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

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A/052/200

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

1000012013236

A/052/200

Morale + Reliability (General)

July 1945 - Mar. 1946

3344
3388

0 6 8 9

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

26

SUBJECT : Italian Army - Demob., Pay, Clothing, etc.

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

A 052

2 Mar. '46.

TO : Ho 3 B.J.U. MILAN

Reference your G/35/26 of 22 Feb 46.

1. The Ministry of War supported by MMIA, are anxious that the 1921 and 1922 classes should be demobilized as soon as possible, and it has been suggested by the Ministry of War that the 1921 class be demobilized at the time of the call up in March. We await AFHQ approval of this as it involves a temporary drop in strength of the whole army; a decision is expected within the next two days.
2. With regard to the purchase of boots and grindery, 'Q' branch of this HQ will communicate with you.
3. As regards an increase of pay to all ranks of the Italian Army, it is fully appreciated that the pay is inadequate; we can only make recommendations and advise the Ministry of War, who would have to get Treasury agreement to any increase. This they are unlikely to get when the Italian Government are already finding it difficult to finance an Army of 140'000.

*See
File No.*

Att. Gilmire L. Lee

Fu Major General
M.M.I.A. 3388

0685

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

Subject : Visits to Italian Units.

HQ 3 British Liaison Unit.
(Tel No. 152965 Ext 107).

Ref G/35/26.

HQ III Terr Comd.
Copy to :
HQ MMIA.

RECEIVED 25 FEB 1946
2144

052
W.P.

22 Feb 46.

During the course of my visits to units under your command, it becomes more obvious that the delay in the release of the 1921 and 1922 classes is causing a serious decline in the morale, not only of the above classes, but of the units in general.

That the reasons for the delay are understood by your commanders I have no doubt, but it is apparent that the reasons are not fully understood or appreciated by the troops under your command. This situation is helping the extremist propaganda which is now beginning to show headway among the troops. You are no doubt aware that these extremists are blaming the officers for the delay, in addition to whom blame is also attached for the shortages in material and equipment. The paper "L'UNITA" is more than glad to make propaganda out of these facts, and it is necessary to combat these subversive elements before great harm is done. This can best be done by officers explaining to the troops the full reasons for the delay and by watching for any troops who are causing discontent to be spread among their comrades.

I realise that your task is a most difficult one, especially in view of the shortages in clothing and the extremely low spending power of the soldiers pay, but one must combat any feeling among the Army that nothing further can be done to keep up morale. May I suggest that you write to the Ministry of War for information of an approximate date when the above classes can expect to be released and that information passed on to the troops concerned. This would undoubtedly assist all concerned in raising morale.

MILAN.
CJO/LGB.

Col 11/9 to rec.
W.P.
26/2

[Handwritten signature]

Maj.
G II.

338

Hunter reply to an request
W.P.
27/2

CONFIDENTIAL
HQ 3 British Liaison Unit, *DF*

Ref G/35/26.
22 Feb 46.

Subject: Visits to Italian Units.

RECEIVED 25 FEB 1946
A. 052

HQ MILIA.

It has become apparent that the time has now arrived for the bolstering of the morale of the soldiers in this command. During my frequent visits to the units of III Terr Comd, it is the same old story that is told to me by Commanders at all levels. They state that morale is on the decline because of the following :-

- (i) Deferred release of the 1921 and 1922 classes.
- (ii) Acute shortage of clothing and boots.
- (iii) Lack of replacement of equipment (especially vehicle spare parts).
- (iv) Inadequate pay of all ranks.
- (v) Extremist newspapers who are blaming the serving officers for the shortages and deferment of release as in (i) above.

It is thought by Commanders, if the 1921 and 1922 classes were released now, the cause of the majority of discontent would be removed. They state they would gladly be understrength than have these men spreading discontent among the remainder of their men.

Recently the Communist paper "L'UNITA" has been blaming the officers for the shortcomings of the Ministry of War. It appears that this paper is only too pleased to criticise any incidents which effect the Army, and it is felt that subversive elements are making headway amongst the troops.

The acute shortage of clothing and boots, also grindery for boots, is aggravating the situation. In the shops in MILAN large quantities of good boots are offered for sale, while some soldiers are walking ~~see walking~~ around with poor quality or unserviceable boots.

That the spending power of the soldiers pay is negligible can be seen by visiting the shops in MILAN. It is practically impossible to purchase supplies for canteens, not because of shortages in goods, but the high prices asked for them.

In view of the above points, and to give some degree to optimism to all concerned, it is requested that :-

- (i) An approximate date be given as to when classes of 1921 and 1922 can expect to be released.
- (ii) The Ministry of War be approached regarding local purchase of boots and grindery.
- (iii) Strong recommendations be made to the Ministry of War for an increase in the pay of all ranks.

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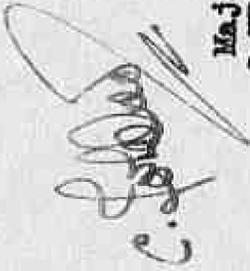
MILAN.
CJQ/LCB.

col A/P Y um
announcing this.

11/16
25/2

Maj.
G II.

Sen (1) 26/2



0687

From: US Translation 052 Ref. No. 40001/47
To: Various addresses as per original Date: Oct. 20, 1945

Subject: Military personnel on charges. (23)

This Ministry, having heard the military prosecutor General, orders that:

1) there be immediately released from the service - even without prior approval by the prosecutors of the proper tribunals - all military personnel awaiting trial, belonging to classes already released. This measure, however, shall not be applicable to military personnel against whom warrants of arrest are found to be outstanding, in which cases such warrants shall be executed.

2) military personnel belonging to classes already released, who, due to failure to answer the call issued at the time, were or are to be brought before justice, shall no longer be subject to judicial summons.

In both cases it will be necessary and sufficient that the HQ's concerned notify urgently the proper military prosecutors of the domicile of the military personnel in question.

? for what
offenses

PTD

0889

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

The above HQ's are requested to distribute this circular to all organizations under their command.

Signed: Brian August

WEEK
H
This should give quite a number. It is not an Amnesty or "Pardon" but a "NIA PROSECUTOR"

MIG

3/10

JACP

3/10

3384



MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

DIREZIONE GENERALE LEVA SOTTUFFICIALI E TRUPPA

Divisione Truppa - Sez. 2*

N. 40001/47 di protocollo

Roma, 20 ottobre 1945

Al Comando Generale Arma CC. RR.
 Ai Comandi Militari Territoriali (tutti)
 (diramazione estesa ai Comandi di corpo, depositi e distretto)
 Al Comando Italiano 212
 Alle Divisioni di Fanteria: "Cremona", "Foggione", "Fridoli", "Legnano", e "Mantova".
 Alla Divisione "Piseno", (C.A.C.F.I.C.)
 Ai Comandi delle Divisioni Amministrative e S. I.
 All'Ufficio Territoriale per la Sardegna
 Al Comando Raggruppamento Ferroviari
 Al Comando R. A. M.
 All'80° Campo affluenza complementi

e, per conoscenza:

Alla Commissione Alleata L. F. S. C. - A. C. (MMIA)
 Al Gabinetto
 All'Ufficio Coordinamento
 Allo Stato Maggiore Generale
 Allo Stato Maggiore R. Esercito - Uff. Ord. e Mob. e Uff. C. A.
 Alle Direzioni Generali - Ispettorati ed Uffici Autonomi del Ministero
 Alla Croce Rossa Italiana - Comitato Centrale

R O M A
L O R O S E D I

P. M. 181
L O R O S E D I

P. M. 92

L O R O S E D I

P. M. 75-A

R O M A

R O M A

O R V I E T O

R O M A
S E D E

S E D E

P. M. 3800

P. M. 3800

S E D E

R O M A

OGGETTO: MILITARI DENUNCIATI

Questo Ministero, sentita la Procura Generale Militare, determina che:

1) Siano subito dimessi dalle armi, anche senza il preventivo nulla osta delle procure dei competenti tribunali, i militari in attesa di giudizio, appartenenti a classi già congedate. Il provvedimento non dovrà però applicarsi ai militari per i quali risulti sia in corso il mandato di cattura, nel qual caso si dovrà dare esecuzione al mandato stesso;

2) non siano ulteriormente prelevati militari appartenenti a classi già congedate i quali, per non aver risposto al richiamo a suo tempo indetto, siano stati o debbano essere deferiti all'autorità giudiziaria.

Per entrambi i casi è necessario e sufficiente che i Comandi interessati diano urgente comunicazione alle competenti procure militari, del domicilio dei militari di cui trattasi.

I comandi in indirizzo provvederanno all'urgente diramazione della presente circolare a tutti gli enti dipendenti.

