

ACC

10000/120/2277

10000/120/2277

Q/5/10 M.T. RECOVERY ARMY VEHICLE

Opened Feb. 12, 1945 - Closed May 31, 1945

Feb. - May 1945

Subject:- Recovery of Italian Army Vehicles

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) _____ ROME.
Q/5/10
31 May 45.

To:

Major Davidson, M.M.I.A.
c/o "R" Internees Camp, C.M.F.

1. Attached copy of release order for -

- 1 Car 4 x 2 FIAT No. CAF/M/5667518
- 1 Ambulance 4 x 4 Phanomen No. CAO/A/5648370
- 1 Tractor 4 x 4 SPA No. 5240734

2. Please arrange the collection of these vehicles earliest, from No. 13 Advanced R.V.P. located at FOLIGNO.

3. It is pointed out that all the vehicles will have to be towed.

Full
P.R.A. CURTIS Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Copy:-

Ministry of War.

Subject: Transport for the 1st Guard Regt *92/1*

Land Forces Pub Commission,
(M.F.I.A.)
R O M E.
Q/5/10

30 May, 1945.

To: M.F.I.A. L.C. 5 Army.

Reference your 526/9/5 dated 24 May. *82/2*

1. Attached copy of the M. . . letter 2/5/10 3 May 45 addressed to M. . . 5 Army British Increment refers to the recovery of Italian Army vehicles from the 1st Guards Regiment.
2. As this Regiment is now in the Br-101 Combat category issue of British vehicles should be arranged through normal ordnance channels.
3. It is not understood why 12 vehicles were handed in at Siena. Please arrange for all vehicles on charge to this Regiment of Italian origin to be returned without delay to No. 5 Repair Unit, Florence.

Ras

M., Lt. Col.
for Major General,
M.F.I.A.

Copies to: 55 Army.
1 District.
M.F.I.
E.

/DGC

SEE 6/1 2nd packet

5510

Subject:- Italian Army Transport

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

ROME

2/5/10

3 May 45.

To:-

C.O. Fifth Army for Mr. Thor.

1 Italian Guard Regiment.

Under authority A.F.H.C. AG 091.711/051 CCF-C
19 April, the above unit is to be administered in North
West Italy in the same way as the Italian combat groups.

The following transport has been provided from
Italian Army resources.

17	Motor Cycles
6	Passenger Vehicles under 1 ton.
20	Load Carriers.

Some of these vehicles are in need of repair, all
are urgently needed to make up deficiencies in the establishment
of Iti-iti units.

It is therefore requested that they be replaced
from British sources as soon as possible and instructions
issued for the Italian vehicles thus released to be returned
to the Italian Army Repair Unit at Florence.

R.A. CURTIS Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Copy:

H.Q. 2 District

"

3

M.M.I.A. (L.C.)

Internal

S.T.

R.E.M.E.

5509

Subject : Recovery of Italian Army Vehicles

92

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E.
Q/5/10

30 May 45.

To : War Ministry.

88

1. Reference your 17378/3001 28 May 45. Your attention is drawn to this H.Q. letter Q/5/10 29 May regarding the recovery of the 110 military vehicles.

2. There can be no change in the approved policy that Italian Army vehicles in the possession of civilians are to be recovered from civilians and brought into use for the Army.

90

RAC

R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

/DGC

5503

Subject : Recovery of Italian Army Vehicles

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

S O M E.

Q/5/10 ✓

29 May 45.

To : War Ministry.

1. Further to this M.C. letter Q/5/10 dated 22 May. Each and every vehicle on the list which accompanied our Q/5/10 of 15 May will be recovered by the Italian Army.

2. To avoid any difficulty which might otherwise have arisen from the compulsory seizure of these vehicles it has now been arranged with the Allied Commission that they shall be handed over on a pre-arranged date at one or other of the Italian Army Repair Units. It is expected a majority will be returned to No. 1 Repair Unit at Rome. You will be notified as and when the vehicles are to be received. An Allied officer will be present and tyres which are the property of the Allied Commission will be exchanged for Italian Army tyres.

3. Any financial arrangements out-standing with the civilian firms operating these vehicles are to be cleared by the Italian Government to whom any bond money held by the Allied Commission will be paid. In consideration of any repairs effected to these vehicles by civilians and dependant upon the condition of the vehicles when returned to the Italian Army the War Ministry should recommend to the Italian Government a fair and equitable arrangement be made for the labour and material produced by the civilian.

Rao

R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.

for Major General.

M.V.I.A.

COPY TO A.C. (for Transportation Sub Commission) 5507

/DAG

90

Subject: Recovery Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M.E.I.A.) R.M.E.

Q/5/10

23 May 45.

To:-

Ministry of War.

The following vehicles now surplus to needs
of the Industrial Inspection Team will be returned
to No. 1 Repairs Unit, Rome, not later than 4 June 45:

17 Pass/Vehicles
4 Load Carriers.

R.A. Curties

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.E.I.A.

COPY R.E.M.E. For Action to ensure prompt overhaul
and re-issue to No. 1 E.V.P.

S.T. For action to notify R.E.M.E. list of
Targa Nos. and report when available
for re-issue.

RAC/fem

SEE Joke 175/2
11/1/45

1
55592

5506

Subject:- Return of Army Vehicles.

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

ROME

Q/5/10

28 May 45.

To:-

HQ A.C. for Tn. Sub Commission (Mr. Gross)

1. In order that the tyre exchange may be facilitated, it would be convenient if the lorries could be returned to No. 1 Reparto Reparazione Via Guido (off Via Flaminia). *Rome*.
If more convenient they can, however, be accepted at No. 2 Repairs Unit at AGRANO, NAPLES or No. 3 Repairs Unit at VITTORIO EMANUELE III BARRACKS BARI or No. 5 Repairs Unit at BASSO FORTE, FLORENCE.
2. You are requested to state approximately the number and sizes of tyres you require ready for collection at each place.
3. If you will give due notice (not less than 24 hours) when and where vehicles will be returned, arrangements will be made for the vehicles to be inspected and if necessary, for the tyres to be replaced.
It is suggested that it will be mutually convenient if vehicles are returned in batches of approximately ten on one day.
4. Please acknowledge and state when first batch may be expected.

RAC
R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Copy:- R.E.E.E.

RAC/fem

5505

TRANSLATION

0/5/10

88

FROM: War Ministry

REF: 17378/3001/

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 28 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Italian Motor Transport in the hands of civilians.

With refernce to such as has been notified in respect of the suspension of the withdrawal of the 110 military vehicles held by the larger farms, we beg of you to kindly examine the possibility of extending this provision to those vehicles which were abandoned and recovered from a derelict state by individual civilians and the possession of which was authorised following demands to this Ministry to retain possession of them for the time necessary to recover the sum which was required for putting them back into a serviceable condition.

We submit the above with the object of avoiding the strident contrast which would arise with the withdrawal of the vehicles the renovation of which required the expenditure of considerable sums of money and a great deal of recovery work on the part of individuals whilst, on the other hand, leaving the firms with ~~the~~ vehicles which, in the past, they received in a good condition.

An arrangement of this kind, in addition to demonstrating principles of equality, would result in an appreciable saving for Military Administration which is compelled to reimburse the expenses incurred in recovery and putting back into a serviceable condition of vehicles which cannot always find useful employment in military units.

The object, of recovering the vehicles, would be obtained just the same, after a greater lapse of time, and we would be sure of their efficiency upon being handed in.

We should be very pleased of your kind reply on the matter.

Sgd. RUSSO

Gep.

5504

O. Danin Cpl

SEE 92

Subject:- Captured Vehicles.

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

ROME

Q/5/10

26 May 45.

To:

Allied Forces Headquarters.

Reference your AFHQ(5030/Q(AE) dated 17 May 45.

Car 4 Str. 4 x 2 FIAT Saloon
W/D. No. 5648849 Class II

It is requested that a release order may be
issued for the above mentioned vehicle.

RAC

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:- M.M.I.A. L.O. Florence.
(Reference attached correspondence No 5 Repair Unit
to collect the vehicle earliest. NO. 7 A.R.V.P.
believed to be located at Sanigallia - ANCONA)

fcm

5503

MESSAGE FORM

FROM: M.D.I.A.

DATE TIME
25 1430 B

TO : 59 AREA

INFO: FIFTH ARMY FOR MAJOR VAN KIRK

RESTRICTED

REF : Q.286

FOR MAJOR EDWARDS DADMB NMIA(.) URGENT(.) FIRST
CONTACT MAJOR VAN KIRK EARLY ST(.) SECOND REPORTED
TWO HUNDRED INEFFICIENT VEHICLES UNDER AMERICAN GUARD
P I A C E N E A SUGGEST TRANSFER BOLOGNA WORKSHOPS
WHICH ARE READY TO ACCEPT(.) THIRD REPORT BACK HOME
BEFORE CONTINUING YOUR INSPECTION TOUR(.) FOURTH
23 RECOVERY UNIT HAS LEFT FOR MILAN

PRECEDENCE _____

AUTHENTICATION _____

RAC/fem

5502

(84)

Subject:- Recovery of Italian Army Property.

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

ROME

Q/5/10

25 May 45.

To: M.M.I.A. L.O.
c/o Liaison Section PES
A.P.C. 782 U.S. Army.

/60

Reference our letter Q/5/10 dated 7 May 45 to
H.Q. Alcom for Executive Commissioner, copy to you.

1. Your office memo dated 18th May 1945 is
acknowledged and position noted.
2. Report number and type of vehicles involved,
and notify this HQ when recovered.

Rac.

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

RAC/fem

5501 .

MINUTES of MEETING

held at HQ M.M.I.A.

on 25 May 45

83

MINUTES of MEETING held at HQ MIA on 25 May 1945 to consider the hand over to the Italian Army the 110 vehs of Italian Army origin currently operated by civilian contractors under A.C.

1. PRESENT :

Major Gen. L. BROWNING, C.B., C.D.E., M.C. - CHAIRMAN.

Major Gen. A. DAGLEY - A/GHQ.

Col. CLAYTON P. PETER - Deputy Director MIA.

Col. CHARLES W. HARRISON - Economic Sec. A.C.

Col. P. J. NICHOLS - M.M.I.A.

Lt Col. S. A. CURTIS - M.M.I.A.

Lt Col. G. S. FRANKLIN - Tn. Sub Commission A.C.

Mr. G. D. GROSS - Tn. Sub Commission A.C.

2. After discussion the following decisions were taken :-

(a) The 110 vehs as listed on Tn Sub Commission list will be handed over by Tn Sub Com to Italian Army at places to be arranged by MIA with Tn Sub Com.

(b) The tyres and tubes on the vehs were Tn Sub Com property and would be removed by Tn Sub Com at hand over point, or MIA to arrange the provision of suitable tyres or tubes in exchange.

(c) A.C. to arrange for Finance Sub Com to hand the "Road Money" to the Italian Government.

