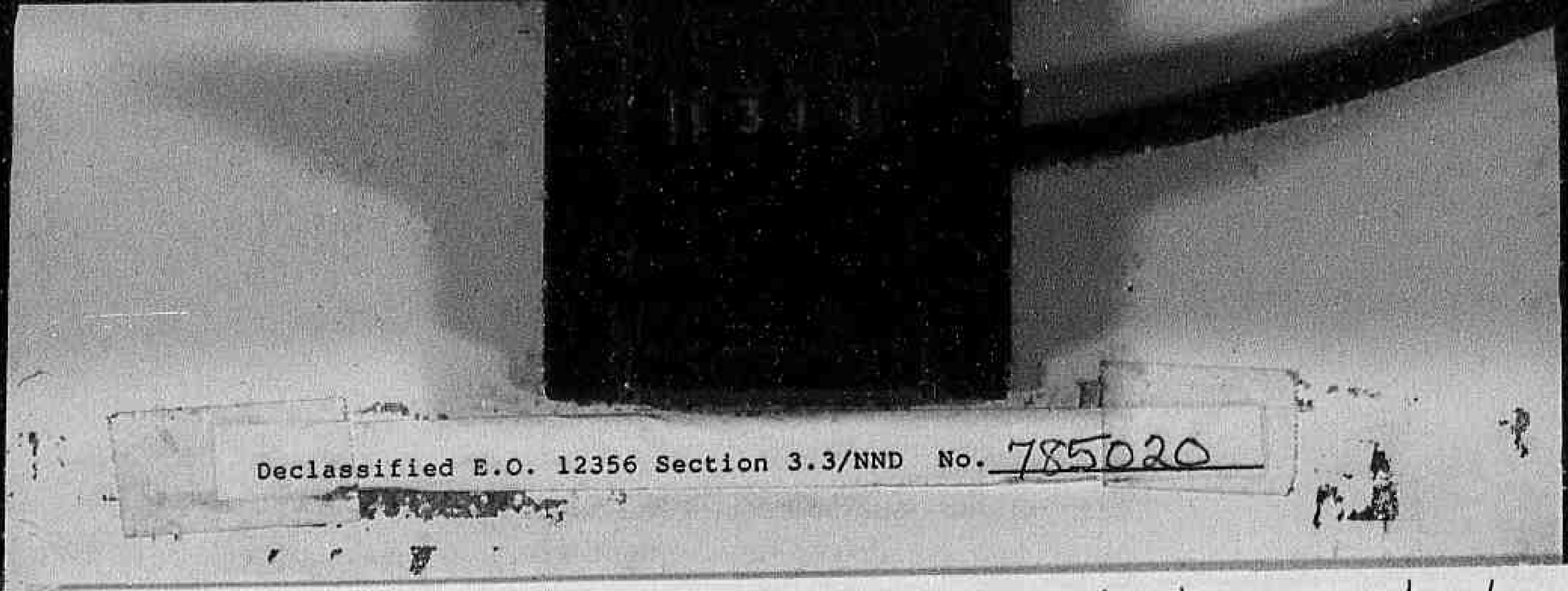


Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ACC

10000/120/3273 A/240/200

Oct. 1944 - Feb. 194

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

10000/120/3273 A/240/200 Morale (5293 5392)

Oct. 1944 - Feb. 1946

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

(33)

RECEIVED 2270 28 FEB 1946 D.A.P.

Subject :- Visit by Generals on board ships carrying P.o.W.

10 British Liaison Unit
Tel. 53623 NAPLES
10 AG

26 Feb 46

240 A.

Land Forces Sub-Comm., AC.,
MMIA, ROME

HQ. Territorial Command, Naples.

1. Ref. attached translation of letter No. 4/897/S.R. dated 22 Feb 46 from HQ. Territorial Command, Naples.

2. May permission please be sought for Italian Officers to visit the P.o.W. on board incoming ships.

M. M. Jaine Major
for Lt-Col.
GS.

CMF
MMD/bb

Blo. 4/3'
N.O.I.C. Captain STRAWBRIDGE R.N.

WO 204 5392

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

COPY

Subject :- Visit by Generals on board ships carrying P.o.w.

HQ. Territorial Command
NAPLES
4/897/S.R.

22 Feb 46

10 BLU

As your Command knows, the next month there will arrive into Naples harbour, with greater frequency than in the past, ships carrying Italian p.o.w.

Among the relief measures taken on behalf of our returning prisoners, one of these which appears to be most appreciated is the visit paid by a high ranking Officer (usually a General) to the incoming ships, intended to bring the greeting of the mother Country to our connationals. Very often the visit is paid by the Commanding Officer of the Territory, Generale Romano, who fulfils this duty.

While in the past the Allied Authorities of the Harbour, and the Commanding Officer of the ships evinced no difficulties in granting our Military Personnel permission to board the ships, in the past two months said permission has been given only fitfully.

In particular :-

- it has been forbidden to board any British Ship.
- such prohibition has been extended to the U.S. Air-Craft carriers "Randolph" "Bataan", "Langley", etc.
- for the merchant Navy the permission has been sometimes granted and sometimes not. Lately it was denied for the ships "Daniel Huger", (12/2) "Alcoa Patriot" (14/2) "Agwi Prince" (15/2) "Marine Carp" (16/2).

This question possesses, for the welfare service connected with the return of the prisoners, a very great importance of a moral character, and it is thought that it should be defined. Therefore we request that you please take necessary action with Allied Authorities so as to obtain a permission for the Italian Officers who go to meet the prisoners of war, to board the ships transporting said prisoners.

(Sgd.) E. GIORDANO, Col.
Chief of Staff

5391

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Translation.

32

From:- M. of W. Ref:-00439/BS

To:- MMIA A240 Date:- 18th. Jan. 46.

Subject:- Condensed report on the morale of the troops (month of November 45).

As per agreement made, enclosed herewith is copy of the condenced report on the morale of the troops, for the month of November 45.

5390

Sgt. Fabre. Sgd. Ferrara.

Translation.

Fro:- M. of W. (Welfare Office) Ref:-00287/BS.

To:- M. of W. (Cabinet)
M. of W. (Under secretary for war)
SMRE

Date:- 14th. Jan. 46.

Subject:- Condenced report on the morale of the troops.- Month of November 45 (1)

The reports made by various Commands on the morale of troops (for the month of November) deal practically with the same subjects as those reported for the month of October.

There are several favourable reports which show how (notwithstanding the numerous difficulties of the moment) the efforts made by the Central Authority and Commands in the area are successful in obtaining improvements.

But, there are also numerous unfavourable reports dealing, mainly, with problems which, notwithstanding the support given by the M. of W and the Government, (example:- discharge premium- increase of the quota for meal improvement- increase of rates of pay) could not be solved on account of the financial situation of the state.

Re the impossibility of granting increased rates of pay and a discharge premium, the Commands have done their best in granting instead, allowances in cases most in need and deserving consideration, using the appropriate funds at their disposal. These funds, however, had to be contained within the limits of the balance.

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Note (1) - the most important of these reports have been, from time to time, forwarded to the Minister at the time of their receipt.

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Contd/Sheet 2.

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All HQs report the necessity of having larger funds meant, at least, for such purpose. In my opinion, I think that the cautious and timely payment of allowances, closely supervised by Mil. Territorial Commands of Large Formations, represent a most efficient mean in their hands, especially in this delicate and difficult position in which the army is at present. And, consequently, it is worth while for the Central Authority to examine the possibility of granting, largely, even if it means to economise on other matters, the requests for funds "assistance and welfare""forwarded by these HQs for the six months period January- June 46.

Hereunder is a resume of favourable and unfavourable matters reported, and requests and proposals forwarded.

Condenced reports made by HQs;	remarks made by the office.

1) Favourable reports.

a) slight improvement in the discipline and the spirit of ORs (Mil. Territ. Commands of Turin, Genova, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Palermo and "Mantova" Div. The other HQs do not report any worst condition);

b) improvement of several welfare and recreation activities, such as: Soldiers' Homes, cinemas, sports, canteens, etc. (Mil. Territ. Commands of Rome, Turin, Milan, Udine, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Bari, Palermo, Central Schools, and "Cremona, "Mantova" and "Folgore" Divisions);

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c) in general, medical conditions are good;	
d) friendly terms with the civilianm population (Mil. Territ. Command of Rome, Turin, Bologna (1), Florence, Palermo and "Cremona and "Legnano" Divisions.);	1) I accept that the city of Forli be declared hostile.

Contd/ Sheet 3.

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e) favourable repercussions on the discharge of class 1920 (Mil. Territ; Command of Palermo, Udine, "Mantova" Div. HQ)

f) completed solution of the problem of transport for Sardinian Military personnel, from Sicily to Sardenia; (Mil. Territ. Command of Palermo)

g) improvements made in accommodation of the Military Central Schools.

h) on the increased publication of the paper " Army News", the most useful article reported is:- "Communiques and dispositions of the M. of W." (Mil. Territ. Command of Bologna): : The press office has been informed.

II) Unfavourable reports:-

a) the soldiers, in general, worry about the return to civil life on being demobed; non existance of a demob premium and disapointment on the difference in treatment existing between the partisans and men of the army (Mil. Territ. Command of Rome, Turin, Milan, Udine, Bologna and "Mantova" and Folgore Divisions) : Re the demob premium, the office has approached the National Insurance Institute in order to examine what possibility exist in setting up an "insurance policy" to be given instead of the premium mentioned above. The institute sees that this, in general, can be done. The Office has interested the Gen. Directorate of Comm. and Admin; to further the study of the question which is not without difficulties.

b) financial difficulties for Officers and NCOs (all Commands)

c) reduction in the rates of pay of the Men (all Commands)

5388

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b) financial difficulties for Officers and NCOs (all Commands)

c) reduction in the rates of pay of the Men (all Commands)

d) insufficiency of funds for the soldiers' welfare and assistance (Mil. Territ. Command of Rome, Genova: Udine, Bologna, Naples, Bari and "Cremona", "Legnano" and "Mantova" Divisions)

5383

these questions have already been noted.

