

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

Acc

1000012013227

A/024/200

MAR,

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

10000112013227

A/024/200

"Policy" Welfare

MAR, 1945 - FEB. 1946

2793
2861

1834

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

MMIA

42

A. 02/44

Tel: 489081-365

11 February 1946

AC/14030/1/2/PS

SUBJECT : Polish Troops.

TO : AFHQ G-3 Section.

AFHQ
10/2

TACP
10/2

1. Reference is made to your 091.711-1 Poland dated 24 Jan. 46 and 8 Feb. 46.

2. In view of the presence of Italian troops in the Florence area, your letter was referred to MMIA, and the following reply has been received from the G.C.C.:-

41

"This project is highly undesirable and would inevitably lead to incidents. The opinion of the Local Area Commander and the Italian Territorial Commander have been sought. They have both expressed themselves as being most strongly opposed to the setting up of a POLISH Rest Centre in Florence, and have advanced the following four main reasons:-

- (a) Incidents are bound to occur between the POLGONE Division and the POLES.
- (b) In a short time British troops will be withdrawn and there will be no British Area Commander to settle disputes and incidents which are bound to arise.
- (c) There already exists friction between the Italian Military and civilian population over the question of the number of buildings requisitioned to the Military. If 54 Rest Camp could be handed back to the Italian Military instead of to the POLES, all existing requisitioned buildings

could be handed back to the civil.

- (d) FLORENCE has a bad summer climate with no facilities such as bathing; the POLES will have little to do except hang about the streets and cafes, it will be impossible therefore to prevent frequent contact with the Italian troops in the area".

3. In view of the above, and in the interests of public order generally, it is strongly recommended that a Polish Rest Centre should not be set up at Florence.

FJW/tm

John W. Chapman
JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, JAGE
Director

Copy :- Land Forces S/C (MMIA) ✓
- ~~Executive Comm. (your file 3609/EC refers).~~

2860

41
SUBJECT: Polish Rest Centre in FLORENCE.

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

— A024

31 Jan. '46.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
Allied Commission.

1. An A.C. file was recently passed to Land Forces Sub-Commission containing a letter asking whether there was any objection to setting up a POLISH Rest Centre in FLORENCE. The minute sheet on the file asked Land Forces Sub-Commission to express our opinion. Since expressing the opinion that the project was highly undesirable and would inevitably lead to incidents, the opinion of the Local Area Commander and the Italian Territorial Commander have been sought. They have both expressed themselves as being most strongly opposed to the setting up of a POLISH Rest Centre in FLORENCE, and have advanced the following four main reasons :-

- (a) Incidents are bound to occur between the POLCORE Division and the POLS.
- (b) In a short time British troops will be withdrawn and there will be no local British Area Commander to settle disputes and incidents which are bound to arise.
- (c) There already exists friction between the Italian Military and civilian population over the question of the number of buildings requisitioned to the Military. If 54 Rest Camp could be handed back to the Italian Military instead of to the POLS, all existing requisitioned buildings could be handed back to the civil.
- (d) FLORENCE has a bad summer climate with no facilities such as bathing; the POLS will have little to do except hang out the streets and cafes; it will be impossible therefore to prevent frequent contact with the Italian troops in the area.

1837

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1. An A.C. file was recently passed to Land Forces Sub-Commission containing a letter asking whether there was any objection to setting up a POLISH Rest Centre in FLORENCE. The minute sheet on the file asked Land Forces Sub-Commission to express our opinion. Since expressing the opinion that the project was highly undesirable and would inevitably lead to incidents, the opinion of the Local Area Commander and the Italian Territorial Commander have been sought. They have both expressed themselves as being most strongly opposed to the setting up of a POLISH Rest Centre in FLORENCE, and have advanced the following four main reasons :-

- (a) Incidents are bound to occur between the FOLGORE Division and the POLES.
- (b) In a short time British troops will be withdrawn and there will be no local British Area Commander to settle disputes and incidents which are bound to arise.
- (c) There already exists friction between the Italian Military and civilian population over the question of the number of buildings requisitioned to the Military. If 54 Rest Camp could be handed back to the Italian Military instead of to the POLES, all existing requisitioned buildings could be handed back to the civil.
- (d) FLORENCE has a bad summer climate with no facilities such as bathing; the POLES will have little to do except hang about the streets and cafes; it will be impossible therefore to prevent frequent contact with the Italian troops in the area.

L. Brown

Major General,
M.M.I.A.

AHG/eco

1838
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject : Donation to Charity

Land Forces Sub Comm. AC.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

✓ A 024

29 Nov. 45.

To : Rear HQ
13 Corps

39

1. With reference to your 1328/2/A of 3 Nov 45, we are informed by the Italian Mi Ministry of War that the sum you desire to allot would be best allocated through the Territorial Hq Rome.

2. The Ufficio Benessere has asked that an expression of its appreciation of this gesture should be conveyed.

JAC Pannoe Hay
Major General,
M.M.I.A.

2858

Internal. Welfare

/er

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

Subject: Donation to Charity.

Rear HQ 13 Corps

1328/2/A

3 Nov 45

M.M.I.A.

Copy to:- Welfare.

1. A Searchlight Tattoo was held by this Corps in September. Personnel of RN, RAF and the various armies under command of this Corps participated.
2. The ITALIAN troops taking part came from 405, 410 and 412 Pioneer Regts.
3. It is proposed to distribute a proportion of the profits of the Tattoo to charities connected with the various services and nationalities participating.
line 20,000
4. It is desired to allot the sum of £50 to an ITALIAN Army charity connected with the ITALIAN units taking part.
5. Would you please advise to whom this sum should be paid.

In field N. and L.
to "es."

Thurs. 8. Ten. M.W. Udine.

K. Teneo
Brigadier
DA & G.C.

Subject: Discontinuing of newspaper "LA PATRIA" and
publication of Weekly News Sheet.

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

A 024

17 Oct. '45.

To Ministry of War.

Your letter on this matter dated 11 Oct 45 reference
I23875/I.3 refers.

110-10-26

1. Please ensure that this HQ receives three copies
of the Weekly News Sheet as from its inception on 20 Oct 45.

J.A.C. Pearce, Major
J.A.C. PEARCE, Major.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

JAGP/eco.

2856

1841

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

from : M of W
to : MMIA

024

Translation

ref. 123875/1.3
110-10-26

(37)

11 October 1940

Subject: Discontinuing of the newspaper "La Patria" and publication of a weekly news sheet.

With effect from 30th of September the publication of the newspaper "La Patria" ceases.

On Saturday 20th begins the publication of a weekly news sheet the purpose of which is to keep all ranks in the Army informed of matters of military interest.

C/C
Q

Lombardi

See (29)

Seen
Mila

2853
See (38)
Col. Corvini
17/10/1940

1842

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

Sa/cm



AO24

Tramite Pt. 1240

Roma 11 OTT. 1945 15/10

51

Ministero della Guerra
- Gabinetto -

ALLA LAND FORCES SUB
COMMISSION A.C. MMIA
R O M A

Divisione 11.3 Allegato
2275 875

17

Reservato al f. del 20.9.45

110-10-26

In L. N° AO24

OGGETTO: Soppressione giornale "La Patria" e isti-
tuzione notiziario settimanale.

6

Con il 30 settembre c.a. è cessata
la pubblicazione del giornale "La Patria".

A datare da sabato 20 p.v. sarà inizia-
ta la pubblicazione di un notiziario set-
timanale con lo scopo di tenere aggiornati
tutti i militari dell'Esercito sui proble-
mi interessanti l'Esercito stesso.

d'ordine
IL CAPO DI GABINETTO

Peulani

TRANSLATION

IN

Time 14.00

Date 18/10

OUT

Time 15.30

Date 16/10

2854

1843

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MEMO

OR

MINISTRY OF WAR

A 393

UNCLASSIFIED

29

REFERENCE OUR A 024 OF 20 SEPT (.) PLEASE LET US
HAVE YOUR REPLY TO PARA SIX AT THE LATEST BY THE 14

OCTOBER

1945

2853

URGENT

J. A. Brown 17/10

/900

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

Subject: Italian Army Newspaper "LA PATRIA".

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R OM E

A 024

8 Oct. '45.

To : G.H.Q.,
O.M.F.

Reference your GI(ET)/8000/3/A4 dated 17 Sep 45.

1. In answer to your letter of 3 Oct 45 on this matter, we have not yet received any reply from the Ministry of War regarding the assistance required from BANU. We have sent them a further reminder and will inform you directly we hear their reply.

J.A.C. Pearce
J.A.C. PEARCE, Major.
for Major General, 2852
M.M.I.A.

JAGE/ccc.

1845

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

34

Subject: Italian Army - Welfare.

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.I.A.) R O M B

4 024

5 Oct. '45.

To : Ministry of War.

1. From reports of liaison officers and meetings with Italian officers throughout Italy, it appears that there is a lamentable lack of knowledge on the part of junior officers. R.O. and men regarding matters of general army interest and well being.

2. Lack of knowledge breeds fear; rumours are started and rapidly enthusiasm and confidence give way to apathy and discontent.

3. At this time, particularly when the future is so uncertain, it is necessary that everything possible should be done to circulate reliable information and stimulate interest and confidence in the future of the Army.

4. While the staff is busy planning and organising in Rome, there is a tendency to neglect the regimental officer and man in the field, and to leave them discontented and doubtful regarding their duties towards their men.

5. Every effort should be made to give authoritative information and explanations as early as possible to all ranks of the Army. The Weekly News Sheet suggested in A.C. 21 of 29 Sept. 42 should be utilised for this purpose but does not relieve the responsible staff from their individual responsibilities. 2831

6. Please deal with this question as a matter of urgency.

1844

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a lamentable lack of knowledge on the part of junior officers, N.C.O.s and men regarding matters of general army interest and well being.

2. Lack of knowledge breeds fear; rumours are started and rapidly enthusiasm and confidence give way to apathy and discontent.
3. At this time, particularly when the future is so uncertain, it is necessary that everything possible should be done to circulate reliable information and stimulate interest and confidence in the future of the Army.
4. While the staff is busy planning and organising in Rome, there is a tendency to neglect the regimental officer and men in the field, and to leave them discontented and doubtful regarding their duties towards their men.
5. Every effort should be made to give authoritative information and explanations as early as possible to all ranks of the Army. The Weekly News sheet suggested in my A.O. of 20 Sept 41 should be utilised for this purpose but does not involve the responsible staff from their individual responsibilities in this respect.
6. Please deal with this question as a matter of urgency.

L.B.
Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to: Welfare, M.M.I.A.
File A 052.

/enc

1843
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject : Italian Army - Welfare.

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

A/024

8 Oct. '45.

To : Ministry of War.

Your attention is drawn to this HQ letter A/024 of 20 Sep. 45.

Para 1 of the letter stated "publication of LA PATRIA" as a daily paper for the Italian soldier could be discontinued provided that Italian Army news is made available for the Italian soldier by some other method."

The letter went on to suggest that this could best be done by the production once weekly of a News Sheet.

It appears that the terms of this letter have not been complied with, since publication of "La Patria" stopped in 29 Sep. and no News Sheet has since been published to replace it.

I am directed to say, that at the present time when so many changes are taking place, the publication of a weekly News Sheet containing early official information is considered essential. The publication of such information would not only reduce the number of the rumours but correct harmful ones. It would also give all ranks a sense of increased security by letting them know that steps are being taken to safeguard their future.

The publication of "La Patria" should not have been stopped until preparations for the publication of a weekly News Sheet had been completed.

2850

Atty. General L. H.

For Major General,
M.M.I.A.

ACH/or

1848

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

6466

024

L. Forces Sic

(32)

Subject: Italian Army Paper -
La Patria.

CHQ C.M.F.

8009/3/A4.

3 Oct 45.

MTA.

(27)

Ref G-1(Br)/8009/3/A4. dated 17 Sep 45.

It would be appreciated if a reply could be given to
the above quoted letter.

/MC.

4 OCT 1945

Manning
Apt
M.W.M. MACLEOD,
Major-General.
DAG.

284.1

1848

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

(31)

SUBJECT: Italian Army Newspaper - LA PATRIA

Land Forces Sub. Comm. AC,
(M.M.I.A.),
R O M E.

