necessary adm arrangements are made, referring as necessary to the LQ MHA. Demands for additional personnel will be fwded to G(3D) or 'Q'.

MED

7. MED will investigate ITALIAN med facilities incl arrangements for evacuation.

PAY

8. ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be responsible for the pay of all ITALIAN mil personnel under comd EIGHTH ARMY.

RATIONS

9. All concerned will ensure that any rations which are authorised for OR ITALIAN personnel are issued direct to WGO 4/c parties.

EXPT OF ITALIAN PERSONNEL

10. Noted that 546 ITALIAN Coastal Bn was unable to move ex BARLETTA owing lack of tentage. Agreed that ALL ... into ARMY area must be equipped for tentage. Chairman personally agreed to take th's matter up with 15 ARMY GP.

ORDER OF BATTLE

11. Present Order of Battle of ITALIAN Units in E3124 is shown at Appx 'A'.

ADDITIONAL DEMANDS FOR ITALIAN PERSONNEL

12. The following additional demands were noted, and will be fwded by G(3D) to MHA for implementation:

'C'	One Bn	-	Gd duties
	Two Porter Bns	-	(MHA) This demand has been
			1. Ld to 15 ARMY
			separately).
'H'	One Line Constr Coy	-	4 Offrs, 120 CRS.
MED	100 Gen duty orderlies		
	100 Nursing orderlies		
	30 Sanitary duty orderlies		
	20 Cooks (Reg X)		

...../3

- 3 -

12. Contd.

	40 Cooks	Note (a)
ST		
'G'	Six Dns for labour	
POOL	Three Dns	
	10 Gen duty personnel	
	10 Nursing orderlies	
	5 Sanitary duty orderlies	
	5 Cooks	
		Med Rfts

Note (a) = Tentage NOT essential.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

13. (a) Existing procedure for employing civil labour as required will continue.

(b) AMG was requested to continue the present system of payment to civilian personnel. If however, this system proves impossible in the future, alternative arrangements will be made.

(c) The services of ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be available to assist AMG as required.

MOB OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

14. All demands from branches or services for the mob of ITALIAN civil personnel will be passed to C(SD) for action.

SECURITY

15. In view of the security problems which may arise, Id Security Secs will be asked to pay particular attention to the risks involved.

Maj-Gen
O of S.DISTR:

Main: C of S
RCS
G(O)
RSI
AC
A
AFV
PA

Rear: C(SD)
DCE
C(2)
ST
H
OS
DCE

Copy for info to 3123
Personal Brig Martin BCS
15 ARMY GP.
MAIN 5 CORPS (4)
MAIN 13 CORPS (4)
2 ML DIV (2)
2 AA BDE
62 AA BDE

Richard BCS
157

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

13. (a) Existing procedure for employing civil labour as required will continue.
- (b) ANG was requested to continue the present system of payment to civilian personnel. If however, this system proves impossible in the future, alternative arrangements will be made.
- (c) The services of ITALIAN FORCE HQ will be available to assist ANG as required.

MOB OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

14. All demands from branches or services for the mob of ITALIAN civil personnel will be passed to G(SD) for action.

SECURITY

15. In view of the security problems which may arise, Pd Security Secs will be asked to pay particular attention to the risks involved.

Kilohelen 1845

15

*Mat-Cen
C of S.*

DISTR:

Main: C of S
PAS
C(0)
CSI
AC
A
AFV
RA
E
X
CV
AUT

Rean: G(SD)
DOE
A
C(2)
ST
A
CS
EHE
V & R
PRO
P & I(2)
POSTAL
SAL

Copy for info to **3123**

Personal, Brig Martin B93
15 ARMY GP.
MAIN 5 CORPS (4)
MAIN 15 CORPS (4)
2 NZ DIV (2)
2 AA BDE
62 AA BDE
86 AREA
AMIA
LO MHA

.....APPX 14

Appx 'A' to
M 14222 SDI dated
27 Nov 43.

19

ORDER OF BATTLE - ITALIAN TFS WITH EIGHTH ARMY

28 Artieri Bn

1 Form Artieri Bn

2 Form Artieri Bn

29 Minatori Coy

54 Lavoratori Bn

351 Coastal Bn

353 Coastal Bn

536 Coastal Bn

308 Coastal Bn

546 Coastal Bn

1150 Mule Units (approx 1,000 men)

3122

(G/12)

File with letter, show
for approvalG.3. C.W.
2 Dist.

66

Dear Butterworth

Rennie Cunningham

Save me your message
re the "Appreciation". The
S2 had kept me in the
dark as to the latest
information received from
you since my letter & request.

Should you at any time
be doing a summary of
and general appreciation of
the situation a copy would
be appreciated. The matter
has for the moment been
shelved, but doubtless

3121

It will crop up again
in the future.

$\frac{20}{4}$ 43

Whitson

G.3.(I) A.

2 Dist.

1918

SUBJECT:- Communications in 7 Italian Army

CSO 15 ARMY GP
CSO 2 DISTRICT
Gen CRIVANO - CE 7 ITALIAN ARMY
BAM LO XXXI COMPS

SECRET
British Military Mission
to 7 ITALIAN ARMY
6/12/5
8 NOV 45
File

Ref para 2 of attached Minutes.

- 1 CSO N° 2 District has since visited this Mission and promised to find out about the main trunk line.
- 2 It is believed that priority is being given to the portion BAM - NAPLES and beyond.

ABC

C. D. ...
Bris
Comd

3120

SECRET

Subject: Communications in 7 Italian Army

British Military Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY

6/12/43

Nov 43

MINUTES of a CONFERENCE held at B.M. INQUIRY 6 NOV

Present: Comd B.M.
G 2 (ops) B.M.

Gen CRIVARO (Head of CENIO Branch
7 Italian Army)
Lt Col FANELLI (CSO 7 Italian Army)
Capt SALVIONI (C (ops) 7 Italian Army)
Lt DE MANTINO Interpreter

- 1 Gen CRIVARO stated that the only W/T link in use within 7 Army was that between Army HQ and XXXI Corps. This had British cypher personnel each end. He could not answer for B.M. (Gen Staff) at BRINDISI who were believed to have comm with NAPLES, SALERNO etc.
- 2 B.M. will write to 15 Army Op asking that the Engineer ASTUTO of the ASST (who was believed to be working on the main underground trunk line from BARI - NAPLES) be made to contact Gen CRIVARO with a view to repairing the main line through SALERNO, and the amplifier at CASTROVILLARI. Gen CRIVARO would provide men to assist but could not proceed without the supervision of ASTUTO who normally maintained the line.
- 3 Subsidary lines necessary for Def Scheme would be repaired and maintained as soon as details of Def Scheme were known.
- 4 For the tasks mentioned in paras 3/4 Gen CRIVARO would require
 - (a) Transport for personnel and stores and sufficient petrol - Gen CRIVARO will let B.M. know exact requirements.
 - (b) Authority for the use of any materials necessary which might be under Allied or Italian control - B.M. to inform their LG at XXXI Corps.
- 5 7 ITALIAN Army were looking for sig eqpt in SICILY.
- 6 XXXI CORPS have no long range W/T sets e.g. for comm CATANIA - MESSINA; in normal times the civilian telephone and telegraph services were relied upon.
- 7 Italian pigeons can only work in the areas in which they are trained. Allied forces already have Italian pigeons in the ops area.
- 8 In APULIA telephone comms are good and from 7 Army HQ it is possible to speak to most Bn Hqs.
- 9 There is a D.M.S. service working embracing BARI, BRINDISI, FRANCAVILLA, MONT ROSI and TARANTO.
- 10 A courier goes by train from TARANTO to GROTTOLE every other day.

was sent between Army HQ and Army Corps. He could not answer for Army (Gen Staff) at Brindisi who were believed to have come with Naples, Santhia etc.