Contd/Sheet No.4.

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e) insufficiency of quota for meals improvement and consequent discontentment (all Commands). The Mil. Territ. Command of Milan proposes to ~~increase~~ bring the quota, at least to 10 lire. HQ Mantova proposes to return on the quota of 20 lire.	
f) insufficiency of soap and tobaco (all commands)	This question is known. The General Directorate of Comm/to has already replied that, for the time being, soap is to be considered sufficient and that it is impossible to increase the ration.
g) the brief leave granted to ORs (the 7 days leave granted every 6 months is considered brief) Mil.Territ Command of Turin and Genova.	The matter has been reported to the Personnel Branch (ORs)
h) insufficiency (existing at present) in the assignment of places in ships sailing from the Mainland to Sardenia (Mil. Territ. Command of Turin, Udine and Florence);	The office approached SMRE on the matter.
i) insufficiency of clothing and equipment (Mil. Territ. Command of Turin, Udine, Naples and Palermo)	The General Directorate of Comm/to and Admin. Services reported that, recently, 2000 sets of clothing have been put at disposal of each Command and this is the best that can be done for the time being. The office informed all Commands concerned (this however, is not sufficient to cover the requirements)
l) insufficiency of bedding articles: (Mil. Territ. Command of Udine, Turin and Palermo)	The a/n Directorate reported that, for the time being, bed sheets must be ~~kept~~ issued (owing to the little availability) only to hospitals and that the troops can only be issued with paillasses. The scale of bedding according to regulations will be issued in the near future.

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m) insufficiency of special food and medecines in hospital especially for those who (such as persons suffering from TB) need special attention (Mil. Territ. Command of Naples);	The matter has been reported by this office to the General Directorate of Medical Services.

Contd/ Sheet 5.

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n) slowness in the settling of correspondance dealing with pensions to be granted by the Treasury.	In order to avoid such slowness, the General Directorate of Comm/to and Admin. Services has ordered the granting of a payment in advance to all those entitled, until Feb.46. In the meantime, the Treasury has been approached in order to hasten the settling of pending questions.

o) "at Genova, while armed bands assault forts and depots, while delinquency exist, soldiers and officers remain disarmed. In a world where many offenders circulate with extra modern arms, the members of the armed forces are not armed and hence exposed to all dangers" (Mil, Territ. Command of Genova, with reference to its letter No.01/562/op dated 31st Oct.45 addressed to this Cabinet)

III) Special requests (not included in para II above)

a) solve the question dealing with the handing over of the premises of the cine-theatre of the Soldiers'Home of Rome (these have been handed over by effect of the ENAL to a private firm)	The Mil. Territ; Command of Rome approached theAvvocatura Erariale on the matter.
b) re-start of the laundry service and its decentralisation (facility to be given to units to employ private firms should this be more convenient from the point of view of finance (Mil. Territ. Comm. of Turin.)	These questions have been reported to the General Directorate of Comm/to and Admin. Services.
c) increase of the pay of barbers which,at present,is ridiculous (0.10 L. per day) (Mil. Territ. Command of Turin)	
d) increase of the"transfer allowance" (Mil. Territ. Command of Turin).	

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c) increase of the pay of barbers which,at present,is ridiculous (0.10 L. per day) (Mil. Territ. Command of Turin)	
d) increase of the"transfer allowance" (Mil. Territ. Command of Turin).	
e) request of funds for the Soldiers' Funds of Milan (M. Territ. Command, Milan):	750000 lire have been granted by this Cabinet.
f) dispatch of mobile canteens of the CAF. (Mil. Territ. Command of Udine, Florence, Naples, and Bologna).	There are three mobile canteens at Bolzano. With these, part of the request can be made good. Later on, it will be required to prepair other mobile canteens as soon as this is possible.

Contd/ Sheet 6

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g) items for mobile canteens (Legnano Division)	The office is making the necessary arrangements, except for items of food because MMIA refused to issue same and the M. of Food has not yet authorised the withdrawals of said items.
h) more copies of the paper "News of the Army" (Mil. Territ. Command of Bologna)	The press office has been informed.
i) assignment of textile and leather for clothing and boots repair. (Mil. Territ. Command of Florence and Palermo)	The Gen. Direct. of Comm/to and Admin. Services has already been approached on the matter. Said Directorate cannot, for the time being, assign the articles demanded.
l) assignment of radios and accordeons (Mil. Territ. Command of Naples, Rome, Turin, Genova, and the Mil. Central Schools)	The office made a note of this and will make good these requests gradually. During the month of Dec., 22 accordeons and 18 radios were distributed.
m) assignment of sports articles: (all Commands)	The office made a note of this and will make good these requests as soon as the sport articles are supplied by MMIA. During the month of Dec.,10 javelins, 10 bowl games, 2 prs of boxing gloves, 4 sets of table tenis,and 42 foot balls complete,have been distributed.
n) assignment of cinema apparatus;	The office has one cinema apparatus ready for the Mil. Territ. Command of Bologna and this will be sent there in the very near future. The requests for 5 projectors (cinema) for the Soldiers'Home cannot be met with (Piceno Div., Mil. Territ. Command of Udine, Florence, and Aosta and Sabauda Divisions)

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i) assignment of textile and leather for clothing and boots repair. (Mil. Territ. Command of Florence and Palermo)	: The Gen. Direct. of Comm/to :and Admin. Services has :already been approached on the :matter. Said Directorate :cannot, for the time being, :assign the articles demanded.
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n) assignment of cinema apparatus;	: The office has one cinema apparatus :ready for the Mil. Territ. Command of :Bologna and this will be sent there in the :very near future. The requests for 5 :projectors (cinema) for the Soldiers'Home :cannot be met with (Piceno Div., Mil. :Territ. Command of Udine, Florence, and :Aosta and Sabauda Divisions) :

1384

IV) Proposals.

a) cancellation ~~or~~ or amendment of the procedure laid down in circular No.21123 dated 22/8/45 issued by the General Directorate of Comm/to and Admin Services and dealing with the payment of articles of clothing (British) by officers of Combat. Groups (Mantova Division):	: This proposal was put :forward to the General :Directorate of Comm/to.

Contd/ Sheet 7.

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b) records amendments, similar to those laid down for patriots (for the period after the 8th. Sept.43, "Mantova" Division);	A reply has already been given by this Cabinet to the HQ concerned (letter No.10813/BS dated 3rd. Jan.46)
c) tackle the problem of accommodation for officers and NCOs using, where possible, ex barracks avoiding that these are handed over to non military organisations ("Mantova" Div);	The question has been reported to the General Directorate of Commissariato.
d) call up in the services of those who were exempted because having brothers pows and who have now returned.	The proposal has already been forwarded to SMRE.
e) permit officers, NCOs and men to carry arms like persons who are not entitled to do so (Mil. Territ. Command of Genova, sends a reminder of letter No. 01/5602/op dated 31st Oct.45, addresses to the M. of W. - Cabinet)	For whatever decisions the Cabinet may take on the matter.

Sgt. Fabre.

Sgd. Arturo FERRARA.

5383

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Sgt. Fabre.

Sgd. Arturo FERRARA.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785080

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

RA/am

Ministero della Guerra
Uff° Benessere del Soldato
alle armi

Roma 19 GEN 1946

Direzione
Prot. N. 00/39 Pos. 85 Allegati

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

Rispettare il dal
Div. Sez. V

OGGETTO Sintesi relezione sul morale relativa al mese di novembre 1945 =

67 A.

Come da accordi, si trasmette copia della sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa, relativa al mese di novembre 1945.=

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

1030
Uffo 24/1

Tip. 10000
25/1

P3 Bis 2/1

5382

ER/am

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle armi

N. 00287/BS di prot.

Roma, lì 14 gennaio 1946

AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA = GABINETTO = S E D E
AL SOTTOSEGRETARIO MILITARE DELLA GUERRA S E D E
AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE R° ESERCITO S E D E

O G G E T T O: Sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa mese di novembre 1945 (1) -

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Le relazioni dei vari Comandi sul morale della truppa, per il mese di novembre, ripetono all'incirca gli stessi "motivi" di quelle relative al mese di ottobre.-

Vi sono alcune segnalazioni favorevoli che dimostrano come, sia pure attraverso alle numerosissime difficoltà del momento, gli sforzi dell'autorità centrale e dei Comandi periferici riescano ad ottenere dei miglioramenti.-

Esistono per contro, numerose segnalazioni sfavorevoli che si riferiscono, la maggior parte, a problemi che, nonostante l'interessamento del Ministero della Guerra e dello stesso Governo (ad esempio: premio di smobilitazione - aumento della quota miglioramento rancio - miglioramenti economici), non hanno potuto essere risolti a causa della situazione finanziaria dello Stato.-

In relazione alla impossibilità di concedere miglioramenti economici, e un premio di smobilitazione, i Comandi hanno cercato di intervenire con sussidi nei casi più disgraziati e meritevoli di maggiore considerazione, usufruendo degli appositi fondi

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N.O T E: (1) le più importanti di tali relazioni sono state man

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AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE Rº ESERCITO S E D E

O G G E T T O: Sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa mese di novembre 1945 (1) -

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./.

NºO T E: (1) le più importanti di tali relazioni sono state man mano poste in visione al Sig.Ministro, al momento del loro arrivo.

