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Italian Military Postal Services - 1st Cover

(369
7371)

Apr. - May 1945

8/8
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(6)

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT: Mail for Officers going to SHARP.

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E
TEL: 489081 Ext 633
A 178
4 May 45

TO : Ministry of War.

1. Civilian mail service to and from ITALY and FRANCE has been resumed.
2. Please instruct the officers concerned and their families to forward their mail by normal channels.
3. Our letter reference G/7/1 of 23 December 1944 outlining a different mailing procedure is hereby rescinded.

W. P. ...
Major General
M.M.I.A.

ck

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NOTES ON A MEETING HELD AT ARHQ
ON 21 APR 45

SUBJECT:- Italian Military Postal Services.

PRESENT

Lt. Col. H. McLEAN	Q(Maint)
Lt. Col. W.H. COCKSHELL	C-1(A)
Lt. Col. L.S. FOGARTY	M (Postal)
Lt. Col. W.C. HARVEY	Postal (Br)
Major W.H. SPIN	AC Comm Sub-Commission
Major R.J. HILL	C-1(B)
Major L.E. COCKING	C-2(CC)
Capt. F.A.A. CLARK	MAIL
Capt. J.H. HARRIS	C-2(CI)
Capt. J. GRADIN	C-2(ORG)
Capt. C.J. MANNING	C-5

MAIL FROM CIVILIANS TO ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

1. Present procedure is as follows. Mail is posted in civilian Post Offices. It is then concentrated in one or two large towns. There it is consigned and goes through Italian civilian postal channels to Italian HQs & HQs at the front. There it is sorted and handed over to British and US Postal Services as relevant. It then goes through Allied channels to the forward Italian HQs to deliver to the Italian units. As regards mail for Italian units in S. ITALY, in some instances the mail may go through Italian civilian channels and the way.

The main causes of delay may be as follows :-

- (a) Difficulty in Italian transportation getting the mail to the large towns.
- (b) Censorship delay at the large towns; in particular, a possible routing delay of ten days may be imposed on mail which does not carry the sender's name and address.
- (c) Transportation problems of Italian civilian Post Office

MAIL FROM CIVILIANS TO ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

1. Present procedure is as follows. Mail is posted in civilian Post Offices. It is then concentrated in one of two large towns. There it is consigned and goes through Italian civilian postal channels to Italian IM 3400 at Naples. There it is sorted and handed over to British and US Postal Services as relevant. It then goes through allied channels to the forward Italian file to deliver to the Italian Units. As regards mail for Italian Units in S. ITALY, in some instances the mail may go through Italian civilian channels and the way.

The main causes of delay may be as follows:-

(a) Difficulty in Italian transportation getting the mail to the large towns.

(b) Censorship delay at the large towns; in particular, a possible routine delay of ten days may be imposed on mail which does not carry the sender's name and address.

(c) Transportation problems of Italian civilian Post Office getting the mail to IM 3400 at Naples.

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(d) The fact that mail posted, say, in Florence for a soldier serving at, say, ANCONA, has to come all the way to Naples and forward again.

(e) Mail which goes all the way through civilian channels to a unit which has moved might well be delayed considerably.

2. The following action will be taken to remove these delays:-

(a) Postal (Br) and AG Postal will inform AG Communications Sub-Commission of their normal mail postal routes. AG Communications Sub-Commission will arrange concentration of mail at suitable points on these routes. US and British Postal will arrange collection and delivery to the appropriate IM at NAPLES or ANCONA for consignment.

ACTION Postal (Br)
AG Postal
AG Comm Sub-
Commission.

/s/.....

- (2) JAG will investigate possible censorship delays and will remove the routing delay imposed for lack of sender's name and address, if this is feasible.

ACTION AC Corps Sub-Commission.

- (c) This will be cured by action under (a) above.

- (4) Mail for troops in the forward area will, in future, be accepted at HQ 3000 in WGHM where it will be handed over to the Allied Post Office.

ACTION AC Corps Sub-Commission.

- (e) JAG will ensure that it is brought to the notice of Italian troops serving in S. Italy that it is preferable for their relatives to address their letters to a HQ number rather than locations, so that mail will go through military channels. JAG will arrange for the establishment of suitable HQs in S. Italy.

ACTION JAG.

MAIL FROM THE SOLDIER TO THE CIVILIAN.

3. This follows the other mail in the reverse direction. It is handled over first Allied Military channels to Italian HQ 3000 at WGHM from whence it proceeds through Italian civilian postal channels. There has been no evidence of delay in mails in this direction. The service will benefit by the opening of HQ 3000 at WGHM and by delivery at main towns on the Allied Military Postal routes.