See 69

Lt Col. G.S. FRANKLIN - Tn. Sub Commission A.C.
 Mr. G.S. GROSS - Tn. Sub Commission A.C.

2. After discussion the following decisions were taken :-

- (a) The 110 vials as listed on Tn Sub Commission list will be handed over by Tn Sub Com to Italian Army at places to be arranged by M.I.A. with Tn Sub Com.
- (b) The tyren and tubes on the vials were Tn Sub Com property and would be removed by Tn Sub Com at hand over point, or M.I.A. to arrange the provision of equitable tyren or tubes in exchange.
- (c) A.C. to arrange for Finance Sub Com to hand the "Hard Money" to the Italian Government.
- (d) The It. Govt. will clear all financial arrangements with the contractors. M.I.A. will convey to the War Ministry that a fair and equitable arrangement should be made for the repairs, labour and spare parts produced by the Contractor.
- (e) The hand over of the vials to be at an early date. Tn Sub Com considered that 12 Jun 45 was the probable starting date.

5500

22/10 26 May 45

Distribution:

WHQ for A/C.G.
 HQ A.C. for Economic Sec (Col. HARRON).
 HQ A.C. for Tn Sub Commission (Lt Col. HARRON)
 HQ A.C. for Tn Sub Commission (Mr. GROSS)
 HQ A.C. for Finance Sub Commission.
 HQ A.C. for Material Disposal Sub Commission.
 M.I.A. ST
 M.I.A. File 2/5
 M.I.A. War Diary (B)

P. J. Norman
 P. J. NORMAN, Col.
 M. I. A.

See 69

82/1

ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES UNDER CONTROL OF ALCOM

This concerns a number of Italian Army vehicles taken over by ALCOM and turned over to civilian contractors under a contract with ALCOM which provided that the civilian made a bond for good performance and at a specified time the title to the vehicle would be given to the civilian contractor.

- Dec 1944 Colonel Kerr discussed with Lt Col Campbell, AC, regarding some 170 Italian Army trucks in the hands of civilians in the Rome Area. Col Campbell promised to furnish a list of vehicles and complete information, but requested that action not be taken by Italian Army to recover vehicles until matter was presented to AFHQ.
- 12 Feb 1945 MMIA letter to Transportation Sub Commission requesting list of vehicles.
- 22 Feb 1945 MMIA again asked Transportation Sub Commission for a list of vehicles.
- 7 Mar 1945 Colonel Kerr attended meeting at AFHQ which was called at request of ALCOM in order to discuss retention of these vehicles by ALCOM. ALCOM representatives discussed the financial aspects of the contracts made with civilians, and it was decided that ALCOM would be responsible for settling any claims with civilians. AFHQ Circular No 5, dated 11 April 1945 is the result of this conference.
- 13 Mar 1945 Again requested Transportation Sub Commission to furnish a list of vehicles.
- 26 Mar 1945 Transportation Sub Commission furnished a list of 110 vehicles and stated they had no knowledge of any financial bonds posted by civilian operators. List submitted shows 110 vehicles and that 6,936,000 lire is the amount that has been accepted as bonds from the civilian operators.
- 17 Apr 1945 MMIA conference with representatives of ALCOM regarding procedure in recovery of 110 vehicles. Mr. Gross of Transportation Sub Commission stated that he was willing to return all vehicles except a few used on the wheat haul, which would be completed by 30 May, and would furnish MMIA a list of vehicles on the wheat haul. MMIA agreed to furnish documents for vehicles on the wheat haul and not to repossess them until after 30 May. Transportation Sub Commission would notify civilian contractors date, age, place remaining vehicles should be turned in and a Board of Officers representing Transportation Sub Commission, MMIA, and the War Ministry would check the vehicles into the Italian Army. The War Ministry would not be responsible

for any financial transactions, as this was the responsibility of ALCON who made the contracts with the civilians.

About

- 1 May 1945 Transportation Sub Commission called Colonel Kerr stating that four of these vehicles had been picked up in the Foggia Area by the Italian Army, that they were not on the wheat haul and requested release. Colonel Kerr asked for the list of wheat-haul vehicles promised on 17 April and was informed that these lists had been requested from officers in the field.
- 4 May 1945 NMIA letter to Brigadier Lush asking that Transportation Sub Commission comply with the agreements made in the 17 April conference.
- 6 May 1945 NMIA letter to Brigadier Lush same as above.
- 15 May 1945 Colonel Walton, ALCON called on Colonel Kerr regarding these vehicles.
- 21 May 1945 Copy of memo from Colonel Walton to Executive Commissioner, dated 18 May 1945 received.

3493

(79)

Subject:- Recovery of Vehicles.

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

ROME

2/5/10

22 May 45.

To:- Liaison Officer
NAILES

66/2

Reference your STN/15n dated 13 May 45.

Under the circumstances it is agreed the vehicle be handed over to the Civil Authorities. The targa No. should be removed and it be made clear no responsibility for upkeep can be accepted by the Army.

Rac.

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
For Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/Ten

5497

Subject : Italian Vehicles in the
hands of civilians.

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

Q/5/10.

22 May, 1945.

To : Minister of War.

1. Further to this Headquarters letter Q/5/10 dated 15 May.
2. No further action will be taken at present by you to recover vehicles, on the list which accompanied the above letter, that at present remain in the hands of civilians. Further instructions will be issued at an early date regarding the method by which these vehicles will be recovered.
3. A report is awaited giving details of vehicles already recovered which should be transferred to the nearest efficient vehicle park with the minimum of delay.

See 6/3-2nd *Yacht*

RAC

R.A. CURTIS,
Lieut. Colonel,
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

SEE 91.

/DGC

5496

Subject: - Recovery of Army Vehicles in the hands of Civilians.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

R.M.E.

Q/5/10

21 May 45.

76

To: Ministry of War.

Attached a list of vehicles assigned to a Cicotti
Mario of the firm CITES, for investigation.

If these vehicles are the property of the Italian
Army, you will take action as in our letter Q/5/10 dated
15th May 1945.

69

R.A. Curties

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/TCM

5495

MESSAGE FORM *file*

(72)

FROM: M.M.I.A.

DATE TIME
17 17 BTO: FIFTH ARMY *Q/810*

REF: C.270

RESTRICTED

FOR M.M.I.A. DO MAJOR VAN NIEK(.) SUBJECT ITALIAN ARMY
VEHICLES AND YOUR COM. 16 MAY WITH EDWARDS(.)
SEE FX 75707 15 MAY FROM AFMC ADDRESSED 15 ARMY GP INFO
FIFTH ARMY PARA 3 CLARIFIES SITUATION(.)
ALL ITALIAN MILITARY VEHICLES WILL BE PLACED IN SPECIAL
PARKS UNDER GUARD(.) ESSENTIAL ITALIAN ARMY OWNERSHIP
ESTABLISHED NOW(.) SIGNAL NOT DIFFICULTIES

PRECEDENCE _____

AUTHENTICATION _____

Subj: Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
RMC
9/5/10
7 May 45.

To: M.M.I.A. L.O.
8th Army.

Attached copy of A.P.H.Q. Vehicle Release Note dated 12 May 45
is forwarded for information.

Our 9/5/10 dated 6 May 45 refers.

RAC
R.A. CURETES Lt. Col.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

RAC/can

SEE
87/1

6493

(70)

Subject:- Recovery of Vehicles.Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

RC304

Q/5/10

17 May 45.

To: Ministry of War.

65/2

Reference year 6/3952/ser dated 10th May 45.

1. Claims Commission and Hiring Directorate have no authority to order vehicles to be retained. Any vehicle which they may require should be obtained by them through Allied sources.
2. Authority is hereby given for one Passenger Vehicle only to be retained in each case.
3. You are required to report Targa Nos. of vehicles retained and also which Admin. Transport Coy. will bring them on charge.

RAB

A. CURTIS Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

SEE

3

PAG/foa

2 further

SEE 91

Subject: Recovery of Italian Army Vehicles.

69/2

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(R.M.I.A.)

RMIC

15/10

16 May 1945.

To: Ministry of War.

1. The following Army vehicles are held by the Comdt. (Rice) now R.T.C. I.O.F. Cessano without due authority:

L/C	nos/Vehs	Load carriers	31	(21 efficient)
			20	(9 efficient)
			44	(16 efficient)

2. In view of the existing deficiency in Army transport and the fact that vehicles authorized for the R.T.C. are to be supplied from Allied (British) sources, you will arrange for them to be recovered and handed over to No. 1 R.V.P., or if inefficient, to No. 1 Repairs Unit.

3. (a) To avoid personal inconvenience to the General Officers concerned owing to the present deficiency in the authorized vehicles at Cessano, two Pans/Vehs may be attached to the R.T.C., but these vehicles will be brought on the strength of No. 6 Adm. Tpr. Coy.

(b) Similarly, in order to assist in the maintenance of vehicles at Cessano, two workshop lorries at present in use may remain attached, but the vehicles

2. In view of the existing deficiency in Army transport and the fact that vehicles authorized for the R.F.C. are to be supplied from Allied (British) sources, you will arrange for them to be recovered and handed over to No. 1 R.F.C., or if inefficient, to No. 2 Repair Unit.

3. (a) To avoid personal inconvenience to the General Officers concerned owing to the present deficiency in the authorized vehicles at Comano, two Pass/Vehs may be attached to the R.F.C., but these vehicles will be brought on the strength of No. 2 Adm. Tpr. Coy.

(b) Similarly, in order to assist in the maintenance of vehicles at Comano, two workshop lorries at present in use may remain attached, but the vehicles in question will be brought on charge of No. 1 Repair Unit.

(c) Targa numbers will be reported promptly in order that windscreen labels may be issued.

4. You will report when all the remaining vehicles have been recovered.

5491

Red

A.A. COMINGS, Lt. Col.
for Major General.
R.F.C.

copy to: F Sta.
REC FOR Comano.
ST
RECE

Subject: Italian Vehicles in the Hands of Civilians

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
3/5/10
15 May 1945

To : Minister for War

1. Attached hereto is a list showing 110 vehicles in the hands of various civilian contractors.
2. These vehicles have been held by the civilian contractors under arrangement with ALCOM, in which the civilian contractors agreed to place the vehicles in operating condition and use them for ALCOM work. However, such contracts are null and void under AFHQ instructions, and the vehicles must be recovered from the civilian contractors and returned to the control of the Italian Army. It is pointed out that these vehicles are now in operating condition, and the contractors must turn in the vehicles in their present operating condition.
3. The Italian War Ministry is not responsible for any financial considerations in the contracts between ALCOM and the civilian contractors, and will not enter into any discussions with the civilians concerned in regard to financial considerations. The civilians will be referred to ALCOM in such cases.
4. You will, at once, take necessary action to have each and every vehicle on the attached list recovered at once and placed in Italian Army motor parks, regardless of how the vehicle is being used at this time. A report will be rendered to this Headquarters on the recovery of each vehicle showing complete details.