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loro concessi, fondi che hanno dovuto però essere contenuti nei limiti della possibilità del bilancio.-

Tutti i Comandi segnalano la necessità di avere maggiori fondi almeno per tale scopo. Per mio conto ritengo che la oculata e tempestiva corresponsione di aiuti, rigorosamente sorvegliata a cura dei C.M.T. di Grandi Unità, rappresenti un efficacissimo mezzo nelle loro mani, specialmente in questa delicata e difficile situazione dell'Esercito, e che per conseguenza valga la pena, per la Autorità Centrale, di esaminare la possibilità di esaudire con spirito di larghezza, e magari facendo sacrifici in altri campi, le richieste di fondi "assistenza e benessere" che i Comandi stessi hanno già inoltrato per il semestre gennaio - giugno c.a.-

Riassumo gli elementi favorevoli e sfavorevoli segnalati e le richieste e proposte inoltrate.

Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'Uffo
I° - ELEMENTI FAVOREVOLI: a)- lieve miglioramento nella disciplina e nello spirito della truppa (C.M.T. di Torino-Genova-Bologna-Firenze-Napoli-Palermo-Divisione "Mantova": i rimanenti Comandi non segnalano peggioramenti); b)- intensificazione delle varie attività assistenziali e ricreative: Case del Soldato - Cinematografi - Sports-cantine ecc. (C.di M.ri T.li di Roma-Torino-Milano-Udine-Bologna-Firenze-Napoli-Bari-Palermo-Scuole Centrali Militari-Div. "Cre-	

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

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'Uff°
I° - <u>ELEMENTI FAVOREVOLI:</u> a)- lieve miglioramento nella disciplina e nello spirito della truppa (C.M.T. di Torino-Genova-Bologna-Firenze-Napoli-Palermo-Divisione "Mantova": i rimanenti Comandi non segnalano peggioramenti); b)- intensificazione delle varie attività assistenziali e ricreative: Case del Soldato - Cinematografi - Sports-cantine ecc. (C.di M.ri T.li di Roma-Torino-Milano-Udine-Bologna-Firenze-Napoli-Bari-Palermo-Scuole Centrali Militari-Div."Cremona"-"Mantova"-"Folgore"); c)- buoni condizioni sanitarie in genere; ././	L380

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d)- buoni rapporti con la popolazione civile (C.M.T. di Roma-Torino-Bologna (1)-Firenze-Palermo-Div.:"Cremona"-"Legnano");

e)- favorevole ripercussione del congedamento della classe 920 dei (C.M.T. di Palermo-Udine-Comando Div."Mantova");

f)- soluzione, già virtualmente avvenuta, del problema del trasporto dei militari sardi della Sicilia alla Sardegna (C.M.T. di Palermo);

g)- miglioramenti avvenuti negli accantonamenti delle Scuole Centrali Militari);

h)- gradimento della pubblicazione "Notiziario dell'Esercito" (C.M.T. di Bologna) di tale giornale viene segnalata assai utile la rubrica - "Comunicati e disposizioni del Ministero della Guerra".

II°) - ELEMENTI SFAVOREVOLI:

a)- preoccupazioni nella massa dei soldati per la sistemazione nella vita civile all'atto del congedo; mancanza di un premio di smobilitazione e disappunto per la sperequazione di trattamento fatto ai partigiani rispetto ai militari dell'Esercito (Comandi M.M.T.T.di Roma-Torino-Milano-Udine-Bologna, divisioni "Mantova"-"Folgore");

(1) accetto per la città di Forlì che viene segnalata ostile.

fatte segnalazioni all'Ufficio Stampa.

Circa il premio di smobilitazione l'Uff° ha presi contatti con l'Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni per esaminare quali possibilità esistono nei riguardi della istituzione di una "polizza" da concedere in luogo del premio predetto.
L'istituto vede la cosa, in linea di massima, fattibile.
L'Uff° ha interessato la Dir. Gen.Affari di Comm.to e Amm. per l'ulteriore studio della questione, che non è scevra di difficoltà.

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Palermo-Udine-Comando Div."Mantova");

f)- soluzione, già virtualmente avvenuta, del problema del trasporto dei militari sardi della Sicilia alla Sardegna (C.M.T. di Palermo);

g)- miglioramenti avvenuti negli accantonamenti delle Scuole Centrali Militari);

h)- gradimento della pubblicazione "Notiziario dell'Esercito" (C.M.T. di Bologna) di tale giornale viene segnalata assai utile la rubrica - "Comunicati e disposizioni del Ministero della Guerra".

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II°) - ELEMENTI SFAVOREVOLI:

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L'Uff° ha interessato la Dir. Gen.Affari di Comm.to e Amm. per l'ulteriore studio della questione, che non è scevra di difficoltà.

b)- difficoltà economiche ufficiali e sottufficiali (tutti i Comandi);

c)- riduzione paghe truppa (tutti i Comandi);

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d)- insufficienza dei fondi per il benessere e l'assistenza (C.di M.ri T.li di Roma-Genova-Udine-Bologna-Napoli-Bari Divisione "Cremona","Legnano","Mantova); — questioni già note.

e)- insufficienza quota miglioramento rancio e conseguente malcontento (tutti i Comandi-).Il C.M.T. di Milano propone di portarla almeno a 10 lire.- Quello della "Mantova ne propone il ripristino a £.20;

f)- insufficienza sapone e tabacco (tutti i Comandi); — questione nota.- La Dir. Gen.Comm.to ha già risposto che per ora il sapone è da considerarsi sufficiente e che non è possibile darne di più.

g)- brevità licenza truppa (la licenza di 7 giorni ogni 6 mesi è ritenuta troppo breve (C.M.T. di Torino-Genova); — segnalata la cosa alla Direzione Gen.Leva Sottuff.li e Truppa.

h)- insufficienza, tuttora persistente,dei posti di imbarco dal continente per la Sardegna (C.M.T. di Torino-Udine-Firenze); — L'Ufficio ne ha informato lo Stato Maggiore Rº Esercito.-

i)- insufficienza vestiario ed equipaggiamento (C.M.T. di Torino-Udine-Napoli-Palermo); — Le Dir.Gen.Serv.Comm.to e Amm.vi ha comunicato che sono state messe recentemente a disposizione di ciascun Comando 2000 serie e che ciò rappresenta per ora il massimo che si possa fare. L'Uffº ne ha informato tutti i Comandi interessati (il provvedimento non è però sufficiente per colmare le necessità).

l)- insufficienza effetti letterecci (C.M. — La Dir.predetta ha comunica

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

ne di portarla almeno a 10 lire.- Quello della "Mantova ne propone il ripristino a £.20;

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questione nota.- La Dir. Gen.Comm.to ha già risposto che per ora il sapone è da considerarsi sufficiente e che non è possibile darne di più.

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L'Ufficio ne ha informato lo Stato Maggiore R° Esercito.-

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l)- insufficienza effetti letterecci (C.M.T. di Udine-Torino-Palermo);

La Dir.predetta ha comunicato che per ora le lenzuola debbono essere riservate, date le scarse disponibilità, ai soli ospedali e che si assicura ai militari dei reparti la sola giacitura

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m)- insufficienza trattamento e medicinali negli ospedali specialmente per coloro che (come i T.B.C.) abbisognano di particolare riguardo (C.M.T. di Napoli);

n)- lentezza delle definizioni delle pratiche di pensione da parte del Tesoro;

con pagliariccio. Il posto letto regolamentare potrà essere distribuito solo in un prossimo avvenire.

E' stata segnalata dall'Ufficio la cosa alla Direzione Generale di Sanità Militare.

Per ovviare a tale lentezza la Dir.Gen.Serv.Comm.to e Amm.vi ha disposto perchè sia concesso a tutti coloro che sono in attesa, fino al febbraio 1946, un'anticipo sulla pensione.
Intanto è stato interessato il Tesoro per l'acceleramento della definizione delle pratiche.-

o)- "" a Genova, mentre bande armate assaltano forti e magazzini, mentre la delinquenza dilaga, soldati e ufficiali restano disarmati. In un mondo dove tutti i numerosi irregolari circolano armati di armi modernissime, i rappresentanti delle forze armate si presentano inermi, posti così alla mercè di ogni prepotente," (C.M.T. di Genova il quale si riferisce al suo 01/562/op del 31 ottobre diretto a codesto Gabinetto"";

III° - RICHIESTE PARTICOLARI: (non comprese nelle segnalazioni di cui al n.II)

a)- Risolvere la questione della restituzione dei locali del cinema-teatro

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Il C.M.T. di Roma ha interessato in proposito l'Avvocatura Erariale.

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ticolare riguarda (C.M.T. di Napoli);

n)- lentezza delle definizioni delle pratiche di pensione da parte del Tesoro;

Per ovviare a tale lentezza la Dir.Gen.Serv.Comm.to e Amm.vi ha disposto perchè sia concessa a tutti coloro che sono in attesa, fino al febbraio 1946, un'anticipo sulla pensione.
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III° - RICHIESTE PARTICOLARI: (non comprese nelle segnalazioni di cui al n.II)

a)- Risolvere la questione della restituzione dei locali del cinema-teatro della Casa del Soldato di Roma (che sono stati ceduti in effetto dell'E.N.A.L. ad una ditta privata);

Il C.M.T. di Roma ha interessato in proposito l'Avvocatura Erariale.

b)- ripristino del servizio bucato e suo

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decentramento (facoltà ai reparti di rivolgersi a ditte private qualora ciò sia più conveniente del sistema in economia (C.M.T. di Torino);	questioni segnalate dall'Ufficio alla Direzione Generale Servizi Comm.to ed Amm.vi.
c)- aumento della quota "barbieri" che ora è irrisoria (£.0,10 per giornata di presenza) (C.M.T. di Torino);	
d)- aumento dell'indennità di trasferta: C.M.T. di Genova;	
e)- richiesta fondi per la Casa del Soldato di Milano (C.M.T. di Milano);	sono state concesse da codesto Gabinetto 750.000 £.
f)- invio cantine mobili del (C.A.F.) (C.M.TT. di Udine-Firenze-Napoli-Bologna);	Esistono 3 cantine in approntamento a Bolzano.Si potrà con queste soddisfare parzialmente le richieste.Occorrerà poi provvedere all'approntamento di nuove cantine man mano che possibile.
g)- generi per cantine mobili (Div.Legnano);	L'Uff° vi sta provvedendo, fatte eccezioni però per i viveri perchè la M.M.I.A. ha revocato tutte le concessioni,e il Ministero della Alimentazione non ha ancora autorizzato i prelevamenti.
h)- maggior numero di copie del "Notiziario dell'Esercito" (C.M.T.di Bologna);	Già informato l'Ufficio Stampa.
i)- assegnazione di filati e cuoio per riparazione vestiario e calzature: C.M.T. di Firenze e Palermo;	E' stata già interessata la Dir.Gen.Serv.Comm.to ed Amm. la quale però non può, per ora, provvedere.
l)- assegnazione apparecchi radio e fisarmoniche: C.di M.ri T.li di Napoli-Roma Torino-Genova-Scuole Centrali Militari;	L'Uff° ne ha preso nota e provvederà gradualmente ad esaudire le richieste? Nel mese di dicembre ha distribuito: n.22 fisarmoniche e 18 apparecchi radio riceventi.