A 024

HQ/CON/F/ITAL

(28)

1. Reference your A/024 dated 20 September 45.
2. I will be pleased to give any help that is required in an unofficial advisory capacity.

H. Cudlipp

H. Cudlipp, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer,
HQ Brit Army Newspaper Unit.

6013

SPH
27/9

24 Sept 45
CIE

17/16
27/9

From : Ministry Of War,
Ufficio Stampa.

To : L.F.S.C. - A.C. (M.N.I.A.)

Ref. 1672.

SUBJECT: ARMY Newspaper.

You were notified that steps were being taken by the Ministry of Finance to reduce the great cost to the Treasury of producing "la Patria".

Efforts have been made to effect certain economies: but the main expense, which is the cost of paper and printing in four editions, and which constitutes 75% of the total cost, cannot be reduced.

Another point is that the troops prefer the civilian newspapers, which they can easily obtain: they have always shown an instinctive diffidence towards a paper sponsored by the Ministry of War.

It is therefore proposed that the paper be suppressed. The Ufficio Stampa, under the Gabinetto, would then resume its function, as a liaison unit for correspondence and information on the Army between the Ministry and the political and civilian press.

/S. JACINI.
The Minister. 4017

Handwritten notes:
B.D. 10/11/45
to the Ministry of War
for the purpose of
the Army newspaper
to be suppressed

Translation.

A 241

A 241

Rome, 13 AUGUST 1945.

"A"

(30)

Handwritten: 89

4 8 5 1

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

/S. JACINI.
The Minister. 4817

/S. JACINI.
 The Minister.

SUBJECT: Italian Army Welfare - "LA PATRIA".

LAND FORCES SUP COM. A.C.
(M.I.A.) R O M E

A 024
20 Sept 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR.

Reference your 1572 dated 13 August 45.

1. The proposal made in your above quoted letter for discontinuing the production of "LA PATRIA" has been reconsidered and in view of present circumstances this H.Q. is of the opinion that the publication of "LA PATRIA" as a daily paper for the Italian soldier could be discontinued provided that Italian Army news is made available for the Italian soldier by some other method.
2. It is considered that this could best be done by the production once weekly of a news sheet, to be distributed free throughout the Italian Army during the reorganisation period.
3. This news sheet should in no way attempt to compete with the civilian press as regards political, sport or other items of general news, and should be confined to articles which will give all ranks of the Italian Army official information in amplification or anticipation of Army Orders and intentions. Articles should also be published dealing with problems of general interest of benefit to the Army which are outside the scope of actual Army Orders.
4. It should be published centrally only (in Rome) once weekly, post-dated so that it is distributed throughout the Army on the same day. Central publication and circulation through official channels would greatly decrease cost of production and distribution.
5. It is considered that the publication of such a news sheet, containing early official information, would not only have the effect of reducing the number of, or of correcting harmful rumours which might adversely affect the smooth reorganisation of the Italian Army, but also give an increased sense of security to all ranks as to their future.
6. Please advise this H.Q. as soon as possible of your views on this matter and say whether, if the above proposals are put into effect, continued assistance from British Army Newspaper Units would be required.

1. The proposal made in your above quoted letter for discontinuing the production of "LA PATRIA" has been reconsidered and in view of present circumstances this H.Q. is of the opinion that the publication of "LA PATRIA" as a daily paper for the Italian soldier could be discontinued provided that Italian Army news is made available for the Italian soldier by some other method.

2. It is considered that this could best be done by the production once weekly of a news sheet, to be distributed free throughout the Italian Army during the reorganisation period.

3. This news sheet should in no way attempt to compete with the civilian press as regards political, sport or other items of general news, and should be confined to articles which will give all ranks of the Italian Army official information in amplification or anticipation of Army Orders and intentions. Articles should also be published dealing with problems of general interest of benefit to the Army which are outside the scope of actual Army Orders.

4. It should be published centrally only (in Rome) once weekly, post-dated so that it is distributed throughout the Army on the same day. Central publication and circulation through official channels would greatly decrease cost of production and distribution.

5. It is considered that the publication of such a news sheet, containing early official information, would not only have the effect of reducing the number of, or of correcting harmful rumours which might adversely affect the smooth reorganisation of the Italian Army, but also give an increased sense of security to all ranks as to their future.

6. Please advise this H.Q. as soon as possible of your views on this matter and say whether, if the above proposals are put into effect, continued assistance from British Army Newspaper Units would be required.

W. F. Dwyer
Major General
M.C.I.A.

COPY TO: Bellegere MIA

RAF

1854

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

(28)

Subject : Italian Army Newspaper - "La Patria".

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

2/02,

Sep. '45.

To : O.C. BAW G.M.F.

Reference your R2/COM/1/ITAL of 8 September.

1. Thank you for your very clear appreciation of the situation in regard to the future of "La Patria".
2. As a result certain recommendations were made to AFHQ in this HQ letter A 022 of 14 Sep. (copy to O.C. BAW), and these have now been accepted. The Minister of War has therefore been informed that it is considered that "La Patria" may now be discontinued provided that an Army news sheet as suggested in the above letter is substituted and he has been asked to state his views.
3. AFHQ consider that your responsibility in connection with the Italian Army newspaper should now cease. Nevertheless the Minister has been asked his views and it is thought that he will welcome your advice at least during the early stages of the news sheet. Should this be the case, it is hoped that you will be kind enough to act in an unofficial advisory capacity.

25

FMG

2845

For Major General,
M.M.I.A.

SPA/or

Internal - Welfare.

024 0

(27)

Subject:- Italian Army Paper -
LA PATRIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

G-1(Br)/8009/3/A1

17 Sep 45

MILA ✓

(26) X

W.P.

Reference your A 024 dated 14 Sep 45.

1. Your recommendations as to LA PATRIA are agreed.
2. It is also considered that the paper should cease to be in any way the responsibility of BANU. Do you agree? If so, will you please say on what date responsibility should cease.

SWA
12/9
JDP/JC.

L
J. P. P. P.
Major General
DAG G-1(Br)

Copy to:- DAVIS.

A.2.
1. Letter to War Minister saying we have reconsidered his () application to cancel LA PATRIA. In view of all circumstances it is considered that the cancellation of (specially like para 3 y. 26) it is felt that one day a week would suffice. And for his views on whether if this course is adopted he would resign from BANU. WD
15 Sep

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Italian Army (cont) - LA PATRIA.

TO : A.P.H. 6-1 (R).

FROM : D.A.H. 6-1

C.C. 6-1

Reference A.P.H. 6-1 (R) 6th February 1945.

1. As part of the problem of the future of the Italian Army I have been considering the question of the future of the Italian Army Newspaper LA PATRIA. I have discussed the matter with the Italian Ministry of War and with C.C. 6-1 who has given me most valuable advice and assistance.
2. C.C. 6-1, letter HQ/6-1/121 of 3 September (enclosed to C-1 (R) and D.A.H. 6-1) is a sound representation of the problem with which I agree generally. In view of the facts set out the aim end of the political and financial factors which I have discussed with the War Ministry, I am coming to the conclusion that it is neither desirable nor possible to continue LA PATRIA for much longer in its present form.
3. On the other hand I consider that some form of Army news sheet will be required during the re-organisation period extending possibly over the next twelve months. This sheet should not attempt to compete with the civil press in general world news, politics, sports - or popular items but should confine itself to information on matters affecting soldiers as soldiers. It would contain 2-3 articles in amplification or anticipation of army orders, and intentions and plans with such problems of general interest and benefit to the Army as might be outside the scope of actual orders. It should be published essentially only (in some) once weekly and circulated through official channels thus reducing cost of production and distribution.
4. I recommend that I should be permitted to discuss the matter in those lines with the War Ministry and arrange accordingly as an early date. May I have your approval of this.

I recommend that I should be permitted to discuss the matter in those lines with the War Ministry and arrange accordingly as an early date. May I have your approval of this.

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Reference A.S.N. 3. 24/9904/3-1 (Ref) 6th February 1945.

1. As part of the problem of the future of the Italian Army I have been considering the question of the future of the Italian Army Newspaper LA PATRIA. I have discussed the matter with the Italian Ministry of War and with G. G. B. who has given me most valuable advice and assistance.
2. G. G. B. A. S. N. letter 24/9904/3-1 (Ref) of 3 September (copies to G-1 (Ref) and A.S.N. 3.) is a sound appreciation of the problem with which I agree generally. In view of the facts set out the main end of the political and financial features which I have discussed with the War Ministry, I am coming to the conclusion that it is neither desirable nor possible to continue LA PATRIA for much longer in its present form.
3. On the other hand I consider that some form of army news sheet will be required during the re-organisation period extending possibly over the next twelve months. This sheet should not attempt to compete with the civil press in general world news, politics, sports - or popular items but should confine itself to information on matters affecting soldiers as soldiers. It should contain only articles in amplification or explanation of army orders, and instructions and such problems of general interest and benefit to the army as might be outside the range of actual orders. It should be published centrally only (in Rome) once weekly and circulated through official channels thus reducing cost of production and distribution.
4. I recommend that I should be permitted to discuss the matter on those lines with the War Ministry and arrange accordingly at an early date. May I have your approval of this.

24
28

2.12.

John G. G. G.
A.S.N. 3.

ref.

185

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CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ARMY SECRETARY - DA PENDING

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ARMY SECRETARY
(M.A.S.R.)
14
15

TO : M.A.S.R. C-1 (Sgt.)

FROM : M.A.S.R.

SUBJECT: MEMO.

Reference A.S.R. 18/994/C-1 (M) 6th February 1945.

1. In part of the article of the future of the Italian Army I have been considering the question of the future of the Italian Army Newspaper in which I have discussed the author with the Italian Ministry of War and with G.O. 3000 who has given me most valuable advice and assistance.
2. G.O. 3000, Letter 11/22/45/174, of 3 September (copies to C-1 (Sgt) and D.A.S.R.) is a sound appreciation of the problem with which I agree generally. In view of the facts set out therein and of the political and financial aspects which I have discussed with the War Ministry, I am coming to the conclusion that it is neither desirable nor possible to continue to submit for such longer in its present form.
3. On the other hand I consider that some form of Army News Sheet will be required during the re-organization period extending possibly over the next twelve months. This sheet should not attempt to compete with the civil press in general world news, politics, sports or general news but should contain itself to information on matters affecting soldiers as soldiers. It would contain official articles in amplification or confirmation of Army orders, and instructions and news of such problems of general interest and benefit to the Army as might be outside the scope of actual orders. It should be published centrally only (in some new weekly and circulated through official channels thus reducing cost of production and distribution.
4. I recommend that I should be permitted to discuss the matter on these lines with the War Ministry and Army Secretary as early as possible. I have your approval of this.

Reference A.P.S. 34/9306/0-1 (Dr) 6th February 1965.

1. As part of the problem of the future of the Italian Army I have been considering the question of the future of the Italian Army Newspaper (L'ARMATA). I have discussed the matter with the Italian Ministry of War and with G. J. B. M. who has given me most valuable advice and assistance.
2. G. J. B. M. letter 14/10/64/9/10/1 of 3 November (copies to G-1 (Mr and D. J. B. M.) is a good representation of the problem with which I am generally in view of the facts set out therein and of the political and financial factors which I have discussed with the War Ministry. I am coming to the conclusion that it is neither desirable nor possible to continue L'ARMATA for much longer in its present form.
3. On the other hand I consider that some form of Army News Sheet will be required during the re-organisation period extending possibly over the next twelve months. This sheet should not attempt to compete with the daily press in general world news, politics, sports - or popular items but should provide itself for information on matters affecting soldiers as soldiers. It would contain official information in application of anti-censorship of Army Orders, and intentions and details of such problems of general interest and benefit to the Army as might be outside the scope of normal news. It should be published centrally only (in Rome) once weekly and circulated through official channels thus reducing cost of production and distribution.
4. I recommend that I should be permitted to discuss the matter on these lines with the War Ministry and arrange accordingly at an early date. May I have your approval of this.

ref.

L. J. B.

Major General
R. J. B. M.

SUBJECT: Italian Army Paper - LA PATRIA

Ref: HQ/CON/F/ITAL

M.M.I.A.
C.M.F.