2. EAM will write to 15 Army asking that the Engineer ASSTO of the ASST (who was believed to be working on the main underground trunk line from Bari - Naples) be made to contact Gen CHIVARO with a view to repairing the main line through Canablia, and the amplifier at CASTROVILLARI. Gen CHIVARO would provide men to assist but could not proceed without the supervision of ASSTO who normally maintained the line.

3. Subsidary lines necessary for Def Scheme would be repaired and maintained as soon as details of Def Scheme were known.

4. For the tasks mentioned in para 3/4 Gen CHIVARO would require

(a) Transport for personnel and stores and sufficient petrol - Gen CHIVARO will let EAM know exact requirements.

(b) Authority for the use of any materials necessary which might be under Allied or Italian control - EAM to inform their LO at IXXL Corps.

5. 7 ITALIAN Army were looking for sig eqpt in SICILY.

6. IXXL CORPS have no long range W/T sets e.g. for comm CATANARO - REGGIO; in normal times the civilian telephone and telegraph services were relied upon.

7. Italian pigeons can only work in the areas in which they are trained. Allied forces already have Italian pigeons in the ops area.

8. In APULIA telephone comms are good and from 7 Army HQ is 3119 miles to speak to coast Bn HQs.

9. There is a DMS service working embracing BARI, BRINDISI, FIANCAVILLA, MONTESONE and TARENTO.

10. A courier goes by train from TARANTO to GROTONE every other day.

Distribution:- GSO 15 Army Sp
GSO 2 District
Gen CHIVARO - CE 7 Italian Army
EAM 10 IXXL CORPS

ADD

T O 6

Brig
Comd

SUBJECT: Conference Minutes

7 ITALIAN ARMY

British Military Mission
G/12/1
7 Nov 43

61
16

Herewith copy of Minutes of Conference held at No 2 District on
3 Nov 43.

ABC

Handwritten signature
Brig
Cond

3118

G/12/50¹⁰
15

SECRET

HQ 2 District CMF
2064 C

Nov 43

CONFERENCE

1100 hrs 3 Nov 43

Present : GOC

Brigadier JMWHEE (MC)

ITALIAN
Lt Gen. PELLIGRA
Chief of Staff Italian Army
Maj Gen
Adm Chief of Staff
Interpreter

Attended:

Col i/c Adm
GSO I
ADST of RM Sub Area
DAQMG of RM
Rep Nov Tn
GSO 2 (minutes)

None present
during whole conference

AGENDA

1. The handing over of CALABRIA to the military comd of 31-Italian Corps.
2. General matters with relation to the Italian Army.

SECTION I

Handing over of CALABRIA

GENERAL

1. GOC showed Gen PELLIGRA 15 Army Gp Ops Insta.
2. GOC outlined task of 31 Italian Corps :-

Within CALABRIA

- (a) Protection of the rd L of C REGGIO - NICASTRO -
PACIA - CARRI (- on to NAPLES)
- (b) Protection of the rd L of C REGGIO - NICASTRO -
COSINZA - SEZZANO - (east coast rd on to TARANTO)
- (c) Protection of rd L of C REGGIO - CROTONE - (on to
TARANTO).

ACTION

3117

Present :

ITALIAN

Present :

GOC

Brigadier JURENE (BEC)

ITALIAN

Lt Gen. PELLICIA
 Chief of Staff Italian Army
 Maj Gen
 Adm Chief of Staff
 Interpreter

Attended:

Col i/c Adm

GSO I

ADST of 24 Sub Area

DAGMG of BEC

Rep Mov In

GSO 2 (minutes)

More present
 during whole conference

AGENDA

1. The handing over of CALABRIA to the military comd of 34 Italian Corps.

2. General instructions with relation to the Italian Army.

SECTION I

Handing over of CALABRIA

OPERATIONAL

1. GOC showed Gen PELLICIA 15 Army Co One Insts

2. GOC outlined task of 34 Italian Corps :-

Within CAMPANIA

- (a) Protection of the rd. L of C REGGIO - NICASTRO -
 PACIA - SERRI (- on to NAPLES)
- (b) Protection of the rd. L of C REGGIO - NICASTRO -
 COSTA - SPEZZANO - (east coast rd on to TARANTO)
- (c) Protection of rd. L of C REGGIO - OROTONI - (on to
 TARANTO).

(d) REGGIO

Gen PELLICIA was shown marked map.

Gen. PELLICIA : Present dispositions were NVT suitable
 for task.

Brig DUCHEME : Gen ARISTO (comd 7 Italian Army) had
 readjustment of his in hand.

GOC : Was there any plan for this and
 how was it being implemented?

ACTION

3117

Gen FELLICIA : Is earlier comment was heavier it was quite easy to arrange.

4. GOC : What were 31 Corps present dispositions ?

Gen FELLICIA : 30 and Corps Cos
MANTOVA Div
212 Coastal Div
214 Coastal Div
227 Coastal Div
CASSOVILLARI

GOC : Asked for an up to date location statement.

5. GOC : What were CD arrangements ?

Gen FELLICIA : Broken up and in progress of reorganization.

6. GOC : Asked for CD status to be added to location statement.

7. GOC : As distances on L of C were long he suggested with localities along the road with patrols in between.

Gen FELLICIA : This was their previous system. There was also some parachute data as well as CD localities.

GOC : These could be suitably worked into an early corps protection plans.

8. Corps

GOC : Entered about corps.

Brig DUCHED : There was a 7/8 link between 7 Italian Army and 31 Corps through the channels as Italians not allowed to move as yet (Cinque restriction)

Gen FELLICIA : Telephone corps between Corps and Div HQ were out of order. Bombs were affected by shortage of wire.

Brig DUCHED : 15 Army Gp were not at present prepared to cut wire.

GOC : GOC 2 District would examine corps of 31 Corps, with assistance of Sig Officer, and report to GOC so that it could be known what was needed to restore essential corps.

9. VP's

5. COO : Have there CD arrangements?
Gen PHILLIPS : Broken up and in progress of reorganization.
COO : Asked for CD status to be added to location statement.
COO : As distances on I of C were long he suggested unit localities along the rd with patrols in between.
Gen PHILLIPS : This was their previous system. There was also anti parachute dets as well as CD localities.
COO : These could be suitably worked into rd and city comm protection plans.

7. Comms

COO : Turned about comms.
Brig DUBOIS : There was a 1/2 link between 7 Italian Army and 34 Corps through Hq channels as Italians not allowed to send as yet (Gipsor restriction)

8. VP's

Gen PHILLIPS : Telephone comms between Corps and Div HQ were out of order. Repairs were affected by shortage of wire.
Brig DUBOIS : 15 Army G2 were HQ at present prepared to replace wire.
COO : GSO 2 District would examine comms of 31 Corps, with assistance of Sig Div Hq, and report to COO so that it could be known what was needed to restore essential comms.
VP's :
COO : What were most important VP's?
Gen PHILLIPS : (a) Radio comms See "SLO" (Mag ref Z 1572)
 (b) Amphibious ALSTONVILLE
COO : Asked for a detailed list indicating relative importance.

9. GOC

Said that he would issue an Op Instr for 31 Corps and that he would in this ask for 31 Corps plan to carry out the required tasks.
(Ref to forward present loan statement and VP's list first)

ADMINISTRATION

10.

Col i/c Adm consulted separately with Italian Am C of S, and ADST RUSA. When he returned, GOC took the following points:-

(a) Stations as GOC would look at those on his journey to REGIO.

Gen PELLICIA : Col SIMONETTI at REGIO will meet GOC there and accompany him to REGIO showing the arrangements made.

(b) Ad Rovala Col i/c Adm said those were done by CAVOTERRI chiefly under military direction.

(c) Trasporto Control Col i/c Adm said that it was reported that L of C was well supported.

(d) Int Col i/c Adm said that it was sufficient for unit and normal local rpt movement.

Brig DUCHENE : Maj LUTHERER is ED 10 to 31 Corps, and in touch on all these matters.

SECTION II

General Italian Army Matters

CHARLES OF COM

After discussion it was agreed as below and GOC signed up.