TRANSLATION

P. IL MINISTRO
(Elio Cugusi)

Alla Divisione "Piacenza" (C. A. C. F. I. C.)
Ai Comandi delle Divisioni Amministrative e S. I.
All'Ufficio Territoriale per la Sardegna
Al Comando Raggruppamento Ferroviari
Al Comando R. A. M.
All'Ufficio Campo affluenza complementi

e, per conoscenza:

Alla Commissione Alleata L. F. S. C. - A. C. (MMIA)
Al Gabinetto
All'Ufficio Coordinamento
allo Stato Maggiore Generale
allo Stato Maggiore R. Esercito - Uff. Ord. e Mob. e Uff. C. A.
Alle Direzioni Generali - Ispettorati ed Uffici Autonomi del Ministero
Alla Croce Rossa Italiana - Comitato Centrale

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p. IL MINISTRO
(Ezio Cugusi)

<u>TRANSLATION</u>	
IN	Time <u>1435</u>
	Date <u>29/10</u>
OUT	Time <u>1445</u>
	Date <u>31/10</u>

P. M. 92
LORO SEDI
P. M. 75-A
R O M A
R O M A
ORVIETO

R O M A
S E D E
S E D E
P. M. 3800
P. M. 3300
S E D E
R O M A

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

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BASE POST OFFICE
APO 790

CM/rjs

24 October 1945

SUBJECT: Mail Service for 7096th Engr. Bn.

TO : Commanding Officer, Land Forces Sub Commission (MMLA) APO 394,
U. S. Army.

1. There seems to be some confusion in getting mail delivered to the 7096th Engineer Bn (IT-Separate), this is probably due to the fact that part of this unit is in Italy and part in North Africa.

2. Letter from Postal Division, WFOUSA, dated 22 September 1945 instructed this office to send 7096th Engr. Bn (IT-Separate) to North Africa and letter same Hqs., dated 4 October 1945 routed Co. B, to APO 394 (Rome).

3. Inasmuch as part of this mail does not contain a company address, these letters will be sent to Co. B, first, as it is nearby. If these men are not in Co B it is requested that each letter be marked "not in Company B" and returned to this office under cover for onward dispatch to North Africa.

For the Commanding Officer:

Clair Murphy
CLAIR MURPHY,
Captain, A.G.D.,
Executive Officer.

*Copy sent
to M of W
27/10 1945*

3382

0693

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

Translation

From M. of W.

To M.N.I.A.

052

Ref. 5 Reg. of prot. (21)

Date 20/10/45

Subject Individual salute without arms, bareheaded.

We forward, for info, copy of the circular 500 issued - dated 03/01/45 by us.

G. LIUZZI.

FOREWORD

- 1 - This circular cancels that laid down by "Infantry Training" Vol I. - Formal instructions (page 12 + 15 + 17)
- 2 - The instructions contained in this circular will be brought in to force w.e.f. 15 Nov. 45.
- 3 - Distribution down to Coy. HQ's or equivalent unit.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL SALUTE WITHOUT ARMS, CAREHEADED.

- a - From the halt: the salute is carried out quickly when a superior reaches 3 paces distance, assuming the position of attention and bringing the right hand smartly to the forehead, above the right eye, tip of the thumb touching the right temple, index finger touching the eyebrows, the hand on the same line as the forearm, with the palm turned downwards, fingers close together, arm and forearm naturally inclined.
- b - On Reporting to a Superior: whoever reports to a superior, at 3 paces distance, halts in the position of attention, salutes as in a) and returns to the position of attention, dismissed by the superior, takes one pace backwards, salutes, assumes the position of attention again, carries out the about-turn and goes away.
- c - On the March: an isolated soldier, marching, when he reaches a three paces distance from a superior turns his head smartly and salutes as in a) passed by one pace by the superior, he takes up normal position.

DNY
R. CADORNA.

3380

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

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA



STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

Operazioni e
UFFICIO ADDESTRAMENTO
Sezione Regolamenti

N° 5 Reg. di protoc.

Roma, 20 ott. 1945

OGGETTO: Saluto individuale senz'arme, a capo scoperto.

ALLA SOTTOCOMMISSIONE FORZE TERRESTRI
G.A. - (M.M.I.A.)

Si invia, per conoscenza, copia della circolare 500 diramata - in data 15 corrente mese - dallo Stato Maggiore R. Esercito.

TRANSLATION

IN { Time 154Y
Date 25/10

OUT { Time 1530
Date 26/10

II. GENERALE ADDETTO
(G. Tiuzzi)

Chiusi

3379



MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

STATO MAGGIORE REGIO ESERCITO
UFFICIO OPERAZIONI E ADDESTRAMENTO

Circ. 500.

OGGETTO:

Saluto individuale senz'arme,
a capo scoperto.

15 ottobre 1945.

Al Comando Generale dell'Arma dei CC. RR.
Al Comando Generale della R. Guardia di Finanza
Ai Comandi Militari Territoriali
Al Comando Italiano 212
Ai Comandi di Divisione
Al Comando della Regia Accademia Militare
Al Comandi di Brigata di Fanteria Territoriale

ROMA
ROMA
LORO SEDI
P. M. 181
LORO SEDI
LECCE
LORO SEDI

e. per conoscenza:

All'Ufficio del 1° Aiutante di Campo Generale di S. M. il Re d'Italia
All'Ufficio del 1° Aiutante di Campo Generale di S. A. R. il Luogotenente Generale del Regno
Al Ministero della Guerra - Gabinetto
Al Ministero della Marina
Al Ministero dell'Aeronautica
Allo Stato Maggiore Generale
Al Tribunale Supremo Militare
All'Ispettorato dell'Arma di Artiglieria
All'Ispettorato dell'Arma del Genio
Al Commissario straordinario Unione Italiana Tiro a Segno
Al Comitato Centrale della Croce Rossa Italiana
All'Associazione Cavalieri Italiani del S. M. O. M.
Alle Direzioni Generali, Uffici Autonomi e Commissioni varie del Ministero Guerra
Agli Uffici dello Stato Maggiore R. E.

NAPOLI

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PREMESSA

1. - La presente circolare abroga quanto prescritto dall'« Addestramento della Fanteria » - Volume I - Istruzione Formale (pag. 12 - 15 - 17).
2. - Le norme contenute nella presente circolare entreranno in vigore il 15 novembre 1945.
3. - Diramazione estesa fino ai comandi di compagnia o reparto equivalente.

NORME PER IL SALUTO INDIVIDUALE SENZ'ARME, A CAPO SCOPERTO

- a) - **Da fermo:** il saluto si compie di scatto quando il superiore giunge a tre passi di distanza, assumendo la posizione d'attenti e portando energicamente la mano destra alla fronte, al disopra dell'occhio destro, estremità del pollice a contatto della tempia destra, indice a contatto del soprabraccio ed avambraccio naturalmente inclinati;
- b) - **nella presentazione ad un superiore:** chi si presenta ad un superiore, giunto a tre passi da lui, si arresta nella posizione d'attenti, saluta come in a) e ritorna nella posizione d'attenti. Licenziato dal superiore fa un passo indietro, saluta, riprende la posizione d'attenti, compie quindi il dietro-front e si allontana;
- c) - **in marcia:** il militare isolato, marciando, quando giunge a tre passi dal superiore volge la testa con vivacità dalla parte dello stesso e saluta come in a). Oltrepassato di un passo il superiore, riprende la posizione normale.

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

IL CAPO DI STATO ²²⁷⁰ MAGGIORE
R. CADORNA

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S. A. E. il Luogotenente Generale del Regno
Al Ministero della Guerra - Gabinetto
Al Ministero della Marina
Al Ministero dell'Aeronautica
Allo Stato Maggiore Generale
Al Tribunale Supremo Militare
All'Ispektorato dell'Arma di Artiglieria
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Alle Direzioni Generali, Uffici Autonomi e Commissioni
varie del Ministero Guerra
Agli Uffici dello Stato Maggiore R. E.

Circ. 500.

OGGETTO:

Saluto individuale senz'arme,
a capo scoperto.

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- b) - **nella presentazione ad un superiore:** chi si presenta ad un superiore, giunto a tre passi da lui, si arresta nella posizione d'attenti, saluta come in a) e ritorna nella posizione d'attenti. Licenziato dal superiore fa un passo indietro, saluta, riprende la posizione d'attenti, compie quindi il dietro-front e si allontana;
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IL CAPO DI STATO ³²⁷⁰ ~~M~~AGGIORE
R. CADORNA

from: M of W 052. Relation (20)
To: Bolzano Terr. HQ ref. 123021/II/
Copy to: M M I A 129-3-47
18 Oct. 45

Subject: Discipline of military personnel
of FOLGORE Combat Group

We continue to receive (from several sources) information concerning the undisciplined, & at times threatening, behaviour of military personnel of FOLGORE Combat Group, towards the civilian population. -

With Letter A/052 dated 27/9/45, of M M I A (copy attached) ⁽¹⁴⁾ points out several serious facts. This HQ will arrange for immediate enquiries to be carried out ^{urgently} concerning these facts & will ^{urgently} inform us.

We call the attention of this HQ to
PTU

0099

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

para 2) of a/m MMIA's letter. -

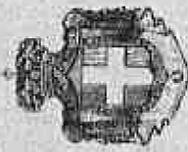
COMBARDI

C/

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02/00



Disubolab PA. 22/11
RE-21

Roma, 18 OTT. 1945

47

Ministero della Guerra
GABINETTO

225021/111
129-3-27

Disposta al Foglio del
Div. N. 1
Disciplina militari del Gruppo di Combattimento
"Folgore"

AL COMANDO MILITARE TERRITORIALE DI BOLZANO
e, per conoscenza

P.M.114

ALLA LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.G. (M.M.I.A.)
ALLO STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

ROMA
SEDE

Seguitano a pervenire, da varie fonti, segnalazioni relative al contegno indisciplinato e talvolta minaccioso dei militari del Gruppo di Combattimento "Folgore" verso la popolazione civile.