For Col. W. Pidsley ✓

1. Herewith comments on the finances of LA PATRIA. It would not be possible without a long and detailed examination, to assess whether each individual charge is justified or not. The following observations, however, may be of assistance at this stage:-

2. Economies could be effected by:-

- (a) Cutting out the Florence Unit and sending papers by road from Rome;
- (b) Selling all the papers, except those going to hospitals; this is already being done in the case of British newspapers in this theatre, all of which have been charged for since the fighting stopped;
- (c) Increased space to advertising, thereby stepping up the revenue;
- (d) More civilians are used in the production of the paper than military. It would be cheaper to use military personnel;
- (e) The cost of articles appears excessive. Articles are costing more than the editorial salaries;
- (f) If the Italians were allowed to use British and US LRLS and ELS systems to despatch syndicated features much time would be saved and, therefore, far more of them could be used, thus reducing expenditure on original material in all printing plants.

3. Since the matter of cost is now being discussed, I have drawn up some observations (attached) which may be of use to you in deciding the paper's future. Copies are sent to G-1(Br) and DADAWS since my original instructions came through them.

8 Sept. 45

H. Cudlipp
H. Cudlipp, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer,
Hq. Brit. Army Newspaper Unit, C.M.F.

2011

SUBJECT: "LA PATRIA"

TO: M.M.I.A. /

Ref: HQ/CON/P/ITAL

COPY: DAWTS AUTHQ.
G-1 (Br)

8/sep/45.

1. The first edition of LA PATRIA, official paper for Italian troops, appeared on 25 Feb 45. The duties of CO, British Army Newspaper Unit, and BANU sub-units located where editions of LA PATRIA are published, have been purely advisory. Now that the cost of the paper, and its future generally, are under discussion, the following observations are submitted:-

2. The objects of the paper, during the campaign, were threefold:-

- (a) To assist promotion of esprit de corps among Italian soldiers now fighting or working for United Nations;
- (b) To develop their interests in the world war scene, as opposed to local Italian political events which currently dominate the civilian Italian party newspapers;
- (c) To record their own achievements in the Allied cause, and to furnish daily news of the successes and problems of the nations they are fighting with.

3. With a few exceptions, those objects were achieved. Now, however, LA PATRIA is faced with quite a different problem. The question arises whether an official paper of LA PATRIA's type, which clearly cannot deal in an interesting way with the complex Italian political situation, can be of any interest to its readers. Additionally, important problems will also shortly arise -- the Italian election, future of Italian Colonies, Italy's role in the peace conference, the future of Trieste, etc.

4. The Italian newspaper reader is, by tradition, used to an entirely lively, and not entirely scrupulous, form of journalism. Italian civilian newspapers, currently, are violently controversial. LA PATRIA, in comparison is a formal news bulletin unlikely to arouse the attention of the Italian soldier.

5. British official Army newspapers in this theatre face equally difficult political problems. Our handling of these problems is accepted by the troops as impartial, as it indeed is. If the Italian editorial staffs were even capable of attempting this impartiality, my opinion is that it would never be accepted as such by the troops or by the principal political parties.

6. An Italian newspaper with absolutely no political policy is liable by implication to be considered Monarchist. This charge was in fact made against LA PATRIA by ITALIA LIBERA on Thur 6 Feb 45.

7. The end of the fighting in Italy forced LA PATRIA to deal at length with the ordinary news of the day in an uninspiring bulletin style since it could have no policy. The problem therefore is:

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- (a) With a political policy, in these violently political times, LA PATRIA would interest its Italian readers;
- (b) It is extremely unlikely that the six-party Government would agree with the Italian Ministry of War on a policy;
- (c) The only policy acceptable to the Italian Ministry of War would be Monarchist.
- (d) This would be unacceptable to the Italian people, who stand the cost.

- 2 -

8. My opinion is that LA PATRIA has no longer the confidence of the soldier for the reasons stated above; that he can easily obtain, and does obtain, the more attractive civilian papers which deal fully with political news; and that, as a reaction against the LA PATRIA, they are additionally encouraged to read the violently communistic UNITA.

9. Unless there is some important Allied cause which the continuation of LA PATRIA is serving and of which I may be unaware, I suggest that the whole question of its future be reviewed.

8 September 45

H. Cudlipp

H. Cudlipp, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer,
HQ British Army Newspaper Unit, CEF

2839

To : DAAG - A.2

Col. "A".

S.C. Welford. I would much appreciate
constructive criticism from Union Jack.
Can you discuss with me
WJF
2 ay

Attached are the schedules of expenses of "LA PATRIA"
for one month, with a covering letter.

The following observations are made :-

ITEMS

(a) This seems a little excessive, but I have no
real knowledge.

(b) Personnel.

Military - 35 All ranks. This is correct
according to W/E.

Civilian Editors.) The authorized number is 23, for
Office Staff.) 3 Editions. Some increase might
be allowed to provide 4 Editions,
but 46 seems excessive. Also, they
should not be paying civilians to
edit the paper.

(d) Cost of Articles.

If the military staff does not write the paper,
what do they do ? L.472,000 is being paid out
unnecessarily here.

News Agencies.

There are curious discrepancies, e.g. Rome 20,000.
Milan 5,000.

(g) More odd discrepancies.

General Points.

2830

1. These figures were produced very quickly, in view of the
oft quoted poor state of communications.

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General Points.

2830

1. These figures were produced very quickly, in view of the oft quoted poor state of communications.

2. The suggestion embodied in the footnote is, of course, completely absurd.

3. Milan is reported as having 19 employees. The people at Milan told me there were 4 on the editorial staff: I do not believe either.

24 Aug '45.

DSF
S/Capt.,
Welfare.

Translation

From, M of War

To MEMIA

22 Aug 45 214

Ref/1719

Subject - "LA PATRIA" Daily expense.

With reference to the request made by you in your letter A/241 dated 15 August 45, we enclose herewith;

- List summarizing the expenses incurred by the Management of the journal, LA PATRIA. (published daily)
- List giving the details concerning personnel etc.

The improved telephone service and transport services permits already a certain reduction on the cost of personnel and of collaboration. While previous^{ly} the lack of telephone services and the grave difficulties of postal communication imposed an almost independent function by the editorial offices, it is now becoming possible, the regular despatch of articles from Rome to the other sub-offices^{though} the problem is most difficult for photos and drawings, inasmuch a block sent today to Milan would be available in about two weeks for Florence and in about a month for Bari)

The possibility of despatching to the sub-offices the "third page already made-up in Rome, is being studied. (flan) 2837

However, even if the expense referred to in paras

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However, even if the expense referred to in paras c and d of the a/m list is reduced to half, the total expense could submit to a reduction of not less than 15%.

Only the closing down of at least two of the editorial Offices(Florence and Bari) could create a satisfactory economy.

But in this case, given the present transport situation, the rapid distribution now extended to the smaller units would be compromised, and some of these would receive the journal between three and six days late.

L.Came.

Lombardi.

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

MONTHLY SALARIES OF PERSONNEL - H.Q. AND FOUR PUBLICATION UNITS -
ROME - BARI - FLORENCE - MILAN.

PERSONNEL	HQ & Pub Unit, ROME.		Pub Unit, BARI.		Pub Unit, FLORENCE.		Pub Unit, MILAN.	
	No.	Cost	No.	Cost	No.	Cost	No.	Cost
Military (All ranks)	12.	79.000	7.	45.500	8.	52.500	8.	48.500
Civilian Editors	4.	40.000	3.	26.500	3.	27.500	3.	21.000
Office Staff (Secretaries, typists,runners etc)	9.	52.000	7.	36.000	9.	44.000	8.	29.500
TOTAL	25.	171.000	17.	108.000	20.	124.000	19.	99.000

(1) Includes value of rations.

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

LS OF PERSONNEL - H.Q. AND FOUR PUBLICATION UNITS -

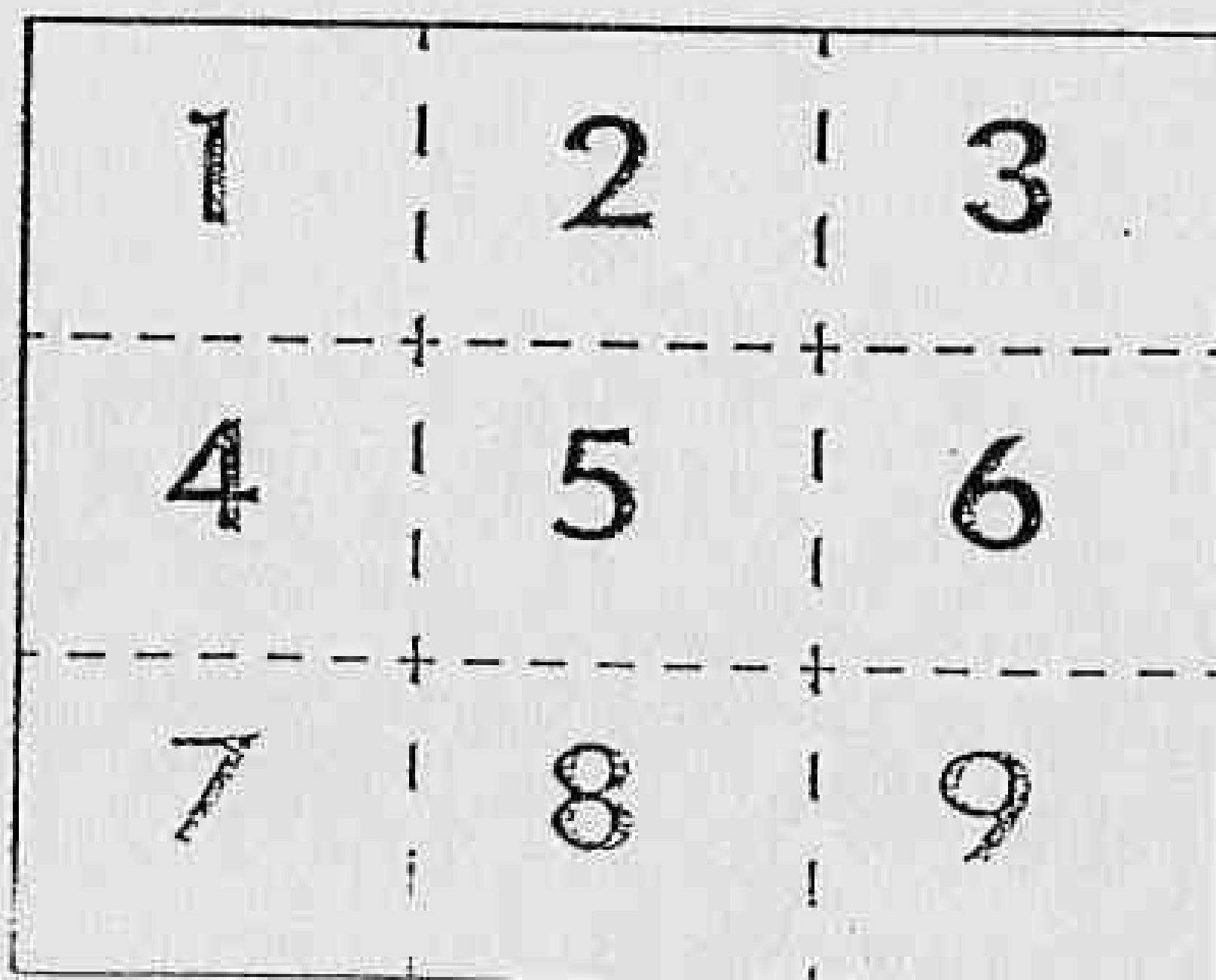
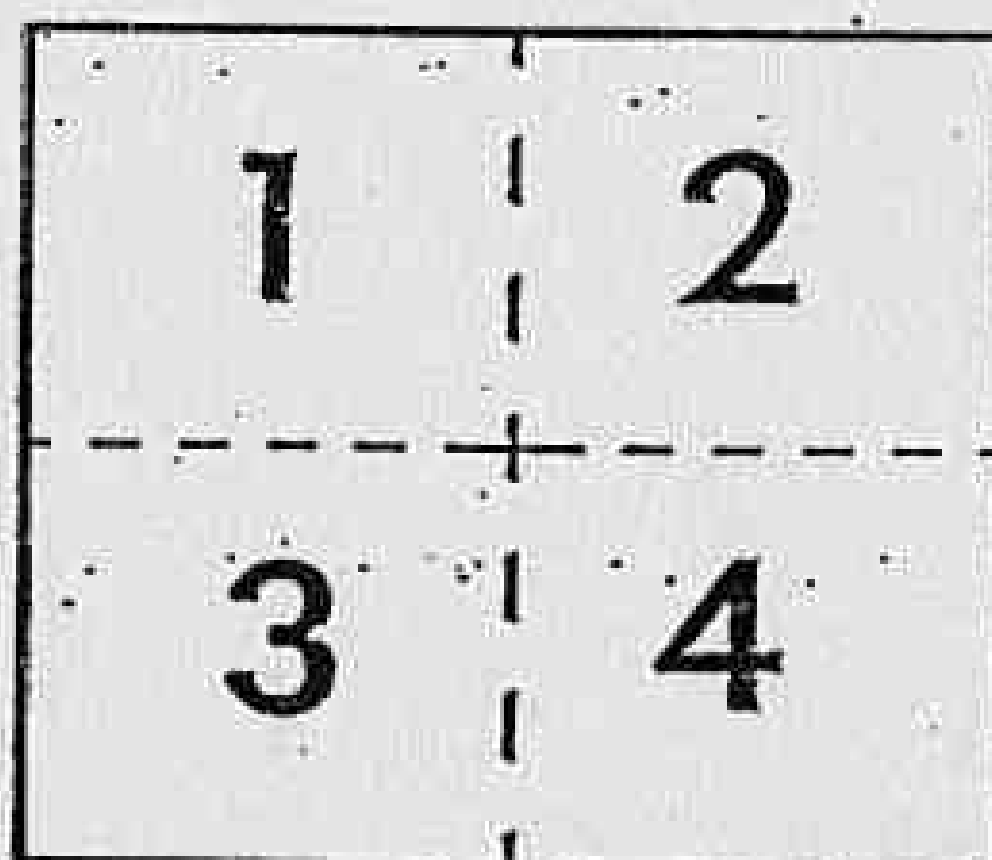
E - BARI - FLORENCE - MILAN.