1. Policy Matters

HQ 2 District to HQ 7 Italian Army through REG.

2. Local Matters

Each Sub Area Comd to have under his comd :-

(a) 1 Defence Co

(b) 1 Labour Co

Ref
to issue
advance
training to
7 Army

3116

(a) Starting Areas GOC would look at these on his journey to REGGIO.

Gen PELLICER : Col SIRONI at REGGIO will meet GOC there and accompany him to REGGIO showing the arrangements made.

(b) Pa. Romaine Col 2/c Adm said these were done by SIRONI chiefly under military direction.

(c) Traffic Control Col 2/c Adm said that it was reported that L of C was well signposted.

(d) Int Col 2/c Adm said that it was sufficient for maintenance and normal local movement.

Brig DUCHEME : Maj LENTINI is with HQ to 31 Corps, and in touch on all these matters.

SECTION III

General Italian Army Matters

CHANNELS OF COMM

After discussion it was agreed as below and GOC summed up.

3116

1. Policy Matters

HQ 2 District to HQ 7 Italian Army through HLI.

2. Local Matters

Each Sub Area Comd to have under his command :-

(a) 4 Defences Co

(b) 1 Labour Co

The comd of each of these Cos would deal direct with Sub Area comd on all local matters. G to assess requirement for def Cos. (Labour requirement known, see para 3).

to issue
advance
warning to
7 Army

to
dette to
Sub Areas
G

LABOUR

3. GOC gave figures :-

	Further	To make a
ELACZ	Remaining	Total of
250	250	1000
7500	2400	10000
4500	1000	5500
3200	1300	4500
Total	4950	21000

2
x
to have
implemented
by mid-Nov

Above further requirements were based on present port tonnage off loading, and more labour would have to be asked for if port loadings were increased.

4. GOC emphasised that labour parties shall NOT be changed over as much advantage was gained from men being well acquainted with their work and with those with whom they worked.

5. GOC would talk to General ROBINSON with regards to provision of essential clothing e.g. boots for Italian troops serving for us- also the question of feeding Italian troops in 706914 area when we take over there (now fed by Eighth Army).

511

GOC
is taking
up

AREAS FOR ITALIAN ARMY

(With especial reference to those parts of 9 Corps
not engaged in San Area "Groups")

6. GOC said it was agreed that :-

34 Corps 24,000

51 Corps "HILL"

would not be disturbed.

7. GOC : The question was where balance of 9 Corps should go.

ERIC DUNN : PORTER had agreed to the area ALMORA -
GRANITA - MINTERA and 7 Army had been
informed accordingly. This was for a
Div up to a strength of 12000.

Gen WILLIAMS : This was to involve Mountain bde 20 for use
with US Army.

Brig DICKENS : This was under 11000 troops.

Later discussion

Above further requirements were based on present port tonnage off loading. And more labour would have to be asked for if port loadings were increased.

4. GOC emphasised that labour parties shall NOT be changed over as much advantage was gained from men being well acquainted with their work and with those with whom they worked.

5. GOC would talk to General ROBINSON with regards to provision of essential clothing e.g. boots for Italian troops working for us - also the question of feeding Italian troops in certain areas where we take over there (now fed by British Army).

AGREES FOR ITALIAN ARMY

With especial reference to those parts of 9 Corps NOT engaged in Sub Area "Groups"

6. GOC said it was agreed that :-

34 Corps OLIVERIA

54 Corps "PILUM"

would now be disbanded.

7. GOC : The question was where balance of 9 Corps should go.

8. GOC : BENTLEY had agreed to the area ALLIANCE - GRAVINA - LIVERA and 7 Army had been informed accordingly. This was for a Div up to a strength of 12000.

Gen PHILIPPA : This was to train a mountain bde gp for use with USA Army.

1. GOC : This was under 17th Army.

After discussion :-

2. GOC : Agreed mountain bde gp should concentrate in 7th Army area North of PONTI.

3. GOC : Would all armies be put in writing covering each point separately.

4. GOC : Yes. He could not state requirements for 6th Army until he had asked his Sub Area Comd.

1. GOC : 17th Army

Major IS

2. GOC

3. GOC

as taking

up

4. GOC to continue to

5. GOC

DISTRIBUTION

MEM to 7 Italian Army (3)
ADC for GOC
Col 4/5 Lda
GSO I
AGMC
AAC
GSO
CE
Col (Mov 2nd)
DEEL
War Diary (2)
Spartan (6)

3115

SUBJECT: Conference Nov. 3

SECRET

British Military Mission,
to 7 ITALIAN ARMY.

Ref. No. G/12

Nov. 43

H.Q. No. 2 District.
H.Q. 7 Italian Army.

The following is a list of points for discussion at the conference to be held in BARI at H.Q. No. 2 District, at 1100 hours on Nov. 3:

1. In a memorandum dated Oct 17 addressed by Allied Military Mission to General Ambrosio it was defined that three Italian Divisions would be required in ITALY South of the line NAPLES - FOGGIA for guard duty, sabotage protection and internal security. Commencing with CALABRIA it is desired to build up requirements in detail to see whether three divisions is correct.

2: FOR CALABRIA

- (a) What troops do 7 ITALIAN ARMY consider necessary for guard duty, sabotage protection and internal security, and in what places should they be held?
- (b) 2 District are producing a draft instruction defining defence responsibilities for discussion at the meeting.

3. CHANNELS of COMMUNICATION

- (a) No. 2 District to make proposals for subjects to be dealt with by direct dealing between Commanders of British Sub Areas and local Italian Garrison Commanders: and what should be referred through B.M.M. and H.Q. 7 ITALIAN ARMY.
- (b) No. 2 District to make proposals for suitable channels of communication on A/Q subjects between H.Q. 7 ITALIAN ARMY, B.M.M., and themselves; and to define what subjects may be referred direct to them by H.Q. 7 ITALIAN ARMY through Lt. Col. VALLONE, Liaison Officer from Intendenza.

4. LABOUR UNITS IN PORTS

- (a) No. 2 District to define the permanent allotment of labour required at the various ports.
- (b) Within this number it is desired to organise labour Bns who will be permanently employed on this type of work and can be moved from place to place when required. What are 7 ITALIAN ARMY proposals for organising these units, and of what standard of age and fitness will be the officers and men who will be in them?
- (c) How many Italian troops not working in the docks, nor performing local duties for the Allies could be moved from BARI and BRINDISI and billeted elsewhere?

3114

1. In a memorandum dated Oct 17 addressed by Allied Military Mission to General Ambrosio it was defined that three Italian Divisions would be required in ITALY South of the line NAPLES - FOGGIA for guard duty, sabotage protection and internal security. Commencing with CALABRIA it is desired to build up requirements in detail to see whether three Divisions is correct.
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4. LABOUR UNITS IN PORTS

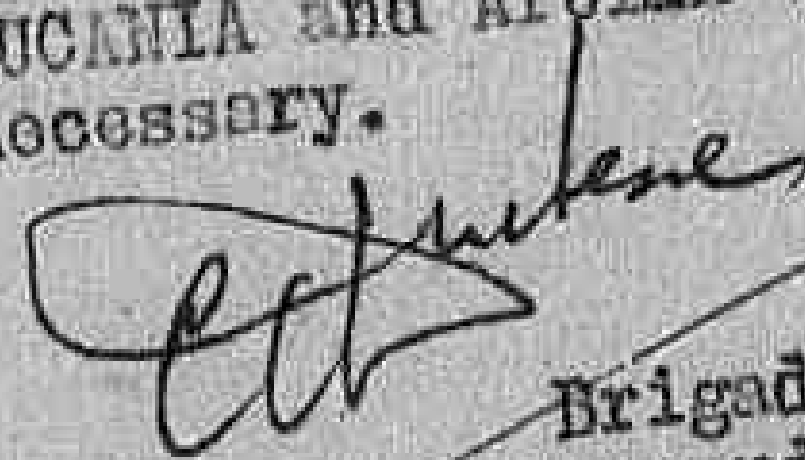
3114

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 - (c) How many Italian troops not working in the docks, nor performing local duties for the Allies could be moved from BARI and BRINDISI and billeted elsewhere?
5. AREAS for 7 ITALIAN ARMY

It has been agreed with specified reservations that up to one Italian Division may concentrate in the area MATERA-GRAVINA-ALTAMURA is living space now considered adequate or have 7 ITALIAN ARMY any further requests to put forward?