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d)- aumento dell'indennità di trasferta: C.M.T. di Genova;	
e)- richiesta fondi per la Casa del Soldato di Milano (C.M.T. di Milano);	sono state concesse da codesto Gabinetto 750.000 £.
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m)- assegnazione oggetti sportivi (tutti i Comandi);	L'Uff° ne ha preso nota e provvederà ad esaudire le richieste non appena avrà la disponibilità dei noti materiali sportivi ceduti dalla MMIA - Nel mese di dicembre ha distribuito: n.10 giavellotti, n.10 giochi di bocce, n.2p. guanti da pugilato, n.4 tennis da tavolo, n.42 palloni foot-ball (con camera d'aria).
n)- assegnazione cinematografi;	L'Uff° ha in approntamento un cinematografo per il C.M.T. di Bologna che sarà inviato frà giorni. Rimangono inevase le richieste di 5 apparecchi da proiezione per Case del Soldato (Div.Piceno-C.M.T. di Udine-Firenze Div. Aosta e Sabauda).
IV° - PROPOSTE:	
a)- annullamento o modifica del provvedimento di cui alla circ.n.21123 del 22/8/45 delle Dir.Gen.Serv.Comm.to e Amministrativi circa il pagamento oggetti di corredo di foggia inglese da parte degli ufficiali dei Gruppi di Combattimento: Div."Mantova";	La proposte è stata segnalata alla:Direzione Generale di Commissariato.
b)- variazione matricolare, analoga a quella prevista per i patrioti (per il periodo dopo l'8 settembre 1943- Div. "Mantova");	In merito è già stata comunicata al Comando interessato la risposta di codesto Gabinetto (f°n.10813/BS del 3/1/46).
c)- affrontare il problema degli alloggi per ufficiali e sottufficiali utilizzando, quando sarà possibile, la dislo	La questione è stata segnalata alla Direzione Generale di Commissariato.

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	gilato, n.4 tennis da tavolo n.42 palloni foot-ball (con camera d'aria).
n)- assegnazione cinematografi;	L'Uff° ha in approntamento un cinematografo per il C.M.T. di Bologna che sarà inviato frà giorni. Rimangono inevase le richieste di 5 apparecchi da proiezione per Case del Soldato (Div.Piceno-C.M.T. di Udine-Firenze Div. Aosta e Sabauda).
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b)- variazione matricolare, analoga a quella prevista per i patrioti (per il periodo dopo l'8 settembre 1943- Div. "Mantova");	In merito è già stata comunicata al Comando interessato la risposta di codesto Gabinetto (f°n.10813/BS del 3/1/46).
c)- affrontare il problema degli alloggi per ufficiali e sottufficiali utilizzando, quando sarà possibile, la dislocazione di ex caserme impedendo che esse siano passati ad Enti non militari (Div."Mantova");	La questione è stata segnalata alla Direzione Generale di Commissariato.

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d)- richiamo alle armi di coloro che erano stati dispensati perchè aventi fratelli in prigionia che ora sono rientrati;	La proposta è già stata segnalata allo S.M.R.E.-
e)- consentire a ufficiali e sottufficiali e truppa di uscire armati come lo sono gli irregolari (C.M.T. di Genova che richiama il foglio n.01/5502/op del 31 ottobre indirizzato al Ministero Guerra - Gabinetto).=	Per le decisioni di codesto Gabinetto.

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

P. C. C.
L'UFFICIALE ADDETTO
(Ten. Col. A. [illegible] ALOJA)

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3374

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TRANSLATION.

Ref : 09487/B.

From : M of War

Dtd : 13 Nov 45

To : MMIA

Subject : Arguments for the Press.

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Memorandum for Lt.-Col. A.H. Gilmour.

As arranged, we herewith enclose a copy of the letter forwarded to the Press Office.

Colonel,

sgd. Arturo Ferrara.

File 1116 20/1

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Roma, 13 NOV 1945 194

Ministero della Guerra
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle armi

Direzione
Sez.
Fasc. N. 09487/BS.
Allegati

Risposta al foglio
Div. Sez. N.

A

OGGETTO: Argomenti per la stampa.-

Alla LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. MEDIA
ROME

Promemoria per il Sig.Colonnello A.H. Gilmour.

Come da accordi, si acclude in copia l'unito foglio inviato all'ufficio stampa.-

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

TRANSLATION
IN { Time 1600 Date 14/11
OUT { Time 1530 Date 19/11

2. Forwarded for 5372

TRANSLATION

From : M of War -Welfare Office — Ref : 09486/BS

To : Press Office,M of War — Dtd : 13 Nov 45

Subject : Propaganda.

In the Monthly Report on Troops' Morale,dtd 13 Nov 45,the Military Territorial H.Q.,Bologna again places in evidence the difficulties arising from the propaganda made against the Italian Army by the Press,and although recognising the efficacy of the numerous interventions up to the present carried out [redacted] the Press, by the Ministry of War,points out the advisability of intensifying such interventions,bringing to the foreground some arguments especially,as shown on the following extract from the aforesaid report :

"" 10) PRESS. - This H.Q. fully takes into account the efficacy and the results obtained by, the numerous interventions of the M of War [redacted] the Press. However,it is useful to observe how -through a phenomenon too well-known to be a cause of wonder-our free Press seems at present to welcome in great numbers,outrageous articles agaisnt the Italian Army,its officers a nd discipline,submerging,in a defamatory campaign,the ancient traditions and heritage of glory.

In order to beat home their arguments to the unconscious masses, they insist on the sumptuous lives of the lazy "officers"(vide the recent article published in a newspaper,herewith enclosed).

It would now appear to this HQ(and certainly not because of any love of polemics,but only through a desire to re-establish the truth),that it would not be a waste of time to intervene,with objective articles to be published in the independent newspapers,giving publicity to the following -What the Italian Army [redacted] signifies for the Nation's general economy; -What the Military formations (E.G. The Territorial HQ's and the Districts) do to help [redacted]patriates,war-disbled,families of deceased soldiers,prisoners of war and missing personnel;

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out the advisability [illegible]
the foreground some arguments especially,as shown on the following extract from the aforesaid report :

"" 10) PRESS. - this H.Q. fully takes into account the efficacy and the results obtained by,the numerous interventions of the M of War with the Press. However,it is useful to observe how -through a phenomenon too well-known to be a cause of wonder-our Free Press seems at present to welcome in great numbers,outrageous articles againt the Italian Army,its officers a nd discipline,submerging,in a defamatory campaign,the ancient traditions and heritage of glory.

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-What the Italian Army signifies for the Nation's general economy;
-What the Military Formations (E.G. The Territorial HQ's and the Districts) do to help repatriates,war-disbled,families of deceased soldiers,prisoners of war and missing personnel;
-The real emoluments from which officers and NCO's have always benefited (even under the Fascist Regime) and from which they still benefit;
-the true spiritual state of those who,in the Italian Army,serve their country.

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With the above,we do not intend to comprise the complete series of arguments,with which it would be useful to deal,in order to reach the important-if not indispensable-end desired.

It has displeased some,that the newspaper "La Patria" should have ceased publication. We hope therefore that it will be replaced by another periodical equally well informed and turned-out."

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COPY

TRANSLATION

From ITALIA DEL POPOLO

Disbanding the Army.

The Army, the police, and the armed corps are in a state of physical and spiritual dissolution. The Nation, rightfully, detests and despises the old military caste which continues to draw the Government's money and, in the background, to conspire for the restoration of the monarchy in order to recommence that rule of Fascist violence which tortured, defeated and humiliated Italy, robbing her of all her spiritual and economic strength.