La lettera A/052 in data 17/9/1945 della Sottocommissione Alleata, che si allega in copia, segnala fatti gravi per i quali il coteo Comando vorrà disporre immediati accertamenti e riferire in merito con cortese sollecitudine.

Si richiama la particolare attenzione di coteo Comando circa quanto contenuto nel paragrafo n. 2 della citata lettera della Sottocommissione Alleata.

d'ordine

IL CAPO RI GABINETTO

TPA

[Signature]

129-3-47

Disciplina militari del Gruppo di Combattimento "Folgore"

AL COMANDO MILITARE TERRITORIALE DI BOLEGNO

P.M.114

e, per conoscenza:

ALLA LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. (M.M.I.A.)

R O M A

ALLO STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

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Si richiama la particolare attenzione di cotesto Comando circa quanto contenuto nel paragrafo n. 2 della citata lettera della Sottocommissione Alleata.

IL CAPO PI SABINETE
d'ordine
[Signature]

TRANSMISSION	29/10
IN	Date 22/10
OUT	15/10
	20/10

3376

0702

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

hand from p/c
41

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

A1052 (19)

Ref: 8277/103/EC

16 October 1945

SUBJECT: Conduct of Folgore Gruppe

TO : Civil Affairs Section
Land Forces Subcommission

10

052

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

1. Reference is made to 585/EC dated 10 September 45 in which Subcommissions were requested to investigate the practicability of implementing two quoted recommendations.

2. It is requested that a recommendation may be given in order that a reply may be sent to AFHQ.

Noted - No action
7/16
20/10

C. R. BRAYBROOKE

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

MAILED
FILED
D
SD/43
17/10

LIST

3370

171500

0703

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

Subject : FOLGOSI Combat Group, BOLZANO.

PERSONAL

Lord Favens Sub Commission, A.C.,
(M. S. I. A.)
R O M E.

A 052 10 Oct. '45.

My dear

1. The above Group has been in the BOLZANO area for some months and during the period GARIBOLDI Regt. have replaced SAN MARCO Regt. The other Regt. is RUSCO (practicant). The war-time G.O.C., MURPHY (who let the Group get out of hand) was replaced by a strong disciplinarian, FIALORSKI, who has made a considerable improvement.

2. The inevitable aftermath of war was reaction, resulting in indiscipline on the part of these tough, highspirited troops, particularly RUSCO, though the rather vague charges have never been really substantiated.

3. There has been a lot of correspondence over the last few months on whether FRIULI should not replace FOLGOSI, the idea being that FRIULI is a steadier Group.

4. Though I personally would not have sent FOLGOSI to the BOLZANO area originally, I was against replacing it by FRIULI and despite a recurrence of the agitation for this change I still am against it for the following reasons:

(a) Lt. Col. TAYLOR, O.C. FOLGOSI B.L.H., reported to me on 27 Sep. :-

"The general situation within the Gruppo is improving although we have had several cases of indiscipline recently, particularly in the Garibaldi and the Genio Regt. Strong disciplinary measures have been taken by General FIALORSKI and I do not anticipate any recurrence. There has, apart from these occurrences, been a marked improvement in discipline generally and I believe that within a month or so discipline will be about up to British standards".

Other of my L.O's however, I must admit, do not agree, but, after all, TAYLOR was the man on the spot when he wrote this.

(b) It seems probable that the business of law and order and distribution of troops will soon be handed over to the Italian Government.

(c) Militarily the view of the War Ministry is that :-

(i) the reports are exaggerated

(ii) FRIULI would in fact be little better

037A

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2. The inevitable aftermath of war was reaction, resulting in indiscipline on the part of these tough, battle-hardened troops, particularly NEMBO, though the rather vague charges have never been really substantiated.

3. There has been a lot of correspondence over the last few months on whether FRUINI should not replace FOLGORE, the idea being that FRUINI is a steadier group.

4. Though I personally would not have sent FOLGORE to the BELGIAN area originally, I was against replacing it by FRUINI and despite a recurrence of the agitation for this change I still am against it for the following reasons:

(a) Lt. Col. TAYLOR, O.C. FOLGORE B.L.V., reported to me on 27 Sep. :-

"The general situation within the Group is improving although we have had several cases of indiscipline recently, particularly in the Gariboldi and the Gonda Regt. Strong disciplinary measures have been taken by General PIALORSI and I do not anticipate any recurrence. There has, apart from these occurrences, been a marked improvement in discipline generally and I believe that within a month or so discipline will be about up to British standards".

Order of my L.O's however, I must admit, do not agree, but, after all, TAYLOR was the man on the spot when he wrote this.

(b) It seems probable that the business of law and order and distribution of troops will soon be handed over to the Italian Government.

(c) Militarily the view of the War Ministry is that :-

- (i) the reports are exaggerated
- (ii) FRUINI would in fact be little better
- (iii) the discipline of FOLGORE is on the upgrade and might get a set back if removed from what they consider to be a post of honour
- (iv) the change would be a blow to the Italian Army prestige, which they are trying to build up
- (v) a change would cause an administrative upheaval (apart from the transportation problem) at a difficult time when they are starting to run their own administration themselves. As you know, FOLGORE are guarding a very large number of dumps.

I agree with the War Ministry.

OK

5. I understand that political pressure is being brought on JACINTI by the Cabinet to effect a change. But if there is a change for political reasons, though it is not my business, it seems to me that that is playing straight into the hands of the Tyrolean population, who will have scored a victory and whose "appetite" in consequence may be whetted by excess!

6. It is really a matter for 2 District (subject to your approval) at present, but

(a) as I am charged with making known the War Ministry's view on matters

(b) in view of possible future developments

I think you will like to have the above angle on this matter before coming to a decision and I send it to you personally for such action as you think fit.

Yours
d.B.

Brig. J. D'A. ANDERSON, D.S.O.,
C.3 CRE.
A.F.R.C.

Copy to : Brig. A.S. LUCH, O.B.E., I.C.
Executive Commission,

10 7 0 5

2973

0906

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

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Yours

d.A.

Brig. J. D'A. ANDERSON, D.S.O.,
G. J. Org.
A.F.H.Q.

Copy to : Brig. M.S. LUCH, O.B.C., M.C.
Executive Commissioner,
A.C.

3373

/ajc

CONFIDENTIAL

Lt. Col. J. Taylor, MU, a&SH
53 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

Ref. A11-157
27 Sep 45.

Dear General

This will be my last letter to you as I hope to go home on release next week. I should have gone last week but the personnel situation has been so acute here that I decided to remain until that could be straightened out a bit. I am still worried about this situation and put forward the following recommendations as a temporary solution.

Next week I shall be gone, also my DAA&MG who is going home on rython. Major Markes is due for LIAP and I strongly recommend that this be granted by 2 District owing to the condition of his health. He has been very worried for some weeks now on account of his family, one of his sons has been very ill. If this leave is not granted I feel sure Markes' health will break down completely.

In view of the above I suggest and strongly recommend that Major Brewis who is SCRA and now surplus to establishment, remains attached to this BLU until the return of Major Markes. Brewis knows the Gruppo well and is a very efficient officer. Recently he was recommended to MMIA as suitable to remain with the Italian Army. Ref. MMIA letter A/360 of 10 Sep 45. The posting of a replacement for Major Gibb, DAA&MG, is also an urgent requirement. I should like to see all these problems solved before going home as I have now been with this BLU and FOLGOSE Gruppo for 5 months and I do not wish to go off and leave them "in the air".

Please may action be taken by 2 District on the above personnel problems.

The general situation within the Gruppo is improving although we have had several cases of indiscipline recently, particularly in the Garibaldi Regt and the Genio Regt. Strong disciplinary measures have been taken by General Pialorsi and I do not anticipate any recurrence. There has, apart from these occurrences, been a marked improvement in discipline generally and I believe that within a month or so discipline will be about up to British standards.

Training has been in progress for some ten days now in the Garibaldi Regt but so far no great progress has been made except with carrier drivers, owing to shortage of Inf personnel in Garibaldi Regt. There are at present a large number of absentees in this Regt, about 600. These, I have been assured, are largely due to the change of location of this Regt and are nearly all people who have not reported back from leave. I have pointed out to General Pialorsi that this figure represents far too great a proportion of the Regt's strength and he is taking action to ensure that there will not be any recurrence.

The political situation is fairly quiet at present although the Tyrolean population has got hold of a story that this area is definitely going back to Austria. I have been doing my best to discourage speculation of this kind among both the Italian and Tyrolean population, and have pointed out that the discussions are still going on in London, and that

In view of the above I suggest and strongly recommend that Major Brewis who is SCRA and now surplus to establishment, remains attached to this BIU until the return of Major Markes. Brewis knows the Gruppo well and is a very efficient officer. Recently he was recommended to MMIA as suitable to remain with the Italian Army. Ref. MMIA letter 4/360 of 10 Sep 45. The posting of a replacement for Major Gibb, DA&QMG, is also an urgent requirement. I should like to see all these problems solved before going home as I have now been with this BIU and FOLGORE Gruppo for 5 months and I do not wish to go off and leave them "in the air".