FIELD POST OFFICE.

- There is at present an area, generally close behind the operational area, where the Italian Civilian Postal system does not work. This means that Italian civilians living in that area have no means of sending letters to, or receiving letters from, their relatives in the Italian Armed Forces. A Field Post Office is to be opened in Italian military personnel. This will go through the normal channels until it reaches HQ 3000 WGHM. HQ 3000 will sort these cards into bundles for Italian units nearest to the Italian civilian addresses. When this bundle of correspondence reaches the Italian unit, that unit will be responsible for collecting deliveries as far as possible and by any means possible.

MAIL FROM THE SOLDIER TO THE CIVILIAN.

3. This follows the other mail in the reverse direction. It is handed over from Allied Military channels to Italian AM 2400 at MILPES, from whence it proceeds through Italian civilian postal channels. There has been no evidence of delay in mails in this direction. The service will benefit by the opening of AM 2800 at NICE and by delivery at main towns on the Allied Military Postal routes.

FIELD INSTANCES.

4. There is at present an area, generally close behind the operational area, where the Italian Civil Postal system does not work. This means that Italian civilians living in that area have no means of sending letters to, or receiving letters from, their relatives in the Italian Armed Forces. A Field Postcard is to be issued to Italian military personnel. This will go through the normal channels until it reaches AM 2800 NICE. AM 2800 will sort these cards into bundles for Italian Units nearest to the Italian civilian addressee. When this bundle of correspondence reaches the Italian Unit, that unit will be responsible for effecting delivery as soon as possible and by any means possible, to the civilian addressee. They will use, in the main, the Italian Carabinieri. It was realised this is a bit of a makeshift and that we shall be lucky if 50% of the cards arrive. No better system can be devised in the circumstances and it was accepted as being preferable to the complete lack of facilities which exist at present. The card will be in two parts so that the civilian can tear off one half and return it to the soldier through the same channels as he receives it.

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WELFARE

ACTION

1951

AC Camp Sub-

Commission.

URGENT COMMUNICATIONS.

5. It was confirmed by MILA that a telegraphic system is in force whereby urgent communications regarding death or serious illness can be passed.

GENERAL.

6. MILA undertook to issue clear instructions to Italian troops in how they can best help the Postal authorities and advise their relatives as to the best method of dealing with mail.

ACTION

1951

RESTRICTED.

SUBJECT: Unauthorized attachment of Italian Military Personnel to 7 Base Censor.

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C.
(H.M.I.A.)
Tel 439081A Ext. 533
A/111
2 April 45.

TO : A.F.M.Q. for 02(CC)

COPY TO : Ministry of War
British Cadre 805 BRD

Reference Telephone conversation between Lt. Col. LOVERIDGE and

Capt GROVES-RAINES 18 April.

1. It is understood that the 6 Italian officers and 12 OR's working for 7 Base Censor can be replaced by civilians and that the request for an additional 10 military personnel for censorship and clerical duties, to which Ministry of War letter 10/398 dated 6 April refers, can also be met by the employment of civilians.

2. If therefore 7 Base Censor will replace this military personnel with civilians it will be unnecessary to regularise the present attachment.

3. ^{it is requested that an} ~~it is requested that an~~ ^{and when} ~~personnel, etc.~~ ^{placed by civilians, please} ~~they~~ be sent to 805 BRD RAVISCANIMA. A nominal roll of such personnel should be sent separately to the G.C. British Cadre 805 BRD.

4. If any of these persons belong to classes which are being demobilised, i.e. first four months of 1914 class and older classes, they could, if convenient be demobilised and re-employed as civilians in their present jobs.

Approved 53

Capt GROVES-RAINES 18 April.

1. It is understood that the 5 Italian officers and 12 OR's working for 7 Base Center can be replaced by civilians and that the request for an additional 10 military personnel for censorship and clerical duties, to which Ministry of War letter 15/398 dated 6 April refers, can also be met by the employment of civilians.

2. If therefore 7 Base Center will replace this military personnel with civilians it will be unnecessary to regularize the present attachment.

3. ^{may} It is requested that as and when personnel, ^{as a rule} ~~are~~ replaced by civilians, ^{please} they be sent to 803 BMD RAVENHALL. A nominal roll of SA personnel should be sent separately to the O.C. British Cadre 803 BMD.

4. If any of these persons belong to classes which are being demobilized, i.e. first four months of 1914 class and older classes, they could, if convenient be demobilized and re-employed as civilians in their present jobs.

W.P.
Major General,
M.M.I.A.

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INTERNAL: 80/18/6
GSI

/sl.

1932