CPR/lak

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

5490

Subject: Vehicles and wrecks not suitable for
military use.

68

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

Q/5/10

14. May, 1945.

To: War Ministry.

14062

1. Reference your 2363/MR dated 4 May. A proposal cannot be given for the disposal of the miscellaneous number of vehicles, particulars and the location of which have not been notified. If such vehicles can be collected into an efficient vehicle dump and arrangements made with the nearest repair unit for an M.M.I.A. L.C. to inspect them formal approval for their disposal may be given.

2. The Barone Franchetti, Head of the Confederazione di Agricoltori, recently called at this H.Q. with the request that Army tractors might be made available for use by the Ministry of Agriculture. As such tractors are not at present required by the Italian Army there is no objection to their being made available by the Ministry so far as this H.Q. is concerned. You are however requested to furnish details of the number, type and location of tractors which you are willing to dispose of in this manner. In view of the desirability of increasing in every possible way the food production of Italy the matter should be treated as one of some urgency.

2. The Barone Franchetti, Head of the Confederazione di Agricoltori, recently called at this H.Q. with the request that Army tractors might be made available for use by the Ministry of Agriculture. As such tractors are not at present required by the Italian Army there is no objection to their being made available by the Ministry so far as this H.Q. is concerned. You are however requested to furnish details of the number, type and location of tractors which you are willing to dispose of in this manner. In view of the desirability of increasing in every possible way the food production of Italy the matter should be treated as one of some urgency.

RAC

R.A. CURRIES, Lt. Colonel,
for Major General,
M.M.I.A. 5489

7 Copy for Head ✓

/DGC

Q 5/10
TRANSLATIONFROM: S.M.R.S.
TO: M.M.E.S.REF. NO. 6/3952/552
date 10 may 45Cars on charge of the ^{Office} Engineers for the requisition service

1) The offices referred to, under order of the Eng. and labour directorates of the territorial commands, have in their possession the following cars

Offices	Cars
ANCONA	1 cars
BARI	2 " 2 moto-vans
CATANIA	1 "
CAMPORASSO	1 "
CATANZARO	1 "
FLORENCE	3 "
RAVENNA	4 "
ROME	3 "
TARANTO	2 " 2 moto-vans
VASTO	1 "

2) The allied authorities (Claims commission and hiring directorate) which direct the activities of these offices have authorized them verbally to retain the cars

3) In view of the fact that the cars are essential to the a/m offices, either to carry out inspections for valuation of the properties being requisitioned, or maintain contact with the allied authorities, this S.M.R.S. deems advisable to maintain these cars over establishment in the V/T coy of the territorial commands

We beg you to examine the matter and to let us know your opinion.

R.A.G.M.

LH221

SEE 70,

5488

65

Subject: Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. E. I. A.) R O M E
9/5/40

10 May 1945

To: R.S.M.E. MIA.

1. The following vehicles will be reconditioned and made available for issue as soon as possible.

2. They will be placed in the nearest S.B.P. for release. If otherwise unobtainable tyres may be released from Allied stocks.

A report is required as to number of Allied tyres issued giving particulars as to size etc.

3.	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
	1.	Fiat 1100	recently landed at Naples from Gerdinia.
	2.	Fiat 1500	" " " " " "
	3.	Fiat 1500	held in Super Garage - brought by Major Martin from Gerdinia.
	4.	"	held in Super Garage - brought by Major Possett. May be used by Col Simons pending repairs to German Ford, requisitioned veh.

RAC/10

RAC
R. A. GUSTERS, Lt Col.
for Colonel "Q"
M. E. I. A.

Copy to: MIA 10 Naples
SE MIA
Lt BODINO, MIA.

5487

(64)

Subject: Remains of lorry Fiat 15/Ter.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.
Q/5/10
8 May 45.

To: Ministry of War.

(428/1 Q5) attached

Reference your letter 13438 dated 25 Apr 45.

See this H.Q. Q/5/10 dated 7 May 45 which enclosed a proforma on which such applications should be made.

RAC

R.A. CURTIS Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/fem

5486

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Translation.

from; M. of W.

to; MMIA.

Subject; Remains of lorry Fiat 15/Ter.

Ref; 438.

2. 4/45.

MC TIZZONI Cesare and DEL/A BELLA Amilcare of Nettuno, have salvaged the remains of lorry Fiat 15 Ter., and they desire to repair it at their own expence, and there after have it loaned to them for use, for a determined period of time.

Regarding the contents of No 6, of letter G/S dated 20th March, we inform the above HQ of the request, in case they wish to authorise the issue. The vehicle, consists of the remains of an antiquated type of lorry, and of no further use to military units.

GD.

(F.G. Properzj.)

SEE
64

(63)

Subject: Salvage of M.T. Material.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

ROME.

Q/5/10.

8. May 45.

To: Ministry of War.

61

Reference this H.Q. Q/5/10 dated 7 May 45.

Please note that in error reference was made to your 13402/2209/MR of 27 April 1945. This should read 13462/2209/MR of 27 April 1945, the letter which forwarded communications from S.A.F.R.A.I. and C.I.T.A.M. firms dated 23 April 1945.

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/fem

5484

Translation.Confidential.

From: M of W.
 To: MMIA

Q/S/10.

Ref: 210462/II
 Date: 7th May 45

62

Subject: Vehicles held at M. Repair Unit (Officers W/Shop).

Herewith, for information, copy of letter 360/R.E. dated 1st inst. from Hq. R.M.T. General Directorate, dealing with the first results obtained from ~~investigation~~ investigation which are being carried out in respect of vehicles detailed in the list handed over by Gen. BROWNING to H.E. The Minister.

Further information to follow.

Furthermore, it is pointed out that instructions have been issued so that the immediate requisitioning, suggested by Lt. Col. CURTIS, be carried out.

Lt. FABRE

Seen by COS.

REME

(Sgt) The Chief of Cabinet.

5483

CopyTranslation

From: M of W (Att. & M.T. Gen. Direct).
 To: M of W (Cabinet).

Ref. 360/K.P.

Date: 15 May 45.

Subject: Vehicles held at M-1 Repair Unit (Officer's Workshop).

Hereunder are the first results obtained from investigations which are being carried out in respect of vehicles detailed in the list handed over by Gen. BROWNING to His Majesty the Minister.

The vehicles in question ~~known~~^{were} found on 22nd April 45 in the Officer's Workshop of M-1 Repair Unit during an inspection carried out by Lt. Col. ~~Curtis~~ CURTIS who was accompanied by Maj. Hall, Maj. BAKER and by Col. SECCO. Col. SECCO reported the matter to this office so that orders may be issued for investigations to be carried out immediately. Capt. LIOCCARDI, who was present during the inspection, was told to open the premises.

The list includes the following:-

1) A FIAT ¹⁵⁰⁰ new and complete. Licence No R.E. 023513. This car is the property of Capt. PALMIERI of the apr unit, who bought it on 22nd March 45. The car is registered at RACI ~~under~~ the No 84386 Roma. The military licence ~~the~~ number was applied to the car by permission of the Commandant of the Unit Lt. Col. BLATTI who admits ~~to~~ having given such permission to Capt. PALMIERI so that the car ^{may} be brought from the place where it was bought to the Workshop.

2) A FIAT 1100, army type, Russia, without licence number. Capt. LIOCCARDI states that the car was in the Workshop since August last when he arrived. Lt. Col. BLATTI ~~stated~~^{stated} that the car was a wreck of no value and that he "forgot" to bring ~~it~~^{it} into the Workshop.

P.T.O.

3) A FIAT 1100, without tyres, licence no R.E. 022436. The car was brought to M.1 Repair Unit by the salvage senior officer, Maj. BACCION (at present at M.2 Drivers Bn. Cantanuechi) during October or November last. This car has not yet been taken on charge. Lt. Col. BLATTI states that the delay was due to Maj. BACCION who, on being questioned said that he did not remember ~~it~~ having said the above. Investigations are being carried out.

4) A FIAT BACILLO, without tyres, licence no C.E. 2113. This car is the property of Maj. VIVARESI VINCENTO of the apr unit, who reported same to the CCCR and to the RHC1 in June 44.

5) A motorcycle GUZZI, licence no R.E. 33350. Lt. RICCARDELLI states that this is a service vehicle and was left in the shops on the 30th April 45 because it needed repairs. Investigations are being carried out.

Privately owned vehicles have been handed over to the Vehicles Park on orders of Maj. BAKER and Lt. Col. CURTIS proposed to the M of V to requisition same for the Ministerial M.T. Section which at present has a deficiency in vehicles.

From the above, it is evident that someone did not carry out his duties properly and for whom no proposals for action to be taken, have yet been made because investigations, which are still being carried out, will a view to get several points clear, gave suspicions but no proof. These being as mentioned by Lt. Col. CURTIS -

Contd/Sheet 2.

Sheet 2.

- a) irregular withdrawal of spare parts from Inefficient Car Park held by Capt. FALMIERI.
- b) irregular employment of several off-duty vehicles (transport of goods for civilians).
- c) probable repair of several civilian vehicles at N.1 Repair unit.

You will be informed later on the results of the investigation which are being carried out.

Unless contrary advised by you, we shall proceed to the requisition suggested by Lt. W. CURTIS.

(Sgd) PROPER20.

Sgt. FABRI

2

5481

(61)

Subject: Salvage of WW MaterialLand Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
Q/5/10

7 May 1945

To : Minister for War

Reference your 13402/2209/WR of 27 April 1945

1. With reference to Par 6 of the letter of the SAFRAI Firm:
- a. You do not have to produce any Allied Headquarters authority to seize these vehicles. No Allied Headquarters has authority to permit these firms to retain these vehicles. You will not honor any authority issued by any Allied Headquarters, other than MMIA, in regard to motor vehicles of the Italian Army. Any contracts, documents, bills of sale, transfers or other papers purporting to authorize civilians to retain Italian military property are null and void.
- b. You are not required to refund any sum of money to civilians to cover any alleged payments by them to Allied Headquarters. No Allied Headquarters has authority to accept any sums of money from any civilians for Italian military property. You will disregard any claims made by civilians in connection with any alleged transactions with Allied Headquarters and simply refer the civilians to the Allied Headquarters concerned.
2. In all cases of this kind you will, at once, recover the vehicles from the civilians regardless of their complaints and regardless of any documents which have not been issued by MMIA. You will insist that the vehicles be returned to you in their present operating condition, and the civilians will not be permitted by you to remove or retain any parts allegedly placed by them on the vehicle in order to make it operative. You will take proper action under Italian law against civilians who attempt to retain such vehicles or to remove parts therefrom or damage such vehicles. After the vehicle has been recovered by you, the civilian may file any claim he desires with any Allied Headquarters, but you will not deal with or communicate with any Allied Headquarters, other than MMIA, in connection with any such claims made by civilians. You are authorized to execute a receipt to the civilian for the vehicle when it is recovered by you, such receipt detailing the exact condition of the vehicle as recovered.