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MPA

Yours Sincerely
Amish Singh

To : Major General L. Browning, CB, OBE, MC.

Copy to :

Major General C.A. Heydeman, CB, MC
Brigadier D.O. Tennent.

*Since I have been asked to send a copy of my letters to Gen Heydeman at Brig Jan. 47 to keep them in touch with the General situation. *Amish Singh**

Subject: Italian Army - Welfare.

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

A 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, N.C.Os 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 my A 024 of 20 Sept 45 should be utilised for this purpose but does not absolve the responsible staff from their individual responsibility in this respect.

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

D. Brown

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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 disoriented 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 024 of 20 Sept 45 should be utilised for this purpose but does not absolve the responsible staff from their individual responsibility in this respect.
6. Please deal with this question as a matter of urgency.

D. Browning
Major General, *3371*
M.M.I.A.

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

0711

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

COB/prb

G-5: 091.711-1 Italy

29 September 1945

SUBJECT: Conduct of Folgore Gruppo.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.

13

12

Reference MMIA's letter A 052 dated 24 September.

1. It appears that this Headquarters' letter G-5: 091.711-1 Italy, subject as above, dated 20 September was linked with the wrong letter. It was intended as an expedite to G-5: 091.711-1 Italy, same subject, dated 6 September, not G-5: 091.711-1 dated 6 September, subject "Italian Army Casualties Documentation".

2. It would be appreciated if an answer to G-5: 091.711-1 Italy, dated 6 September, subject "Conduct of Folgore Gruppo", could be given.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

C.O.
C. O. HENSON
Major, R.A.

original
forwarded to
Exec Comm
Ry to 10
2 Oct

219

33 70

10712

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

114

Subject: Discipline - POLGORE Combat Group.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, A.C.S.
(M.M.L.A.) R O M E

A 052
27 Sept. 45.

To : Ministry of War.

1. The following extracts from a report by the soldier LG, II. Italy, are forwarded for your information. You will remember we recently had cause to enquire into the discipline of the Polgore Group and were assured that the standard was improving. It appears that the situation is still badly out of hand, and even stranger action will be required to improve matters.

"SERIA LG, BELZANO reports that the behaviour of the Polgore Group does not appear to have improved. Members of the Combat Group continually drive round BELZANO in expensive civilian cars at high speed, carrying their lady friends with them, and presumably using Allied petrol. The cars which bear no number plates, but only the Polgore sign, are believed to have been privately purchased by the soldiers, all of whom are well provided with money. No vehicle-tickets are carried, but a form of vehicle permit, now out of date, is usually exhibited.

The damage of captured material in the camp are continually being robbed, and there is a story that two German marks were recently killed by men of the Polgore who were carrying out a raid on a dump. I am asking for confirmation of this report.

Contrary to what is said, men of the Polgore incessantly enter areas, whether on duty or not.

It is alleged from more than one source that there was widespread looting by Allied soldiers in the early days, and the Polgore Group are following their example. Even the German prisoners are now taking a hand in passing material out of the dumps."

Some doubt exists as to what is meant by the responsibility for discipline of the Polgore Group. Whilst the Polgore Group is under Allied operational control, responsibility for the discipline of this group and other troops in the area is solely that of General BELZANO, the senior British officer on the spot. Will you please make this quite clear to General BELZANO and anyone else concerned, and at the same time, instruct General BELZANO to give this matter of discipline his personal attention.

cases to enquire into the discipline of the Folgore Group and were assured that the standard was improving. It appears that the situation is still badly out of hand, and even stronger action will be required to improve matters.

Major G. H. HARRIS reports that the behaviour of the Folgore Group does not appear to have improved. Members of the Combat Group continually drive round BOLZANO in expensive civilian cars at high speed, carrying their lady friends with them, and presumably using Allied petrol. The cars which bear no number plates, but only the Folgore sign, are believed to have been privately purchased by the soldiers, all of whom are well provided with money. No work-documents are carried, but a form of vehicle permit, now out of date, is usually exhibited.

The cases of captured material in the area are continually being robbed, and there is a story that two German guards were recently killed by men of the Folgore who were carrying out a raid on a dump. I am asking for confirmation of this report.

Courtesy is common, men of the Folgore incessantly carry arms, whether on duty or not.

It is alleged from news that our sources that there was widespread looting by Allied soldiers in the early days, and the Folgore Group are following their example. Even the German prisoners are now taking a hand in passing material out of the dumps.

Some doubts appear to exist as regards the responsibility for discipline of the Folgore Group. Whilst the Folgore Group is under Allied operational control, responsibility for the discipline of this 336 and other troops in the area is solely that of General HERRMANN, the senior Italian officer on the spot. Will you please make this quite clear to General HERRMANN and anyone else concerned, and at the same time, instruct General HERRMANN to give this matter of discipline his personal attention.

Major General Au 20

Fr. Major General, H.I.I.A.

Copy to: MIA LO BOLZANO.

Senior MIA LO N. Italy. (your SLOM.A.I of 21 Sep return).

/sec.

0713

10713

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

Subject: Conduct of POLIGORE GRUPPO.

13

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.N.I.A.) H O M E
A 052

24 Sept. '45.

To : A.P.H.O. (For G-5)

12

1. Your letter reference G-5.091.711-1 Italy, dated 20 Sep 45 (copy attached) addressed to HQ, Allied Commission, has been passed to this HQ and is not understood, since your letter of like reference dated 6 Sep 45 was addressed to BM Albania, and dealt with the proposed visit of an Italian Padre to Albania, whereas the attached letter deals with the conduct of the POLIGORE Gruppo.

2. It is requested that this HQ be informed whether an error has been made in the letter reference in your attached letter.

PA

su 15

S.P. ARGENTI, Major.
For Major General,
M.N.I.A.

SPA/ccc.

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

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A ~~052~~ 052

A052, FORCE S/C

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

COB/j

(57)

G-5: 091.711-1 Italy
SUBJECT: Conduct of Folgore Gruppo
TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
APO 394

20 September 1945

A

refers to proposed
right of the Republic
of Albania!

(12)

Please return the letter enclosed in G-5: 091.711-1 dated 6 September, together with your comments, as soon as possible.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:



Not understood
GB asked to clarify
JPM
24/9

Chas. Benson
C. O. BENSON,
Major.

3367

(13) + (15)

Subject : Discipline, Folgore Combat Group.

CONFIDENTIAL

M.M.I.A. N. Italy.
Milan.
Tel : Milan 13989.
Ref : SLON/A/L.

21 Sep 45.

To : Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.
H.Q. M.M.I.A., Rome.

1. MMIA LO BOLZANO (Major Byatt) reports that the behaviour of the Folgore Group does not appear to have improved. Members of the Combat Group continually drive around BOLZANO in expensive civilian cars at high speed, carrying their lady friends with them, and presumably using W.D. petrol.

The cars, which bear no number plates but only the Folgore sign, are believed to have been privately purchased by the soldiers, all of whom are well provided with money. No work-ticket is carried, but a form of vehicle permit originally issued by 5 Army is usually exhibited.

2. The dumps of captured material in the zone are continually being robbed, and there is a story that two German guards were recently killed by men of the Folgore who were carrying out a raid on a dump. I am asking for confirmation of this report from Major Byatt.

3. Contrary to orders, men of the Folgore incessantly carry arms whether on duty or not.

4. It is alleged from more than one source that there was widespread looting by American soldiers in the early days, and the Folgore Group are following their example. Even the German prisoners are now taking a hand in passing material out of the dumps.

5. There are still known to be various German S.S. men hiding in the mountains.

6. General NEGRONI's position is a difficult one in view of the fact that he is the senior Italian officer on the spot, but has not got the Folgore Group under operational command. It is felt that he should be the ruling figure from the point of view of discipline, and that the Ministry of War should make

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- 3. Contrary to orders, men of the Folgore incessantly carry arms whether on duty or not.
- 4. It is alleged from more than one source that there was widespread looting by American soldiers in the early days, and the Folgore Group are following their example. Even the German prisoners are now taking a hand in passing material out of the dumps.
- 5. There are still known to be various German S.S. men hiding in the mountains.
- 6. General NEGRONI's position is a difficult one in view of the fact that he is the senior Italian officer on the staff, but has not got the Folgore Group under operational command. It is felt that he should be the ruling figure from the point of view of discipline, and that the Ministry of War should make this quite clear not only to him but to everyone else if he is to be held responsible for the general discipline of the troops in his area.

SPA
He is

Mr. Sumner

11/16/39

Lieut-Col.
Senior MIA IO, N. Italy.

PMME/pmme Copy to : MIA IO Bolzano.

