

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

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10000/120/1616

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10000/120/1616

SAND/881 Recall Reports

Feb. - Mar. 1945

Y 30M/rrc

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

5 March 1945

SUBJECT: Troops on Liberty Ships.

MEMO : To Colonel Simmons.

SAMLEYTE:	Life rafts for 880 men Life belts for 300 men
SAMSPERRIN:	No life rafts Life belts for 110 men
ITALIAN NAVY:	No life rafts Life belts for 600 men

Liberty ships tween deck capacity is rated at 54.6 cu ft per cargo ton.

#1 TWD	39,565 cu ft	725 tons
#2 TWD	42,630 cu ft	780 tons
#3 TWD	23,904 cu ft	438 tons
#4 TWD	29,689 cu ft	544 tons
#5 TWD	30,864 cu ft	565 tons

There is no way of estimating top deck capacity. It is just loaded and lashed with whatever equipment can be put on, and not interfere with ship operations.

Type liberty ships of this class carry 1025 men in the tween decks.

Type of deck cargo loaded is the governing factor on the number of troops the master will carry as all troops must remain on deck. Regardless of type of deck cargo masters will not allow more than 200 men of their decks.

If troops are to be loaded, masters will take 510 men distributed on the deck and in #4 and #5 tween decks.

The master of the SAMLEYTE states that this will have to be his last run for quite some time as he now is in need of major repairs.

1887

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

Y SOM/rre

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

18 February 1945

SUBJECT: Inspection of Recall Units in Cagliari.

MEMO : To Colonel F. L. Simmons.

1. The men were all clothed in new and reclaimed garments. For the most part they were dressed surprisingly well. Attempts had been made on the parts of the officers and men to fit the clothes to each individual. Shoes in a great many instances did not fit. The Sard soldiers are for the most part small men and have small feet. Their feet run in sizes, generally, from five to nine. The shoes that they were issued ranged in size from 8 to 12.

2. Each man had one blanket and one mess kit.

3. Attempts were being made at the various collecting centers to give the men four hours of training a day. In most cases this was not strictly adhered to due to the fact that there was a deficiency in the supervising personnel; officers and non-commissioned officers.

4. Enthusiasm was very high in all camps.

5. Each commanding officer of each camp implored that these men be dispatched to the continent at once while their spirits are high.

S. D. Martin
S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

File
with other "Recall" reports
⑤

Subject: Call Up SARDINIA

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(MMIA)

G-1

4 Mar 45

To: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(MMIA)

Info: Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(MMIA) Sardinia

1. Herewith my report on the first phase of the call up SARDINIA.
2. System of Operating Call Up

This differed very considerably from the system adopted in SICILY, the main points of difference being as follows:-

(a) There was no census. Owing to all Sardinians under arms in SARDINIA having been demobilised on renewable leave (Licenza rinnovabile) or discharge (congedo) in November 43 and April 44 reasonably accurate military records of the manpower available in the Island were at hand. Furthermore the old Italian recruiting and demobilising machinery as operated by the Districts and Regimental Depots was not destroyed, as was the case in SICILY, by invasion. There are very few "dispersi" (reported missing) in SARDINIA as the majority of Sards under arms were serving with regiments stationed in the Island.

(b) The call up was not operated by individual call up notices (cartoline di precetto) but by public posters (manifesti) setting out the terms under which men were liable to recall and the action required of them. All men had to report and those declared medically unfit or exempt under Italian regulations were detained in hospital or sent home.

(c) The men were passed from the collecting points (centri di raccolta) to mobilization centres (centri di mobilitazione) if on renewable leave or to District HQ's (Distretti) if actually discharged. At these centres they were (as stated in para b) vetted for suitability and sent on to special battalions (battaglioni di marcia) composed entirely of recalled men properly organised and officered. On arrival at the special battalions men were clothed in accordance with MMIA letter SD/77 of 7 Feb 45.

(d) A special branch of the Military HQ SARDINIA was formed, headed by General SCALABRINO, to deal specifically with the call up.

(e) 500 officers were called up from SARDINIA.

1885

3. Results of Phase I

Phase I call up SARDINIA concerned the classes 1919 to 1924. Was scheduled to run from 1 Feb to 15 Feb and was expected to bring in 10,000 men.