SEE 106/1

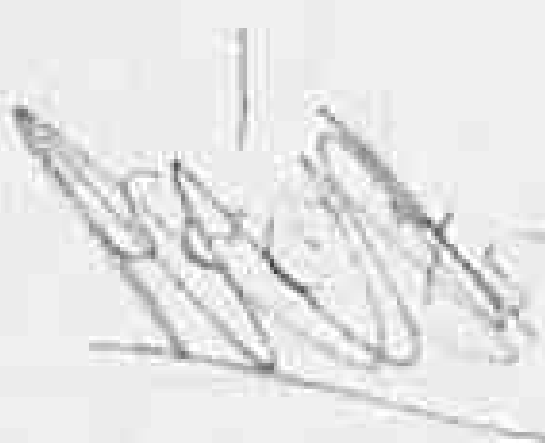
SEE
Folio 122/3
3rd folderSEE
106/2

3. Any communications addressed to you regarding any financial transactions with Allied Headquarters, either by civilians or Allied Headquarters other than MMIA, will be referred to this Headquarters for such action as is proper.

4. It is not desired that you forward letters from civilians in regard to these motor vehicles until after the vehicle has been recovered by you, and unless the civilian specifically details his claim against any Allied Headquarters and attaches to his claim certified copies of all of the documents in question. It is again pointed out that these vehicles are not considered by the Supreme Allied Commander as war booty but are the property of the Italian Army and under orders of the Supreme Allied Commander are to be recovered by the Italian Army.


CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/lak



See 66

5479

Subject: Recovery of Italian Army Property

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
Q/5/10
7 May 1945

To : Headquarters ALCOM for Executive Commissioner

1. Inviting attention to two attached letters from the Ministry of War regarding the refusal of Major Guidette, AMG Lucca to permit the Italian Army to recover Italian Army vehicles which he is holding contrary to AFHQ instructions.
2. Request that instructions be issued to Major Guidette to release these vehicles to the Italian Army without further delay.

K
CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/lak

- 2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Ltr Min of War, 13246/2164/WR
dated 27 April 1945
Incl 2 - Ltr Hq Mil Dist Lucca
dated 7 April 1945

cc: MMIA LO Five Army
Capt Clark, c/o PBS

SEE 84
5478

Copy translationMinistry of War

Ref No. 13246/2164/M.R. Allegati 1

27 April 1945

SUBJECT: MT Material Salvage

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

It is pointed out that Major GUIDETTE in charge of LUCCA, AMG food and MT services has not authorized the representative of the local military district to withdraw the military vehicles in possession of civilians, according to instructions issued by MMIA.

Attached herewith is a copy of statement written on this matter by the officer in charge of the withdrawal.

This is brought to the attention of MMIA for the action you think advisable to take.

THE MINISTRY
(GEN. P.G. PROPERZJ)
(Signed)

5477

Copy translationHEADQUARTERS LUCCA MILITARY DISTRICT

SUBJECT: With Reference to Conversation with Major GUIDETTE
on the 6th of April 1945 in the Premises of the
C.L.A. Borgo Gianotti

On the 6th of April 1945, further to orders of the
Minister for War, I went to the A.M.G. and had a conversation
through an interpreter with Major GUIDETTE, in charge of the
Food and MT Services, in respect of the withdrawal of vehicles,
according to the last Minister for War instructions.

Major GUIDETTE said that he does not authorize recovery
of the lorries and that the letter of the Artillery and Motor
Transport Director General does not concern the AMG because
AMG does not depend on MMIA, and is operating in war areas ac-
cordingly.

For the same reason he added that he would not release
any written statement, but at the same time he has confirmed
that the lorries used for transport of food supplies cannot
be recovered.

Lucca, 7 April 1945

/s/ Lt Franco ANGELI

THE DIRECTOR

(Lt Col Bruno Maccari)

5476

Subject: Lorry Fiat 48 PL R.S. in possession of civilians in the
provinces of FORLÌ.

59
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME
9/5/10
7 May 45.

To: Ministry of War.

Reference 12978
2436/MA/XA3/23.445

59 A.
dated 23 April:

1. As stated in this HQ letter ST/1004 of 20 April, the policy is that all vehicles the property of the Italian Army will be recovered from civilians.
2. Those vehicles whose mechanical condition render them uneconomical for them to be reconditioned for use as army vehicles, may be sold or otherwise disposed of as the Ministry thinks fit, subject only to prior approval being obtained from this HQ. To facilitate this procedure where necessary and to reduce correspondence application will be made on the proforma attached as Appendix A. The signature of the nearest MIA Transport Control Officer will be obtained before the application is sent by the Ministry to this office.
3. It is emphasised that the essential basis of such application is the mechanical condition of the vehicle. The retention of serviceable vehicles for civilian use is contrary to the declared policy of the Supreme Allied Commander which lays down that vehicles surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Army will be allotted by MIA to civilian use, and will be operated by the Army.
As the present deficiency in Army vehicles amounts to some 300 m/c and 600 load carriers, it will be appreciated that applications at present for the release of army vehicles for civilian needs can not be entertained.

Control Officer will be obtained before the application is sent by the Ministry to this office.

5. It is emphasized that the essential bases of such application is the mechanical condition of the vehicle. The retention of serviceable vehicles for civilian use is contrary to the declared policy of the Supreme Allied Commander which lays down that vehicles surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Army will be allotted by MOA to civilian use, and will be operated by the Army.

As the present deficiency in Army vehicles amounts to some 300 m/c and 600 load carriers, it will be appreciated that applications at present for the release of army vehicles for civilian needs can not be entertained.

Recd.

R.A. CURRIES, Lt. COL. 5475
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

MAC/ellb

*A.C. requirements to be considered
before application finally approved.*

from: M of W

to: M M I A

Translation

af. 12918

59A

2136/MA/K A 2/23-445

23 April 1945

Subject: Lorry FIAT 18 BL R.E. in possession
of civilians in the province of POTENZA

The Prefettura of POTENZA has notified to this Ministry the considerable deficiency of ^{vehicles} ~~transport means~~ for to be used for the transport of food supplies for the civil population. This deficiency has become more serious owing to the withdrawal of some vehicles of military origin in possession of civilians.

This Ministry proposes to authorize three of the actual owners to keep 3 FIAT 18 BL lorries, that are ^{old} ~~typical~~ make, not fast & difficult to maintain owing to the lack of spare parts, & would not be of any practical use to military units.

3474

Gen PROPERZI

fradley
2

Translation

58A

From: M of W
to: M M I A

Ref No 12540

Date: 27.4.45.

Withdrawal of cars belonging to Italian Army.

Herewith for your information copy of letter sent to C.I.T.A.M by this ministry; the C.I.T.A.M ^{in order} to avoid having to restate the cars in their possession, claim the ownership of said cars as they were issued to them by A.M.C.

We beg M M I A to kindly let us know their point of view in this matter and if you have no objection grant us your approval for the line of action adopted by the M of W which is in accordance with instructions received with letter Q/S. Dated 20/3/45

PROPER Cj

Translation of letter attached Herewith

In respect of statement made by that society with their letter of the 16th inst as regards the return of the cars we inform you that apart from any legal point of view that we have no intention of ~~going into~~ ^{going into} further disclosure, the order of withdrawal of the M.T. previously belonging to the Italian army, have been issued by M M I A.

The letter with letter Q.S. Dated 20-3-45 have

stated that, any assignment of property of the Italian Army by Allied officers to civilian firms, are illegal and void and specifically states that all material or M.T.s belonging to the Italian Army which are being held by civilians, are to be returned without exception to the Italian Military administration.

In respect of the financial point of view this ministry, will recognize and pay any expenditures that have been required for the repairs of said material. This only if those expenditures can be proved and receipt for them shown.

~~B. Mangini~~

2

F R O P E R E J

Subject: Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Gens. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

NOTE

3/5/40

6 May 45.

To: A.F.H.Q.
(~~for attention of G.A.O.~~)

1. Reference your AFHQ/6490/1/C(AE):
2. It is noted that instructions are now being issued to Ordnance concerning the retention of Italian Army vehicles in vehicle parks until they can be claimed.
3. Information has been received from O.C. No. 13 Advanced R.V.P. that the following vehicles are held by them and it is requested that a release order may be issued accordingly.

Car 4x2	Fiat	Class 4	W.D.No. CAP/N/5667518
Ambulance	4x4	Phonon	Class 4 W.D.No. CAP/N/564730
Tractor	4x4	Spa	Class 4 W.D.No. 5240734

SEE 66/ and 71

RAC

R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.
for Maj. Gen.
M.M.I.A.

SEE 48/1

Copy to: Senior M.M.I.A.L.O.,
5th. Army.

(Reference attached correspondence the German vehicle should be reported to Salvage in the normal way by O.C. 13 R.V.P.)

5472

(57)

Subject: Recovery of Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ROME

2/5/10

6 May 45.

To: Senior M.M.I.A.L.O.
Naples.

Reference STM/15 dated 26 April:

Covering approval is given for the authorised retention of vehicles mentioned in ISCHIA.

As regards CAPNIS, it is not understood what essential work vehicle RE 488 is employed on nor why this can not be undertaken by civilian vehicles on the island.

Please elucidate.

R.A.C.

R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.
for Maj Gen.
MBIA

1
SEE
77/1

1
SEE 66/2.

RAC/alb

5471

56

Subject: Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

ROME

Q/5/10

6 May 45.

To: Ministry of War.

43/1.

1. Reference your 12720 24 April, concerning the appeal made by the SAFRAI firm against the recovery of Army vehicles in their possession:

2. Your action is fully authorised.

3. In all cases such as this, the civilian firm concerned should be instructed to refer the matter to the Allied authority from which they allege permission was obtained to take possession of the vehicle. If it is not possible to contact the official concerned, the firm in question should be instructed to furnish full particulars of the contract which they allege was entered into with them by a representative of the Allied Commission.

This letter should be forwarded by you to M.M.I.A. who will refer the matter to the appropriate Sub Commission.



R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.
for Maj. Gen.
MMIA

RAC/slb

5470

Subject: Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.S.I.A.)

ROME

6/5/45

6 May, 45.

To: A.C. for Executive Commission.

49

1. Reference your 0272/45/AC 2 May, 45.

2. Full details have already been supplied of the vehicles acknowledged to be the property of the Italian Army.

3. In order to anticipate any difficulty or inconveniences which might arise from the recovery of these vehicles, a meeting was arranged on the 17 April between representatives of the Transportation Sub Commission and M.S.I.A. to discuss details.

It was agreed that Transportation Sub Commission would

(a) notify M.S.I.A. details including target numbers of vehicles employed on transporting what (the return of which would be deferred until 31 May or necessity no longer existed which ever was the earlier).

(b) notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles other than those in (a) above were to be returned.