See Vol 14

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

0719

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

Ref: 585/EC

10 September 1945

SUBJECT: Conduct of Folgore Gruppo

TO : Civil Affairs Section
Land Forces Subcommission

1. Reference is made to Fifth Army report of the investigation of the conduct of the Folgore Gruppo submitted by Col. K.G.F. Chavasse and dated 22 August 45.
2. Following instructions received from AFHQ, Subcommissions as under, are requested to investigate the practicability of implementing the under-mentioned recommendations contained in the last page of the report.
 - (a) Land Forces S/C in conjunction with Finance S/C
 - (1) that the Italian Government be asked to reconsider the pay-cut.
 - (b) Civil Affairs Section (Public Safety S/c)
 - (2) more civil carabinieri be installed in Bolzano in addition to the troops required there.
3. AFHQ do not propose to take any action with regard to recommendations 2 and 3 of the above report.
4. The report is passed to Civil Affairs Section herewith for information **AND RETURN.**

1 Incl:
as above

Copy to: Finance S/C

19
R. K. S. [Signature]
for Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

336
Informed J. O. King
at 485977

485977
M. G. [Signature]
Being done separately
WP
10 Sep

From M of W (Welfare)

to Minister of War

Translation

ref. 07188/S.S.

27 Aug. 1945

Excerpt of the reports on the morale of the troops during the month of July 1945.

Excerpt of the reports of HQs

MORALE the morale of the troops is influenced by a strong feeling of fatigue which is spreading out especially among senior classes, some of whom have been serving for seven, eight, nine years and see in their home towns men of very young classes that should be in the Army. This ill feeling, which is spreading also among Emergency Reserve officers has been but poorly checked by the moral action that has been taken to counteract it. Soldiers, in this grey and uncertain situation, although they continue to do their duty and are disciplined, show an impatience which can no longer be overlooked.

It is therefore desirable that discharge of senior classes should take place as soon as possible.

GENERAL CAUSES OF DEPRESSION: Senior classes that have not been discharged

- the feeling that those who evaded military service are now living undisturbed and can resume civilian activities
- family allowances and wages which are inadequate to meet the actual cost of living especially for those who have a family.
- The slowness and irregularity of the military postal service, causing all ranks to avoid availing themselves of it whenever possible
- reduction of the allowances for mess improvement from 10 lire to 5 lire.
- + the issue of soap which is not sufficient to meet requirements

Notes of this Office

This matter is well known and it has already been pointed out in previous reports, and discussed during meetings at Rome with the C/Os of higher formations. The measures that can be taken, will not be sufficient to improve the morale of the troops.

This matter is already known

id. id.

id. id.

I am under the impression that Military Postal Service is speedier than the civil one

9

years and see in their home towns men of very young classes that should be in the Army.

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- The slowness and irregularity of the military postal service, causing all ranks to avoid availing themselves of it whenever possible
- reduction of the allowance for mess improvement from 10 lire to 5 lire.
- + the issue of soap which is not sufficient to meet requirements
- the cancelling of the issue of tobacco on repayment and the reduction of the free issue
- the fact that it is almost impossible for the Sardinian troops to enjoy leave owing to lack of transport.
- the persistent deficiency of clothing and footwear, Sabaudia Div H₂ inform us that it is impossible to issue the kit recalled Milit. personnel who wear clothing and footwear of their own property.

- the continuous propaganda led by almost all the Press against the Army.

The measures that can be taken, will not be sufficient to improve the morale of the troops.

This matter is already known

id. id.

id. id.

I am under the impression that Milit. Postal Service is speedier than the civil one

336A

The disorder of the uniform of our soldier, and the tolerance in allocating him to wear the strangest of clothing (which is a consequence of irregular issues) discredit our Arms Forces and facilitate the propaganda that a great part of the Press leads against them

PARTICULAR CAUSES OF DEPRESSION.

Picerno H.Q. DIV. remark that; owing to the disbandment of Raviscanina, Astrorid, and Frasinore Camps, masses of disordered and undisciplined men report to Cesano Centre and any effort made by the officers to organize and discipline these men is nullified by the constant coming and going of soldiers who cause disorder in the units.

PROPOSALS AND REQUESTS

OF UNITS UNDER COMMAND: react with adequate means and without losing time against the spreading of the campaign against the Army.

- Lay down a system of efficient transport between the mainland and the islands and improvement of transport on the mainland.

- make a greater and more adequate issue of clothing items

- increase the monthly issue of soap to improve hygiene of the troops

- increase the wages of officers and NCOs which are at present below the standard wages of the various categories of workers and employees

- Take severe action against deserters and absentees.

- increase the issue of cigarettes and again issue tobacco on repayment.

- value and acknowledge the service of the Admin. Divs and Combat Groups now being disbanded.

- increase to 10 Lire the messing improvement allowance.

- increase welfare funds.

SPECIAL REMARKS OF

SOME HQs : Concerning the economical position of officers and NCOs, Mantova Combat Group HQ informs us that "Wages of Officers are ridiculous and are inferior to the wages of workers and employees.

For instance: We noticed that the work contract for industrial workers of Liguria (published in issue n. 77 of the newspaper "Lavoro Nuovo" dated 1st of August) all

10 7 2 2

These matters have already been pointed out in the previous reports. Very little, almost nothing has been done to solve them and this is deprecoated by HQs and units V/O that do not realize the difficulties handicapping the Central Branches. But whereas officers can easily understand this, soldiers generally do not, owing to lack of education and to the propaganda that is carried out by agents who operate with very doubtful intentions.

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- increase the issue of cigarettes and again issue tobacco on repayment.
- value and acknowledge the service of the Admin. Divs and Combat Groups now being disbanded.
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For instance: We noticed that the work contract for industrial workers of Liguria (published in issue n. 77 of the newspaper "Lavoro Nuovo" dated 1st of August) allows each employee 3000 lire monthly as "contingency allowance" 8000 " " as minimum wages. The same wages are laid down for labourers. My General 2nd in command, draws a monthly pay of lire 11800: our Chief of Staff (who has 3 sons) 10216 and whereas a/m employees and labourers live with their families, officers and NCOs who are married are away from their kith and kin and must provide for themselves and for their family.

These matters have already been pointed out in the previous reports. Very little, almost nothing has been done to solve them and this is deprecated by HQs and units W/C that do not realize the difficulties handicapping the Central Branches. But whereas officers can easily understand this, soldiers generally do not, owing to lack of education and to the propaganda that is carried out by agents who operate with very doubtful intentions.

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● Picoano Div. Hq warns us in of the consequences of circ. 558 concerning the discharge from the Army due to special family reasons. A/m Hq remark "a worrying exodus of military personnel and particularly of young soldiers". This is due to the extreme ease with which the Communes, Doctors and the C.R.A. themselves grant certificates proving the poor conditions and earning impossibility of families of military personnel serving in the Army, etc.

Picoano Div. Hq reports moreover the insufficient screening action of the Military Districts, who generally send to the Camp military personnel having the right to be discharged, repatriated P.M.s and even war disabled personnel that (having their families out of Italy - especially in Northern Africa -) cannot be discharged from the Army.

GENERAL NOTES OF THIS OFFICE :

- Higher Formation Hqs do their best to keep up the morale of personnel under command; but if we want their work to be really efficient it is necessary that the problems and difficulties reported by them should be taken into consideration by the Central Branches with a greater interest. The soldier is tired of promises, articles in the press and idle talk; he wants facts. He regards with suspicion not only his officers (whom he thinks are the cause or the victims of this general situation) but also politicians in general; he no longer relies upon the leading classes and therefore he looks forward to a revolutionary system which may change the state of things (without worrying about consequences). Commanding officers agree that there is still time to prevent the total disintegration of discipline, by solving the main problems thus : -
- ending the Press campaign against the Army,
- unbalancing the importance of the contribution of Units of the Army to the War of liberation,
- granting the war disabled, wounded and sick personnel admitted to hospital the respect and fair dealing they are entitled to,
- improving the equipment,
- discharging senior classes, calling up younger personnel and putting an end to all unlawful privileges.

- The problem pointed out by Picoano Div. concerning military personnel to be discharged and who cannot reach their families, is a general problem and I have already informed the NCOs and ORs Recruiting Directorate and the Cabinet of H.M. with letter 06640/ES dated 10 Aug. 45. Cesano Centre is not suitable to admit these men who fulfil strongly against being subjected to further delays and since I have been informed that several thousands of men are involved I think it would be advisable to keep them at the units on whose strength they are or to form units or depots where some military could be employed and assisted. Sick, war disabled and convalescent personnel should be admitted to special Med. establishments.

Unfortunately the truth of this remark has been noted by this office on examining applications in favour of military personnel and their families. Reprimands and circulars are useless : it is a question of civil education.

It should be borne in mind that Districts have an enormous work to carry out and very few means available. The insufficiency of means is well known to Central Authorities.

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Gen. Tamassia.

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0726

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

from M of War
to MIA

052

Translation

(8)

Ref. 07194/E-S

27 Aug. 1945

Subject Report

As agreed verbally herewith excerpt of report on the morale of
troops during the month of July 1945.

Gen. Tamassia.

C/u

[Handwritten signature]

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

SE/gv.