2

6. Reference para. 1. can 7 ITALIAN ARMY give a very rough estimate of troops probably required for guard duties, sabotage protection and internal security in IUCANIA and APULIA ? This may be left to a later date if necessary.



Brigadier,
Commanding,
British Military Mission.

GSH

3113

NOTES ON CONFERENCE AT 15 ARMY GROUP ON 12 OCT 43.

1. Maj. Gen. ROBERTSON will be D.C.A.O. (Dep. Chief Admn Off.) and his NAPLES H.Q. will be called AFHQ Adv. Admn. Echelon : opening Oct 24. He will also be Admn. Advisor to Gen. ALEXANDER. C.E. 15 ARMY GROUP will be Dep. C.E. AFHQ for mainland. C.S.O. 15 ARMY GROUP will be Dep C.S.O. for mainland. G (SD) 15 ARMY GROUP will function also as G (SD) for No.2 District and AFHQ Adv. Admn. Ech.

Movements No.2 District will deal only with ADRIATIC ports.

2. Admn. Rlys between No.2 District and FIFTH and EIGHTH armies will follow political boundaries as much as possible.

3. Road REGGIO - TARANTO required till end of year for 400 - 500 vehicles per day. Engr effort required to keep it going.

4. AMGOT FIFTH and EIGHTH armies under 15 ARMY GROUP. AMGOT No.2 District under Gen. ROBERTSON.

5. AFHQ to say policy for supplies and clothing to ITALIAN ARMY. For civil population at NAPLES we are already landing 500 tons of food per day.

6. Committee required to define how much local requisitioning can go on without starving economic life of the country.

7. LIAISON OFFICERS.

(a) 15 ARMY GROUP to have ITALIAN MILITARY MISSION with reps for Ops, Air, Sigs, Admin. (Small)

(b) EIGHTH ARMY will be asking for two ITALIAN L.Os. one to live with its AMGOT to collect ITALIAN soldiers and units; and one for Signals.

B.M.M. to await orders for (a) and (b).

(c) C.E. EIGHTH ARMY wants three ITALIAN ENGR. L.Os. to live with 3 C.R.E. ARMY TROOPS for ITALIAN ENGR units working with them.

(d) FIFTH ARMY wants an L.O. with knowledge of ITALIAN A.A. defence guns to live with Col. ROBINSON, H.Q. FIFTH ARMY and help him to get NAPLES A.A. defence guns in serviceable condition: his technical knowledge is of more importance than knowledge of English.

3112

(e) NVTS (FORTBASE) want three English speaking liaison officers to help with movement control at the various ports. They will not necessarily be static in any one port but may move from one to another as work indicates

Action already taken by letter to H.Q. 7 ARMY for (c), (d) and (e).

8. Gen. DAPINO; Comd. MOBILE BDE. probably to visit Comdg. General FIFTH U.S. ARMY soon. Orders later.

9. H.Q. No.2 District is moving to BARI about 20th.

MOST SECRET.AGENDACONFERENCE "A" - MATTERS OF GENERAL IMPORTANCE

1. Administrative reorganization in ITALY.
 - (a) Statement by Maj.-Gen. ROBERTSON on directive to be issued by A.F.H.Q.
 - (b) Statement by Maj.-Gen. ROBERTSON on his plans for carrying out the above directive.
 - (c) Administrative channels of communication.
 - (d) Administrative boundaries between Armies and No. 2 District.
2. The Building of 15 Army Gr.
 - (a) Control and allocation of craft. Demands by Armies for craft for coastwise maintenance or operations.
 - (b) Information as to the progress of moves ex NORTH AFRICA, MIDEAST and SICILY.
 - (c) Methods of improving the flow of information referred to in (b) above.
3. SICILY - CALABRIA I. of C.

Relations with Italian Authorities.

 - (a) Organisation of ANGOL.
 - (b) Channels of communication to Italian Authorities in Army and District areas.
 - (c) Requisitioning of Italian civil and military supplies.
 - (d) Supplies to Italian military and civil authorities.
 - (e) Italian L.O. - For attachment to Armies.

3111

13 Oct 49.

- (c) Administrative channels of communication.
- (d) Administrative boundaries between Armies and No. 2 District.

2. The Build-up of 15 Army Grp.

- (a) Control and allocation of craft. Demands by Armies for craft for coastwise maintenance or operations.
- (b) Information as to the progress of moves ex NORTH AFRICA, MIDEAST and SICILY.
- (c) Methods of improving the flow of information referred to in (b) above.

(d) SICILY - CALABRIA I of C.

Relations with Italian Authorities.

- (a) Organisation of ASGOL.
- (b) Channels of communication to Italian Authorities in Army and District areas.
- (c) Requisitioning of Italian civil and military supplies.
- (d) Supplies to Italian military and civil authorities.
- (e) Italian L.O. - for attachment to Armies.

3111

12 Oct 43.

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE HELD AT 0800 HRS. 11 OCT 43.

PRESENT:- Comd. Lt-Col. Lambert, G.11, S.O.R.E., G.11 R.E. Liaison
 Cpts. Monico, O'Donnel, Butterworth and Lt. Collett.

1. Inf. Bde. (H.Q. and 3 Bns.) required for guard duties at NAPLES. Gen. ARISIO wanted to send from SARDINIA but Supreme Command ordered from MANTOVA Div., CALABRIA.
 L.O. from C.R.E.s to take the orders to XXXI CORPS.
2. ITALIAN MILITARY MISSION required for FORTEBASE - Gen ARISIO informed.
3. ITALIAN labour in BARI to be increased from 4,000 to 8,000. Gen. ARISIO has asked if civilian labour can be employed - would need same supervision as military.
4. 7 ARMY'S return shows 18,000 soldiers working for Allied Forces. B.M.M. to check.
5. Division of responsibility :- G.11 - S.O.R.E. - DAA&QMG.
 (a) S.O.R.E. controls all demands for working parties that are going to be under R.E. control.
 (b) If purely unskilled labour is required ^{for RE work} G.11 provides on demand from S.O.R.E. Thereafter R.E. controls.
 (c) DAA&QMG arranges moves, rationing etc.
6. W/T comms. LEQUILE - CATANZARO to be expedited. 7 ARMY can provide sets.
7. 7 ARMY demands for clothing etc. to be passed to A.Q. FORTEBASE
8. Mules to be included on 7 ARMY weekly return.
9. G.1 (Tng) 15 ARMY GP. requires information re training establishments.

LEQUILE.
 12 Oct 43.

British Military Mission.

3110

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Minutes of a conference held at BRITISH MILITARY MISSION at 0800 hrs 9 Oct

PRESENT.

Comd. Lt. Col. LAMBERT, GII (Ops), G II (HE), D.C.R.E. (Wks)
Capt. MORRIS, O'DONNELL, & BUTTERWORTH (Int)
Lt. COLLETT.