4. It was further agreed that the financial aspect of any compensation due to contractors would be considered by the Economic Section to whom the matter would be referred by the War Material Disposal Sub Commission.

It was agreed that Transportation Sub Commission

would

(a) notify H.H.I.A. details including target numbers of vehicles employed on transportation which (the return of which would be deferred until 31 May or necessity no longer existed which over was the earlier).

(b) notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles other than those in (a) above were to be returned.

4. It was further agreed that the financial aspect of any compensation due to contractors would be considered by the Economic Section to whom the matter would be referred by the War Material Disposal Sub Commission.

5. To date no information has been received concerning the vehicles which it is desired to retain temporarily nor have any been returned. To avoid any difficulty or inconvenience which may arise from the seizure of these vehicles by the War Ministry, it is urgently necessary that action as agreed in para. 3 be taken forthwith.

5409

RAC

H.A. CUNNING, Lt. Col.
For Maj. Gen.
H.H.I.A.

Copy to: Vice President, Economic Section,
H.H.I.A. and I.A.A. Sub Commission.

enc/1017

Translation

From: Ministry of War
 TO: MMIA

Q/5/110

Ref. No. 14050
 2388/MR.

(54/2)

Date: May 5, 1945

Subject: Return of motor vehicles.

NO TRACE

In pursuance of letter No. 12840 of April 23, 1945 we wish to inform you that C.I.T.A.M. advised this Ministry that they cannot comply with the request for return of Italian Army motor vehicles held by them, because the Allied H.Q. (IV Region) forbade them to do so.

A like reply was received from Società Vianini (25, Via della Ferratella, Rome) who holds an O.M. Taurus tank.

In view of the foregoing, please let us know whether such allegations are correct and, at any rate, what is the decision of your Sub-Commission in the matter.

Signed: Gen. P. G. Provenz
 for Minister

[Signature]

Wally
[Signature]

Dec 66

5468

Translation

From: H/W
To: M.M. I.A.

BARONE FRANCHETTI

Flam Flame
Head of Imperatore in Agre

EAS/1543

Ref: 14062
2363/M.A.

Date 4/5/45

54/1

Subject Vehicles and wrecks not suitable for Military use

On a first examination of the situation of military vehicles it appears that up to date there are:

- 88 lorries wrecks:
16 Tractors wrecks: — Agmentina.
11 Trailers wrecks:

2/5/10

of old types, for which it is difficult to find spare parts and the recovery by military units, will be extremely difficult and expensive considering the state in which they are.

The types and quantities of wrecks are shown in the attached list.

The above wrecks are scattered in all the Italian liberated territory. The inspection of same by an NMIA officer, as laid out with letter 6/5 para N°6 dated 20/3/45, could take place only after a considerable time, and moreover this officer would be able to carry out his duty only little by little, as soon as it will be possible to start recovery in the various areas of the National Territory.

According to this Ministry Salvage would be more economical and speedy if the wrecks are left to the actual owners, who could in the meantime repair and refit them. These vehicles could be withdrawn as serviceable if the NMIA officer's inspection should decide that they can be employed by units of the Army.

We would like to have your opinion on this. m5467

Every
A

SEE 68

9/5/45

Signed: Gen. PROSPERI

===== ELenco RELATIVI DI AUTOMEZZI DI TIPI ANTIQUATI =====

Frabbrica e tipo		totale
FORD	4	(quattro)
BIANCHI MEDICLANUM	7	(sette)
CEIRANO 47 C.M.	9	(nove)
CEIRANO 50	11	(undici)
CITROEN	2	(due)
X FIAT 15/Ter	2	(due)
X FIAT 18/BL	14	(quattordici)
FIAT 611	-	
X FIAT 614	1	(uno)
X FIAT 618	1	(uno)
X FIAT 18/B.L.R.	5	(cinque)
FIAT 632	2	(due)
FIAT 633	3	(tre)
FIAT 635	-	
LANCIA 1/Z	5	(cinque)
LANCIA PENTAJOTA	2	(due)
O.M. 4/C.M.F.	1	(uno)
O.M. B.O.D.	2	(due)
	2	(due)

CEIRANO 50	11	(undici)
CITROEN	2	(due)
X FIAT 15/Ter	2	(due)
X FIAT 18/BL	14	(quattordici)
FIAT 611	-	
X FIAT 614	1	(uno)
X FIAT 618	1	(uno)
X FIAT 18/B.L.B.	5	(cinque)
FIAT 632	2	(due)
FIAT 633	3	(tre)
FIAT 635	-	
LANCIA 1/Z	5	(cinque)
LANCIA PENTAJOTA	2	(due)
O.M. 4/O.M.F.	1	(uno)
O.M. B.O.D.	2	(due)
O.M. 1/C.R.D.	2	(due)
O.M. 32	1	(uno)
O.M. 36	-	
X SPA 25/C.10	9	(nove)
SPA C.30	-	
O.M. 3/B.O.D.	5	(cinque)
O.M. TITANUS	-	5466
X Trattore P/4 e SPA	16	(sedici)
Rimorchio di vari tipi	11	(undici)

 115

=====

34
PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Recovery of Motor Vehicles of
Italian Armed Forces.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
2/5/40.

4. May 45

To: Brig. M.S.Lash,
Chief of Staff,
H.Q., A.C.

1. I am directed to refer to the meeting held on 17 April between representatives of the Transportation Sub Commission and M.M.I.A. to co-ordinate plans for the implementation of A.P.H.Q. order issued as Circular N.5 of 11 April 45.
2. It was pointed out that the object of the meeting was to agree on the method by which Vehicles now operating for civilian needs under A.C. direction were to be returned. It was requested by Mr Cross and agreed by Col. Kerr that Vehicles actually engaged on moving wheat should remain undisturbed until the end of May.
3. The principal difficulty to be overcome was the fact that many of the vehicles had been repaired at the expense of civilian contractors on the understanding that they would retain the use of the vehicles. It was pointed out that the War Ministry was not interested in these arrangements and could not be said to have any responsibility for terminating them. It was agreed that the financial aspect of the compensation due to contractors would be considered by the Economic Section to whom the matter would be referred by War Material Disposal Sub Commission.
4. It was further agreed that Transportation Sub Commission would:
 - (a) notify M.M.I.A. details, including Targa numbers, of vehicles employed on transporting wheat (the return of which would be deferred until 31 May or necessity no longer existed whichever was the earlier).
 - (b) Notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles other than those in (a) above were to be returned.
5. The meeting met with the one object of reaching a satisfactory solution to what appeared likely to prove a difficult problem. No minutes were issued but a definite understanding was reached as regards the action which would be taken vide para 4. above. Nevertheless no information

5465

- 2 -

whatever has been received regarding para 4(a). Nor to our knowledge has any contractor been ordered to return a single vehicle. The indefinite postponement of the recovery of these vehicles is in direct contravention of the AFHQ Circular No.5. It is therefore essential that action as indicated in para 4 above be taken forthwith.

RAC

R.A. CURTIS Lt.Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/hh

5464

TranslationFrom: 16/wTo: MMIA

53

04238
2240/MR

Ref: 3 May 45

Date: 3 May 45

Subject: Letter of the FIORENTINI Society.

1. Reference your letter ST/526 dated 12/4/45.

- a) The vehicle belongs to the Italian Army
- b) The vehicle registration signs are as follows:
body n° 002386 - motor n° 366-003443 -

The license does not exist
there is no license plate and therefore it is impossible
to supply the data in respect.

- c) The vehicle is at present at the FIORENTINI Long
firm, via Salaria n° 364 (Rome) (tel n° 843285).
- 2) We await the decisions of M.G.I.A. in the matter

Signed: Gen: PROPERZI

Properzi
QP
4/5/45

5463

Translation

Trans. Ref.
 to MMIA

Q/5/10

Ref: 14356
2335/MR

Date: 30 Aug 1945

Subject: Recovery of Italian Army vehicles.

Answer to letter Q/5/10 dated 21st April 45

Further instructions issued in letter Q/5/10, Naples
 Milit. Com. H.Q. MT Repair Directorate, with letter 13418/2240
 dated 30th April 45 has been ordered to carry out immediate
 withdrawal of 10 Italian Army lorries which are at
 present at the firm ZOCALI Fortification in Reggio
 Calabria

Copy
 of

RAC
 5 May

Signed: PROPER 5462

Subject:- Italian Army Transport:

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.

6/5/10.

3 May 45.

To:-

C.G. Fifth Army for Br. Inc.

1 Italian Guard Regiment.

Under authority A.F.M.C. AG 691.711/051 GOT-0
19 April, the above unit is to be administered in North
West Italy in the same way as the Italian combat groups.

The following transport has been provided from
Italian Army reserves:-

17	17	Motor Cycles.	9
46	6	Passenger Vehicles under 1 ton.	
21	20	Load Carriers.	12 1/2

Some of these vehicles are in need of repair, all
are urgently needed to make up deficiencies in the establishment
of Iti-Iti units.

It is therefore requested that they be replaced
from British sources as soon as possible and instructions
issued for the Italian vehicles thus released to be returned
to the Italian Army Repair Unit at Florence.

R. Alunty.

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Copy:

M.C. 2 District.

"

"

M.M.I.A. (G.O.)

Internal

S.T.

R.S.M.E.

RAC/fem

5461

SEE 64/1

SEE
82/2.

(48)

Subject : Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
2/5/10

28 April 45.

Air Force Sub Comm.
HQ, Allied Commission.

The attached translation copies of correspondence received from the War Ministry is forwarded with the request that action may be taken to deter the Air Ministry from entering into transactions of this kind for the repair of service vehicles. As stated by the War Ministry, they have been expressly forbidden to part with Army vehicles to civilian firms in exchange for services rendered. It is considered most desirable that this practice should be stopped.

RAC
R.A. CURTIS, Lt.Col;
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to War Ministry,
your 7753, dated 14th of
April refers.

5460

RAC/To

Translation.

From: M of N.
To: M M I R.

Ref. 13402/1209/MR.
Date: 27th April 45.

Subject: Salvage of M.T. material.

1) Herewith, for your decisions, copy of letters dated 23rd April 45 from S.A.F.R.A.I. and C.I.T.A.M. Firms which oppose the order given by this Ministry for the return ~~withdrawal~~ of ex army vehicles which were handed over to them by an Allied Col.

2) In accordance with your instructions, this Ministry confirmed the order of return of the vehicles in question.

3) In informing this office of your decisions, please give your own opinion in respect of para. 6 b) of the letter of the S.A.F.R.A.I. Firm.

Sgt. F. B. G. R.

H

(Sgd) PROPER 25. 5459

SEE 61

Copy

From: SAPRAI Firm.
 To: M.T. Repair Directorate Rome.
 M of W for information

Ref: ?
 Date: 23rd April 45.

Subject: ?

Ref. your 4539/4239/1/D.R.A. dated 21st inst.

