

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

ACC

10000/120/3236

A/052/200

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

10000112013236

A/052/200

Morale+ Reliability (General)

July 1945 Mar. 1946

3344
3388

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

80
SUBJECT : Italian Army - Demob., Pay, Clothing, etc.

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

A 052

2 Mar. '46.

TO : No 3 B.I.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. G. L. 108

Major General

M.M.I.A.

3388

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).

HQ III Terr Comd.
Copy to :
HQ MMIA.

RECEIVED 25 FEB 1946
2144

Ref G/35/26.

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 me.
11/16
26/1

SP

C. F. L. L.

Maj.
G II.

338

Harden ref to an equal
11/16
27/1

Subject: Visits to Italian Units.

CONFIDENTIAL.

HQ 3 British Liaison Unit.

HQ MILIA.

RECEIVED 25 FEB 1946

Ref G/35/26.

22 Feb 46.

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 ~~are 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.
CJO/LCB.

Col A/P Y am
arriving this.

11/10
26/2

Maj.
G II.

Gen (L) 26/2

From: Mr. of 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.

PTD
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.

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

Signed: Officer August

WEEK
H

THE ABOVE ARE QUOTE A MEMBER. IT IS NOT AN ALIEN, A "BOLDEN" BUT A "N/A PROSECUTOR"

MIG

3/1

TACP

3/1

3384



MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

DIREZIONE GENERALE LEVA SOTTUFFICIALI E TRUPPA

Divisione Truppa - Sez. 2^a

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", "Folgore", "Friuli", "Legnano", "Mantova",
Alla Divisione "Pinerolo", (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^o 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. 3900

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 "Pieno" (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 Allesta 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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TRANSLATION

IN	Time	1345
	Date	29/10
OUT	Time	1445
	Date	31/10

p. IL MINISTRO
(Elio Cugusi)

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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

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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 (MM1A) 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

(C) Translatio

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.

2 We forward, for info, copy of the circular 500 issued - dated 638/45 by us.

G. LUZZI.

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.

R. CADORNA.

3380

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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

IL GENERALE ADDETTO
(G. Tiuzzi)

Ghiusei

3379



OGGETTO:

Saluto individuale senz'arme,
a capo scoperto.

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'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.

PREMESSA

1. - La presente circolare abroga quanto prescritto dall'« Addestramento della Fanteria » - Volume I - Istruzione Formale (pagg. 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 sopracciglio; la mano sulla stessa linea dell'avambraccio, con la palma volta in basso, le dita unite e tese; braccio 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.

IL CAPO DI STATO ³²⁷⁰MAGGIORE
R. CADORNA

from: M of W 052. Translation (20)
To: Bolzano Terr. HQ ref. 123021/II/1
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) 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
PTO

0099

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

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

C/

0702

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

land from p/c.
41
A1052 (19)

Ref: 8277/103/EC

16 October 1945

SUBJECT: Conduct of Folgore Gruppe

TO : Civil Affairs Section
Land Forces Subcommittee

10

052

1. Reference is made to 585/EC dated 10 September 45 in which Subcommittees 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
AHG
20/10

C. R. BRAYBROOKE

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

MAILED
FILED
D
SD/43
17/10

171500

3370

Subject : FOLGORE Combat Group, BOLZANO.

PERSONAL.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.,
(M.A.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 (intermediate). The war-time G.O.C., RUSCO (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 FIALORSKI should not replace RUSCO, the idea being that FIALORSKI is a steadier Group.
4. Though I personally would not have sent RUSCO to the BOLZANO area originally, I was against replacing it by FIALORSKI and despite a recurrence of the agitation for this change I still am against it for the following reasons:

(a) Lt.Col. TAYLOR, G.O. FOLGORE I.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 Sanio 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) FIALORSKI would in fact be little better

10704

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

2. The inevitable aftermath of war was reaction, resulting in indiscipline on the part of these tough, battle-hardened troops, particularly WEMBO, 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 FRUMI should not replace WOLGORE, the idea being that FRUMI is a steadier group.

4. Though I personally would not have sent WOLGORE to the BOLEANG are originally, I was against replacing it by FRUMI 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. WOLGORE 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 San Gerardo Regts. Strong disciplinary measures have been taken by General PIALOMBI 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) FRUMI would in fact be little better 3374

(iii) the discipline of WOLGORE is on the up-grade 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, WOLGORE are guarding a very large number of dumps.

I agree with the War Ministry.

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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.

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. HENSON
Major, R.A.

original
forwarded to
Exec Comm
Ry 10
2 Oct

33 70

came 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 L. H. HARRIS reports that the behaviour of the Folgore Group does not appear to have improved. Members of the Combat Group continually drive round BELLASO 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 north-dockets are carried, but a form of vehicle permit, now out of date, is usually exhibited.

The days 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 more than one source 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 938 and other troops in the area is solely that of General HARRIS, the senior British officer on the spot. Will you please make this quite clear to General HARRIS and anyone else concerned, and at the same time, instruct General HARRIS to give this matter of discipline his personal attention.

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

Administrative *20*

Copy to: MIA LO BELLASO.

Senior MIA LO M.I. Italy. (your SIGN. A.I. of 21 Sep return).

/acc.

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

4664

A ~~052~~ 052

A0520. FORCE S/C

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

COB/j

G-5: 091.711-1 Italy

SUBJECT: Conduct of Folgore Gruppo

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
APO 394

20 September 1945

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*

chaosman
C. O. BENSON,
Major.

3367

See (13) + (15)

*refers to proposed
right of the Republic
of Albania!*

10718

70500

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

6 898

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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