Unit, E.	Pub Unit, BARI.		Pub Unit, FLORENCE.		Pub Unit, MILAN.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Cost	No.	Cost	No.	Cost	No.	Cost
79.000	7.	45.500	8.	52.500	8.	48.500	35.	225.500 (1)
40.000	3.	26.500	3.	27.500	3.	21.000	13.	115.000
52.000	7.	36.000	9.	44.000	8.	29.500	33.	161.500
171.000	17.	108.000	20.	124.000	19.	99.000	81.	502.000

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

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



1872

NEW PAPERWORK:

ITEMS	HQ & Pub. Unit, ROME.	Pub. Unit, BARI.	Pub. Unit, FLORENCE.	Pub MI
a) Cost of material :- paper	350.000	210.000	350.000	31
b) Cost of printing :- press	440.000	280.000	300.000	35
pictures.	35.000	25.000	10.000	6
c) Cost of personnel:- Military (all ranks)	79.000	45.500	52.500	4
Civilian Editors	40.000	26.500	27.500	2
Office Staff (Secretaries, Typists, runners etc.)	52.000	36.000	44.000	3
d) Cost of articles:- drawings etc.	175.000	95.000	72.000	13
News Agencies.	20.000	10.000	14.000	.
e) Cost of distribution:- post, packing etc.	6.000	-	15.000	
f) General expenses.	15.000	10.000	9.000	
Total expenses gross	1.212.000	738.000	894.000	96
g) Income:- Advertising, Salvaged paper, sales.	40.000	55.000	295.000	5
Total expenses net	1.172.000	683.000	599.000	91

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

COST OF PRODUCTION OF "LA PATRIA" PER MONTH

Pub. Unit, BARI.	Pub. Unit, FLORENCE.	Pub. Unit, MILAN.	TOTAL	REMARKS
210.000	350.000	310.000	1.220.000	
280.000	300.000	350.000	1.370.000	
25.000	10.000	60.000	130.000	
45.500	52.500	48.500	225.500	)
26.500	27.500	21.000	115.000	)
				) See attached schedule.
36.000	44.000	29.500	161.500	)
95.000	72.000	130.000	472.000	
10.000	14.000	5.000	49.000	
-	15.000	5.000	26.000	
10.000	2.000	7.000	41.000	
738.000	894.000	966.000	3.810.000	
55.000	295.000	50.000	440.000	
683.000	599.000	916.000	3.370.000	

The articles of the Rome Pub. unit are afterwards used by the other units. The costs at Milan refer to the establishment of the unit, and will be reduced.

Owing to the existence of contracts, part of the cost of distribution may be included under (b) - press.

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

a) Cost of material :- paper	350.000	210.000	350.000	3
b) Cost of printing :- press	440.000	280.000	300.000	3
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g) Income:- Advertising, Salvaged paper, sales.	40.000	55.000	295.000	5
Total expenses net	1.172.000	683.000	599.000	91

N.B. 1.215.000 copies monthly are distributed to the troops free. If these were distributed
Funds) they would realize L.3.645.000 per mense, shewing a net profit of L.275.000 p.m.

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

210.000	350.000	310.000	1.220.000
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troops free. If these were distributed on a payment basis (e.g. to be paid from General Welfare shewing a net profit of L.275.000 p.m.

SUBJECT : Italian Army Paper - LA PATRIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.O.
(M.A.I.A.) ROMS.
A 024
Sept. 45.

TO : A.P.H.Q. C-1 (Br).

COPY TO : D.A.W.S.

O.O. BAHU.

Reference A.P.H.Q. (BR/9904/C-1 (Br) 6th February 1945.

1. As part of the problem of the future of the Italian Army I have been considering the question of the future of the Italian Army Newspaper LA PATRIA. I have discussed the matter with the Italian Ministry of War and with O.C. BAHU who has given me most valuable advice and assistance.
2. O.C. B.A.H.U. letter HQ/COM/5/ITAL of 8 September (copies to 3-1 (Br) and D.A.W.S.) is a sound appreciation of the problem with which I agree generally. In view of the facts set out therein and of the political and financial features which I have discussed with the War Ministry, I am coming to the conclusion that it is neither desirable nor possible to continue LA PATRIA for much longer in its present form.
3. On the other hand I consider that some form of army news sheet will be required during the re-organisation period extending possibly over the next twelve months. This sheet should not attempt to compete with the civil press in general would news politics, sports - or popular items but should confine itself to information on matters affecting soldiers as soldiers. It would contain official articles in amplification or anticipation of army orders, and intentions and deal with such problems of general interest and benefit to the army as might be outside the scope of actual orders. It should be published centrally only (in Rome) once weekly and circulated through official channels thus reducing cost of production and distribution.
4. I recommend that I should be permitted to discuss the matter on these lines with the War Ministry and arrange accordingly at an early date. May I have your approval of this.

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maf.

Major General
H.M.I.A.

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

1877

1878
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(24)
Subject : Welfare - Italian Forces.

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

A/002.

12 Sep. '45.

To : Base HQ 13 Corps.

Reference your 1256/3/A of 5 Sep. '45.

1. The Welfare of Italian troops in 13 Corps area is at present the responsibility of the Commander, 223 Adm. Div., whose responsibility it will continue to be so long as the Division exists or remains in the area. Thereafter it will be taken over by the ~~Italian~~ Territorial Hqs.
VDINE
2. It is confirmed that Col. Rosol - Paservanti is due for demobilization and an officer of the Regular Army will be nominated as his successor.
3. The Ladies engaged by 8 Army will be absorbed, if they wish, into the Corps Assistenza Sanitaria, the official War Ministry organization for women welfare workers. This body will take over the commitments of the 8 Army group of Ladies, so that all will be under central control. (v. this HQ 1022 of 8 Aug. '45. copy to you).
4. The issue of rations for Italian canteens from Allied sources will be discontinued after 30 Sept. in accordance with AFHQ letter AG 400/005-GHE-0 of 6 Sep. The provision of all supplies for welfare purposes will then become an Italian responsibility.

2834

W.P. daly
R. Cul
Major General,
M.M.I.A.

/cc
Copy to :
Welfare.



Ministero delle Corporazioni

Copy to Major Sal...
Welfare
speech
WP

MEMORANDUM:

Ref. memo.

1. At present Welfare of Nation type is 15 Corp
area is the responsibility of Cond. 225 area
Dare. This will continue for as long as
the Act. Dec exists & will subsequently
be taken on by Tentative Cond HQ.
2. ~~As welfare staff & area~~ Col. Parnelli
is due to be transferred in his capacity
by Cond 225 due to a succession in his
appointed.
3. The female worker present exposed by
S. Dec. as his absolute note (an exposure
b) the C — A — F —
IL MINISTRO 2033
see my



Ministero delle Corporazioni

MEMORANDUM:

4/ *Parleys for British cases for
Hutch & others will not be available
after 30 Sep vide AFHR*

*after which the persons & all
supplies will become an Italian
responsibility.*

IL MINISTRO

SUBJECT: Welfare - Italian Forces

CONFIDENTIAL

Rear HQ 13 Corps
1286/3/A
3 Sep 45

MMIA

Copy: 86 Area (2) - ref A51 dated 25 Aug 45.
MMIA (LO)
Welfare

1. It is desired to clarify the position as regards welfare for Italian troops in 13 Corps territory.
2. The centre of activity has been in VENICE where Col PASSAVANTI, Italian Army, and a number of Italian ladies, enrolled on a voluntary basis, have operated.
3. It is understood that Col PASSAVANTI is shortly to be demobilised. It is believed that he is to be replaced by a Major CAMMAIORA, but no confirmation of this has been received.
4. The senior Italian lady is stated to be terminating her contract in the near future, and it is not known what arrangements have been made to replace her.
5. The question of issue of rations to Italian welfare institutions has already been taken up by this HQ with AFHQ and a final decision is awaited.
6. Will you please say what the future policy is to be as regards welfare among Italian troops under command 13 Corps.

G. Tenet
Brigadier,
DA & QMG.

A.I.

*What is 13 Corps Territory?
What Italian troops are in it?*

*Part of Province of Treviso
25th Div MIRA*

IAAG-102

Para 3. Col Rossi-Parasovani is due for release. He was to remain until Sep. 1st. The nomination of Maj. Cammarino will have been made by 228 Div. & is not known to the Off. Genessee.

Para 4. In view of the policy of incorporation of all female camp followers into C.A.F. the replacement of the Duchessa Visconti is not ~~so~~ necessary. Her functions (insofar as SAFAMI is concerned) will devolve upon the Inspectorate of C.A.F. V.A.O. 24-8. Aug copy to 13 Corps.

Para 5. The issue of rationing to Italian Welfare is cancelled by AG/100-005 GBB-O of 6 Sept, w.e.f. that date. I do not know whether it will cancel rationing allow. for Sept.

2831

Para 6. The policy is Pan-Italianism - God help 'em - M.M.A. will also advise.

Subject: Welfare - Corpo Assistenza Femminile.

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

A 024

8 Aug '45.

To : Minister of War.

1. Will you please refer to my letter (A024) of 25 Jul in which I requested you to accept responsibility for the incorporation into C.A.F. of the ladies who were organised for welfare work on a voluntary basis by HQ 8 Army.

2. As you know, HQ 8 Army has now ceased to exist, and their present contract is now non-operative. Naturally, the Duchessa Visconti and her assistants wish to be informed of their future status and responsibilities, and we do not wish to lose the services of these ladies who are willing to remain.
those

3. Will you please treat this matter as urgent and inform me as soon as possible how it is being settled.

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

J.P.H.
Copy to: HQ B.T.A. (your AQ/448 dated 4 Aug '45 refers).

XIII Corps.

2830

/eco

BF 29 Aug

if no answer.

WP

1882

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

A/024

(22)

SIGNAL

FROM : M.M.I.A.

DATE TIME OF ORIGIN

TO : MADM B.T.A.