We confirm our letter dated 19th April 45 and we point out the following: -

1) we cannot adhere to your request by which you ask this firm to return to you, for the M.T. General Directorate M of W, the lorries in question, ~~since~~ ^{because} these vehicles are exclusively the property of this firm since they have been reconstructed on wrecks handed over to us by the Allied H.Q.

2) the value of these wrecks, which has been paid by the Allied H.Q., has been paid by us.

3) we have reconstructed these vehicles and all expenses were born by us.

4) therefore, it is evident that, legally these vehicles ^{by right} are the property of this firm and ^{that} these rights cannot be cancelled by a simple order given by the M of W.

5) these vehicles are now used for transport services in Terni Province on contract made with the Allied H.Q. Moreover, that contract has been made for a period of not less than one year.

6) in any case, if the M of W requests the return of these vehicles, the following should be produced in advance: -

a) Allied H.Q. authority to return these vehicles.

b) the repayment of the sum paid by this firm to the Allied H.Q. for the wrecked vehicles which have been reconstructed.

P.T.O.

Moreover, the M of W must fix, in advance, the sum to be paid so that the handing over may be carried out, taking into account ~~also~~ that, over and above expenses of reconstruction, expenses born by the firm for w/shops, offices, services etc, must be added.

Finally, it is pointed out that the Allied Hq (A.C. Transportation Sub Commission) confirmed to be in disagreement with the M of W in respect of the handing over of the vehicles in question since these vehicles have been salvaged and reconstructed on their authority.

Instruction issued by the Allied Hq to the M of W referred refer to vehicles salvaged and reconstructed by Firms and Private W/shops for the M of W.

In fact, the Allied Hq pointed out to the M of W that such, could not be carried out since the matter deals with material which is to be considered as war booty and hence, of exclusive property of the Allied Hq.

Having stated the above, it is clear that the order given to you by the M.T. Gen. Dirct. to withdraw the vehicles of this firm, must have been an error on the part of the Gen. Directorate which, probably, ignored that the authority granted to us by the Allied Hq. is dated prior to the date 15th Aug. 44.

(Sgd) S. PEURA

G.F.

Copy.

From: C.I.T.A.M. Firm.
 To: M of N.

Ref: ?
 Date: 23rd April 45.

Subject: Wrecked vehicles reconstructed handed over by A.M.G.

Further to our letter 883 dated 18th inst. by which we detail the position of the vehicles in question. It is hereby confirmed that we contacted the Allied MG which prohibited us to adhere to the request made by you and dealing with the handing over of these vehicles, because these vehicles are not affected by instructions issued by the Allied Authorities.

In fact, the vehicles in our possession have been salvaged and reconstructed in accordance with ^{authority} ~~instruction~~ issued by A.M.G. and to whom the sum for the wreck was paid by this firm.

Therefore, A.M.G. disposed of the material in question as war booty since it is of its exclusive property. Instructions issued by you for the withdrawal of the vehicles which were salvaged and reconstructed and which were the property of military units on the 8th Sept 43, cannot logically affect vehicles handed over by the Allied MG since these vehicles became the property of the Allied MG in accordance with Art. 53 of the Ajax Convention which allows their use of these vehicles as wished by the Allied MG.

Therefore, your instructions affect vehicles salvaged and reconstructed by Firms and Private Workshops for you, after the armistice date and which, for reasons stated above, are to be considered as property of the Allied MG since these are part of the war booty.

5451

P.T.O.

Please acknowledge receipt of documents, ^{dealing with} ~~a receipt of~~
the handing over of the wrecked vehicles to this firm by the
British Air, which were forwarded to you with letter referred
to above.

(Sgd) The Firm

C.F.

Translation.

From; M. of V.

To ; MMIA.

Subject; Recovery of M.T. Materials.ST; ~~XXXX~~ 13268

27, 4/45

(46)

We forward for the MMIA's decision, a copy of letter sent on the 10th Inst., from Major R.E. O/I.C. A. Crowther of the advanced section - Electrical division Public works & Utilities Sub-Commission - Allied Commission of Florence, to the terr., Mil., HC of the city.

We inform you that the two lorries in question flats 626 license No's FI. 30811 and FI. 30812, have already ^{been} withdrawn from the 21st Recovery Commission.

5456

GD.

X

See

(25)

NFA RAE

(F.G. Properzj)

Translation

(43/1)

From: - M of N.

To: - M M I A.

Ref: 12720.

Date: 22nd April 45.Subject: Salvage of vehicles.

Herewith, for your information, copy of letter addressed to S.A.E.R.A.I. Firm which, having in its possession 2 army lorries and one army motorcycle, refused to hand them over stating that these vehicles are their property since they have been bought from A.M.G. on 26th June 44.

We shall be grateful if you will please confirm the action taken by this Ministry in the carrying out of orders laid down in ^{your} letter Q/5 dated 14-20th March 45.

(27)
(Cgd) PROPER 20
5455

SEE

56.

S/P. PROPER

A

Translation

From: M of N.
 To: - SAEKRI Firm
 Via SERPICI 11-13
 Rome.

Ref. ?
 Date: ?

Subject: - Salvage of vehicles.

Ref. your letter dated 16.4.45.

1/ The withdrawal of army vehicles in question, has been ordered by MM1A which, in letter 8/5 dated 20 March 45, ordered that all vehicles belonging to the Italian Army must, without exception, come under ~~the~~ Italian Army control and, declared that any contract or issue of Italian Army property made by Allied officers is not to be taken into consideration.

2/ Therefore, the withdrawal in question must not be considered as a "requisition" that this Ministry has to carry out, but as ~~as~~ a withdrawal of material which were handed over by unauthorized persons: ~~since~~ this practice being contrary to instructions issued by the GOC, Allied Forces in Italy, ~~which~~ by which the Italian Government was given the right to repossess all Government property which was in its possession prior to the 8th Sept. 43.

3/ The Ministry may consider whatever expenses ~~made~~ ^{made} by the Firm and for which proof can be shown.

5454 ✓

(Sgd) PROPER20.

Sgt CADRE

43

Subject: Vehicles in SARDINIA.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. M. I. A.) ROME
2/5/10

23 April 1945

To: Senior M&IA Liaison Officer, SARDINIA.

1. Ref the attached translation copy of War Ministry letter 6/2682/Serv. it is believed that the Unit in question is 24 Resount Depot and as such is authorised to hold army tpt.
2. If such is the case and the vehicles in question are actually needed in excess of those already authorised for SARDINIA, you are requested to arrange accordingly.

RAC/le

RAC

R. A. CURTIS, Lt Col.
for Colonel, DAAHQ
M. M. I. A.

Copy to: Ministry of War.

File 78

5453

COPYTRANSLATION

FROM: S.M.E.A.

Ref: 6/2632/3erv.

TO : M.M.I.A.

Date: 15 April 45

SUBJECT: Vehicles of the Animal Supply Centre of Sardinia.

Sardinia Military M.I., in accordance with instructions received from M.M.I.A. on the Island, has ordered the handing in, to the 13th Vehicle Park, of the following vehicles, on charge to the Animal Supply Centre of Bonorva (Sassari):-

- 1 Car "Ardita 2000"
- 1 Light van "Fiat 508"
- 1 Tractor "Landini"
- 1 Tractor "Fiat 700 C"

This S. ., considering:-

- a) - the work carried out by the Bonorva Centre which supplies Italian and Allied units with horses and mules;
- b) - the necessity of ensuring the livelihood of over 500 civilians employed on the agricultural concern under the control of that Centre;
- c) - that the vehicles referred to were, in the past, purchased from the "Rimonte" capital fund, administered by the Inspectorate General of Veterinary and Remount Services;
- d) - that the vehicles referred to above, because of their low condition of serviceability, will not in any way improve the present M.I. situation in the Army.

begs that the M.M.I.A. representative in Sardinia be approached with a view to the revocation of the order to hand in the vehicles in question.

Sgd. LIUSZI

Gen.

O. Daria Cpl.

5452

SUBJECT : Recovery Italian Army Property

Land Forces Sub Comm. AG.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M R
2/5/10

23 April 45

COPIED AND FORWARDED TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

TO : Ministry of War

Ref your 03947 dated 17 April 45.

Your attention is directed to this E.Q. 31/1001 20 Apr addressed H.E. The Under Sec of State, copy to you.

If the vehicles in question are the property of the Italian Army as stated they may not be given away to civilians nor left in civilian use. If they are repaired by civilian work shops on the understanding that they will remain in civilian hands and are then withdrawn this will give rise to legitimate complaint and expose the Ministry to a charge of duplicity.

If the civilian workshops are told the vehicles, when repaired, are to be taken over by the Army it is considered unlikely the repairs will be carried out expeditiously.

Your attention is directed to this E.O. 32/1001 20 Apr
addressed H.E. The Under Sec of State, copy to you.

If the vehicles in question are the property of the Italian Army as stated they may not be given away to civilians nor left in civilian use. If they are repaired by civilian work shops on the understanding that they will remain in civilian hands and are then withdrawn this will give rise to legitimate complaint and expose the Ministry to a charge of duplicity.

If the civilian workshops are told the vehicles, when repaired, are to be taken over by the Army it is considered unlikely the repairs will be carried out expeditiously.

It is considered that as the number of vehicles is not large it is preferable for you to arrange for the Repair Unit now established at Florence to recover them together with any material collected for their repair and arrange for them to be re-conditioned under Italian Army control.

Request this H.E. be informed when recovery has been made.

5451

CLAYTON F. ZERR, Colonel
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to : Col Quin Smith

AMS Enclage
(see AFHQ OIR No. 5.11 Apr 45)

Ex Quin a e

CPE/LM

(41)

Subject:- Recovery of Property of the Italian Army.

Land Forces Pub Comm. S.S.
(M.I.A.)
S.O.
S/7/10

21 April 1945.

REPLY TO HQ.

(30)

Ref. your letter dated 13 Apr/45.

The request for a postponement of the withdrawal of Italian Army Vehicles from use by civil services can not be granted.

The vehicles will be withdrawn.
Please notify completion.

[Signature]

Colonel
for Major General,
S.S.I.

Copy for:- A.C. for S.S.I. Comm.
Regional Comm.
Toscana Region
Provincial Comm.
Grosseto Province

(with copy of translation
30/71/125 dtd 7 Apr/45.)

CM/ab

File

La Loto 51

5450

(40)

Subject:- Recovery of Property of the
Italian Army.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.H.I.A.)

R O M B

2/5/10

MINISTRY OF WAR.

21 April 45.

(36)

Ref. your 5904/02187 dated 30 Mar/45.

You are authorised to strike off charge the vehicles contained in the list attached to your letter and which will in future be the responsibility of the Min of Communications.

You are required to assure this P.O. that all identification numbers or signs associating these vehicles with the War Ministry are removed and that it has been made clear to all concerned that the supply of P.O.L. spare parts tyres and maintenance ceases to be any concern of the War Ministry.