P.M. 3200 **27 AGO 1945**

Ministero della Guerra
Uff. Benessere del Soldato
alle Armi

30
LAND FORCES SUB
COMMISSION AC. (M.L.I.A.)
ROME

Numero **07194/1** *Allegato 1*
Data **27/8** *B.S.*

Supplicato *del*
Dir. *Da* *N°*

Oggetto relazione.

Come da intese verbali si trasmette
copia sintesi della relazione sul morale
della truppa relativa al mese di luglio c.a.-

IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA
(G.C. Tanassia)

Alcide Jaccarini

IN	Time 1430
	Date 27/8
OUT	Time 1730
	Date 31/8

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CA/gv.

n. 07188

B.S. di prot.

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
-Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle Armi-

27 AGO 1945

P.M. 3800, li

AL MINISTRO DELLA GUERRA
AL SOTTOSEGRETARIO MILITARE ALLA GUERRA
AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

S E D E
S E D E
S E D E

Sintesi delle relazioni sul morale della truppa per il
mese di luglio 1945

Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi

MORALE

: il morale della truppa é influenzato da un forte senso di stanchezza che va diffondendosi specialmente nelle classi anziane, alcune delle quali sono alle armi da sette, otto, nove anni e che vedono nelle rispettive case uomini di classi giovanissime, che dovrebbero essere invece alle armi.

Contro questo sentimento che va facendo presa in sensibile misura anche tra la massa degli ufficiali di complemento, le azioni morali fin qui messe in atto hanno sortito ben scarsi risultati.

Osservazioni dell'Ufficio

Questione ben nota, già rappresentata nelle relazioni precedenti, discussa nelle recenti riunioni, a Roma, coi comandanti delle Grandi Unità. I provvedimenti preannunciati non saranno sufficienti a modificare lo stato d'animo della truppa.

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Sintesi delle relazioni sul morale della truppa per il
mese di luglio 1945

Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi	Osservazioni dell'Ufficio
<p>MORALE : il morale della truppa é influenzato da un forte senso di stanchezza che va diffondendosi specialmente nelle classi anziane, alcune delle quali sono alle armi da sette, otto, nove anni e che vedono nelle rispettive case uomini di classi giovanissime, che dovrebbero essere invece alle armi.</p> <p>Contro questo sentimento che va facendo presa in sensibile misura anche tra la massa degli ufficiali di complemento, le azioni morali fin qui messe in atto hanno sortito ben scarsi risultati.</p> <p>In questa situazione grigia ed incerta, i soldati, pur continuando a fare, come sempre, il loro dovere in piena disciplina, tradiscono una impazienza che non deve essere ormai più trascurata.</p>	<p>Questione ben nota, già rappresentata nelle relazioni precedenti, discussa nelle recenti riunioni, a Roma, coi comandanti delle Grandi Unità. I provvedimenti preannunciati non saranno sufficienti a modificare lo stato d'animo della truppa.</p>

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Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi
Osservazioni dell'Ufficio

E' quindi augurabile che i congedamenti delle classi più anziane possano essere avviati ad una sollecita attuazione.-

CAUSE GENERALI
DI DEPRESSIONE:

- il mancato congedamento delle classi anziane che era ritenuto imminente;
- la sensazione che chi si è sottratto agli obblighi militari oggi vive indisturbato e può già riprendere la sua attività civile;
- i sussidi familiari e gli stipendi inadeguati in relazione all'attuale costo della vita, specialmente per coloro che hanno la famiglia a carico;
- la lentezza e irregolarità del servizio postale militare, che provoca in tutti i gradi, resistenza a servirsi di esso;
- la diminuzione della quota miglioramento rancio da lire 10

Questione già nota

idem

idem

Ho l'impressione che il servizio di posta militare proceda ancora più spedito di quello civile.

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DI DEPRESSIONE:

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- la lentezza e irregolarità del servizio postale militare, che provoca in tutti i gradi, resistenza a servirsi di esso;
- la diminuzione della quota miglioramento rancio da lire 10 a lire 5
- la insufficienza del quantitativo di sapone in distribuzione;

Questione già nota

idem

idem

Ho l'impressione che il servizio di posta militare proceda ancora più spedito di quello civile.

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Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi	Osservazioni dell'Ufficio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - la soppressione della razione tagiacchi a pagamento e la riduzione della razione gratuita; - la quasi impossibilità dei militari sardi di usufruire delle licenze per la deficienza dei mezzi di trasporto; - la persistente deficienza di vestiario e calzature. A questo proposito il Comando della Divisione S.I. "Sabauda" fa presente che si trova nella impossibilità di distribuire il corredo ai militari richiamati e che questi sono costretti ad indossare abiti e calzature di loro proprietà; - il continuo imperversare, anche su giornali di larga diffusione, della campagna di stampa contro l'Esercito; 	<p>=</p> <p>=</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - il Comando Divisione "Piceno" la 	<p>Il disordine nelle uniformi del nostro soldato e la tolleranza delle più strane fogge di vestire, che è conseguenza della mancanza di regolari distribuzioni, concorrono grandemente a mantenere nel Paese il discredito sulle nostre Forze Armate e facilitano la campagna denigratoria di gran parte della stampa.</p>

CAUSE PARTICOLARI DI DEPRESIONE

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-- la quasi impossibilità dei militari sardi di usufruire delle licenze per la deficienza dei mezzi di trasporto;

-- la persistente deficienza di vestiario e calzature. A questo proposito il Comando della Divisione S.I. "Sabauda" fa presente che si trova nella impossibilità di distribuire il corredo ai militari richiamati e che questi sono costretti ad indossare abiti e calzature di loro proprietà;

-- il continuo imperversare, anche su giornali di larga diffusione, della campagna di stampa contro l'Esercito;

CAUSE PARTICO-
LARI DI DEPRES-
SIONE

-- il Comando Divisione "Ficeno" lamenta che, in conseguenza dello scioglimento dei campi di affluenza di Raviscanina, Astoni e Proconone, affluiscono al Centro di Cesano masse di uomini disordinati ed indisciplinate e che ogni sforzo fatto dagli ufficiali per

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Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi.	Osservazioni dell'Ufficio
<p>inquadrarle e disciplinarle sia annullato del flusso e riflusso continuo di uomini, ciò che genera uno stato caotico ed un senso di disordine nei reparti di assegnazione.</p> <p>PROPOSTE E RICHIESTE DEI COMANDI DIPENDENTI :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reagire con mezzi adguati e senza perdere tempo al diffondersi della campagna disfattista ai danni dell'esercito; - istituzione di un sistema di trasporti efficiente fra il continente e le isole e il miglioramento dei trasporti nel continente; - maggiore e più equa assegnazione di oggetti di corredo; - aumentare l'assegnazione mensilere di sapone, aonde migliorare le condizioni igieniche della truppa; - aumentare gli assegni degli ufficiali e sottufficiali, che so- 	<p>Sono tutte questioni già prospettate nelle precedenti relazioni. Poco o nulla ancora è stato fatto per risolverle e di ciò in particolare si lamentano i Comandi ed i loro dipendenti, che non conoscono le difficoltà nelle quali si dibattono gli organi cent-</p>

di assegnazione.

PROPOSTE E
RICHIESTE DEI
COMANDI DIPEN
DENTI :

- reagire con mezzi adeguati e senza perdere tempo al diffondersi della campagna disfattista si danni dell'esercito;
- istituzione di un sistema di trasporti efficiente fra il continente e le isole e il miglioramento dei trasporti nel continente;
- maggiore e più equa assegnazione di oggetti di corredo;
- aumentare l'assegnazione mensile di sapone, sode migliorare le condizioni igieniche della truppa;
- aumentare gli assegni degli ufficiali e sottufficiali, che sono attualmente ad un livello inferiore ai salari ed agli stipendi delle varie categorie di lavoratori ed impiegati;

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Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi

- adottare energici provvedimenti a carico dei disertori e dei renitenti;
- maggiore assegnazione di sigarette e ripristino della razione tabacchi a pagamento;
- valorizzare e riconoscere il buon servizio prestato dai reparti delle divisioni logistiche e dei gruppi di combattimento ora in via di scioglimento;
- riportare a lire 10 la quota miglioramento rancio;
- aumentare sensibilmente i fondi a disposizione per il servizio del Benessere.

OSSERVAZIONI PARTICOLARI DI ALCUNI COMANDI :

- sul disagio economico degli ufficiali e dei sottufficiali il Comando del Gruppo di Combattimento "Mantova" scrive: " Per quel che riguarda gli assegni degli ufficiali, tutti sanno che essi sono quanto mai irrisori, e che salari e stipendi delle varie categorie di lavoratori

Osservazioni dell'Ufficio

se, un po' per difetto di istruzione e forse molto per l'azione contraria che mestatori di ogni genere vanno certamente svolgendo, più o meno in segreto e per scopi più o meno confessabili.

ripristino della razione tabacchi a pagamento;

- valorizzare e riconoscere il buon servizio prestato dai reparti delle divisioni logistiche e dei gruppi di combattimento ora in via di scioglimento;

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DI ALCUNI CO
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Per esempio: dal contratto di lavoro per i dipendenti industriali della Liguria (pubblicato sul n.77 del "La Voce Nuova" di Genova, del 1° agosto)

che mestatori di ogni genere vanno certamente svolgendo, più o meno in segreto e per scopi più o meno confessabili.