1. Comd. stated that there would be a conference at 15 Army Gp. on 12th. Oct. to decide "Set up" in Southern Italy.
(a) At present British Military Mission to remain under H.Q. No. 2 District (FORTEBASE).
(b) Understand GEN. ROBERTSON will move on date to be fixed between 10 17 Oct. to NAPLES are to control whole base organisation in area behind 5th & 8th Armies.
(c) H.Q. No. 2 District to move to BARI.
2. 1. RAGGRUPPAMENTO MOTORIZZATO (Mobile Bde. Gp. Comd by GEN. DAPINO) will eventually come under 5th. U.S. Army.
3. Following demand for tps are likely to be made on 7th. ITALIAN ARMY.
(a) En. for guard duties in NAPLES.
(b) Possibly two more En. for labour duties behind 8th. ARMY.
(c) 4000 men for work in docks at BARI.
4. Army Railhead is at BARLETTA.
All movement by rail or road NORTH of line TARANTO BRINDISI will be controlled by H.Q. No. 2 District (FORTEBASE) who will issue a directive.
5. No objection from 8th. ARMY ~~PICENO~~ ^{PICENO} to move of PICENO Div to area ALTAMURA MATERA GRAVINA.
L.O. From ENM to find out from FORTEBASE if this interferes with Para. Bde. at ALTAMURA and if necessary go there.
6. AIRBORNE Div. will concentrate area GIOJA TARANTO.
7. AMGOT will be functioning in areas occupied by 5th. and 8th. ARMIES and will issue passes to local officials as necessary.
G II (Ops) to inform 7th. ITALIAN ARMY.
Behind 5th. and 8th. ARMIES AMGOT will gradually hand over to ITALIAN Control.
8. 86 Area have list of 100 motor cars requisitioned without authority and are taking necessary action.
9. ITALIAN L.O.s not required in 8th. ARMY operational area.
10. G II (Ops) to write to H.Q. No. 2 District (FORTEBASE) re est. allotment of W/T comms. between ENM and XXXI Corps.
11. G II (HE) raised question of policy of taking sappers from Italian Divs.
Decision No objection unless or until they become operational.
12. G II (HE) mentioned unsatisfactory state of transport

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11. G II (RE) raised question of policy of taking sappers from Italian Divs.
 Decision No objection unless or until they become operational.
12. G II (RE) mentioned unsatisfactory state of LAVORATORI Coys. composed of pseudo Italians (Slavs etc.). Numerous desertions.

Copies

File.

War Diary. (2).

SUBJECT: Conferences.

Brigadier Military Mission
Ref No. G/2.

10 Oct 43.

H.Q.
7 ITALIAN ARMY.

1. I return herewith English transmission of report on conference with Maj.Gen. ROBERTSON on 6 Oct 43.

2. As regards para.1 it was agreed that for all military matters CALABRIA should come under Comd. 7 ITALIAN ARMY as from a date to be fixed by him. All questions of hand over of civil powers will be handled by Maj.Gen. MASON MACPARKER'S Mission to the ITALIAN Government.

3. With the above reservation I agree to the report on the conference. As regards the Ferry Service by sea, I am asking H.Q. No.2 District (FORTBASE) to confirm that it is still running every day, and will let you know the reply.



Brigadier.
Comd. British Military Mission.

3108

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Brigadier,
Comd. British Military Mission.

3108

TRANSLATION OF REPORT ON MEETING BETWEEN GEN. ARISIO AND MAJ. GEN. ROBERTSON.6 OCT 43.54¹⁸
581. CALABRIA.

It is agreed that 7 ITALIAN ARMY takes over military and civil powers in CALABRIA.

The actual date will be fixed by the 7 ARMY Commander as soon as he has conferred with the Chief of Staff, XXXI CORPS.

2. LUCANIA.

For LUCANIA the above arrangement will take place at a later date.

3. WAR STONES OF ALL KINDS (MATERIAL)

The Army Commander raised the urgent question of " material " with General ROBERTSON, particularly equipment for 7 Army troops.

It was agreed to present a list of all requirements.

4. COMMUNICATIONS.

Concerning railways, and in particular the re-establishment of communications with XXXI CORPS, General ROBERTSON said that, once the breakdowns on the CALABRIAN railways had been made good, especially in the EAST, the REGGIO - CROTONE line will again be functioning. The line up to TARANTO is now being restored. Some trains are already arriving at TARANTO. There is, moreover, a Ferry Service by sea from TARANTO to CROTONE. A daily courier service to XXXI CORPS can operate by land or sea.

For signal communication between 7 ARMY H.Q. and XXXI CORPS H.Q., despatches from LEQUILE can be transmitted after being encoded by the English Cipher Office. An English officer must be at H.Q. XXXI CORPS for decoding purposes. Finally the matter should be discussed with Major HAMPTON at LEQUILE.

5. VICTUALLING.

7 ARMY Commander pointed out to General ROBERTSON the difficulties of provisioning in PUGLIA, both as regards troops and civil population, particularly the following - meat, wood for fuel and charcoal, all of which could be obtained from CALABRIA or LUCANIA.

6. BARI.

At BARI there will be an important English Base with a large H. Barracks and Storehouses must be put at their disposal. Commander 7 Army will telephone today (6 Oct 43) to General LERICI to find out the possibilities of fulfilling these requirements and will notify General ROBERTSON on his return to BARI in a few days time.

7. POSTAL SERVICES.

Transmission of mail both to CALABRIA and SICILY can be done by the British; it is necessary for us to solve the problem of reorganising the civil and military postal services. It was agreed to form a composite censorship commission.

8. CARABINIERI REALI.

Brigadier DUCHESE, on request, will grant passes to the CC.RR. proceeding to English occupied territories and eventually to CC.RR. going beyond the line at present held.

Minutes of a Conference held at VILLA PARANO, PORTUGAL
at 0930 hrs, 26 Sep '43

Present - Col. FIGUEIRA
Lt.-Col. CARVALHO
Col. OLIVEIRA
Col. PAI
Lt.-Col. APOLINARIO
Major. MATOS
Capt. LAFRANCO
Lt.-Col. GONCALVES
Major. RODRIGUES
Major. CARVALHO
Capt. MATEUS

Chief of Staff, XXI Corps
Deputy Chief of Staff.
H.Q. XXI Corps.
H.Q. XXI Corps.
H.Q. XXI Corps.
H.Q. CARVALHO District.
H.Q. XXI Corps.
R.C.A.C. AMST
P.C.A.C. AMST
B.M.M.
B.M.M.

1. Development

Until AMST establishes a static Regional H.Q. in Calabaria, Major. RODRIGUES is to act as liaison officer between them and XXI Corps. He is to ask for the same control now exercised by XXI Corps in Province of CARVALHO to be extended throughout Calabaria.

2. Control of Public Works and Services

Agreed that XXI Corps shall take control of all public works and services except Telephones which are already dealt with.

3. Restrictions of Cattle

S.M.M. to be informed of decision reached by AMST and XXI Corps on 27 Sep regarding number of cattle required by the latter.

4. Cattle

Cattle in Province of CARVALHO is now 2200 - 2500 head, except at OCEANO where there remains at disposition of local British Military Commander. AMST will obtain decision re 2200 and 2500.

5. AMST Proposed Transport Service

Agreed that XXI Corps could help AMST in providing transport, (question of XXI Corps taking complete control to be discussed further).

Major. RODRIGUES asked that all matters of local concern be addressed to AMST officers in various Council - matters on a Provincial level to him.

6. Cattle

Confirmed that stocks of grain now loaded on railway wagons in certain localities are not military property. Military stocks of flour will not be available for civilians.

7. Daily Allowance

Capt. HUMPHREY B.M.M.

1. Appointment

Until JACOF establishes a static Regional Hqs. in Calcutta, Major. HUMPHREY is to act as liaison officer between them and KILL Corps. He is to ask for the same control now exercised by KILL Corps in Province of GUJARAT to be extended throughout Calcutta.

2. Control of Public Works and Services

Agreed that KILL Corps shall take control of all public works and services except telephone which are already dealt with.

3. Requisitioning of Cattle

B.M.M. to be informed of decision reached by JACOF and KILL Corps on 27 day regarding number of cattle required by the latter.

4. Curfew

Curfew in Province of GUJARAT is now 2200 - 0300 hrs, except at GOTHAN where timing remains at discretion of local British Military Commanders. JACOF will obtain decision re 2200 and 0300 hrs.

5. ACOF Provincial Government Services

Agreed that KILL Corps could help JACOF in providing transport, question of KILL Corps taking complete control to be discussed further.