Adolfo Omodeo observes that the Esprit de Corps of the Armed Forces is irremediably compromised. Among others, in the Army, there are settling themselves in, officers who are, more or less concealedly, agents of the dynasty. The arrogance (of these so-called a-political strangers to parties) is absurd when one considers that the Government of parties has made the sole mistake of having been too weak towards the instruments of the Fascist Regime, and above all, against those who have corrupted the Armed Forces. Such agents dream of rapidly being employed in police duties and to use their machine-guns and hand-grenades in the squares of Italy. They would like to breathe into the civilian masses, the rage of their shattered hopes, and Omodeo suggests the disbandment "of these old, defeated army -corrupted and corrupter." It is necessary to create new forces, choose new men;

Allessandro Schiavi, quoting an essay by Jean Jaurès, published in 1910, proposes a re-organisation of the Italian Army, making use, for this purpose, of the proletariat blood which should flow in its veins. "If the proletariat and socialist spirit of the workers' masses is insinuated into the army, even power must take into account this mass of armed workers, and it will not be easy, even in tragic circumstances, to persuade these men to give up their lives." A theory, however, elaborated upon in other circumstances and places than Jaurès imagined, ignorant, then, as he was, of the first World War, and of what has happened in Europe during

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

Forces is irremediably compromised. Among others,in the Army,there are settling themselves in,officers who are,more or less concealedly, agents of the dynasty. The arrogance(of these so-called a-political strangers to parties) is absurd when one considers that the Government of parties has made the sole mistake of having been too weak towards the instruments of the Fascist Regime,and above all,against those who have corrupted the Armed Forces. Such agents dream of rapidly being employed in police duties and to use their machine-guns and hand-grenades in the squares of Italy. They would like to breathe into the civilian masses,the rage of their shattered hopes,and Omodeo suggests the disbandment "of these old, defeated army -corrupted and corrupter." It is necessary to create new forces,choose new men;

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Captain Gandolfi,representative of the HQ,Lombardy Region of the Voluntary Corps of Liberty,shares the opinions of Omodeo and affirms that the Italian Army must be disbanded and completely reconstructed along new lines.

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Since 1922, the Army permitted the obscene caricaturing of itself by associating itself with the Fascist Militia; it permitted its supreme commander to be Mussolini; it did not, in the slightest way, fight against the Nation's ruin, a ruin which was foreseen, but passively accepted, for reasons of timidity and gain. The Army is nothing but a Fascist organisation, and even during the "45 days" when alone, it held the Nation's destiny in its hands, it proved itself to be completely inadequate to the situation, refusing to abandon its ambiguous policy of compromise. "It is necessary, then, to disinfect, to clean up, and to burn all that remains of this old organism, if only for love of country."

We are perfectly in agreement with Adolfo Omodeo and with Captain Gandolfi: It is necessary to disband the Army, to discharge the soldiers, to send to their homes, with one clean sweep of the broom - with the exception, naturally of those who must be penalised-all those officers responsible for the Italian disaster, who to-day have a strong foothold in the State, and are motivated by every form of intrigue and monarchical conspiracy, which will serve to bring them back to those times of easy living, to the sanctification of transgression and corruption, to easy advancements for Fascist merits.

In order seriously to purge the Nation of those who have dishonoured, degraded, bled and robbed it, it is necessary to begin in the high places. From the King, first soldier of Fascism, to the generals who blindly served and exalted Fascism, concerned only about their cash and their careers; Marshall Pietro Badoglio, Chief of General Staff of the Italian Army during the Fascist period, the man of the dishonourable aggressions in Abyssinia, France and Greece; Marshall Messe, the man of the Russian campaign and the deplorable resistance in Tunis which cost many Italians their lives, and for which he was awarded a Marshall's baton, the man who, from the bloody steppes of Russia, worried about propitiating the souls of Roberto Farinacci, sending him, telegraphically, his avowal of friendship.

Long is the list of generals and colonels who dishonoured themselves in the most frenzied exaltation of Fascism. And still the guilty

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Long is the list of generals and colonels who dishonoured themselves in the most frenzied exaltation of Fascism. And still the guilty continue to remain at their posts and to constitute a source of new and grave perils, of sinister import to the Nation.

5369

We have, before our eyes, a volume entitled "The Fascist Italian Armed Forces" which ought to make blush, those who participated in its compilation.

This volume, published after the Abyssinian adventure, is composed of a of a collection of studies and documents, compiled and edited by Tommaso Sillani, with a preface by Marshall Badoglio and containing portraits of the King and of cousin Benito.

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The series opens with Marshall Badoglio,who writes: "The idea of Littorial Fascism,grandiose in its simplicity,could not fail to diffuse its light in the military field and bring to it, that contribution of inflexible energy which,irresistibly sprang from it." Alberto Pariano exalts the Duce's geniality. " It is not necessary to stress upon the luminous path traced by the Duce,who since having synthetized the policy of our character with the formula "" live dangerously!"",daily beats,with the powerful hammer of his will an inflexible temper into the metal of this character.

"Love of risk,joy in responsibility,daring to resist,the historic "" Believe,obey and fight"", are all sparks which fly from this hammering of the spirit." And we call our readers' attentions to the outstanding apologies for the Duce ,which in this volume bear the signatures of Vittoria Viscontino,Federico Baistrocchi,Ernesto Ciurlo, Vittorio Giovine,Domenico Cavagnari,Mario Aimone Cat.,Pietro Pinna, Giuseppe Valle;Admirals and Generals of the Navy and the Air Force appear as in a revered vision of dervishes,all dancing aroung the figure of"prodigious genius" and "champion of Fascism" which was the Duce.

This then,was the Fascist Army which precipitated our devastated Nation into the abyss of desperation;this then,is the Army which has remained,with the same,old,corrupted staff,still existing with the possibility of carrying on their policy of easy and uncontrolled enrichment. If the monarchy can,in this way save itself from the condemnation which awaits it,how great then,will be the corruption practiced by the House of Savoy,already permitted in the past,and thus secured for the future?

The Army has been,and still is, the regular vermin run of Italy,and without extirpating it,there can be no cure. And,in order that this plague be eliminated,Italians must be on guard! Those who,yesterday were the cut-throats of Fascism,are,to-day,the advance-guards of reaction. It is necessary that we should hurry ourselves up in purging the Nation

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Some will say:" to sweep away the rubbish may be all very well, but with what shall we substitute the disbanded Italian Army?" We fervently hope that Italy will never again possess an army like that which dishonoured her and led her to ruin.

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Opposed to conscription,we hope that,on a day not far off,the European Federation will guarantee,in all good faith and for all time, peace.

But,until this European unity is realised,we maintain that

P.T.O.

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Italy, in the role of declared permanent neutrality, guaranteed by the Great Powers, must never again, for any motive whatsoever, adventure into warlike enterprises, and that its new, and most reduced army, must be formed of volunteers, along the lines of the Swiss Military Armed Forces.

Certified True Copy.
sgd. Lieut. Col Aloja.

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CA/am

Ministero della Guerra
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle armi

Roma, 3 NOV 1945

Al MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
GABINETTO = Uff.o Stampa
S E D E

Divisione *Sez.* *Allegati* 1
Prot. N. 09/1861/185

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Risposta al Foglio del *Div.* *Sez.* *N.°*

OGGETTO Propaganda.=

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Nella relazione mensile sul morale della truppa, datata 3/11/45, il C.M.T. di Bologna mette ancora in evidenza inconvenienti derivanti dalla propaganda fatta dalla stampa contro l'Esercito e pur riconoscendo l'efficacia dei numerosi interventi sinora eseguiti, sulla stampa, dal Ministero della Guerra, segnala l'opportunità di intensificare tali interventi, mettendo particolarmente in luce alcuni argomenti come risulta dal seguente stralcio della relazione predetta:

*** 10) - Stampa - Questo Comando si rende ben conto dell'efficacia e dei risultati conseguiti dai numerosi interventi del Ministero della Guerra sulla stampa. Tuttavia giova osservare come - per un fenomeno troppo noto per essere motivo di meraviglia, la nostra stampa libera sembra ora ospitare in prevalenza oltreggiosi articoli contro l'Esercito, gli ufficiali e la disciplina, sommergendo in una campagna diffamatoria le vecchie tradizioni e i retaggi di gloria.

Per fare colpo sulle inconsapevoli masse si insiste sulle lauto prebende degli oziosi "ufficiali" (v.ad es. l'articolo di recente pubblicato dal giornale, all.n.1).

Parrebbe ora a questo Comando, e non certo per amore di polemica, ma solo alfine di ristabilire la verità, che non sarebbe superfluo intervenire con obbiettivi articoli da pubblicare sui giornali indipendenti, mettendo in luce:

- che cosa l'Esercito significa per l'economia generale del paese;
- che cose fanno gli Enti militari (ad es. i Comandi Territoriali e i Distretti) a vantaggio dei reduci, mutilati, famiglie di caduti, prigionieri, dispersi;
- quali sono i veri emolumenti di cui hanno sempre goduto (anche sotto il regime fascista) che godono tuttora gli ufficiali e sottufficiali;
- quale sia il vero animo di coloro che servono la Patria nell'Eserci

Con questo, non s'intende esaurire la complessa serie di argomenti che parrebbe utile trattare per il raggiungimento dell'importante -

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Div. Sez. N°

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Con questo, non s'intende esaurire la complessa serie di argomenti che parrebbe utile trattare per il raggiungimento dell'importante - se non indispensabile finalità desiderata.-

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A taluni è;dispiaciuto che il giornale"La Patria"cessasse la sua pubblicazione. Si spera perciò che sia rimpiazzato da altro periodico altrettanto bene informato e confezionato."

Segnalo quanto sopra a codesto ufficio, approvando la proposta del Comando Militare Territoriale di Bologna.-

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

P. C. C.
UFFICIALE ADDETTO
C. Col. A. M. ALOJA

MINISTERO DELLA DIFESA - Ufficio Benessere del soldato alle armi

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COPIA

ITALIA DEL POPOLO

Sciogliere d'Esercito

L'Esercito, la polizia i corpi armati sono in dissoluzione morale e materiale, Il Paese meritatamente detesta e disprezza la vecchia casta militare che continua a percepire il soldo da Governo e congiura nell'ombra per riprendere con la restaurazione della monarchia quel predominio di forze e di violenza littoria che ha torturato, disfatto, annichilito l'Italia in tutte le sue forze economiche e morali.