06

B

2 1/2

REF : ~~XXXX~~ A 809

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

UNCLASSIFIED (.) FOR BRIG STAYERS REF AQ 448 OF 4 AUE TO GENERAL BROWNING
NOW IN U.K. (.) NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO WAR MINISTRY ON
LINES OF MY LETTER TO GENERAL MC GINERY (.) I WILL FOLLOW UP TO ENSURE
SATISFACTORY RESULT (.) RELY ON YOU TO PUT KELL CORPS IN THE PICTURE

John (23)

John

PROCESSED

AUTHENTICATED

1/80

Wφ
2829

1885

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

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

21/2

FROM MAIN BTA

041150B

TO LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION

REF: AQ/448

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FOR GENERAL BROWNING FROM STAYNER (.) REF YOUR LETTER
DO/2 OF 20 JUL 45 (.) TO C IN C (.) APPRECIATE THIS MATTER
HAS NOW PASSED FROM BTA CONTROL BUT WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL
IF OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS MIGHT BE SENT TO XIII CORPS AND 228 IT
DIVISION FOR WINDING UP OF WVS (.) AT PRESENT DUCHESSA VISCOUNTI
HAS NO INFO REGARDING FUTURE TERMS OF SERVICE ETC AND CONTRACTS
ARE THEORETICALLY NULL AND VOID AS EIGHT ARMY NO LONGER EXISTS

PRECEDENCE

IMPORTANT

See 4022
93

2828

/ecc

wp

1883
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

COPY/

IMPORTANT.

FROM : MAIN B.T.A. 041150B
TO : LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.

A2/148. CONFIDENTIAL.

FOR GENERAL BROWNING FROM STAYNER. REF YOUR LETTER DO/2 OF 20 JUL 45
TO C IN C. APPRECIATE THIS MATTER HAS NOW PASSED FROM BTA CONTROL BUT
WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION MIGHT BE SENT TO XIII
CORPS AND 228 ITALIAN DIV FOR WINDING UP OF WVS. AT PRESENT DUCHESSA
VISCONTI HAS NO INFO REGARDING FUTURE TERMS OF SERVICE ETC AND CONTRACTS
ARE THEORETICALLY NULL AND VOID AS EIGHT ARMY NO LONGER EXISTS

04 1150B

A ← PH
Q
Heat

2026

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

Subject: Italian Army Newspaper - "Italia".

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

A 024

4 Aug '45.

To : Ministry of War.

Reference your I547 dated 27 Jul '45 (Uff.
Stamps).

1. I am in agreement with your proposal to discontinue the publication of "ITALIA", and to include its better features in "LA PATRIA".

2. You will, I hope, take this opportunity to effect a saving in staff of the Army newspaper unit, and at the same time improve the distribution of "LA PATRIA" which at present does not keep pace with the movement of units and with the reorganisation of the Italian Army.

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

Supy. L. Melfer
4/8/45
SPA/ccc

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

TRANSLATION

Ref : 1547

Dtd : 27 July 45

From : M of War

To : M.M.I.A.

Subject : Weekly Supplement "Italia"

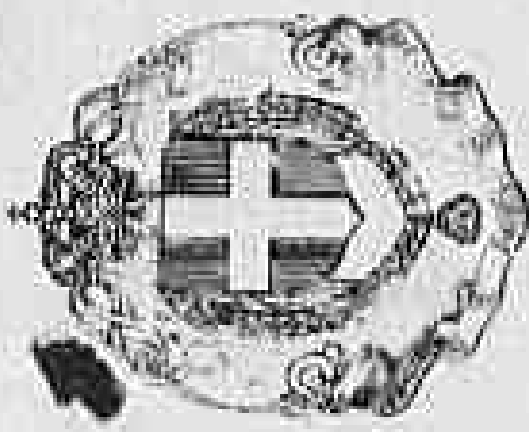
On account of the policy ~~to~~^{of} reduction of expenditure adopted by the Italian Government, I am ~~of the opinion~~^{inclined} to order the suspension of publication of the weekly supplement "Italia", ~~as long as~~^{as long as} the daily newspaper "La Patria" ~~is~~^{is} being published.

Before proceeding with the said suspension, I would beg the M.M.I.A. kindly to inform ~~us~~ of its own opinion, bearing in mind that the scope of the weekly "Italia" is actually covered by the daily "La Patria" with ~~the~~^{de} articles and ~~coloured pieces~~^{published} on the third page.

The Minister,

sgd. Jacini.

off. V. m. a. J. 3/8. See 21/1
Reply: I am in agreement with your proposal to discontinue the publication of Italia as include its better features in La Patria. You will I hope like this arrangement to effect a saving in staff of the Army newspaper with as at the same time effect an improvement in the distribution of La Patria which does not keep pace with the increased number and the regularity of the Army



241 OTN PA 28/7 47
Ministero della Guerra
GABINETTO
Ufficio Stampa

N. 1547 di prot.

Roma, 27 luglio 1945

OGGETTO: Supplemento settimanale "ITALIA".

A.

ALLA L.F.S.C. - A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
Palazzo delle Corporazioni
Via Veneto, 7

ROMA

In relazione alla politica di riduzione delle spese adottata dal Governo Italiano, sarei venuto nella determinazione di procedere alla sospensione della pubblicazione del supplemento settimanale "Italia" fintanto che si pubblichino il quotidiano "LA PATRIA".

Prima di procedere a tale sospensione pregnerai codesta Autorità voler far conoscere il proprio parere tenendo presente che lo scopo del settimanale "ITALIA" è raggiunto attualmente dal quotidiano "LA PATRIA" con gli articoli ed i pezzi di cui sono pubblicati nella terza pagina.

2824

IL MINISTRO

Young

TRANS

1250

H.
ALLA L.F.S.C. - A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
Palazzo delle Corporazioni
Via Veneto, 7

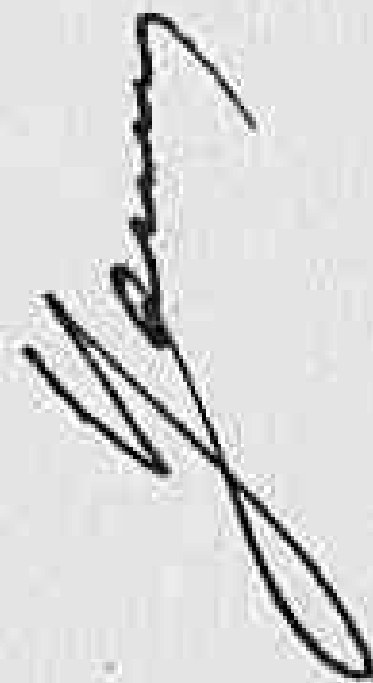
R O M A

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2824

IL MINISTRO



TRANS	1200
10	(num 28/)
OU	1665
	24/

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

SUBJECT : Corpe Assistance Feminile.

RESTRICTED.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.O.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
A 024
25 July. 45.

TO : Minister for War.

seen *SP*

1. Further to my letter A 240 of 11 July, I am now in possession of the views of A.F.H.Q., on this matter.
2. I agree that the terms of your letter 05818/BS of 14 July should apply, and that the body of ladies organized by 8 Army should continue to function independently, but under control of the Welfare Office of the Ministry, so long as 8 Army remains in Italy. The members should afterwards be invited to join the C.A.F., those who wish to join continuing to serve in the static canteens established by them, and the remainder being replaced by members of the C.A.F.
3. In this way uniform control will be achieved, while at the same time the valuable elements and work of the 8 Army group will be absorbed to the benefit of the whole service.

See File 23

2. Browning

INTERNAL:

File: A 240
File: Commanders DO/2
Welfare (2).

Major General,
M.M.I.A.

2823

1892

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

Copy of Translation

19

From : MINISTRY of WAR

115231/1/3
132-7-7

To : M.M.I.A.

9 July '45

Subject : Welfare Service for Military personnel
Discharged from the Army

Reference A 024 21/6/45.

1. The problem of an effective assistance to military personnel discharged from the Army is considerably difficult and complicated, and it requires provisions that, for their social and financial importance, are not within the responsibilities of the Welfare Office.
2. The plans to carry out a/m provisions should be laid out by the Ministry of Post-War Assistance that has been recently opened.
3. I have issued instructions to the Welfare Office to publish in the newspaper "LA PATRIA" all the provisions made for the military discharged from the Army. The same office, within the limits of its actual organization and aims, will see that the branches under its command will assist military personnel as soon as they are discharged from the Army.
4. This Ministry, in agreement with MMIA has arranged that the military on being discharged from the Army can hold a set of clothing items. Moreover the Ministry of War with the decree D.L.L. 8,2. 1944, n 107- issued detailed instructions to all the Units u/c concerning the granting of special family allowances to those military who are in need of assistance owing to poor family conditions.
5. Since family allowances are to be paid by the Communes we have requested the Ministry of Interior, to make more widely known the juridical provisions concerning the payment of a/m allowances.
6. We have moreover, requested the Ministry of Post-War Assistance to examine the possibility of exacting any form of Assistance that may facilitate the return to civil life military personnel discharged from the Army.

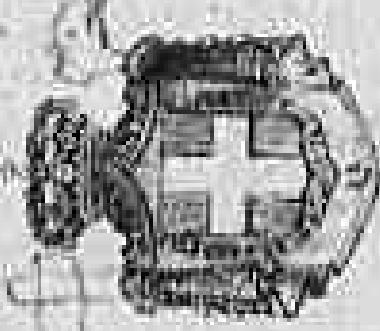
S/L. Welfare.
Watch them and
enquire how it
is going. Report to me
on it verbally about 20
August WD

JACINI.

2822

2/18

Br/ct



Ministero della Guerra

Gabinetto

Divisione

Prot. N. 115231 / I. 13 Allegati

13.7.7

Oggetto Benessere soldati smobilitati del R.E. italiano.

TRANSLATION	
IN	Time 0900
	Date 10/7/45
OUT	Time 16.00
	Date 10/7

TV PH 4/7

Roma

Alta LAND FORCES SUB. COMMISSION
A.C. (M.N.I.A.)

ROMA

Risposta

del

21.6.45

4. A/024

Il problema della realizzazione di una efficace assistenza ai militari dell'Esercito che ritornano alla vita civile è quanto mai vasto e complesso e richiede l'adozione di provvedimenti che, per la loro portata finanziaria ed importanza sociale, esula no dalla limitata competenza dell'Ufficio Benessere del Soldato.

Lo studio, la predisposizione e le determinazioni necessarie alla effettiva applicazione dei provvedimenti suddetti rientrano invece nelle specifiche attribuzioni del Ministero dell'Assistenza post-bellica di recente costituzione.

Ho disposto che l'Ufficio Benessere del Soldato si interessi, per l'avvenire, affinché a tutte le providenze adottate in favore dei congedati venga data mediante il giornale "La Patria" la massima diffusione e si adoperi in ogni modo, entro i limiti che la sua attuale organizzazione e le finalità esercitate gli consentono, di curare che gli enti periferici di cui dispone portino il contributo della loro opera assistenziale a favore degli ex militari nella immediatezza della loro cessazione dal servizio.

D'altra parte questo Dicastero, in relazione a disposizioni note a codesta Missione, ha da tempo stabilito che ai militari all'atto del congedamento venga lasciata una serie di oggetti di vestia-

A.

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.././..

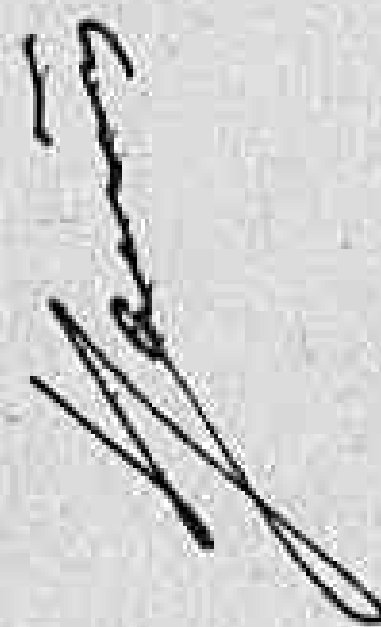
2821

- D.L.L. 8.2.1944 n. 107 - ebbe ad impartire dettagliate disposizioni esecutive a tutti gli Enti periferici.

In considerazione però che le concessioni dei predetti sussidi sono disposte dai Comuni viene ancora una volta interessato il Dicastero dell'Interno, competente al riguardo, affinché attui una maggiore diffusione del provvedimento legislativo che stabilisce la corresponsione dei predetti sussidi straordinari.

Viene pure interessato il Ministero dell'Assistenza post bellica affinché consideri la necessità di promuovere ogni possibile forma di assistenza che faciliti il ritorno alla vita civile dei militari dell'Esercito che vengano congedati.