6. Major. HUMPHREY asked that all matters of local concern be addressed to JACOF officers in various Central matters on a Provincial level to him.7. Grain

Confirmed that stocks of grain now located on railway wagons in certain localities are 102 military property. Military stocks of flour will not be available for civilians.

3106

8. Family Allowances

B.M.M. will ask EIGHTH ARMY.

- (a) whether payment will be resumed to dependents of soldiers whose homes are in part of ITALY occupied by ALLIES.
- (b) whether payment will be made by military or civilian authority.

9. Bomb Disposal

A Bomb Disposal section is being allotted to B.M.M. to work with KILL Corps. JACOF to inform when and where its services are required. KILL Corps to clear minefields in areas 1001 - 1001/100.

12. Release of Italian currency for military use

B.M.L. to address official request to AMOT regarding a loan of five million lire to XII Corps until funds are released.

13. Petrol & Oil

quantity in dumps at IMIATION, SALVEMORE & CATTOLANO given to XII Corps.

Policy will be to transport bulk of petrol and oil to area CATTOLANO.

XII Corps to estimate approximate monthly requirements on a monthly basis together with details of grades and amount of oil.

14. Transport

Location of abandoned Italian military transport given to XII Corps.

35 lorries from MATTEOIA Division will be returned by Canadian at 1200 hrs 29 Sep. XII Corps to send necessary drivers to meet them, road junction MATTEOIA of 20/21/22.

/B.M.L.

Bgl. arendthun

May

3105

Revised to G.M.L.
For Brig. Comd.

XII Italian Corps Control.

DISTRIBUTION

XII Corps.

AMOT Regime 2

F.C.S.O. CATTOLANO.

be transferred to the NTC, there are no other jobs in the NTC, because the NTC can merely carry out local protection duties, maintenance of public order & work for the reorganization & cleaning up of the area.

2. There is no authority to draw from the bank of the 12,000,000 necessary to pay the men & officers & civil contractors for the month of September and ending.

To meet any budget would mean the hardship & loss of the jobs & the civil contractors who are in great need of money.

3. Clothing & other for the troops & the delivery of tents, transport, trucks, drivers & other, especially, are absolutely necessary for the troops.

Stragglers are arriving in large numbers & they cannot be allowed to be formed into units & used.

4. It is necessary to maintain for the present the soldiers' family allowances, because families deprived of such allowances which they have been receiving hitherto would die of hunger, & it might lead to serious consequences.

5. It is necessary to resume the postal services, by air mail; & meanwhile to begin giving news to the families by means of suitable wireless stations.

To meet any brief would indicate the knowledge of
 lived the needs of the people - the kind of individuals who are in
 great need of money.

3. Clothing - for the time considerable deliveries of uniforms,
 trousers, shirts, drawers - these especially are absolutely
 necessary for them.

Stragglers are coming in large numbers and they
 cannot be that they cannot be formed into units to

and:

4. It is necessary to maintain for the present the
 soldiers' family allowances, because families deprived of such
 allowances which they have been receiving hitherto
 would die of hunger, & it might lead to serious
 consequences.

5. It is necessary to resume the postal service,
 e.g. by air mail; meanwhile to begin giving news
 to the families by means of suitable wireless stations.

Dear Gen. Eisenhower

6/22/54

I thank you for your letter of the 27th. I am

extremely sorry not to have been able to see you again at

Catonsville, especially as I had several important questions to

discuss with you affecting also contacts with the other British authorities in

Germany.

I am forwarding ~~your~~ your letter, by hand of your G2. a

list of the questions, on which I should like your direct opinion so that

~~I can act on it.~~

While on the roads, which interest British military

authority shall be provided ~~a~~ in accordance with your

wishes. I shall send you the programme of the necessary

work ~~at~~ the time they will take.

I thank you for your understanding, your

cordial commiseration, & hoping to see you back here again

soon. I send my best wishes.

Respectfully,

for come

1. The order to arrange for the departure of HQ, 11 Army Light

Division with 2 Btys of 75/16 guns, to unload at Grootfontein

TOWN. Similarly, I have to arrange for the HQ of the 1st

Battalion NAF, for an HQ. For to move

There is no problem as far as the NAF is concerned. The 1st Bn

is already sent. As I have already said, they are troops which are

of no further use in Calais. Because they are fitted for

other tasks.

As for the HQ of 2 Btys of 11 Army Light, I beg that

Work on the roads which interest British military authority shall be provided ~~as far as possible~~ in accordance with your wishes. I shall send you the programme of the necessary jobs & the time they will take.

I thank you for your understanding, your cordial commendation, & hoping to see you back here again soon & send my best wishes.

Recommendation

The order to arrange for the departure of HQ, 11 Army Light Battalion with 2 Btys of 20/100 mm, the unit at present for TRANSITO. Similarly, I have to arrange for the HQ of the Light Battalion NEMBO, & for an AC Co to move.

There is no problem as far as the NEMBO & the A. S. Co are concerned. As I have already said, they are troops which are of no further use in Cambodia, because they are fitted for other tasks.

As for the HQ & 2 Btys of 11 Army Light, I beg that you should consider that it is inevitable to break up the Div MANTOVA only regt, which would be detrimental both to the regt deprived of 2 of its Btys & to the Div. deprived of its HQ Btys. 2 Btys.

Therefore let the whole MANTOVA Div. be taken complete, & being a still efficient, preparing Div without splitting it, which would be more suitable from every point of view.

I take the opportunity to inform you that I have

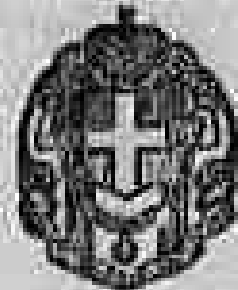
3103

3103

2. These weeks could be taken Leguile & Latorre (both part at Army)
3. G-2, 7th Army will prepare list of his requests from British Forces for boots, cotton thread to sew uniforms (they have the cloth); will go into the question of meat & fuel.
4. An Italian division will be read soon to go forward with British Army; this a running order only.
5. BAR to be closed if Italian field functions. (Heads are ~~held in an action~~)
6. G-2 Pathway will show as soon as possible Italian Army to put troops in area ACTAMURA - CAPELINA - MARELA (these are stops what happens they still have here).
7. In Eighth Army area, Italian appears to be given passes so that they can continue to function without having any requisitioned etc (will be getting about this)

6/10/43


 C. B. Bingham



COMANDO XXXI CORPO D'ARMATA

UFFICIO.....

Prot. N..... P.M.114 - o Li 28 settembre 19 43 - Anno.....

Risposta al foglio

Allegati n° 1.....

OGGETTO

G.Son
Pe get translated
dis an with ne
30/9 *Ced* *Br*

Caro Generale Duchesne,

Vi ringrazio della Vostra comunicazione del 27 corrente e sono assai spiacente di non poterVi rivedere subito a Catanzaro.

E ciò tanto più perchè avevo ancora da trattare parecchie questioni importanti che riflettono anche i contatti con le altre autorità inglesi di Catanzaro.

Ad ogni modo Vi invio a mezzo del Vostro Capo di Stato Maggiore un elenco delle questioni sulle quali desidererei una Vostra risposta diretta per poter agire in conseguenza.

Per le strade che interessano l'autorità militare Inglese sarà provveduto secondo i Vostri desideri e Vi farò avere il programma dei lavori ed i tempi occorrenti.

Vi ringrazio della Vostra comprensione, del Vostro cordiale cameratismo ed in attesa di rivederVi presto qui, Vi porgo i miei migliori saluti.

3102

Generale di C.A. Camillo Mercalli

Allegato N° 1

PROMEMORIA PER IL SIGNOR COMANDANTE LA MISSIONE BRITANNICA
GENERALE DUCHESNE52A
3A

1°)- E' giunto l'ordine di predisporre la partenza del Comando dell'11° Reggimento Artiglieria "Mantova" con due gruppi da 75/18 con imbarco da Crotone per Taranto.