Adolfo Omodeo osserva che lo spirito di corpo delle forze armate è irrimediabilmente compromesso. Fra i resti dell'Esercito si annidano ufficiali che sono più o meno dissimulatamente gli agenti della dinastia. L'arroganza (di questi così detti apolitici estranei ai partiti") è inverosimile quando si pensi che il Governo dei partiti ha il torto solo di essere stato fiacco contro gli strumenti del regime fascista, soprattutto contro coloro che hanno corrotto le forze armate. Tali agenti;sognano di essere impiegati presto in servizio di polizia e di fare a mitragliate e a bombe a mano per le piazze di Italia. Vorrebbero sfogare nella lotta civile la rabbia della dimostrata incapacità". e l'Omodeo suggerisce lo scioglimento " di questo vecchio esercito disfatto; corrotto e corruttore". Bisogna creare nuove forze,scegliere uomini nuovi.

Allessandro Schiavi, richiamandosi ad uno scritto di Jean Jaurès pubblicato nel 1910 propone un rinnovamento dell'Esercito facendo intervenire alla risoluzione il proletariato che dovrebbe agire dall'interno."Se lo spirito proletario e socialista viene insinuato nell'esercito della massa dei lavoratori, anche il potere deve tener conto di questa massa di lavoratori armata, e non sarà facile che possa servirsene ai sudi corpi, anche nelle situazioni tragiche". Ricetta, comunque, a lunga scadenza, elaborata in ben altre circostanze e in ben altro clima quando Jaurès non poteva tener conto dell'esperienze della prima guerra mondiale e di quando è accaduto in Europa in questi ultimi dieci anni grazie alla nefanda attività degli eserciti di Hitler e Vittorio Emanuele III. In ogni modo prima del rinnovamento si dovrebbe procedere all'allontamento ed alla punizione dei colpevoli. Ma noi sappiamo che cosa voglia dire oggi epurazione e quali miserrimi risultati abbiano dato le diverse commissioni chiamate ad effettuarla.

Il Capitano Gandolfi, rappresentante al Comando Regionale Lombardo del Corpo Volontari della Libertà, condivide il pensiero dell'Omodeo ed afferma che l'Esercito deve essere disciolto e completamente ricostruito su nuove basi? Fino dal 1922 l'esercito ha permesso l'osceno addoppiamento di se stesso affiancandosi alla milizia; ha permesso che il comandante supremo di tutte le forze armate fosse Mussolini, senza minimamente opporsi alla rovina della nazione, rovina prevista e passivamente ac-

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Siamo perfettamente d'accordo con Adolfo Omodeo e col Capitano Gan-

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dolfi. Bisogna sciogliere l'Esercito, congedare i soldati, rimandare a casa, con un buon colpo di scopa - fatta eccezione naturalmente per coloro che dovranno essere incriminati - tutti gli ufficiali responsabili delle sciagure dell'Italia, oggi disperatamente saldati alla greppia dello Stato e accaparrati da ogni forma di intrigo o congiura monarchica che a:loro avviso possa ricondurli ai tempi delle laute prebende, alle sacre delle corruzioni e delle prevaricazioni, ai facili avanzamenti per meriti fascisti.

Per epurare seriamente il Paese dai responsabili che lo hanno disonorato e avvilito, insanguinato e derubato, bisogna cominciare dall'alto. Dal re, primo soldato del fascismo, ai generali che hanno ciecamente servito ed esaltatoil fascismo preoccupati solo del loro soldo e della loro carriera: dal maresciallo Pietro Badoglio Capo di S.M. dell'esercito italiano nel periodo fascista, l'uomo delle inonorate aggressioni, alla Abissinia, alla Francia e alla Grecia; dal Maresciallo Messe, l'uomo della campagna di Russia e delle diluttuosa resistenza di Tunisi che costò la vita a molti italiani, e gli valse per merito fascista il bastone di maresciallo, l'uomo che dalle insanguinate steppe russe si preoccupava di propiziarsi l'animo di Roberto Farinacci attestandogli telegraficamente la sua amicizia.

Lunga è la serie dei generali e dei colonnelli che si disonorarono nella più frenetica esaltazione del fascismo. Eppure i colpevoli continuano a rimanere ai loro posti ed a costituire la fonte dei nuovi imponderabili pericoli, di oscuri lutti con il paese.

Abbiamo sottocchio un volume, "" Le FF.AA dell'Italia Fascista"" che dovrebbe fare arrossire coloro che hanno partecipato alla sua compilazione.

Il volume, pubblicato dopo l'impresa abbissina, è composta da una raccolta di studi e documenti raccolti e ordinati da Tommaso Sillani con prefazione del Maresciallo Badoglio e con ritratti del Re e del eugino Benito.

La serie è aperta del maresciallo Badoglio il quale scrive: "" L'idea del fascismo littorio, grandiosa nella sua semplicità, non poteva mancare di diffondere la sua luce nel campo militare e di portargli quel contributo di energia inflessibile che irresistibilmente ne sprigiona"". Alberto Pariano esalta la genialità del Duce. "" Non occorre che persistere nella luminosa via tracciata dal duce, che dopo aver sintetizzato l'orientamento del nostro carattere nella formula "" Vivere pericolosamente"" giornalmente batte col suo potente martello volitivo per;foggiare questo carattere di una tempra inflessibile.-

Amore del rischio, gioia della responsabilità, osare a durare, lo storico "" Credere, obbedire, e Combattere"", sono tutte forme di questo martellamento dello spirito". E facciamo grazia ai lettori delle risaltate apologie del duce alliniate nel volume con le firme di Vittorio Viscontinè, Federico Baistrocchi, Ernesto Ciurlo, Vittorio Gio

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Questo era l'esercito fascista che ha precipitato il nostro devastato paese negli abbissi della disperazione; questo esercito è rimasto con i quadri putrescanti disposto a tutto pur di conservare posizioni, grati e possibilità di conseguire facili e incontrollati arricchimenti. Che la larga è la via della corruzione e delle prebende

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consentita nel passato dalla monarchia dei Savoia è promessa per l'avvenire, se la monarchia potrà in qualche modo salvarsi dalla condanna che l'attende.

L'esercito è stato ed è un vero verminaio della vita italiana, e risanarlo non si può senza estirparlo. E finchè il bubone non è eliminato, che gli italiani stiano in guardia. Coloro che ieri furono gli sgherri del fascismo oggi sono i lanzichenecchi della rinascente reazione. Bisogna affrettarsi a purgare il paese da questa macchia che lo scura e l'offende, lo esaspera e lo umilia.

Dirà qualcuno: spazzare via le immondizie va bene, ma che cosa si sostituirà al disciolto esercito italiano? Noi speriamo e fervidamente auguriamo che l'Italia non abbia mai più un esercito come quello che disonorò e la condusse a rovina.

Avversi alla coscrizione obbligatoria, speriamo che un giorno non lontano il federalismo europeo valga ad assicurarsi in ogni tempo ed in ogni condingenza la pace.

Ma finchè l'unità europea non sia realizzata non riteniamo che l'Italia, nel quadro di una dichiarata neutralità permanente garantita dalle grandi potenze, non debba mai più per nessun motivo, avventurarsi in imprese belliche e che il suo nuovo, ridottissimo esercito, debba essere formato da volontari e modellato nella Nazione armata sul tipo delle Forze Militari Svizzere.

P. C. C.
IL COLONNELLO CAPO UFFICIO
F.to Umberto Salvatores

P. C. C.
L'UFFICIALE ADDETTO
(Ten.Col.A.M.Aloja)

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA - Ufficio Reduci dei campi

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Dirà qualcuno: spazzare via le immondizie va bene, ma che cosa si sostituirà al disciolto esercito italiano? Noi speriamo e fervidamente auguriamo che l'Italia non abbia mai più un esercito come quello che disonorò e la condusse a rovina.

Avversi alla coscrizione obbligatoria, speriamo che un giorno non lontano il federalismo europeo valga ad assicurarsi in ogni tempo ed in ogni condingenza la pace.

Ma finchè l'unità europea non sia realizzata non riteniamo che l'Italia, nel quadro di una dichiarata neutralità permanente garantita dalle grandi potenze, non debba mai più per nessun motivo, avventurarsi in imprese belliche e che il suo nuovo, ridottissimo esercito, debba essere formato da volontari e modellato della Nazione armata sul tipo delle Forze Militari Svizzere.

P. C. C.
IL COLONNELLO CAPO UFFICIO
F.to Umberto Salvatores

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L'UFFICIALE ADDETTO
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MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA · Ufficio Benessere del soldato

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TRANSLATION

From : M of War

To : MMIA

Ref : 09245/BS

Dtd : 3 Nov 45

Subject : Summaries.

As arranged, we forward herewith, a copy of the summaries of the reports on the Troops' morale for the month of September.

Colonel,
sgd. Arturo Ferrara.

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Roma li 3 Nov. 1945

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Ministero della Guerra
Uff. Benessere del Soldato alle Armi

Numero per Prot. N. 0945/13 Allegati

OGGETTO: Sintesi.

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

Rispettosamente fa Div. Sez. N°

A.

Come da accordi, si trasmette copia sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa relativa al mese di Settembre 1945.

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

TRANSLATION
IN { Time 1045 Date 7/11
OUT { Time 1630 Date 9/11

Translation file
JAS P 7/11 5362

TRANSLATION

From : Welfare Office - War Office
To : Addressees

Ref : 09245/BS
Dtd : 3 Nov 45

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WP

Summary of the Report on Troops' Morale for the Month of September 1945

Summary of the HQs' Reports	Notes of the Office
MORALE - The HQ's are unanimous in the observation that, among the chief detrimental factors influencing the morale of personnel under their Commands, there continues to be noticed the various forms of propaganda which work upon public opinion (especially Press propaganda), thereby upsetting it and making it hostile to the Army.	The Press and the Radio have already done something towards praising the work of some units of the Army during the Campaign of Liberation, but such praise has been inferior to that rendered in favour of the Partisan movement It would, therefore, be advisable, were the Press and the Radio to alternate equitably, propaganda in favour of the Partisan movement with that in favour of the Army.
The recent instructions for the discharging of the more senior classes have also had favourable repercussions upon the junior classes, who, though younger, for a long time, have awaited to return to their own families.	
Some extracts from the reports.	
H.Q. "Folgore" Division:	
"The discharges now going on have partly eliminated men of the most senior classes, and therefore most tired of the military life. It would be necessary that the discharges continue regularly, because deluded hopes would bring about a dangerous counterblow. The discharging of personnel enrolled under proclam-	(1) Refers to the proclamation issued on the 28 Oct 43, regarding the enrollment of volunteers, for the war against the Germans, of the 1910, and younger,

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Some extracts from the reports.

