

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

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Dec. 194

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G/21/16 Liaison Log AFHQ (CAPT PALINI)
Dec. 1944

AFHQ Liaison - Report No. 3

Liaison duties with AFHQ were undertaken on 2 December 1944.

Discussed with G 3 (Ops) the progress made to date on the ABRUZZI call-up, calling attention to the fact that all plans were ready with exception of getting:

- (a) Road transportation from CHIETI (the collecting center) to ORTONA (the rail-head) for transportation to TRANI (the Allied Camp) of two contingents of 800 each.
- (b) Rail transportation from ORTONA to TRANI for an initial group of 800 between Dec 11 to 17 and a second group of 800 to be moved between Dec 17 to 22.

These 2 problems were immediately dealt with by contacting the two sections concerned and concluded in the following manner:

Rail transportation for 800 between Dec 11 to 17 would be bid for at the POM conference on Tuesday 5 December. Its acceptance was verbally assured by Movements and Transportation Section. The travel time between the two points will not be over 24 hours.

M and T Section will inform their RTO at ORTONA of the bid acceptance with instructions to determine and communicate the exact day to our Liaison Officer in order that road transportation may be provided. This information, to assure absolute co-ordination will be passed on to 2 Maintenance and G 3 (Ops).

The bid for the second group of 800 should be submitted by us at the beginning of the week in our "weekly stores bid".

2 Maintenance was informed of the above details.

Necessary transportation was promised and it would be obtained probably from 3 District. It was pointed out that the original objection raised by 3 District that providing such transportation would be impossible because their vehicles would, of necessity, be deployed over a wide area to pick up the personnel was now overcome by our concentrating all personnel at CHIETI.

They requested to be advised of the date on which transportation would be necessary, at the very earliest possible time.

The exact combined strength of the 407 and 408 Infantry Regiments working with USAAF at FOGGIA is 25 Officers and 680 ORs.

It was verbally communicated that the 30 Maltese Officers are acceptable in place of NCO vacancies on Gruppi ECU WE. Information is requested by G 3 as to what the NCO vacancies are.

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G 3 was informed that beginning Sunday 3 Dec, 800 muleteers per day would be available from TARANTO Camp in compliance with AAI request to furnish 2,000 at the very earliest. G 3 informed that in the meantime AAI has stated that they will accept 1,200 between the 11 to 17 December and 1,200 between 18 to 24 Dec for shipment directly to COLLE SALVETTI. This will place an additional burden on the TARANTO Camp from the standpoint of housing, rationing, and equipping.

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G 5 was approached with reference to problems that have arisen concerning the Italian Liaison Officers to be posted with SHAEF to find that they have turned the entire problem over to G 3. Specific questions were also discussed with AG Postal and the US Financial Director. AG Postal stated that the problem of correspondence between the Italian Officers and their families and vice versa offers no difficulty providing that the Italian officers are attached to an American Headquarters and use an APO for an address. In such a case direct communication is possible both ways, the mail passing from civilian channels to APO on its way to FRANCE and vice versa for the return mail. An alternative was offered wherein MMIA would collect the mail from the War Ministry, be responsible for censorship security and arrange for its onward transmission.

The problem of pay for Italian Officers was discussed with the Financial Advisor. An immediate solution could not be offered. The Deputy Director will be in ROME Monday 4 December at which time he hopes to have the answer and pass it on to MMIA, otherwise it will be communicated at the earliest possible time.

G 3 is sending a cable to SHAEF requesting the information required by AG postal as well as more detailed particulars concerning the additional 4 Italian Liaison Officers requested by SHAEF is FX 57630.

Considerable progress has been made by G 3 in drafting the details for the reinforcements scheme.

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