Così pure per la partenza del Comando del Reggimento e battaglione "Nembo" e di un battaglione "A.S.".

Ora per il "Nembo" e l' "A.S." nessuna difficoltà anzi, come ho già detto, sono truppe che in Calabria non servono più perchè adatte ad altri compiti.

Per il comando e due gruppi dell'11° artiglieria prego considerare che non conviene spezzare in due il reggimento di artiglieria della divisione "Mantova" perchè si farebbe il danno sia del reggimento privato di due suoi gruppi, sia della divisione "Mantova" privata del suo comando di reggimento e di due gruppi.

Perciò si prenda allora tutta la divisione "Mantova" completa che è divisione ancora efficiente e atta al combattimento perchè è la cosa più conveniente sotto ogni riguardo, senza spezzettarla.

Coll'occasione Vi avverto che all'infuori della divisione "Mantova", del "Nembo" e del battaglione "A.S." non vi sono in Calabria altre truppe atte al combattimento perchè le quattro divisioni costiere non possono che compiere servizi territoriali di guardia, di tutela dell'ordine pubblico e lavori per la riorganizzazione e sistemazione del territorio.

2°)- Prego inviare l'autorizzazione per prelevare subito presso la Banca d'Italia i dodici milioni occorrenti per pagare le truppe e gli ufficiali ed i fornitori civili per il mese di settembre che sta per scadere.

Attendere ancora vuol dire aumentare il disagio ed abbassare il morale delle truppe e dei fornitori civili che hanno bisogno assoluto di danari

3101

..../..

- 2 -

3°)- Vestiario e calzature per la truppa. Occorrono assolutamente subito forti spedizioni di giubbe, pantaloni, camicie, mutande e scarpe soprattutto.

Stanno arrivando gli sbandati in gran numero e se non si possono vestire non si possono ricostituire i reparti e riutilizzare.

La stessa disciplina, l'ordine, ecc. ne soffrono grandemente.

4°)- Occorre mantenere per ora i sussidi alle famiglie dei militari perchè le famiglie private di tali sussidi finora percepiti morirebbero di fame e si potrebbe andare incontro a gravi conseguenze.

5°)- Occorre riprendere il servizio postale ad es. con posta aerea; e intanto incominciare a dare notizie alle famiglie a mezzo di appositi notiziari radio.

3100

HQ 7 ITALIAN ARMY
FRANCAVILLA FONTANA

6/2

Sep 27th 1943

Dear General Mercalli,

I find on arrival here that there is pressing business which necessitates my staying for the present, though I hope to come to visit Calabria later to see you in Catanzaro.

I am writing to tell Lambert to agree with General Trivato on the timed programme for work on the road and yards from REGGIO via COSENZA and CASTROVILLARI to the Calabrian border on both the east and the west sides. I am also telling L. L. Lambert to join me up here as soon as possible but to arrange to visit Reggio

there is pressing business which necessitates my staying for the present, though I hope to come to visit Calabria later to see you in Catanzaro.

I am writing to L. L. Lambert to agree with General Trivato on the timed programme for work on the road work units from REGGIO via COSENZA and CASTROVILLARI to the Calabrian border on both the east and the west sides. I am also telling L. L. Lambert to join me up here as soon as possible but to arrange to visit Reggio from time to time in the future.

I hope that everything will go well & look forward to meeting you again in the near future.

Yours
Sincerely
C. F. Lambert
Boy

NOTES FOR BRIGADIER DUCASSE.1. Armistice Terms.

No one here has a copy of the Armistice terms. It would appear that the Italian Army is to remain in being. The Army Commander said they may retain their arms, and this means much to them. There is some doubt whether they would be prepared to fight or not, but at the present moment the Army Commander does not want them to - so the situation does not arise.

2. I was called over here by the Army Commander because he and the 13 Corps Commander were being bothered by a lot of Italian Generals who wanted to see him to receive orders from him. He therefore said he would get a General Officer to represent him, who would later be replaced by a Mission.

3. Order of Battle.

31 Corps
104 Mantua Division
211 Coastal Division
212 Coastal Division
214 Coastal Division
227 Coastal Division
CATANZARO Area H.Q.

All the above are commanded by Generals of various grades - details in the file.

4. I have given orders as follows :-

On no account are any wireless sets to be used. The sets themselves are to be concentrated at Divisional HQs and kept under guard.

Many Italian soldiers are wandering about the country and I have ordered that arrangements be made that they should return to their units. Copy of a Proclamation which has been submitted to the Italian Corps Commander, which has been approved in principle by Army H.Q., is in the file. It should, before its publication, be seen by AMGOT HQ in CATANZARO. If it is reprinted locally the galleyproof should be seen by you. It will then be posted throughout CALABRIA and arrangements made for its distribution.

(1) By 31 Corps.

(2) Presumably by ourselves or AMGOT.

I have ordered that guards be placed on all dumps as far as this is practicable. But in any case on dumps of food or petrol or oil.

I have ordered that returns be submitted to me of personnel, specialists, M.T., stocks of all descriptions.

I have ordered 31 Corps Commander to move his H.Q. from CASTROVILLARE to CATANZARO. He is jibbing a bit I believe about moving into CATANZARO, as his previous H.Q. was here, known to the Boche and he fears it will be bombed.

The important thing is that his H.Q. should be near to you, and a few miles outside CATANZARO will not make any difference. You may want to move yourself.

5. Future Policy.

Future policy is obscure. The Army Commander has in mind that 31 Corps should consist of 2 Divisions only, and these would be 104 Mantua Div

- 2 -

and 211 Coastal Division. This Corps to be prepared to follow up Main Eighth Army to repair roads in its rear. Remainder of Italian troops to go to SICILY where they can be easily fed.

As regards the immediate future the Army Commander attaches no importance to CALABRIA and says he does not mind whether ~~main~~ road is through or not - as he proposes to transfer his base to TARANTO.

Policy of the Chief Engineer, Eighth Army, appears to be to mend all roads.

13 Corps have asked that the main road through CALABRIA towards NAPLES should be put in order, with as second priority maintenance of the WEST coastal road. You will have to get a clear policy eventually as to what is to be done in the meantime, the CRE can give you details from what I have suggested and what can be done.

I have sent a message to General Mercalli saying that his proclamation is approved in principle but that it must be submitted here in its final form for printing.

Sent a message to

I have ~~told~~ him that the British Army will probably want his mules but that they are not interested in his horses, and that he can give these to farmers if he wishes to do so. The difficulty is feeding them.

I have told him that no Division is to be moved to the TARANTO area without orders from me.

I have told Area Commander, CATONE, that he is to take charge of feeding and use the Naval personnel there. I have not yet told the Corps Commander of this policy.

Sent a message to

I have ~~told~~ the Corps Commander that if he will give me a list of the names of men whose families are in CALABRIA or SICILY that we will undertake to inform the families that the men are here, alive and all right.

I have not told him yet that as regards letters he will have to use such civil arrangements as AMGOT gets going.

The Corps Commander told me that he had a Railway Bn and asked what it was to do - I sent a message to him verbally that I want to know how many men there are in this Bn who can be used on such work as bridge-building, these men will be used as required. Remainder, who only understand railway work can be put on work on railway line from NICASTRO to the NORTH - though there is some doubt whether we shall require it.

I have told the Corps Commander that he should maintain his Court Martial Centre near CATANZARO, and use it to maintain discipline.

I have asked Army to supply anti-malarial tablets (Mepacrine).

One of Army's requirements is as many signal mechanics and electricians as possible for repairing instruments. Staff officers have been told we want to know what numbers are available - but you will probably ~~ask~~ 3097 ask again.

I have not seen AMGOT since my return from Army, but the policy is that ~~several~~ civilian telephone exchanges are to be opened by civilians under orders from AMGOT, but no trunk lines will be open to civilians - they will probably be required by the Army who will take them over. Priority of work at present should be repair of trunk lines, I have not told the Corps Commander this - you should do so.