H.Q. "Folgore" Division:

"The discharges now going on have partly eliminated men of the most senior classes, and therefore most tired of the military life. It would be necessary that the discharges continue regularly, because deluded hopes would bring about a dangerous counterblow. The discharging of personnel enrolled under proclamation 8 (1) has provoked much discontentment among soldiers who have not benefited from it, because never disbanded from original units".

(1) Refers to the proclamation issued on the 28 Oct 43, regarding the enrollment of volunteers, for the war against the Germans, of the 1910, and younger, classes. The proclamation stipulates the grant, to all volunteers, mostly originating from disbanded units, of allowances and grants (excluding food rations) for one month, for every three months of service, a grant which is not made to other categories of discharged personnel.

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Summary of the H.Qs' reports	Notes of the Office.
H.Q. "Legnano" Division. "It is true that the discharging of the most senior classes is in progress and that it will proceed regularly until the 1919 class. But there are always under arms, and in very great numbers, soldiers of the 1920 -23 classes, who have from 3 to 5 years of military service, and who ardently desire to return to civil life."	We know.
H.Q. "Mantua" Division. "Fortunately, the discharges of the most senior classes have commenced, from the order of succession of which it is possible to make a forecast as to when each person will finally return to his own home. The contrast, however, has been observed between the slow discharging of the most senior personnel, and the easy, rapid and large discharging of those, even the very young, who come under the many cases stipulated in Circular No. 658." (1)	(1) Circular No. 658 has been cancelled and substituted by Circular No. 609 dtd 7 Oct 45, of the Directorate General, Enlistment of NCO's and men, which refers to the discharging of military personnel under arms who are in particular determined circumstances. (E.G. The following may claim discharge for one of their sons:- Parents (or parent, if only one) who have lost one or more sons in war, whenever the remaining legal sons should, still be in military service; parents (or parent) who have 3 or more sons under arms; soldiers who have no possibility whatsoever of providing for the maintenance of their parents, if the latter are completely dependent upon the son; a father who might have exceeded 65 years of age etc.
an I.T.I affair	
H.Q. 228 DIVISION. "The completed discharging of the 1916 and 1917 classes and the announcement of the discharging, during this	

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a father who might have exceeded 65 years of age etc.

an I.T.I affair

H.Q. 228 DIVISION.

"The completed discharging of the 1916 and 1917 classes and the announcement of the discharging,during this month,of the 1918 and 1919 classes has served to raise the spirits of the troops.
There always remain,however,the general causes of the state of depression in the soldiers' morale.
The defeatist propaganda in the area has been intensified with the affixing to the walls,in many centres,of cyclostyle and printed manifestoes,expressing the rights of self-styled "soldiers' groups" and containing offences against the Monarchy. Such affixations,under the care of elements outside military circles

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Summary of the Hqs' Reports

"tend to incite the troops,who,however in general,notwithstanding other derogatory causes,maintain themselves politically and morally sound."

H.Q. "Mantua" Division.

"The news which appeared in "La Patria" dtd 20-21 September(confirmed by the latest news contained in other newspapers)has created an unfavourable impression among the soldiers. According to this report,the Ministry of Justice would have presented to the Government,an amnesty project for the offences of desertion.
This project is considered as very damaging and unadvisable,by all those who,from the armistice onwards,avoiding the shameful swelling of the ranks of deserters,have remained at their posts of honour and duty,over-coming with all their efforts,the general loss, and giving an admirable example to so many others who were on the point of abandoning the path of duty.
The disastrous moral and material effects of the famous amnesty for desertors of the last war had grave and far-reaching reparcussions,even upon this war,which has already given hundreds of thousands of desertors.
This new amnesty, whatever may be the motives determining it, will certainly have an influence upon the unity and solidarity of those units still left intact,because the repeated and sanctioned impunity of thousands of deserters,could do nothing but provide incentive for further offences. Neither will it be worth while to threaten severe disciplinary measures against absentees in the future,it already having been shown that it is useless to saturate those

Notes of the Office.

Police should stop it.

Cant please everybody.

Still swelling at the rate of 10,000 pr month.

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Even were the project of the amnesty for deserters not to be carried out, or to be applied with some limitations, as the case might be, in view of the recent communications made by the Minister Togliatti to the Council of Ministers, it has not lacked in imprinting upon the minds of the soldiers, the alreday widespread impression that, all too small will be the recognition granted to soldiers of the Italian army who, after the 8 Sep 43, "Voluntarily"

Cont pa

Still reading at the rate of 10,000 pa month.

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Summary of the HQs' Reports	Notes of the Office
(and this is the time and place to use the term,even if,in spite of the proposals made, it is not wished to recognise the fact), contributed towards the liberation of the Nation. SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS BY SOME OF THE HQs.: The financial problems of Officers and NCO's is pointed out by some HQ's. Military Territorial HQ,Genoa. "..... ..the better to define precisely the absurd and offensive treatment to which is submitted a category which also has given so much to the Nation,the two following examples will be sufficient: 1°)-The wage of a sweeper of the Commune of Genoa (married without children) is L.6.257,80. 2°)-"Unità" of the 16 of this month,reprinted the text of the wage agreements reached for the category of textile labourers. From this one learns that a manual labourer,over 18 years of age,draws a monthly wage of L.6.000. For comparison,the monthly wage of a 2/Lt (married without children), is L.5.984. For a regular army Colonel (married without children), it is L.9.383." H.Q. "Mantua"Division: "The Officers and NCO's,especially those in the Regular Army and Emergency Officers, who have no other resources apart from their now all too miserable wages,will they know how to find the strength to fulfill completely their tasks when, with their great preoccupation as to what the near future holds for them(of which,unfortunately, they continue to be ignorant,because no one (1) decides to inform them of it),they no longer know how to resolve the problems of giving the means of living to their families far away,whose conditions now threaten to degenerate into a state of true neediness?" PROPOSALS AND REQUESTS OF THE HQs UNDER COMMAND. The problem of transportation to Sardinia cont-	(1)Instructions-already carried out-have been issued for the circulation,among the units,of information concerning the Army,also through Welfare Officers. The "Notiziario dell' Esercito" is also contributing to this circulation of information. Fixed From the embarkation returns,enclosed with

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ment to which is submitted a category which also has given so much to the Nation, the two following examples will be sufficient:
1°)-The wage of a sweeper of the Commune of Genoa (married without children) is L.6.297,80.
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PROPOSALS AND REQUESTS OF THE HQs UNDER COMMAND.
The problem of transportation to Sardinia continues to concern seriously the HQs interested; these continue to complain that the number of berths placed at their disposal for the sending, on leave, of Sardinian soldiers, does not correspond to the minimum requirements. The Military Territorial HQ, Rome, writes:
"The unsolved difficulty of communications with the island continues to arouse the discontent of Sardinian military personnel.
The number of military personnel who must proceed to Sardinia on leave and also for compassionate reasons and for discharges, is large and grows daily. A solution is necessary: an increase in the number of berths

Fixed

From the embarkation returns, enclosed with Cabinet's Circular No. 221700/II dtd 4 Oct 45, with which are fixed the berths available to military personnel who have to proceed to Sardinia, it appears that there have been assigned, for the whole of the national territory, 1310 berths for the period 16 Oct 45 to 30 Nov 45, equal to about 872 berths monthly. In addition a special voyage

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Summary of the Hqs' Reports	Notes of the Office.
assigned monthly(for the present month: only 32)or else exceptional transit provided by the Italian Navy,when the transportees reach considerable numbers."	has been made;it would be advisable to be able to make others.
Another source of preoccupation to some Hq's is the impossibility of making a second hot meal for troops during the winter period,owing to the recent reduction of the supplementary messing allowance.(1) It is also pointed out by one of the Hqs that an increase,by at least 100 grammes daily,in the pasta ration,would be desirable,if only in substitution of a similar quantity of bread ration. Such an increase would make it possible to cook an evening plate of minestrone.	(1) A matter already decided upon and communicated to the various Formations with the Circular necessary.(Cabinet No. 121200/I dtd 8 Sep 45). Even though this measure might have been taken because of vital financial necessities it is also necessary to bear in mind that same might have considerable repercussions, owing to the continued rise in the cost of living,which makes even more felt such decreases.
The following is always noticed: -The shortage of soap,the monthly ration of which is absolutely insufficient to ~~enable the minimum of personal hygiene indispensible~~ ensure the minimum of essential personal hygiene.	All the Hq's continue to point this out in every report. It would be advisable,were the departments concerned to re-examine,the possibility of an increase in the issue.This office,within the modest limits granted to it,has made special issues of soap to units and hospitals having the most urgent necessity.
-The shortage of items of kit,especially of footwear.	
-The necessity of suitable billets for the forthcoming winter season.	
-The non-payment of the prescribed O.P. grants to all the military personnel who daily reinforce the CC RR in the service of Public Order,carrying out the same tasks and confronting the same dangers.	This office points this matter out to the Directorate Gen. Commissariat and Admin. Services,in order that it might review the matter.

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This office points this matter out to the Directorate Gen. Commissariat and Admin. Services,in order that it might ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ review the matter.

-The advisability of a difference in financial treatment between the units of the Divisions(who have not fixed locations) and the Territorial units.