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Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi	Osservazioni dell'Ufficio
<p>si apprende che un impiegato ha diritto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a £.3.000 mensili come "indennità di contingenza" - a £.8.000 di stipendio <u>minimo</u> mensile <p>paghe analoghe sono state pattuite per gli operai.</p> <p>Il mio Generale Vice-Comandante percepisce mensilmente £.11.800; il Capo di S.M. (con 3 figli a carico) £.10.216, e mentre impiegati e operai di cui sopra vivono con le loro famiglie, gli ufficiali (e sottufficiali) ammogliati, da anni sono lontani dai loro cari e con gli assegni che percepiscono debbono pensare a se stessi e mantenere la famiglia lontana";</p> <p>- il Comando della Divisione "Ficeno" pone in guardia sulle conseguenze di una applicazione troppo compiacente della circolare 658 relativa all'invio in congedo per particolari situazioni di famiglia di alcuni militari. Egli osserva un "esodo con</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">0004</p>

tà di contingenza"

- a £.8.000 di stipendio minimo
mensile

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- il Comando della Divisione "Ficeno" pone in guardia sulle conseguenze di una applicazione troppo compiacente della circolare 658 relativa all'invio in congedo per particolari situazioni di famiglia di alcuni militari. Egli osserva un "esodo continuo e preoccupante di militari e particolarmente di giovani". Attribuisce tale fatto alla estrema facilità e leggerezza con le quali i Comuni e i medici e gli stessi carabinieri rilasciano documenti comprovanti l'inabilità al lavoro dei com-

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Purtroppo è rilievo vero e che questo Ufficio ha spesso ~~confermato~~ confermato nell'esame di domande di aiuti a favore di militari e loro famiglie. Ma richiami e

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<p>Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi</p>	<p> Osservazioni dell'Ufficio</p>
<p>ponenti delle famiglie dei militari alle armi, le dichiarazioni di povertà e nullatenenza, etc.- Lamenta anche l'insufficiente azione discriminatrice dei distretti militari in genere, che avviano al campo militari che hanno diritto al congedo, reduci dai campi di prigionia invalidi e persino mutilati che per aver le famiglie residenti fuori d'Italia (e più specialmente in Africa settentrionale) non possono essere licenziati dalle armi.</p>	<p> circolari non valgono: è questione di educazione civile. Bisogna tener conto dei mezzi limitati dei distretti di fronte all' enorme loro lavoro. L'insufficienza dei mezzi dei distretti è ben nota alle Autorità Centrali.</p>

OSSERVAZIONI DI INDOLE GENERALE DELL'UFFICIO:

- I Comandi di G.U. fanno del loro meglio per mantenere alto il morale dei loro dipendenti; ma perché la loro opera sia veramente efficace è necessario che i problemi e le difficoltà che essi vanno con tanta insistenza da tanto tempo prospettando trovino comprensione ed accoglienza da parte degli organi centrali, più che ora non si faccia.

Il soldato è stanco di promesse, di articoli sui giornali, di chiacchiere: vuole fatti. Guarda con diffidenza non solo i suoi ufficiali, dei quali non sente più l'ascendente, perché li giudica essi stessi quando non causa vittime di questa situazione generale, ma an-

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Disogna tener conto dei mezzi limitati dei distretti di fronte all'enorme loro lavoro. L'insufficienza dei mezzi dei distretti è ben nota alle Autorità Centrali.

più presto alle principali questioni:

- cessazione della campagna denigratoria della stampa;
- valorizzazione dell'azione delle Unità dell'Esercito per la Guerra di Liberazione;
- rispetto e generosità di trattamento verso i mutilati, i feriti e gli ammalati degenti ancora negli ospedali;
- miglioramento dell'equipaggiamento;
- congedo delle classi anziane, richiamo dei giovani e abolizione di ogni colpevole privilegio.

- La questione accennata dal Comando della Divisione "Piceno" sulla sorte dei militari congedandi che non possono raggiungere le loro famiglie residenti all'estero, è problema di carattere generale per il quale ho già interessato la Direzione Generale Leva Sottufficiali e Truppa, e per conoscenza codesto Gabinetto (foglio n. 06640/B.S. del 10 agosto 1945). Il centro addestramento di Cesano non è certo il luogo più adatto per raccogliere tali elementi, naturalmente insofferenti di ogni indugio; e poiché mi fu detto trattarsi di diverse migliaia di uomini, ove non si ritenga opportuno trattenerne ciascuno di essi nei reparti ai quali sono effettivi, converrebbe creare apposito reparti o depositi, dove i militari dovrebbero trovare possibilità di impiego o di lavoro e conveniente assistenza. In particolare ammalati, mutilati, convalescenti dovrebbero essere riuniti in determinati stabilimenti sanitari (enti di cura e di rieducazione sociale).-



IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA 3352
 F. CO (G.C. Tanassia)

Luigi Panzani

rivi e gli ammalati degenti ancora negli ospedali;

- miglioramento dell'equipaggiamento;

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IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA 3952
f. 10 (G.C. Tanassia)



0527
D. BY THE MAJOR STEPS TAKEN BY C.A. KEEP
AFHQ INFORMED OF THE ABSENTEE SITUATION AND TO
PREVENT DESERTION.

1945

1. 30 March A.17/1
Asked for plans for leave to North ITALY (as soon as liberated) to forestall "French leave". Reminder 15 April and resubmitted 18 April.
2. 10 April D/o 2
To C.A.O. (para 20) advises phased demobilisation as alternative to desertion.
3. 24 April A.016
Appreciation on the effect on the Italian Army of the Liberation of North ITALY, in which indiscipline and absence were foreseen and a reasonable leave and demobilisation plan combined with an early and appreciable reduction in numbers was recommended.
4. 4 May A 1053
Signal asking for demobilisation plan as an alternative to desertion.
5. 1 June order
Increase of Leave to 15% authorised.
6. 14 June G/6
Personal letter to Brig. ANDERSON stating that older men were getting restive, anticipation of more desertion, and asking for a decision on demobilisation.
7. 25 June Visit
Col. PIDSLEY to AFHQ to press for broadcast announcement of plans and urge for reduction in ER-ITI services (now not being fully employed) comparable to that of US-ITI rather than calling up more men.
8. 11 July order
Balance of 1914 class may be demobilised on replacement.
9. 16 July SD/98
Proposal to announce (and later effect) demobilisation of 1915 class.
10. 28 July A.052
Morale and Loyalty report (Legnano) reiterating former recommendations.
11. 29 July D0.2
Further report on similar lines.
12. 30 July visit
Report by hand of Col. PIDSLEY, discussion to place War Minister's views before AFHQ, to make an eleventh hour attempt to avoid a desertion landslide.

Present recommendations.

1. Demobilise 1915 classes between 15 Aug and 15 Sept, followed by 1916 to 1919 as Allied commitments permit and provided desertion rate is reduced.
2. Amend leave rules to 10% for 10 days. (see attached minute)

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to desertion.

5. 1 June order
Increase of Leave to 15% authorised.
6. 14 June G/6
Personal letter to Brig. ANDERSON stating that other men were getting restive, anticipation of more desertion, and asking for a decision on demobilisation.
7. 25 June Visit
Col. PIDSLEY to AFHQ to press for broadcast announcement of plans and urge for reduction in BR-ITI services (now not being fully employed) comparable to that of US-ITI rather than calling up more men.
8. 11 July order
Balance of 1914 class may be demobilised on replacement.
9. 16 July SD/98
Proposal to announce (and later effect) demobilisation of 1915 class.
10. 28 July A.052
Morale and Loyalty report (Legnano) reiterating former recommendations.
11. 29 July D0.2
Further report on similar lines.
12. 30 July visit
Report by hand of Col. PIDSLEY, discussion to place War Minister's views before AFHQ, to make an eleventh hour attempt to avoid a desertion landslide.

Present recommendations.

1. Demobilise 1915 classes between 15 Aug and 15 Sept, followed by 1916 to 1919 as Allied commitments permit and provided desertion rate is reduced.
2. Amend leave rules to 10% for 10 days. (see attached minutes)
3. If necessary, call up complete 1925 class in the Autumn.

ek

3351

COLA
File
LQ - 29 Aug

Included in the Bri-Iti and Iti-Iti categories
are Italian ~~Intelligence~~ ^{Intelligence} units as under:—

<u>Bri-Iti</u>	<u>Offs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
131	252		383
<u>Iti-Iti</u>	167	1248	1415
<u>TOTAL</u>	298	1500	1798

Detailed Breakdown is given at Appendix A.

APPX A.

Bri-Iti

	<u>Offs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
862 Int. Liaison Unit	115	101	216
863 Ince. to CSDIC	16	145	161
CSDIC (ex-cooperator) Rome	-	6	6
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>383</u>

Iti-Iti

<u>IAI Rome. Central Admin Office</u>	-	30	30
<u>Tech Sec Rome (incl No 1 sp. Mission Coy)</u>	-	78	3350 378
<u>Personnel Sec Rome</u>	-	11	11
<u>MT. Unit Rome</u>	-	110	110
<u>Admin Sec Rome</u>	-	8	8
<u>Italian Consular Unit</u>	40	35	75
		15	60

TOTAL 298 1500 1798

Detailed Breakdown is given at Appendix A.