- 3 -

6. Eventual Policy.

(2) The eventual policy is likely to be that such men as are required by us for labour will be kept as an integral part of a certain number of Divisions. Men who live in CALABRIA or SICILY will be sent on agricultural leave by 31 Corps Commander, if he is satisfied they can be employed on the land - but this must not interfere with the formation of the Corps of two Divisions, assuming the Army Commander still wants it.

One of the things you will have to do is to make an estimate after a week or ten days experience as to how much labour will be required.

It is not necessary for the establishment of the two Divisions to be kept to correspond in any way with the normal Italian establishment - in any case there is no fixed establishment of Coastal Divisions.

Situation as regards food, dumps, labour, strengths, etc. can be given to you by your Staff.

7. 13 Corps asked that we should form three
1st Platoons each of 30 men, ^{two} for
troop lifting, & one for stores.

Present 1st Platoon is that 30 men are
Army lifting Canadian & should have returned
2 days ago - we have 18 men here.

3096

Maj.-Gen. S.C. Kirkman, C.B.E., M.C.

Headquarters,
XXI Italian Corps
Control.

D/O.

18 September 1943.

General Mercalli has just been to see me, he is of a type much superior to his Divisional Commanders and belongs, I believe, to the Italian aristocracy. He is most anxious to co-operate with us in every way, and has no doubt that he can get his troops properly organised shortly. I told him that I had arrested Colonel Magistri for making pro-German speeches to his troops, and told him that I should recommend that he be treated as a prisoner of war. He agreed that this was correct. I discussed with him General Bologna, the unpleasant Commander of 104 Mantova Division. He said that he knew General Bologna was difficult at times, but he had every confidence in him - if there are any further difficulties or lack of co-operation he will himself be prepared to remove General Bologna from his command.

I told him that it might be decided to form a mobile corps of two Divisions under him to follow behind Eighth Army, and that it would be necessary to concentrate the remainder where they could be fed. I did not tell him that this was your policy, but that it was a policy that would be put to your decision. He agreed that it was a sound policy and said that as most of the troops were Calabrians they would work more willingly in CALABRIA than in SICILY, though he could appreciate that they would have to go where they could be fed. He hoped that you would be able to leave some troops in CALABRIA to clear the country up and help to get civil life started again.

He is moving his H.Q. to CATANZARO when his old H.Q. is cleaned up and he expects to be here in two or three days time. In the meantime he is leaving Staff Officers behind with the local Area Commander.

We discussed many points in detail which I will take up at the Conference at Army H.Q. this evening.

I discussed with General Mercalli the question of his A.A. batteries firing against German aircraft. He thinks this is against the terms of the Armistice and he fears reprisals, but he has not seen the terms of the Armistice, and he is prepared to order whatever is correct.

I feel certain that General Mercalli will do all he can to help us, but I think it will be some little time before we get his Corps properly organised - as the more I see of them the more I realise that his Divisional Commanders have little control of their men who appear to be disinclined to work hard and wish only to desert and

- 2 -

return to their families.

✓ PCK
—

General Sir Bernard Montgomery,
K.C.B., C.B., D.S.O.
Commander,
EIGHTH ARMY.

3094

Minutes of Conference held at MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY
at 1700 hrs 18 Sep 43 to discuss employment of
31 Italian Corps.

Present:-

Chief of Staff, Eighth Army.
ECs.
Reps of branches concerned.
Gen. Kirkman 31 Corps Control.
Lt.-Col. Batten " " "

1. Gen Kirkman explained composition and condition of 31 Italian Corps. In general all comds are willing to co-operate but are not in real control of their formations.
2. He stated that the Army Comd's policy for their employment was:-
 - (a) To organise two divisions on a reasonably mobile basis. These divisions to consist of pioneer and artisan units for engineer work, signals units for work on comms, and a proportion of labour bns, the whole forming a Corps to follow Eighth Army up carrying out work on comms, under RE and Signals.
 - (b) Remainder to be sent to SICILY (to ease adm problem) for work in CATANIA and SYRACUSE areas, less a few units required in CALABRIA.

The question of employing certain units, e.g. AA Regts, in a combatant role depended on the terms of the Armistice. Eighth Army will obtain these from 15 Army Gp.

3. The main problems requiring answers were then discussed, and are set out below:

Personnel.

4. (a) Italian soldiers wandering about the country must be got under control.
Authority was given for a proclamation to be posted (draft at Appx "A"), and put into effect.
- (b) It was agreed by NLO that 1,000 Naval ratings at COTLONS should be organised by 31 Corps Control primarily for work in dock area.

5. Tpt.

- (a) Collecting all Italian Military Tpt. Can an order be issued that after a certain date all tpt drivers be Italian soldiers not in possession of pass will be shot?

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5. Tpt.
 - (a) Collecting all Italian Military Tpt. Can an order be issued that after a certain date all tpt driven by Italian soldiers not in possession of pass will be impounded by EMA?
 - (b) May organised military tpt be used to carry civilians back to their homes?
 - (c) May the opening of civil garages for the repair of military vehicles be authorised?

6. Animals.
 - (a) 400 horses are available. These are NOT required by EMA and should be given to farmers to work on land.
 - (b) 1,000 mules available will be required.

- 2 -

7.

Rations.

(British rations cannot start before 25 Sep. Italians are stated to have rations until 20 Sep. "Q" need NOT alter their date unless a mutiny appears imminent.

8.

Works.

CE Army has all details of road repair requirements. These have been given to Gen. Kirkman by C.I.RZ.

9.

Pay.

Italian Corps Comd suggests paying troops from funds available in local Banks. Question of whether British or Italian Govt are accounting authority presumably laid down in terms of Armistice. "A" will look into whole question.

10.

Postal.

Italian soldiers will NOT be allowed to write letters. Divs will prepare nominal rolls by localities which will be posted in public places in towns and villages under AMGOT arrangements, for information of relatives.

11.

Medical.

Much malaria, and shortage of mepacrine.

12.

Discipline.

Court Martial Centre is to be kept open at present.

13.

Size of Mission.

The WZ for the EMM was discussed, and SD are taking action.

14.

Demands for Assistance from Corps or Branches.

All demands for work will be submitted direct to 31 Corps Control, or to EMM when they take over.

EHS.

Dist:-

Chief of Staff, Eighth Army.

BGS.

D. & QMG.

G(O)

G(SD)

CSI(b)

JTV

3092

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Chief of Staff, Eighth Army.

BGS.

DA & QMG.

G(O)

G(SD)

GSI(b)

ATV

X

E

A

Q

Rear:- Q (10 copies).

31 Corps Control (3 copies).

M/1202/c

19 Sep 43.

3092

Appx "A" to M 1202 G
18 Sep 45.

DRAFT DECLARATION.

In agreement with the British Military Authorities who are occupying the territory of CALABRIA.

I ORDER

1. That all Italian soldiers wherever they are dispersed in the territory of CALABRIA, who having abused or wrongly interpreted the directions of the BMA have left their units return forthwith.

2. Soldiers should present themselves to the units of which they formed part. In case any soldier does not know the location of his unit, or if the unit is not in CALABRIA, he will report to the nearest Italian Headquarter, who will take steps to forward him either to his unit or the nearest Italian Headquarters.

In the meantime it is ordered that

- (a) soldiers of the Mantova Div report to the area between CARICOPOLI and TAVERNA.
- (b) of 211 Div to the area between DECOLLATURA and S. BERNARDO
- (c) 212 Div to the area between SOVERIA and COLOSIMI
- (d) 214 Div to the area between S. SEVERINA and PETILIA POLICASTRO
- (e) 227 Div to the area between COSENZA and CASTRO VILLAPI

3. Troops must report before :..... (date to give 10-15 days grace.)
After this date all troops will be arrested by the CARABINIERI and sent to concentration camps arranged by the BMA.

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3081