Appendix A sets out the results obtained between 5 Feb and 2 Mar. It will be noted that of the 13,659 officers and men who reported 1216 were exempted under Italian regulations (8.8%) and 146 sent to hospital (1%). The number of men exempted under these headings is in strong contrast to the results obtained in SICILY. No men were exempted on Allied request.

4. Comments on Results Phase I

I believe that the results obtained in the call up phase I SARDINIA have not as yet been rivalled anywhere else in liberated Italy.

In my opinion the reasons for these results are as follows:-

(a) The Sardi peasantry which provides the bulk of the men recalled to arms is by nature law-abiding and produces good and obedient soldiers. The brigandage and consequent unrest which exists in certain Sardinian districts has no political background. There is no separatism or Mafia in SARDINIA and consequently little anti-government feeling.

(b) Such anti-call^{up} feeling as did exist in the Island was firmly handled initially and anti-call up demonstrations were both few in number and ineffective. Men reporting for the call up were not interfered with and were in no fear of personal violence.

(c) Propaganda by the civil and military authorities in SARDINIA was begun in good time and fell upon fruitful ground.

(d) Reasonably accurate records of the numbers of men liable for the call up were available to the military authorities as a result of the mass demobilisation of Sards in Nov 43 and Apr 44 under almost peace time conditions. General SCALABRINO stated that the reason that more men responded than were actually budgeted for was that some of the regimental records of the men demobilised in Nov 43 and Apr 44 were lost.

(e) The road and rail network laid on to bring the men in to the mobilization centres was efficiently run and the latter were all adequately staffed, where necessary, by effective Italian Army personnel.

(f) The clothing of the man on arrival at a special battalion and his incorporation in a more or less disciplined unit all served to raise morale and encourage men to report.

5. General Comments

Three factors are likely to retard the response made to the call up by the classes 1914 - 1918. They are:-

(i) A greater number of the men will be married and will therefore be more reluctant to leave home.

(ii) The over-long inactivity in SARDINIA of the men called up under phase I will have a demoralising effect on those liable under phase II and III.

(iii) The fact that in phase I it was the late arrivals - over the 10,000 mark - who got sent home will be noted and although these will be recalled under phase II it will be considered that reporting late is an advantage.

6. Conclusions

The call up results achieved so far in SARDINIA are due, I believe to the law-abiding nature of the Sard, the better morale that exists, generally speaking, on the Island than elsewhere in liberated Italy, the completeness of the military records and the sound planning and organisation carried out prior to and during the call up.

The most unfortunate delay that there has been in shipping the first 10,000 men over to the mainland is already starting to have a demoralising effect.

Men are beginning to go absent in appreciable numbers in order to see their families, and a natural Italian tendency to sell clothing, until recently at a minimum, is now growing daily, and is in my opinion attributable directly to the length of time that the men recalled have been allowed to remain in the Island waiting shipment.

Those recalled men talked to showed a marked impatience for the day of departure and could not understand why, if they had to wait, they could not do so at home where they could be of use working on the land.

7. Recommendations

(a) All the men called up under phase I should be shipped to the mainland with a minimum delay and before the start of phase II.

(b) It is likely that SARDINIA would be able to produce more than the 26,000 men planned.

I understand that all other call up's to date have failed to produce the total expected and I suggest that MMIA should consider increasing the quota for SARDINIA.

The men, if available, would constitute better army material than those from other parts of liberated Italy who have so far refused to report for service with the colours and who can only be made available now with great difficulty and as a result of penal process.

1883
Lt Col G S
MMIA Liaison Officer

Appendix A

CALL UP SARDINIA - PHASE I5 Feb to 2 Mar 45

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Exempted	63	845	908
Unsuitable	18	292	310
Hospitalised	4	142	146
Men with homes in liberated Italy	-	292	292
Called to the colours	448	11,241	11,689
Transferred to CC.RR.	-	314	314
Total reported	533	13,126	13,659

1982

Date: 12 MARCH 1945

Headquarters of Origin: LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AC (MMIA)

Precedence: PRIORITY Security Classification: SECRET

TO: MMIA

FROM: MMIA LO SARDINIA SIGNED SIMMONS. Reference Number: Y

165

REQUEST THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE TO SHIP 10,109 PAIRS OF BOOTS, 10,116 TROUSERS, WOOL AND 7,000 SHIRTS, WOOL TO SARDINIA SO AS TO ARRIVE BETWEEN 20 AND 25 MARCH (.) THESE ITEMS ARE NEEDED TO CLOTHE MEN IN FINAL PHASE OF CALL UP AND TO MAKE UP SHORTAGES IN PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS .

1881

REQUEST THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE TO SHIP 10,109 PAIRS OF BOOTS, 10,116 TROUSERS, WOOL AND 7,000 SHIRTS, WOOL TO SARDINIA SO AS TO ARRIVE BETWEEN 20 AND 25 MARCH (.) THESE ITEMS ARE NEEDED TO CLOTHE MEN IN FINAL PHASE OF CALL UP AND TO MAKE UP SHORTAGES IN PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS

1881

Prepared By George L. Fossett MAJOR C.E.

Authenticated by F. L. SIMMONS COLONEL INFANTRY

FILE: CALL-UP

Y SDM/rre

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

3 March 1945

SUBJECT: Inspection of Recall Units.

MEMO : To Colonel Simmons.

1. On 3 March 1945 at 1000 I inspected the Tirso Battalion commanded by Captain Piras at the Caserma Selargius. The battalion was composed of 472 out of which 96 men had no clothes. The captain said the Commissariato said that they had no more clothes. The men had no soap but did have flea powder.

2. The inside of all barracks was fairly clean but the outside and surrounding grounds were bordering on a pig pen. I told the captain to have the grounds thoroughly policed by 1600.

3. The Kitchen was fairly clean but the outside of it was terrible.

4. At 1600 I returned for further inspection. The grounds had been cleaned and the men were loading a massive pile of debris into a 5 ton truck supplied by the autopark at Poetto on my orders.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

1830

Y SDM/rre

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.H.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Inspection of Recalls.

MEMO : To Colonel Simmons.

1. On 1 March 1945 at 0930 hours I inspected recalled men at 16th Artillery Deposito. There were 818 men composing the Monserrato Bn under the command of Major Zoppi. The barracks where the men slept was fairly clean. The men were sleeping on old mattresses thrown on the concrete floor. Each man had three blankets. The men had body lice and scabs. They have had no soap or flea powder. The Commissariato informed the C.O. that since his battalion was not formed as of the 1st of February, he could not draw these items until the next intent period 15th March. The adjutant, Capt Caruso, said 18-20 had no uniforms. I counted at least 40 without any uniforms. He said that the Commissariato had not issued enough to go around. These men have been without baths, clothes, or inoculations for about 15-18 days.

2. The mess kitchen was dirty; the drains where the men wash their mess kits were plugged; a big refuse pile of old rotten food and tin cans was located about 25 yards from the kitchen. The captain said he had no means of moving it. I furnished him a truck to remove it. At 1730 hours when I again inspected the area near the kitchen it was worse than it was when I inspected it at 0930. About 1/2 of the refuse pile had been moved.

The officers seemed very indifferent as to what was going on. The captain said the men were getting some instruction but I saw no evidence of it at 0930, 1500 and again at 1730 when I visited this place.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

1879

Y SDM/rrc

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

28 February 1945

SUBJECT: Inspection of Recalls.

MEMO : To Colonel Simmons.

1. On 28 Feb at 1000 I inspected the Carabinieri Ajunta recall men at the 46th Infantry Regiment barracks. There were 434 men there under the supervision of Captain Fulobia, CC.NR. These men have been there from 15 to 20 days sleeping on straw piles on the concrete floors of the building, each man having one blanket a piece. These men have had no baths, no soap, no medical treatment or examination. Quite a few men had body lice. Their civilian clothes were very dirty. They had not been issued any Army clothes or shoes. The food was good and enough for all men. I was present at the serving of the noon meal. Every man got a loaf of Italian bread and a full mess kit of pasta in broth with plenty of pasta.