APPX A.

Bn. Iti

	Offs	ORs	TOTAL
862 Int Liaison Unit	115	101	216
863 Inca. to CSDIC	16	145	161
CSDIC (ex-cooperator) Rome	-	6	6
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>383</u>

Iti-Iti

<u>IAI Rome. Central Admin Office</u>	-	30	30
Tech Sec Rome (incl No 1 Sp. Mailers Coy)	-	78	9351 78
Personnel Sec Rome	-	11	11
MT Unit Rome	-	110	110
Admin Sec Rome	-	8	8
Italian Consular Unit	40	35	75
Pool of Mil. Firm Censors	45	15	60
4 Sec HQ I.A.F.	13	30	43
808 C.S. Bn.	69	931	1000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>1248</u>	<u>1415</u>

GRAND TOTAL

298 1500 1798

[Handwritten signature]

10748

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

CONFIDENTIAL (5)

SUBJECT : Morale and Loyalty of the Italian Army.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E .
A 052
28 Aug.45

TO : PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION

Reference request by Col. Chayes herewith extract from AFHQ letter AG 091.711/207 GCT-0 dated 8 Aug.45 in reply to this HQ letter A/052 dated 28 Jul.45.-

"6. Reference your paragraph 8. It is agreed that the CO.RR. should have priority over the rest of the Italian Army for such things as clothing, boots, equipment, transport, etc., and the appropriate steps are being taken to this end."

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

2

3

SFA

381

10748

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

4

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: FREEDOM SIGNED SACRED CITE FRECT
TO : 5TH ARMY
INFO: LISTWO
ALCOM
REF : FX 36237

171104 B

SECRET
EX OIS

REFERENCE YOUR 7771 (.)

1 (.) PRESUME FROM YOUR PARA 1 THAT ALLEGATIONS REGARDING CONDUCT OF THE FOLGORE GRUPPO WHICH HAVE REACHED THIS HEADQUARTERS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY TRUE (.) SUCH A STATE OF UNSATISFACTORY DISCIPLINE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IT IS AGREED THAT MUTUAL RELIEF OF FRIULI AND FOLGORE IS UNDESIRABLE (.) IN VIEW OF PARA 1 OF OUR FX 32362 NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED IN REPLACING FOLGORE GRUPPO BY ALLIED TROOPS AT THIS TIME, SINCE ITALIAN TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO REASSUME RESPONSIBILITY IN SEPTEMBER (.)

2 (.) ALL ITALIAN GRUPPI ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN A FORCE OF 140,000 WHICH WILL BE HANDED BACK TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER (.) AS STATED IN PARA 1 OF OUR FX 32362 IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS HEADQUARTERS TO MAKE THIS FORCE OF 140,000 AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE (.)

3 (.) THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER DIRECTS THAT YOU TAKE ACTION URGENTLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH M M I A, TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF DISCIPLINE IN FOLGORE GRUPPO AND FORWARD ANY FURTHER COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE QUESTION TO THIS HEADQUARTERS

DIST.

SD DISTRIBUTION:
Action: SD/46
Info: SD/43
A
2 (Two)

Info-Action: Land Forces
CA Sec 3
Info: Chief Com.
Ex Com. 2
Pub Safety
File 2
Float

*Ref para 3.
We are always doing
all we can. Wait for
request for 5 army.
WP*

WS

us 17 Aug 45

0730

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Additional
Distribution :

50	H.L.U.	} C.E.O. I (Attached forwarded for your <u>personal</u> information and retention and not to be commu- icated to anyone else.)
51	"	
52	"	
53	"	
56	"	

3347

TRANSLATION.

Subject : Public Order.

H.Q. LIGURIO Gruppo di Combattimento.
01/2477
21 July 45.

HQ 59 Area (through 52 B.L.U.)

The first spiritual reactions to the warning by me to units to hold themselves in readiness along with their other duties for the maintenance of Public Order, confirm in the most evident and significant way the opinions which I expressed personally to Brigadier MATTEWS in our conversation on 16 Jul. 45.

Amongst the men there is a strong discontent over this subject and the officers express grave misgivings as to the way in which the troops themselves may act in the case of public disorder.

Men of all political colours have been gathered together in the Combat Groups - these men have found a common aim in the fight for the liberation of their country. For this ideal they have faithfully done their duty in brotherly concord and have closely collaborated with each other, but now that this aim has been achieved they are of the opinion that they should be released from military duties - as only a small minority of them are in the classes at present bound to serve. The desire for release is even stronger when their military obligations involve a duty towards which - during the present political disorganization of the country - they feel the strongest repugnance.

It can be said that this feeling is common to all without exception. But the problem becomes even more serious due to the presence in the Gruppo of many men who openly belong to extremist parties.

I feel it my duty to bring up this matter once again because I believe it deserves the most serious examination by the Allied authorities and also eventuality by the Italian Government. If blood should flow as a result of the exigencies of internal order, this could have serious repercussions amongst which I want to stress particularly the irreparable fracture of the bonds which are being laboriously re-cast between the Army and the Nation.

SM

The first spiritual reactions to the warning by me to units to hold themselves in readiness along with their other duties for the maintenance of Public Order, confirm in the most evident and significant way the opinions which I expressed personally to Brigadier MARINI in our conversation on 16 Jul 45.

Amongst the men there is a strong discontent over this subject and the officers express grave misgivings as to the way in which the troops themselves may act in the case of public disorder.

Men of all political colours have been gathered together in the Combat Groups - these men have found a common aim in the fight for the liberation of their country. For this ideal they have faithfully done their duty in brotherly concord and have closely collaborated with each other, but now that this aim has been achieved they are of the opinion that they should be released from military duties - as only a small minority of them are in the classes at present bound to serve. The desire for release is even stronger when their military obligations involve a duty towards which - during the present political disorganization of the country - they feel the strongest repugnance.

It can be said that this feeling is common to all without exception. But the problem becomes even more serious due to the presence in the Gruppo of many men who openly belong to extremist parties.

I feel it my duty to bring up this matter once again because I believe it deserves the most serious examination by the Allied authorities and also eventually by the Italian Government. If blood should flow as a result of the exigencies of internal order, this could have serious repercussions amongst which I want to stress particularly the irreparable fracture of the bonds which are being laboriously re-cast between the Army and the Nation.

(Signed) UMBERTO CRILLI.
C.O.C.

/agc

0752

10733

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

SUBJECT :- Deployment of Italian Combat Groups in Aid of the Civil Power ^{SON} & CONFIDENTIAL ①

52 British Liaison Unit,
G/53/190,
23 Jul 45.

209

File A. 052
WR

HQ 59 Area

The attached report on the reactions of this Gruppo to the prospect of carrying out Duties in Aid of the Civil Power is forwarded for information and such action as you may consider necessary.

I am sending a copy to Gen BROWNING, GOC, IMIA and Gen HARES, GOC No 2 District, in compliance with the arrangements made by Senior LO IMIA as the outcome of a recent conference (i.e. this is an addendum to my fortnightly notes).

FIELD
JMD/RE

Lt. Col. [Signature]
Lieutenant-Colonel,
G/O 1 52 BLU.

Copy to :- Major-General L. BROWNING, CB, OBE, MC.
Land Forces Sub Commission AC (IMIA).

Major-General H.A. HARES, OBE, MC.
GOC No 2 DISTRICT

3345

10754

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

TRANSLATION

SUBJECT :- Public Order

HQ LEGNANO Gruppo di Combattimento,
01/2479,
21 Jul 45.

HQ 59 Area (through 52 HCU)

The first spiritual reactions to the warning by me to units to hold themselves in readiness along with their other duties for the maintenance of Public Order, confirm in the most evident and significant way the opinions which I expressed personally to Brigadier MARTENS in our conversation of 16 Jul 45.

Amongst the men there is a strong discontent over this subject and the officers express grave misgivings as to the way in which the troops themselves may act in the case of public disorder.

Men of all political colours have been gathered together in the Combat Groups - these men have found a common aim in the fight for the liberation of their country. For this ideal they have faithfully done their duty in brotherly concord and have closely collaborated with each other, but now that this aim has been achieved they are of the opinion that they should be released from military duties - as only a small minority of them are in the classes at present bound to serve. The desire for release is even stronger when their military obligations involve a duty towards which - during the present political disorganisation of the country - they feel the strongest repugnance.

It can be said that this feeling is common to all without exception. But the problem becomes even more serious due to the presence in the Gruppo of many men who openly belong to extremist parties.

I feel it my duty to bring up this matter once again because I believe it deserves the most serious examination by the Allied authorities and also eventually by the Italian Government. If blood should flow as a result of the exigencies of internal order, this could have serious repercussions amongst which I want to stress particularly the irremediable fracture of the bonds which are being laboriously re-cast between the Army and the Nation.

3344

(Sgd) UMBERTO UTILI

GOC

10 7 5 5