EAC/ab

Rab

R.A. CURTIS, Lt.Col.
For Major General,
M.H.I.A.

File

5449

(39)

Subject:- Recovery of Property of the
Italian Army.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
Q/5/10

21 April 45.

MINISTRY OF WAR.
(By hand Liaison Officer)

Ref. your 5776/01008 dated 10 Mar/45 and this H.Q.
letter Q/5 19 Mar. — 27 A

Please advise what is the present position regarding
the recovery of vehicles from the M.M.T.R.A. Firm and the
S.I.A. Firm. — 27

RAC/ab

RAC
R.A. CURTIS, Lt.Col.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

File

5448

(38)

Subject:- Recovery of Property of the
Italian Army.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
2/5/10

MINISTRY OF WAR.

21 April 45.

Ref your 03259 dated 11 Apr/45.

1. You are at liberty to proceed to recover the vehicles mentioned in your letter by whatever means are available to you under Italian law for recovery of State property in the hands of civilians. The so-called requisition exemption certificates which have been produced by this civilian firm in an attempt to prevent the Italian Army from recovering its property are without effect and can be disregarded by you.
2. You will, therefore, proceed to take possession of these vehicles without further delay, and refer to this headquarters any questions submitted by the civilian firm or by Allied officials.
3. Advise what action you have taken in this matter.


CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

CPK/ab

File

5447

TRANSLATION

FROM: S.M.R.E.

REF: 6/2682/Serv.

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 15 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Vehicles of the Animal Supply Centre of Sardinia.

Sardinia Military H.Q., in accordance with instructions received from M.M.I.A. on the Island, has ordered the handing in, to the 13th. Vehicle Park, of the following vehicles, on charge to the Animal Supply Centre of Bonorva (Sassari):-

- 1 Car "Ardita 2000"
- 1 Light van "Fiat 508"
- 1 Tractor "Landini"
- 1 Tractor "Fiat 700 C"

This S.M., considering:-

- a) - the work carried out by the Bonorva Centre which supplies Italian And Allied units with horses and mules;
- b) - the necessity of ensuring the livelihood of over 500 civilians employed on the agricultural concern under the control of that Centre;
- c) - that the vehicles referred to were, in the past, purchased from the "Rimonta" capital fund, administered by the Inspectorate General of Veterinary and Remount Services;
- d) - that the vehicles referred to above, because of their low condition of serviceability, will not in any way improve the present M.T. situation in the Army;

begs that the M.M.I.A. representative in Sardinia be approached with a view to the revocation of the order to hand in the vehicles in question.

Sgd. LIUZZI

O. Danin Cpl.

Gen.

5446

✓

TRANSLATION.

From; M.of W. DGA. M.

Ret. 4/02187

30/3/45.

36

To : MHA.

Subject; Transfer of M.T. service of the Central Adm. of the State, to the Ministry of Communications.

- 1) After the armistice and during the reorganisation of the Italian government, the administration of vehicles for the various ministries was carried out by M.of W. who took the vehicles on charge, and provided them with military numbers, the furnishing of spare parts, and controlled their repairs.
- 2) A list of the vehicles are indicated in att. list.
- 3) As instructions in the Official Gazette of the Realm No 16 dated 6/2/45 -Deputy decree No 436 dated 7/11/44, state that the Administration of vehicles assigned to the various Ministries (less those in use by military Ministries, and Ministry of the Interior) will be passed to the Ministry of Communications - General Inspectorate of Civilian Transport, ~~and transport~~ *on loan. Commissions,*
We ask your consent to the taking off charge, of the vehicles contained in attached list.

GD.

See (40)

(Gen. P.G. Properzi)

5445

34

Subject:- Recovery Commission N°21.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.O.
(M.M.I.A.)
E O M F
3/5/10

20 April 45.

MINISTRY OF WAR.

A report has been received from the senior M.M.I.A. L.O. 5th Army, on the good work done by the a/m Commission.

Amongst the various articles recovered during the period 18th August 44 - 31st March 45, ~~present the following~~ main items:-

Trucks	75	Guns	38
Cars	6	Weapons	3760
Motorcycles	13	Helmets	700
Tractors	4	Gas Masks	1700
Trailers	9	Pack saddles	97
Spare parts.		Ammunition	2.72.290

About 50 tons

The following extract from his letter is herewith reproduced for your information.

"Lt.Col. G. Nige di Meana, head of the Recovery Commission N°21, should be commended upon his superior efforts. 2/Lieut Franchini Marcello who has been his outside man, should likewise be commended. Lieut. Franchini speaks English very well and has served not only as Interpreter for the Recovery Commission, but also for the 5th Army C.F.M.S.".

R.A.C.

R.A. CURTIS, Lt.Col.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

RAC/ab

5444

33

Subject:- Recovery Italian Army Vehicles
from British Vehicle Parks.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
Q/5/10

19th April 45.

All M.M.I.A. L.O.'s.

Italian Army Vehicles may be included in "captured enemy vehicles" and find their way into British Returned Vehicle Parks.

It is notified for information and strict compliance that under no circumstances are attempts to be made to remove such vehicles without prior authority from this H.Q. The location and number of vehicles should be reported and the necessary A.C. L.O. authority will then be obtained.

R. J. H. H. H.
P.J. HAKES, Col.
DA & LMG,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:- A.P.H.Q.
(6510/Q('E) 7 Apr refers).

RAC/ab

SEE

47.

5443

FIG

9/5/10

32

FROM : MMIA

DATE
18TIME
B

TO : FIFTH ARMY BR. INCR DISTONE

REF : 9/192

RESTRICTED

FOR MMIA LO (.) REPORT EARLIEST HOW MANY ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES
REMAINING WITH LAGHANO AND MANOVA GRUPPI (.) THESE WILL BE
RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO ROME PARK (.) REQUEST INFORMATION TYPES
AND DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES ALREADY HANDED IN (.) ESSENTIAL
THOROUGH COMB OUT OF ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES WHICH MAY NOT REPEAT
NOT BE RETAINED AGAINST DEFICIENCIES IN ESTABLISHMENT (.) ACK

PRECEDENCE PriorityINTERNAL :

ST

AUTHENTICATED W. H. H. H.

RECE

See file (31/1)

5442

Translation

P

31.

From. 1st Lt.
to M.M.A

Ref. 10. 03947

Date. 17 April. 45

Q/5/10

With drawal of cars.

1) To enable M.M.A to give their view in respect of the matter we join to this letter, a letter received from Col. G.W. QUINN SMITH Provincial Commissioner of A.N.G. AREZZO regarding the order issued by this ministry for the withdrawal of the cars in that Province.

2) We are dealing ^{with a total} ~~about a quota~~ of 24 ^{vehicles} ~~cars~~ of which only 2 are in working order the others are still ^{wrecked} ~~damaged~~ or being rebuilt.

3) This ministry shares the views of Col. G.W. QUINN SMITH in chapters C. and D of his letter.

To avoid such inconveniences this ministry propose that the cars actually in the hands of the civilians be left in their charge until repaired and then they could be withdrawn when fit for the road.

R. M. A. Field

PROPER 21

See (42)

5441

✓

Translation

From HQ A.M.G. AREZZO
to Recovery office Italian Army

Dated 20 March 45

A short time ago the Italian District started a scheme in respect of which the civilians had to repair, notwithstanding the enormous cost, vehicles, chassis, etc that are to be found in the country and belonging to the Italian Army. The final result ~~was~~ was that there was a hundred or so small workshops that placed themselves at the disposal of the District.

A.M.G. was extremely interested in the matter, owing to the acute transportation crisis in the province; and as each vehicle ^{now} repaired it was automatically placed on the roll of the transportation board.

I have just been told that all those arrangements have been cancelled and I beg you to ^{submit} ~~forward~~ the following point to the Higher authorities

A) after 22 years of ^{damage} ~~construction~~ the cancellation of this ^{most practical} ~~excellent~~ scheme would have a serious ^{effect} ~~repercussions~~ on the public confidence towards the central administration (many of the failures in respect of the Government control problem are due to this lack of confidence)

B) The loss of those vehicles that are ^{used} ~~used~~ to carry out transportation in the province would be enough to justify our protest. ^{Furthermore} ~~on the other hand~~ those vehicles that ^{would} ~~could~~ have been ^{made roadworthy} ~~ready~~ in the future were not only possible

means to render our ^{transport} transportation plans fully effective

c) Well knowing the ARREZZIANS I am sure that the Italian Army will not gain anything from the work already done and we cannot blame them if they hide the essential parts and leave the chassis completely abandoned in the state ^{in which} that they were found. This would also give us the spectacle of numberless wrecks scattered all over the province.

d) Of what I have seen I think that no other plans of the Italian district could adequately replace the large no of small Italian workshops that they would thus lose, and ^{the} ~~it would~~ result ^{being} that apart from the public disadvantage as explained above, it would take months or even years for the vehicles to be ready for use.

I am ^{unable} ~~incapable~~ to understand what could prompt the recovery of the large numbers of essential parts that have been hidden for months.

The use of the case for ^{such} investigations would not be possible; since these are too occupied ^{carrying out} ~~in respect of~~ the investigations ^{in respect of} ~~to be carried out~~ ^{the large} number of crimes committed in the province and ~~to~~ policing the Army security line. I deem it advisable to point out ARRECO province as a special case ^{owing} to the ^{length} ~~light~~ of ^{the} ~~figure~~ this province has been a ^{theatre} ~~theatre~~ of operations.

Should the scheme be cancelled it is essential that ^a ~~the~~ ^{guarantee} ~~security~~ be offered by the A of W ^{that no further} ~~remain unchanged~~, changes would take place.

according to ^{statement made} ~~report~~ ~~received~~ by Col GAY,
Head of the M of W MT office, on respect of the
HREZIAN workers. Col DE ANCELIS was also
present at the time. Those guarantees are as follow:

- 1) Reduction of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the monthly presumed ration
of usefulness stipulated in the schedule issued by M of W for
the ~~stipulation~~ definition of the period of use to be granted
- 2) Guarantee not to requisition the reconstructed
vehicles during the period of use granted
- 3) Handing over of the abandoned ^{vehicles} ~~cars~~, and the
sale of same by the M of W to the firms carrying out
repairs should the concession period determined as in Para
1 ~~shall~~ exceed a certain period (we suggest approx 36 months)

QUIN SMITH

P.S. We understand that it is the intention to
requisition also ~~the~~ ^{vehicles} ~~cars~~ not belonging to the Italian
Army. If this is true I think that it is very ^{unjust} ~~wrong~~
as I see no possible justification for this.

MORFINI

Robinson
M.

543

RELATION

From : M.O.W.
To : M.M.I.A.

Ref : 12018
Dated: 13/4/45

80

SUBJECT/ Withdrawal of Vehicles.

In accordance with the order of M.M.I.A. this Ministry ordered the withdrawal of the vehicles belonging to the Italian Army and travelling in Grossetto Province.