I L M I N I S T R O



1893

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

024

18

Personnel on discharge

British Liaison Unit

A

A 3

For your inform-

person with
this subject
attitude
discharged
relation

the
effect

[Handwritten signature]

Colonel
Staff

2820

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

024 18
Subject :- Treatment of Gruppi personnel on discharge

To :-

51 British Liaison Unit

M M I A

A 3

Chief of Staff
Gruppo Cremona

(16) A.
Ref my A 3 of 16 Jun I enclose for your information a letter from the Comdr Gruppo CREMONA.

I am aware that you took instant action with the Ministry of War on my last letter on this subject but wish to bring to your notice the consistent attitude of local Italian Govt bodies towards their discharged regular soldiers as opposed to their slavish adulation of ex-partisans.

I submit this matter might be taken up at the highest level with the Italian Govt as the present state of affairs is bound to have an adverse effect on morale.

Field
9 Jul 45
BWWG/RGT

BW. Well *an*
Lieut Colonel
General Staff

2820

1895
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

C O P Y

Subject :- Appreciation of the work done by the Combat Groups

To :-

51 B I U

The infm is part of a letter sent to me by Sgt Major
BANI Oreste, cl 1914-PISA, 22nd Inf Regt Cremona.

Pisa, 24 Jun 1945

Dear Sir,

I was released on the 5th June. In the meantime I have looked for work. Due to the present condition I have not been able to find work, and I am sorry to say that I have almost been laughed at when I presented my references of having belonged to the Cremona Gruppo and thus done my duty at a time when few people can say that they have done so.

Signed BANI Oreste

Another similar case of a soldier returning home after having done his duty and trying to find work to find out that all the jobs are occupied by people who thought it better to remain home, and now they laugh at those who have belonged to the Combat Groups who have been so foolish as to risk their lives for their country.

Signed Clemente Primieri

G O C

2819

(17)

Subject: Italian Army - Welfare of Demobilised Soldiers.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O ME
A 024

21 June, '45.

To : Ministry of War (Ufficio Benessere Dal Soldato)

1. In the interest of the Italian Army I feel it my duty to draw your attention to the lack of initiative and foresight on the part of your Welfare Service in the matter of the resettlement of demobilised soldiers into civilian life.
2. It has been reported that, whereas Partisans are given considerable assistance, either of a financial nature or in the form of clothing, when they return to their homes, the Italian soldier, upon discharge is experiencing great difficulty in being able to obtain coupons for clothing etc., for example, it is reported that in TURIN there is no office which will recognise these ex soldiers of the Italian Army or which has knowledge of the documents given to ex soldiers of the Italian Army for the purpose of obtaining special subsidies as provided by the Ministry of the Interior. This is only one of many examples which bring the Army into disrepute.
3. Such shortcomings are used by agitators and subversive elements to strengthen their propaganda against the Army and those who control it, and tend generally to increase the disciplinary and other difficulties with which you are already faced.
4. It is considered that it is a responsibility of the Italian Army Welfare Service to look after the discharged soldier during the period immediately following his release in order to ensure that his return to civilian life is made as simple as possible; a section of the Italian Welfare Service should be devoted to looking after this side of Welfare.

duty to draw your attention to the lack of initiative and foresight on the part of your Welfare Service in the matter of the resettlement of demobilised soldiers into civilian life.

2. It has been reported that, whereas Partisans are given considerable assistance, either of a financial nature or in the form of clothing, when they return to their homes, the Italian soldier, upon discharge is experiencing great difficulty in being able to obtain coupons for clothing etc., for example, it is reported that in TURIN there is no office which will recognise these ex soldiers of the Italian Army or which has knowledge of the documents given to ex soldiers of the Italian Army for the purpose of obtaining special subsidies as provided by the Ministry of the Interior. This is only one of many examples which bring the Army into disrepute.

3. Such shortcomings are used by agitators and subversive elements to strengthen their propaganda against the Army and those who control it, and tend generally to increase the disciplinary and other difficulties with which you are already faced.

4. It is considered that it is a responsibility of the Italian Army Welfare Service to look after the discharged soldier during the period immediately following his release in order to ensure that his return to civilian life is made as simple as possible; a section of the Italian Welfare Service should be devoted to looking after this side of Welfare.

5. It is further considered that any arrangements made should be made known through "LA PATRIA" in order that soldiers being discharged will know what arrangements have been made for their return to civilian life.

6. Close liaison will be necessary with other Ministries concerned if comprehensive and effective action is to be successful.

10ver
Dec 1919

7. Please advise me of your decision and progress in this matter.

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

Copy to: OC, 51 BLU. (refer your A3 dated 16 June, '45.)

ALL BLUs.

ALL L.Os.

Welfare, M.M.I.A.

16

ecc.

281

Copy to: OC, 5I BLU. (refer your A3 dated 16 June, '45.)

All BLUs.

All L.Os.

Welfare, M.M.I.A.

116

ecc.

2817

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

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

Subject :- Personnel discharged Combat Groups
- Post Service Assistance.

51 British Liaison Unit

A 3

To :- HQ MMIA

Main Eighth Army

1. I enclose herewith a copy of a letter received by the Comd Genio Cremona Gruppo from one of his men recently demobilized.
2. I have no means of verifying the facts stated in the att letter, but should this be true it would appear that a somewhat deplorable state of affairs exists.
3. It is suggested that, providing the soldier is substantially correct in what he says, some pressure be brought to bear in the right quarters to improve the lot of the demobilized classes.
4. In order to be able to reassure others shortly due for demobilization I should be glad to have your views.

Field
16 Jun 45
RWH/FEM

*Letter sent
H.M. 1st
Corps
SPM 24/6*

W. N. H. A. K.

Lieut Col
General Staff

2816

1804
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Translation of a letter forwarded to Major PEROME
Commanding Genio Bn - Gruppo Cremona.

Torino 12-6-45

Dear Major,

I beg to inform you that all those who return to their homes from the prisons or from the Partisan Brigades are given assistance either of a financial nature or in the form of clothing etc.

Regretfully I would inform you that this is not the case with those returning from the "Gruppi di Combattimenti."

In 15 days that I have been on discharge I have not even succeeded to obtain the coupons to buy myself a suit and am therefore obliged to wear my brother's clothes.

In Turin there is no office that is aware of our existence, and no office knows anything of the document given us by our Commander for the purpose of obtaining the special subsidies as provided by the Ministry of the Interior. I refer to this Ministry's circular No 40027 dated 14.2.45.

You would be doing a good turn to me and all the others in the same circumstances if you would please inform the Divisional Commander of this affair and also with regards to the gratuity on demobilisation.

Yours respectfully

(signed) Trovo Alietto (ex geniere)

2815

Via S. Donato 40

TORINO.

1903
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Welfare - Italian Army.

LAND FORCES SUB COM APO.,
(M.N.I.A.) FORM

A 024

18 May 45.

To : ARHQ for GI BR.

Reference your GI BR/9904/A4 dated 15 May.

1. It is considered by this HQ that in view of the end of the war in Europe the Ministry of War proposal for Civilian Mobile Welfare scheme forwarded in this HQ letter, A/27 dated 15 March, is not now necessary. It is therefore suggested that no further action be taken in this matter.

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

ECC.

2814

1900
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Welfare - Italian Army.

LAND FORCES SUB COM APO.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

A 024

18 May 45.

To : AFHQ for GI BR.

Reference your GI BR/9904/A4 dated 15 May.

1. It is considered by this HQ that in view of the end of the war in Europe the Ministry of War proposal for Civilian Mobile Welfare scheme forwarded in this HQ letter, A/27 dated 15 March, is not now necessary. It is therefore suggested that no further action be taken in this matter.

W. P. Parley *Colonel*

J Major General,
M.M.I.A.

BCC.

2813

CONFIDENTIAL

(14)

A 024
SUBJECT: Screening of Civilian
Welfare Workers

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

INT/103

17 May 45

TO : Lieut. BRANCH
27 F.S.S.
89 Via SICILIA - ROME

1. The Italian Army Welfare Organization set up by the Ministry of War with the sanction and support of AFHQ and this H.Q. has requested Italian women volunteers to help in the Canteen Services.
2. Attached is a nominal roll of three (3) women volunteers in ROME who have offered their services.
3. It is requested that you screen this personnel from the security point of view and notify this H.Q. as soon as possible when these women have been passed for employment in Italian Army Welfare work.
4. In view of the fact that AFHQ have requested that this canteen service be put into effect with the minimum delay, will you please give this matter your most urgent attention.

PA 5
Internal: A.D.A.W.S.
"A"

cgl.

W. Selby
Major-General
MMIA

2812

1908

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

Subject:- Welfare - Italian Army.

228

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

G-1(Br)/9904/A4

15 May 45

(13)

M.M.I.A. ✓

A

A.

16/5

May a reply now please be forwarded to this HQ letter,
CR/9904/G-1(Br) dated 26 Apr 45.

①

+131 A/27

JDP/JC.

PA Rptd
Scheme not new
necessary
PA: 8/5

Wheff
20/4/45

Major General
DAG G-1(Br)

2811

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

A024⁰

12

INTER OFFICE MINUTE

WEL/F.

To:- "A2"

1. Reference your letter A024 OF 27 April to 15 Army Gp.
2. Attached is a copy of a further letter received from the Italian Director of Welfare.
3. May 15 Army Group be asked by signal if a answer can now be given to your letter.

Done.
SPA
11/5.

[Signature]

10 May '45.

2810

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

TRANSLATION

Ministry of War

P.M. 3800 10 May '45

Ref No: 03717/E.S.

To: - A.D.A.W.S.
M.M.I.A.

Subject/ Inspection.

Further to 03171/E.S. of 24 Apr. and 03323/E.S. of 27 Apr. - I would again request the necessary permission for my tour of inspection, for which many letters ask. This is intended to be a short tour.

G.C. TAMASSIA
Brigadier.

2809

Subject : Field Postcards.

A

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.
Q/16

5. May, 45.

To : Ministry of War.

1. Reference your 9/5750/301/Serb 30 April.
2. The introduction of a Field Postcard is now approved. In view of the probability that civil postal services will be established at an early date it is suggested that the number of cards now printed shall be limited. To cover the interim period, however, it is desirable that an immediate issue be made. A specimen of the approved card which is to be printed on green cardboard is being sent to you separately.
3. You will ensure that the following arrangements are made to operate the scheme :
 - (a) A suitable sorting section will be established at P.W. 3800 which will identify the civilian address with the appropriate forward P.W. No. Cards to be ~~passed~~ through the Censura Centrale Militare, Rome made up in batches according to the P.W. No.
 - (b) ~~that~~ All P.W.'s. will be notified that the Field Postcard is being introduced and that they are responsible for arranging delivery as soon as possible and by any means possible to the civilian addressee.
4. You will report when the cards have been issued and on the progress of the scheme to this Headquarters. 2808

R.A. Curties

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

Copy to : A. ✓

A.C. Communications Sub Comm.

10

Subject : M.M.I.A. Administrative Instructions No 26 -
Italian Army Welfare.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
A 024

29 April 45.

Ministry of War

The attached Directive which has the approval of A.F.H.Q.
sets out the general Policy of the Italian Army Welfare
Services and is issued for the guidance and information
of all concerned.

W. Pidsley Colonel
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to :- HQ 15 Army Group
Commanding General, Fifth Army
HQ British Increment Fifth Army
HQ Eighth Army
HQ 1 District (5)
HQ 2 District (5)
HQ 3 District (5)
Commanding General PBS (2)
OC 50 BLU
OC 51 BLU
OC 52 BLU
OC 53 BLU
OC 56 BLU
OC 'F' BLU
OC Reinforcement Depot Orvieto

2006

SPH

ITALIAN ARMY WELFARE

Land Forces Sub Comm. (M.M.I.A.)
Administrative Instruction No 26

30 April 45.

I. Object.

It is wish of the Supreme Allied Commander that Welfare, as it is understood in the Allied Armies, should, as far as possible, be given the same prominence in the Italian Army working with the Allies. While the organisation of the Welfare Service and the provision of the necessary staff, personnel and material are primarily Italian responsibilities, the Supreme Allied Commander has directed that the fullest possible support should be given by Allied Commanders concerned within the conditions from time to time approved. To this end an officer of the Allied Welfare is appointed to M.M.I.A. and will deal directly with the Italian Welfare directorate of the Ministry of War.