2. The kitchen was dirty. At 1400 that same day I inspected it again and it had been cleaned up very well.

3. The captain of the company had indented for clothes, soap, blankets, beds, etc, but had received no reply from the Commissariato.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.F.

19-8

Y SDM/trc

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

12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Loading of the Samleyte.

MEMO : To Colonel F. L. Simmons.

1. The loading of the recalls commenced at 0745 this date. At 0830 only 238 had showed up out of a total 400 scheduled to embark. Colonel Costantino sent a call out to all camps in the Cagliari area to bring all available men to the port at once. At 1000 we had loaded 458 recalls: 400 of this shipment; 46 missing from the loading of the Montecuccoli and 12 for good measure.

2. The following equipment was missing and the names, addresses and unit of the men concerned were taken:

17 pr shoes	2 sweaters
28 blankets	1 mess kit
1 pr socks	

3. The loading although very noisy went off very well. The ship left the dock at 1030.

4. The following troops were loaded:

458 recalls
19 Air Corps (escort for equipment)
75 Casuals
26 Army (escort for equipment)
<hr/> 587

487
S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.R.P.

Y SDM/rre

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

12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Loading of the Montecuccoli.

MEMO : To Colonel F. L. Simmons.

1. On 11 March 1945 at 1230 troops commenced loading on small boats to be embarked on the cruiser. At 1500 all available troops had been loaded, 834: 166 men were over-the-hill. Colonel Costantino sent trucks and motorcycle couriers to all the camps in Cagliari to bring down as many men as they could find in barracks. An additional 120 men were embarked by this means. The sailed with 46 men short.

2. The following equipment was found by inspection to be missing:

Overcoats 24	Shoes 6	Hat 1
Shirts 1	Sweater 3	

3. A great many of the men were gloriously drunk and a great many others were feeling pretty good. The embarkation resembled a mob scene.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.E.F.

Y SDM/rrc

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

6 March 1945

SUBJECT: Loading of Recall Units.

MEMO : To Colonel F. L. Simmons.

1. The loading of the troops commenced at 1220 on Mola Angostina. Quite a few of the troops had been drinking. A near riot was prevented by Colonel Costantino when a Carabinieri attempted to restrict the actions of one of the soldiers who was pretty well inebriated. The colonel secured the release of the soldier and immediately put him on a small ship carrying the troops out to the cruiser. The Italian officers who were in charge of the troop discipline were of little use at all. Prompt action by Carabinieri prevented at least 100 from leaving the area and going into town. I strongly recommended to Colonel Costantino that no further troops be embarked from any other pier than Dogana.

2. The following articles of clothing were found missing:

15 pairs of shoes	1 hat
22 blankets	1 sweater
4 overcoats	

No men were absent.

3. Carabinieri took the names, addresses and unit designation of all men missing equipment. It is estimated by them that 1/3 of it will be recovered.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

1875

Y SDH/rre

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

26 February 1945

SUBJECT: Transport of Recalled Troops.

MEMO : To Colonel F. L. Simmons.

1. The loading of the recalled troops on this date was personally handled by Colonel Mirelli assisted by Lieut Teranziani and by Lieut Urfolon, Gino of the Commissariato.

2.	40 men	no blankets
	2 men	no overcoats
	3 men	no sweaters

The names of all of these men were taken. They gave the usual reasons: someone had either stolen their equipment or they had lost it.

3. Loading was very orderly and was completed in record time. One man went over-the-hill.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

Y SDM/rrc

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 397, U.S. Army

21 February 1945

SUBJECT: Personnel Loaded on Montecuccoli. *Dip 1. 21 Feb. 45*

MEMO: To Colonel F. L. Simmons.

1. Twenty men went over-the-hill but were substituted for by another 20 at the order of Colonel Costantino.

2. The men passed between three Carabinieri and one quartermaster officer. They had to show their equipment. The following shortages were found:

10 men	no woolen shirts
18 men	no overcoats
5 men	no shoes
20 men	no blankets

The names of all of these men were taken by Lieut Orbolau, Gino of the Commissariato.

3. Colonel Costantino supervised all of the loading personally.

4. 981 men left for the continent under the escort of 9 officers and 10 Carabinieri.

S. D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

18 3