With original letter attached, the A.M.G. of Grossetto requests the temporary suspension of the order.

In forwarding the request, for M.M.I.A.s decision, I inform you that the amount of vehicles in question is 6 (six).

Signed: Gen Properzj

Errera,

5437

Translation.

From; M. of V.

To ; MMIA.

Subject; Military lorries in civilian use.

P 1; 03259

11/4/45.

29

The ZOCCALI FORTUNATO firm of Reggio Calabria oppose the restitution of the 10 military lorries of which they are in possession, exhibiting the declaration of ^{which} copy is attached.

We beg the MMIA to examine the case and inform us of the course they intend to adopt in order to retrieve the said vehicles, as ordered in letter G/5, dated 20/3/45, from the MMIA.

GD.

(P.C. Properzj)

See (38)

5436

TRANSLATION

28

To the ZOCCALI FORTUNATO FIRM.

- 1) We bring to your notice that the A.C. timber section, ceased to function on the 1/3/45
- 2) In compliance of orders from the Gen; HQ of ROME, the 10 lorries issued to you on loan, must be returned as follows.
 - A) The four lorries originally from SICILY, and marked with No's 2066, 2081, 1783, 1787, will be returned to (NATIONAL TRANSPORT INSTITUTE) and you may liason with the said institute, as to how the said vehicles will transport timber on your account.
 - B) The 5-7 tonners, numbered 5388337, 5388338, 5388330, 5388342, 5388332, including recovered vehicle no 2091, should be put at the disposal of the ALLIED TRANSPORT OFFICE of the ABRUZZO MARCHE.

The said office will arrange to retrieve the vehicles from you, commencing 1st March 1945. In further clarification of above we permit you to use the vehicles for your own interests, while awaiting for the ALLIED TRANSPORT OFFICE to arrange for the ~~collect~~ collecting of same.

The said vehicles can not be requisitioned by anyone.

REGGIO CALABRIA.

I.P. JALBERT CAFT.
AC TIMBER SECTION

Signed JALBERT

 COL P. GAY

5435

Subject: Recovery of Property of the Italian Army

File 386
(27)

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (NMIA)
Rome
Q/S
14 March 1945

To : Minister for War

Reference your 5776/01008 dt prot of 10 March 1945,
subject as above.

1. You are at liberty to proceed to recover the vehicles mentioned in your letter by whatever means are available to you under Italian law for recovery of State property in the hands of civilians. The so-called requisition exemption certificates which have been produced by these civilian firms in an attempt to prevent the Italian Army from recovering its property are without effect and can be disregarded by you.
2. You will, therefore, proceed to take possession of these vehicles without further delay, and refer to this Headquarters any questions submitted by the civilian firms or by Allied officials.
3. Advise what action you have taken in this matter.

CPK/lak

cc: ST/1108

CLAYTON S. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (NMIA)

See (39)

5434

Copy Translation

From: Minister for War

Ref: 5776/01008

27A

Date: 10 March 1945

To : MMIA

Subject: Recovery of Vehicles belonging to the Italian Army

During the period September - November 1943, the General Secretary of the Army and the General Directorate of Motorization, in order to avoid the Germans' taking away a large number of vehicles belonging to their dependent units, handed them over to private firms which showed them as being their property. These firms could use, but could not sell these vehicles.

This Ministry, in accordance with your instructions, by which you prescribe the recovery of all vehicles belonging to the Italian Army, detailed Rome Territorial Headquarters to withdraw these vehicles.

Rome Territorial Headquarters has now pointed out to this Ministry that the M.E.T.R.A. Firm, to which several vehicles were handed over, stated that they are not in a position to return these vehicles as they were being used to do work for the Allies and proved same in showing "Requisition Exemption" certificates released by HQ AMG, M.T. Div and by Transportation Sub Commission, ALCOM (Rail Division) c/o Transportation Increment, C.M.F.

The same applies to S.I.A. Firm which has not returned the vehicles handed over to them by the Italian Army. This firm also showed "Requisition Exemption" Certificates released by A.F.H.Q. Petroleum Section Main HQ, AAI - CMF and by RAAC.

This Ministry thinks that the above mentioned Allied authorities released said certificates, surmizing that the vehicles were the property of these firms.

Considering, instead, that these vehicles belong to the Italian Army, may authority be given to recover same and to cancel "Requisition Exemption" certificates released by the above mentioned Allied authorities.

/s/ A. Casati

5433

~~470~~
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AG (MELA)
Rome
Q/5/10
25

18 April 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Major Van Kirk, MWIA LO
Fifth Army Rear

Reference your buck slip of 14 April addressed to
the O.C., 15th Supply and Transport Unit, RAF.

There may be some question as to whether or not these
trucks, captured in France, are now the property of the Italian
Army. France is not in this theater, and the orders issued
here do not apply to these trucks if they were actually captured
in France. The British are very particular about registering
these trucks with British War Department numbers; and if this
RAF unit has the papers and trucks are properly marked with the
War Department numbers, I am inclined to believe that they have
been lost to the Italian Government.

Reference your buck slip of 8 April addressed to
AMG, Florence.

With reference to the two trucks taken from the Selt-
Valdarno Company, I called the Officer in Charge of the Public
Works and Utilities Sub Commission in Rome; and told him just
how much we appreciated the action of his people in Florence
after they had been given the use of these vehicles 30 days at
the request of their Major Bell. I told this officer that they
would get no more favors from us, and the officer said that he
would inquire into the matter in Florence and find out why the
Allied officers did not see that the trucks were turned in in
proper condition.

Please have Recovery Commission No. 21 swear out a
warrant for the civilian owners of this company for stealing
Italian State property under the recent Italian Decree, and have
these birds locked up. This will have a salutary effect on other
people in Florence including both Allied and Italian.

Please keep me advised of your action.

(K)
C. P. KERR
Colonel, Infantry

CPK/lek

5432

14. (363)

Subject: Italian Army VehiclesLand Forces
Sub Commission, AG (MWIA)
Rome
Q/5

25 March 1945

To : Hq Allied Commission for Transportation Sub CommissionReferencesOur AQ/5 of 19 February 1945
Your AC/S/1/TN.6 of 23 February 1945
Our Q/5 of 13 March 1945
Your AC/1/3/TN.6 of 14 March 1945

1. Request that the list of trucks provided in letter dated 19 February 1945 be furnished without further delay.
2. Also request that Par 2 of our Q/5 of 13 March 1945 be answered.

CLAYTON S. ASPEN, Colonel
For Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AG (MWIA)

GPN/lak

cc: Executive Commissioner, ALCO
General Hamilton, AFHQ

See File 15

5431

10.345

SUBJECT: Italian Army vehicles.

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M. M. I. A.) R O M E
Q/5
13 March 1945

TO : Transportation Sub-Commission
Hq AC

Reference your AC/R/1/TN.5 of 23 Feb. 1945.

1. It is requested that the list of vehicles be forwarded to this office without further delay.
2. Information is also requested as to whether or not the money bonds in possession of the Allied Commission will be held until the civilians return the vehicles to the Italian Army.


CLAYTON P. KERN, Colonel
For Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (M.M.I.A.)

CPR/r1

See 1, 3

See file 10
5-30 14
15

FROM:

NMIA

TO: (FOR ACTION)

FIFTH ARMY REAR

TO: (FOR INFO)

15TH ARMY GROUP

01

REFERENCE Q 22 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED

FOR NMIA LO (.)
REFERENCE G 4-16 15TH ARMY GROUP OF 27 DECEMBER (.) SUBJECT ITALIAN
ARMY VEHICLES FLORENCE REFERENCE TO YOUR LIST OF 74 ITALIAN ARMY
VEHICLES (.) ADVISE HEADQUARTERS IN FULL AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE THAT
THESE VEHICLES HAVE NOT BEEN TURNED OVER TO ITALIAN ARMY IN ACCORDANCE
WITH CITED 15TH ARMY GROUP SIGNAL (.)

PRECEDENCE IMPORTANTAUTHENTICATION C. P. KERN, Col

Lee 544 12

Subject: Italian Vehicles - Legnano Gruppo

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (WIA)
Rome
2/3
February 1945

To : BQ 1 District

Reference ID/2312/C of 17 February 1945

1. The COS in PAM 845 of 3 Nov 44 laid down quite clearly that the Combat Groups are entirely a British responsibility for maintenance and initial equipment. No authority exists for the addition of Italian Army vehicles surplus to the W.E. of the Combat Group.

If additional vehicles are required for all Combat Groups, then doubtless the Allied formations commanding the Groups will apply to AFHQ for the necessary amendments to be made to the W.E.

2. BATH LORRY

This is now covered by W.E. As the British vehicle is not at present available, it is agreed that the bath lorry shall remain until replaced by the British vehicle.

3. VEHICLES FOR MEDICAL UNIT

It is agreed that these may remain until replaced by British vehicles.

4. CINEMA LORRY AND TRAILER

Italian Government welfare arrangements are being made to cover all categories of troops. It is therefore agreed that the cinema lorry and trailer shall remain.

5. CARAVANS

No authority exists for the unilateral issue of seven Italian lorries to one Combat Group for caravans surplus to W.E. To do so to one Group because they have failed to return their

Italian transport on issue of British transport would be manifestly unfair. To add seven caravans to each Group, which will be an additional British commitment of 35 x 3 ton vehicles, is an AFHQ question. It is regretted that no authority to retain these Italian vehicles can be given.

A. Brown
Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AG (MMA)

cc: MMA - ST
58 BLS - Your AG/1/143 of 14 Feb refers.
Note: MMA Signal ST/1106 of 23 Feb is cancelled.

542.

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Subject: Italian Army Vehicles

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (SMIA)
Rome
AG/S

February 1945

To : Hq Allied Commission for Transportation Sub Commission.

Copy to: AFHQ for G-3 (Org) Col Harris
AFHQ for G-4, Col Libby
AFHQ for G-4, Col Finks

1. Approximately 170 Italian Army motor trucks are in the Rome Area in the hands of civilians, or civilian firms.
2. It is understood that these Italian Army vehicles were turned over to the civilians on a contract between AMG officers and the civilians, the terms of which included (1) a money bond payable to the Allied Commission being made by the civilians for each truck and (2) the truck would be rented to the Allied Commission and operated by the civilian on a mileage basis.
3. These trucks are property of the Italian Army under current AFHQ instructions, which were in effect at the time the AMG officers made the alleged contracts with the civilians, and the contracts are therefore not valid.
4. It is requested that a complete list of these vehicles be furnished this Headquarters, and that arrangements be made to have the civilians hand them over to the Italian Army. In order to avoid misunderstandings, it is suggested that the hand-over take place under mutual arrangements between SMIA and the Transportation Sub-Commission. To insure that the vehicles are handed over without being damaged or stripped by the civilians, it is requested that the money bonds be not returned to the civilians until the hand-over is completed.
5. A prompt reply is requested.

CPK/lak

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (SMIA)

1380