2. Allied Assistance.

The Italian Army Welfare Service must be, both in conception and in execution, Italian: nevertheless allied assistance will be made available to enable the service to be built on a sure foundation, and advice, arising out of the Allies wide experience of welfare will be given.

The necessary materials for the successful operation of the various projects are to be provided, wherever possible, from Italian sources: but it is recognised that certain items are, and will, for some time, remain unavailable to the Italian Government. Where the operation of a scheme which can properly be regarded as an essential part of the service will be rendered impossible for lack of materials, then releases from Allied sources on repayment may be considered, in accordance with availabilities and regulation in force. (see para 5.)

3. Organisation.

In all dealings with this subject it must be stressed that the responsibility for the welfare of the soldier is and remains that of the UKit Commander. The duty of the Italian welfare service will be to assist, advise, and provide amenities as follows :-

The Italian Army Welfare Service will be responsible for the welfare of all categories of the army. The establishments will consist of a Directorate at the Ministry of War and there will be service representation at Adm.Div.Hqs. and at Combat Groups Hqs. All personnel on authorised W/Es will be held against the same category as that of the Hqs with which they are attached.

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The necessary materials for the successful operation of the various projects are to be provided, wherever possible, from Italian sources : but it is recognised that certain items are, and will, for some time, remain unavailable to the Italian Government. Where the operation of a scheme which can properly be regarded as an essential part of the service will be rendered impossible for lack of materials, then releases from Allied sources on repayment may be considered, in accordance with availabilities and regulation in force .(see para 5.)

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There will not be welfare service representation at other HQs. Unit welfare officers will be nominated by Commanders from the officers under their command.

4. Scope.

The service will provide for all three categories of the army. There will be no priority to any one category except for any priority given to forward troops by reason of the conditions in which they are living.

.....

- II -

5. Supplies.

Certain supplies for canteens are being furnished from Allied sources on an approved scale and include Flour, Fish or potted meat, Sugar and Coffee, as well as Olive Oil and Salt from Italian sources. Details of the amounts allowed monthly to Armies, Districts and Base Section will be published periodically.

6. Transport

Transport, as authorized, will be provided from Italian sources, within the category using it. Transport serving troops of more than one category will be held in the Iti-Iti category.

7. Details of the scope of this scheme and information on various activities which are included in it, such as individual welfare, canteens, entertainments, and sports, will be published by the War Ministry in a pamphlet on Italian Army Welfare, prepared in consultation with MMIA.

W. P. ...

for. Major General,
Land Forces Sub Comm.
(M.M.I.A.)

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

Subject: Welfare - Italian Army.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

OR/2904/G-1 (Br).

26 Apr 45.

K.M.I.A.

Reference your A/27 of 15 March 45.

In order that this matter can be given further consideration will you please explain in greater detail what work it is proposed should be done by the intellectual and moral advisers, and what is included in the "propaganda" which they are to disseminate.

2805

JDE/ed

Major General,
DAG, G-1 (Br).

1917

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

Subject : Italian Army Welfare Policy.

handwritten 8500(8)
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

MMIA ✓

A 074 (149)

CR/9904/G-1(Br)

26 Apr 45

Reference your A/27 of 5 Apr 45.

The draft policy directive for the Italian Army Welfare Service forwarded under cover of your above quoted letter is agreed.

JDP/ghb

See 6013
J. Namin
Major General
DAG G-1(Br)

SUBJECT: Visit.

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

AC24.

27 Apr '45.

To : HQ. 15th Army Group.

1. In the interest of Welfare for the Italian army the Italian Director of Welfare is desirous of visiting the army areas in newly liberated territory.
2. He wishes to make this tour for two purposes:-
 - (i) to consider the planning and layout of Italian welfare installations.
 - (ii) to make arrangements for local purchase of welfare stores. These arrangements should be made before the market rises and while goods are still available.
3. While it is clear that such a visit at the present time would not be feasible, the importance of the objects of the visit are appreciated.
4. Will you please give notification of the earliest possible moment when this tour could be authorized.

Major General
M. M. I. A.

Internal:- "G"
ADAMS.

2804

(b)
SUBJECT: Transit messes.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
A024.
20 Apr '45.

To : All MMIA. LOS.

1. Attached for your information is a copy of this HQ letter A024. of 18 Apr. to the War Ministry.
2. The letter refers to a proposal from the War Ministry to set up transit messes, and the allocation to them of rations.
3. It is hoped that the Ministry of War will take steps to implement the suggestion made in paras 4 and 5.
4. Will you please give all the encouragement you can to such projects within formation areas.

S.P. Nicholas Capt
Major General
M. M. I. A.

Distribution

MMIA LO SARDINIA.
" " SICILY.
" " NAPLES.
" " Rear Eighth Army.
" " Fifth Army.
" " Fifth Army (Br Inor)
" " 1 District.

MMIA LO 2 District.
" " 3 District.
" " 54 Area.
" " Taranto (c/o 52 Area)
" " Trani Camp.
" " 52 BIJ.
" " 53 BIJ.

Internal :- "Q"
S.T.

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Distribution

MMIA LO SARDINIA.
 " " SICILY.
 " " NAPLES.
 " " Rear Eighth Army.
 " " Fifth Army.
 " " Fifth Army (Br Inor)
 " " 1 District.

MMIA LO 2 District.
 " " 3 District.
 " " 54 Area.
 " " Taranto (c/o 52 Area)
 " " Trani Camp.
 " " 52 BIJ.
 " " 53 BIJ.

Internal :- "Q"

S.T.
 Welfare.

2803

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

SUBJECT: Transit Messes.

C O P Y

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
AO24.
18 Apr '45.

To : Ministry of War.

1. Reference 02106/B.S. of 20 March.

2. While the object of your proposals is appreciated, it is regretted that under the present conditions it is not possible to give the required authorization: the difficulties of the accounting for rations as between units alone would make it impracticable.

3. Further, the present regulations for the issue of rations to soldiers in transit on duty cannot be changed, nor can any suggestion of payment for rations by men on duty be considered.

4. However, in order to alleviate the position, it is suggested that formation welfare representatives on behalf of their Commanders might organise in selected towns, with the aid of local inhabitants, buildings or other suitable accommodation wherein soldiers in transit could have facilities for rest and for cooking the food which they carry with them.

5. Such projects, it is thought, would call forth the willing aid of civilian elements in the provision of accommodation and necessary equipment, particularly now that life in rear areas is reverting more nearly to normal, and they would go far to ameliorating the conditions you have detailed.

W. PIDSLEY, Colonel,
for Major General,
M. M. I. A. 2002

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3. Further, the present regulations for the issue of rations to soldiers in transit on duty cannot be changed, nor can any suggestion of payment for rations by men on duty be considered.

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5. Such projects, it is thought, would call forth the willing aid of civilian elements in the provision of accommodation and necessary equipment, particularly now that life in rear areas is reverting more nearly to normal, and they would go far to ameliorating the conditions you have detailed.

Internal:- "Q"
S.T.
Welfare.

W. PIDSLEY, Colonel,
for Major General, 20 June
M. M. I. A.

1923

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

LROF V MJAQ NR 3
FROM MJAQ 181532C?
TO MMIA FOR COLONEL KERR
GR 59 BT

A/024
Col Kerr
A
1914
NR-A81 dated 17 AN

MMIA
9/14

(5)
1675

RESTRICTED (D) REFERENCE NAN ROGER DASH ABLE EIGHT ONE CITE NONE
DATED ONE SEVEN APRIL ONE NINE FOUR FIVE PAREN PENBASE-4531 PD CITE
BPLNO PD PENBASE TO MMIA FOR COLONEL KERR FOR ACTION PAREN REPLY
SUBMITTED ON RADIO PES BPLNO THREE SIX NINE ONE DATED TWO SEVEN MARCH
STATING TRAINED OFFICER WITHIN LOWER GRADE WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHIN
CEILING BT 181532B
RH SENT NR 3 AR K
RD 1753B FA E

2801

See page 2801

Translation.

From: - M of W.

To: - M M 1A.

A/27/3

Ref: - 02106/B.S.

Date: - 20th March 45.Subject: - "Soldiers' Welfare". Messes for soldiers travelling.

Owing to travel conditions throughout the country, the scarce means of transports, the prohibition that Allied Vehicles carry strangers to the armies (including Italian military), it happens often that soldiers isolated in travels for duty reasons on the whole of the Peninsula, do not reach destination within the number of days laid down and for which they were given dry rations.

It follows that these soldiers are compelled, for the rest of the journey, to arrange for their feeding paying considerable sums of money as asked for by proprietors of civilian restaurants or, ~~on the~~ alternatively, request the food which is due to them from units located in the area they pass and which are not always in a position to supply.

With a view to avoid such moral and material inconveniences, this Ministry would be grateful if you authorise the opening of special messes (restaurants) in localities where soldiers pass more frequently such as Rome - Foligno - Florence - Leghorn. (A Transit Camp of the 210 Div. is already functioning at Florence and another one is ~~is~~ being formed for the 231 Div. These camps provide food for military in transit getting same from their dependant units and Combat Groups operating in the respective area.)

As done in Florence for the functioning of such messes (restaurants), units affected by these movements in areas and in a minor scale for those of distant locations, should cooperate in giving a certain number of rations to these messes.

P.T.O.

Seen & on 5 April
C.O.

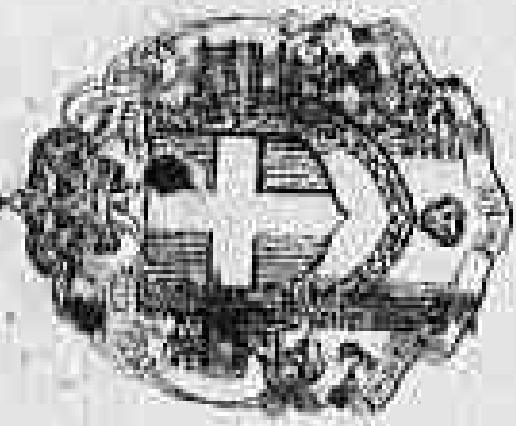
These rations will be calculated on an approximate strength which it ~~is intended~~ ^{is intended} to ~~be sent~~ ^{be sent} in these areas for duty or for other reasons. These will be made good at the end of the month in accordance with the number of rations issued by these messes, debiting or crediting to units the actual number of rations issued to their depending men deducting the number of rations assigned in advance.

On showing the ticket, the soldier getting his food in these messes will ~~also~~ have to pay a sum not exceeding 10 lire per meal. This sum will not only pay service expenses (buildings, light, waiters, cooks, etc, etc) but also ~~to~~ improve the meal in ~~the~~ ^{by} ~~laying~~ ^{local} food stuffs. bought locally.

(Sgd) CASATI.

Sgt. FARR.

440/aa



Ministero della Guerra

UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL SOLDATO

n° 02/06/B.S. di prot.

IN

Roma, li 20 marzo 1945

ALLA LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION R.M.I.S.

ROMA

OCCETTO: "Benessere del Soldato". Posti di ristoro per militari di passaggio.

~~~~~

20/3  
Date le condizioni di visibilità del Tese, la scarsità dei mezzi di comunicazione, il divieto di far salire sugli autocarri alleati persone estranee alle armate (compresi i militari italiani), accade sovente che soldati isolati in viaggio per ragioni di servizio, da un punto all'altro della Penisola, non raggiungono le destinazioni nel numero dei giorni previsti e per i quali erano stati muniti di viveri a secco.

In conseguenza di quanto sopra tali elementi sono costretti a far fronte alla loro alimentazione, per tutto il resto del viaggio, ricorrendo alle personali risorse economiche ed assoggettandosi alle enormi pretese dei proprietari dei restaurants civili; o, in mancanza di mezzi, a richiedere dai reparti di stanza nelle località dove transitano la concessione di quel vitto che è nel loro diritto a prendere ma che i reparti non sempre possono dare.

Allo scopo di evitare tale disagio morale e materiale, questo Ministero vedrebbe con piacere autorizzata da parte di cotesta Land Forces Sub Commission l'istituzione di speciali mense (posti di ristoro) in alcune località di frequente passaggio, come Roma-Poligno-Firenze-Livorno ..... (A Firenze è già in funzione un campo transito della 210<sup>a</sup> divisione ed uno in organizzazione per la 231<sup>a</sup> divisione che provvedono al vettovagliamento dei militari in transito con commissioni delle razioni viveri fra i diversi reparti nell'interno della stessa divisione e con i gruppi di combattimento che agiscono nel rispettivo territorio).

A somiglianza di quanto fatto a Firenze, per il <sup>2799</sup> ~~2210~~ namento di tali mense (posti di ristoro), i reparti interessati a movimenti nelle zone, ed in misura minore quelli più lontani, dovrebbero contribuire rilasciando a favore delle stesse, un certo numero di razioni (calcolato sulla base media degli elementi).



ROME

Oggetto: "Benessere del Soldato". Posti di ristoro per militari di passaggio.

\*\*\*\*\*

2013  
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./.



vedere, a fine mese, in base all'effettivo numero dei partecipanti ai pasti, la direzione delle mense stesse, addebitando od accreditando ai reparti il numero delle razioni effettivamente usufruite dai loro elementi, in confronto al numero delle razioni preventivamente assegnate.

Il militare, oltre alla presentazione del buono dovrebbe pagare alla mensa una quota non superiore a 5.10 per pasto, quota che servirà oltre che a pagare le spese di servizio (locali, luce, camerieri, cuochi ecc. ecc.) a completare e migliorare il pasto con acquisti sul mercato locale. -

IL MINISTRO





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

024  
MESSAGE FORM

FROM: MMIA

DATE TIME OF ORIGIN

17 10 30 B

TO (FOR ACTION): PBS

REF NO: A 81

RESTRICTED

REFER MMIA LETTER A/27 OF 23 MARCH (.) REQUEST YOUR REPLY MAY NOW BE  
FORWARDED

PRIORITY Important

AUTHENTICATION SPH/Chas Laper

COPY TO ADAMS

2798



(1938)

A.O. 4

(2)

SUBJECT: Rest Camp Rome.

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

A/27.

12 Apr '45.

To : Ministry of War.

Copy to: Ufficio Benessere.

1. Reference AQ/27 of 14 Feb. and your letters C1550/BS di prot of 28 Feb. and 02200/BS of 22 Mar.
2. It is considered that the numbers catered for should now be raised.
3. It is desired that you raise the number to 500, the maximum already authorized.
4. Prior to the issue by you of orders raising the numbers submit by 16 Apr. to this HQ your proposed allotment of vacancies to formations.
5. This allotment will be equitably worked out in proportion to the number of troops in each formation whose homes are in enemy occupied Italy. All formations will be included.
6. Your present allotment of 232 vacancies fails to include the divisions 205, 212, 227 and 230. Please rectify this mistake in the allotment referred to above.

WD  
+  
Major General,  
M. M. I. A.

Internal:- A.D.A.W.S.

5793



SUBJECT: A Pamphlet on the Italian  
Welfare Service.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.  
( M.M.I.A. ) ROME.  
WEL/P.  
11 Apr:45.

Ministry of War  
Ufficio Benessere.

1. In confirmation of previous conversations.
2. A pamphlet on the Italian welfare service should now be prepared by you for distribution on a wide basis to formations, for the units under their command.
3. This pamphlet should be in amplification of the policy directive already issued by you (00100/BS of 25 Jan) and should give details of the scope of the welfare service and information on the various activities which are included in it. The pamphlet will give to the regimental officer a clear picture of the objects and meaning of Welfare.
4. Attached to this letter is a list of headings of paragraphs which it is suggested should be included in the pamphlet. This list is not comprehensive but gives certain headings which are essential; others will be added by you.
5. Will you please forward by 25 Apr. a draft of the proposed pamphlet for consideration at this HQ.

Lt.Col.  
A.D.A.W.S.  
M.M.I.A.

Internal: "A". Branch.

2786

Suggested paragraph headings for inclusion in an  
Italian Army Welfare Pamphlet.

1. Foreword.
2. Objects. (based on the welfare of the soldier but not excluding the unit commanding officer's responsibility)
3. Organisation. (The layout, service representation and service chain of command)
4. Co-operation with the Allies. A short paragraph in general terms.
5. Voluntary Welfare Organisations. (e.g; C.A.F.)
6. Clubs, Canteens.
7. Books and Libraries.
8. Entertainment.
9. Sports and Games.
10. Individual Welfare. (Assistenza, legal aid, family information etc.)
11. The Army Newspapers.
12. Rest Camps.
13. Welfare Stores and Amenities. (and their distribution)
13. Welfare Grants and Finance.
14. In addition there should be appendices or diagrams including the following:-
  - (a) Organisation Chart.
  - (b) Duties of a Welfare service officer.
  - (c) Duties of a unit welfare officer.
  - (d) specimen plan for the layout of a regimental canteen.

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

BEST COPY POSSIBLE



MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE ON ITALIAN WOMENS' VOLUNTARY CANTEN  
SERVICE HELD AT ROME ON SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY, 1945, AT 1000 HOURS.

PRESENT WERE:

Col. H. J. Wilson  
Col. Clayton P. Kerr  
Col. W. Pidsley  
Lt. Col. J. D. Philipp  
Lt. Col. Sheldon  
Lt. Col. J. McCann  
Lt. Col. Davis  
Major E. F. Byatt  
Major Blackburn  
The Countess Leonardi  
Brig. Gen. G. C. Tanassia  
Lt. Col. A. Angeloni  
Major Salvioni

DDAWS  
DD. MMIA  
Spec Sec. MMIA  
G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.  
Q. Maint AFHQ.  
ADAWS. MMIA.  
G-1 (A) AFHQ.  
G-4 (Liaison) MMIA.  
U.S. Spec Service  
  
Dir. It. Army Welfare  
Asst. Dir. It. Army Welfare  
Rep. It. Min of War.

Rep. C. V. W. W. was not present.

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman.

DDAWS stated that the object of the conference was to discuss the formation of an Italian Womens' Canteen Service to operate with the Italian Forces fighting with the Allied Armies. The Countess Leonardi had approached General Clark, General Browning and General Robertson and expressed her willingness to organise such a service. The C.A.O. fully approved of this and had directed that a conference be held as soon as possible to implement this project, and to discuss the details with a view to obtaining quick action in setting the scheme into operation. DDAWS stressed that it was not intended to set up anything other than a limited service to start with and in the light of experience gained this could later be expanded.

2. Provision of Vehicles for Conversion to Mobile Canteens. 2794

DDAWS said that 6 3-ton vehicles would be made available to start the service, three from British and three from American sources. The details of release and conversion to be arranged after the conference by ADAWS. MMIA and Rep. Q. Maint. DD. MMIA. stated that upon receipt of plans for conversion of these vehicles, he could arrange for the work to be carried out in workshops available to the Italian Government.



1933

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

Major E.F. Byatt  
Major Blackburn  
The Countess Leonardi  
Brig. Gen. G.C. Tanassia  
Lt. Col. A. Angeloni  
Major Salvioni

G-1 (A) AFHQ.  
G-4 (Liaison) MMIA.  
U.S. Spec Service

Dir. It. Army Welfare  
Asst. Dir. It. Army Welfare  
Rep. It. Min of War.

Rep. C.V.W.W. was not present.

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2. Provision of Vehicles for Conversion to Mobile Canteens. 2734

DDAMS said that 63-ton vehicles would be made available to start the service, three from Briting and three from American sources. The details of release and conversion to be arranged after the conference by ADAMS, MMIA and Rep. Q. Maint. DD. MMIA stated that upon receipt of plans for conversion of these vehicles, he could arrange for the work to be carried out in workshops available to the Italian Army.

Action ADAMS, MMIA, Q. Maint. S and T. MMIA.

3. Provision of Drivers.

DDAMS stated that drivers must be reliable and capable of maintaining the vehicles; he suggested that they should be of N.C.O. status and selected from those already trained in driving Allied Vehicles. DD. MMIA said that the formations to which the vehicles were to be attached should provide the drivers, and the question as to whether they should be of N.C.O. status or not should be left to MMIA. It was agreed that the Division concerned should be

/ordered



ordered to provide suitable and responsible drivers.  
Two drivers per vehicle were considered necessary.

Action "A" MMLA.

4. Supplies to be carried.

DDAWS said that so far no decision had been reached by AFHQ regarding the provision from Allied resources of canteen supplies to Italian troops. Rep. Q. Maint. agreed to look into the present position regarding this.

DDAWS said that in the meantime the only proper basis to work on was that canteens must carry such commodities as could be purchased in the free market; wine, fruit, nuts, writing materials, small kit, etc., could be carried and it would at least be a start and provide a limited service.

DD. MMLA. said that he considered that the best method of obtaining supplies for the canteens was for both the British and American Governments to sell to the Italian Government certain supplies against dollar credits. He did not think the British or American Government would be prepared to increase their Lire holdings. DDAWS said he would point out this view in the appropriate quarter. DDAWS instructed ADAWS. MMLA. to get the views of the Italian Army Representatives, together with the type and amount of goods they required, and when these had been obtained, these to be passed to Q. Maint. for comparison with Scale already suggested. It was recommended that a decision be given by AFHQ on this matter as soon as possible.

It was recorded that the Italian Government had already been asked to furnish a list of commodities which they could supply from their own resources.

DD. MMLA. wished it to be placed on record that it should be strongly represented to the Italian Government that such supplies as were available from civilian sources should be requisitioned.

Action DDAWS. Q. Maint. ADAWS. MMLA. It. Welfare.

5. Provision of Uniform for It. Women Volunteers.

DDAWS stated that any uniform worn by the Lady Volunteers must not resemble one of British or American design.

DD. MMLA. said that grey Italian cloth was available from Italian sources and that there was an Italian clothing factory in NAPLES capable of making all the uniforms required. The number to budget for was agreed initially at 30 uniforms.

DDAWS stated that approval had been given for a certain amount of



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Action DD.AWS. Q.Maint. ADAWS.MMLA. It.Welfare.

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DD.AWS stated that approval had been given for a certain amount of ATS uniform to be released but that he considered, in the light of DD.MMLA.'s statement that the provision of grey Italian cloth was more desirable.

Director of Italian Welfare said that he was in agreement with this. The Countess Leonardi asked if the possible issue of ATS B/D covered the provision of shoes. Col.Pidsley, Spec.Sec.MMLA. said that he was under the impression that it did.

DD.AWS said that he would check on this point.

DD.AWS requested the Countess Leonardi to submit a firm proposal showing the amount of material and etc., required and the design in which the Voluntary Canteen Service wished the uniforms to be made.

Action DD.AWS, ADAWS.MMLA. Countess Leonardi.



## 6. Organization.

DDAWS suggested that the Headquarters of the Organization be situated with the HQ of Italian Welfare in Rome, and that the Canteens should be split into two groups, three operating in FIVE ARMY AREA and three operating in EIGHT ARMY AREA, under the control of the Senior Italian Welfare Officer in each of these commands, thus decentralizing to the two Armies concerned.

He further suggested that routing, accommodation etc. should be the responsibility of the Italian Welfare Officers at these Commands. The Countess Leonardi asked if a vehicle would be available for her to visit these canteens.

DDAWS said that this was unlikely, but that Italian Welfare Officers had been issued with vehicles and perhaps they would be able to help.

## 7. Controls.

DDAWS stated that the question of control had been largely dealt with already, but in conclusion said that it was most important that this Canteen Service should be controlled in exactly the same way as the Allied Auxiliary Services, and operate and work under the framework of the Italian Army Welfare Service.

*H. Leonardi*

Colonel.  
D.D.A.W.S.

## Distribution.

G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.  
G-1 (A) AFHQ.  
Q. Maint. AFHQ.  
MMIA.

(4)  
(2)

MMIA. Welfare.  
Spec. Services.  
C.V.W.W. AFHQ.  
Italian Ministry of War.  
Italian Welfare

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*H. P. L. Lion*

Colonel.  
D.D.A. W.S.

#### Distribution.

|                          |       |     |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| G-1 (Br.)                | AFHQ. |     |
| G-1 (A)                  | AFHQ. |     |
| Q. Maint.                | AFHQ. | (4) |
| MMIA.                    |       | (2) |
| MMIA. Welfare.           |       |     |
| Spec. Services.          |       |     |
| C.V.W.W.                 | AFHQ. |     |
| Italian Ministry of War. |       |     |
| Italian Welfare.         |       |     |
| Office of C.A.O.         | AFHQ. |     |
| File.                    |       |     |
| War Diary                |       | (2) |

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