The proposal seems justified; we should be able to review the possibility of resuming the field allowances (indennità di marcia) which,in the past was made for similar cases.
We also point this matter out to the Directorate Gen. Comm. and Admin. Services,in order that it might review the matte

sgd. Colonel,
Arturo Ferrara.

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MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle Armi

N° 09245 /BS di prot. P.M.3600,11 3 NOV 1945

AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA S E D E

AL SOTTOSEGRETARIO MILITARE ALLA GUERRA S E D E

AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE REGIO E. S E D E

Sintesi delle relazione sul morale della truppa
per il mese di settembre 1945

Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'Ufficio
MORALE: - I Comandi sono concordi nel rilevare come continuino, fra i principali fattori negativi che influiscono sul morale dei dipendenti, ad annoverarsi le varie forme di propaganda (specie quella fatta a mezzo stampa) che agiscono sull'opinione pubblica disorientandola e rendendola ostile all'Esercito.	La stampa e la radio hanno già fatto qualche cosa per esaltare l'opera di alcuni reparti dell'Esercito durante la campagna di liberazione, ma tale esaltazione é stata inferiore a quella fatta nei riguardi del movimento partigiano. Sarebbe perciò opportuno che la stampa e la radio alternassero equamente la propaganda fatta a favore dei partigiani con quella a favore dell'Esercito.

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AL MINISTRO DELLA GUERRA S E D E

AL SOTTOSEGRETARIO MILITARE ALLA GUERRA S E D E

AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE REGIO E. S E D E

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- Le recenti disposizioni per i conge	././.

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazione dell'ufficio
damenti delle classi più anziane hanno invece avuto favorevoli ripercussioni sui militari delle altre classi, che se pure più giovani, da tempo, attendono di ritornare alle proprie famiglie. Alcuni stralci di relazioni: - Comando Divisione "Folgore": "" I congedamenti in corso hanno in parte eliminato gli elementi delle classi più anziane e quindi più stanche della vita militare. Occorrerebbe che i congedamenti continuassero regolarmente perchè le speranze deluse potrebbero portare un contraccolpo pericoloso. Il congedamento del personale arruolato con il bando n.8 (1) ha provocato parecchio malcontento fra i militari che non ne hanno usufruito perchè non sbandati mai"". Comando Divisione "Legnano": "" E' vero che l'invio a casa degli anzianissimi è in atto e procederà regolarmente fino alla classe 1919. Ma	(1) Si tratta del bando uscito il 26/10/1943 e riguardante l'arruolamento volontario, per la guerra contro i tedeschi, degli appartenenti alle classi 1910 e più giovani. Il bando prevede la concessione a tutti i volontari, in gran parte provenienti da reparti sbandati, di un mese di assegni edindennità (razione viveri esclusa) per ogni trimestre di servizio prestato, concessione che non è prevista per le altre categorie di congedati.

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Alcuni stralci di relazioni:

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Comando Divisione "Legnano":

"" E' vero che l'invio a casa degli anzianissimi è in atto e procederà regolarmente fino alla classe 1919. Ma sono sempre alle armi, e molto numerosi, i militari delle classi del 1920 al 1923, che contano dai 3 ai 5 anni di servizio militare e che anelano a ritornare alla vita civile.

(1) Si tratta del bando uscito il 28/10/1943 e riguardante l'arruolamento volontario, per la guerra contro i tedeschi, degli appartenenti alle classi 1910 e più giovani. Il bando prevede la concessione a tutti i volontari, in gran parte provenienti da reparti sbandati, di un mese di assegni edindennità (razione viveri esclusa) per ogni trimestre di servizio prestato, concessione che non è prevista per le altre categorie di congedati.

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazione dell'ufficio
Comando Divisione "Mantova": "" Fortunatamente si sono iniziati i congedamenti delle classi anziane, dal cui ordine di successione è possibile fare una previsione di quando ciascuno potrà finalmente tornare alla propria casa. E' però rilevato il contrasto fra il lento congedamento dei militari più anziani e il facile, rapido e largo congedamento di quelli / anche giovanissimi, che rientrano nei diversi casi previsti dalla circ.n.658""(1)	(1) La circ.n.658 è stata abrogata e sostituita con la circ.n.609 - 7/10/45 della Dir.Gen.Leva Sottuff. e Truppa, che tratta dell'invio in congedo di militari alle armi che si trovano in determinate particolari condizioni. (Es. Possono chiedere l'esonero:- I genitori (o quello di essi vivente) che hanno dato uno o più figli per uno dei figli alla Patria qualora i rimanenti figli validi siano tuttora in servizio militare - i genitori (o quello di essi vivente) che hanno 3 o più figli alle armi;- i militari che sono nell'assoluta impossibilità di provvedere al mantenimento dei genitori se questi vivono di fatto al completo carico del figlio; il padre, che abbia superato il 65° anno di età ecc.)
Comando 228^ Divisione: "" L'avvenuto congedamento della classe 1916 e 1917 e l'annunzio che nel mese in corso verrà effettuato quello delle classi '18 e '19 ha contribuito a migliorare lo spirito della truppa. Sempre rimangono però le cause generali dello stato di depressione del morale del soldato.	

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Comando 226^ Divisione:

"" L'avvenuto congedamento della classe 1916 e 1917 e l'annunzio che nel mese in corso verrà effettuato quello delle classi '18 e '19 ha contribuito a migliorare lo spirito della truppa.

Sempre rimangono però le cause generali dello stato di depressione del morale del soldato.

La propaganda disfattista, in zona, si è accentuata con l'affissione ai muri, di molti centri, di manifestini a ciclostile e a stampa esprimenti rivendicazioni di sedicenti "gruppi di

vio in congedo di militari alle armi che si trovano in determinate particolari condizioni. (Es. Possono chiedere l'esonero per uno dei figli:- i genitori (o quello di essi vivente) che hanno dato uno o più figli alla Patria qualora i rimanenti figli validi siano tuttora in servizio militare - i genitori (o quello di essi vivente) che hanno 3 o più figli alle armi;- i militari che sono nell'assoluta impossibilità di provvedere al mantenimento dei genitori se questi vivono di fatto al completo carico del figlio; il padre, che abbia superato il 65° anno di età ecc.)

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazione dell'ufficio
soldati" e contenenti offese alla Monarchia. Tali affissioni, curate da elementi estranei all'ambiente militare, tendono ad istigare la truppa che però si mantiene, nella generalità e nonostante le cause disgregatrici di altra natura, politicamente e moralmente sana."" Comando Divisione "Mantova": "" Sfavorevole impressione ha prodotto tra i soldati la notizia apparsa sul giornale "La Patria" del 20-21 settembre (confermata da recentissime notizie riportate da altri giornali) secondo cui il Ministro della Giustizia avrebbe presentato al Governo un progetto d'amnistia per reati di diserzione. Il progetto viene considerato assai deleterio ed inopportuno da tutti coloro che dall'armistizio in poi, ad onta del dilagare del fenomeno della diserzione, sono rimasti al loro posto di onore e di dovere superando con ogni sforzo i momenti di generale smarrimento e dando mirabile esempio a tanti al	

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nonostante le cause disgregatrici di altra natura, politicamente e moralmente sana."

Comando Divisione "Mantova":

"" Sfavorevole impressione ha prodotto tra i soldati la notizia apparsa sul giornale "La Patria" del 20-21 settembre (confermata da recentissime notizie riportate da altri giornali) secondo cui il Ministro della Giustizia avrebbe presentato al Governo un progetto d'amnistia per reati di diserzione.

Il progetto viene considerato assai deleterio ed inopportuno da tutti coloro che dall'armistizio in poi, ad onta del dilagare del fenomeno della diserzione, sono rimasti al loro posto di onore e di dovere superando con ogni sforzo i momenti di generale smarrimento e dando mirabile esempio a tanti altri che furono sul punto di abbandonare la via del dovere.

Gli effetti morali e materiali disastrosi della famosa amnistia ai disertori dell'altra guerra avevano fatto sentire

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazione dell'ufficio
gravissime ripercussioni a tanta distanza di tempo, anche su questa guerra che ha già dato centinaia di migliaia di disertori. Questa nuova amnistia, qualunque siano i motivi che la determinano, influirà certamente sulla compattezza e saldezza dei reparti rimasti ancora in piedi, perchè la ripetuta sanzionata impunità di migliaia di disertori non può che dare esca all'aumento di essi. Nè varrà minacciare severe misure penali d'ora in poi per gli assenti arbitrari eventuali nell'avvenire, risultando ormai inutile abbeverare i nostri dipendenti con eterne parole o con inutili minacce come finora si è fatto. Anche se il progetto per l'amnistia ai disertori non venisse attuato, o venisse applicato con alcune limitazioni, come pare, in relazione alle recenti comunicazioni fatte dal Ministro Togliatti al Consiglio dei Ministri, esso non ha mancato di approfondire e radicare negli animi dei soldati la già diffusa impressione che ben scarso sarà il riconoscimento ai militari dell'Esercito che dopo l'8 settembre 1943"volontaria-	5352

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Questa nuova amnistia, qualunque siano i motivi che la determinano, influirà certamente sulla compattezza e saldezza dei reparti rimasti ancora in piedi, perchè la ripetuta sanzionata impunità di migliaia di disertori non può che dare esca all'aumento di essi. Nè varrà minacciare severe misure penali d'ora in poi per gli assenti arbitrari eventuali nell'avvenire, risultando ormai inutile abbeverare i nostri dipendenti con eterne parole o con inutili minacce come finora si è fatto.

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'ufficio
OSSERVAZIONI PARTICOLARI DI ALCUNI COMANDI:	

La preoccupazione economica degli ufficiali e sottufficiali viene fatta presente da alcuni Comandi.

Comando Mil.Terr/le di Genova:

""..... a meglio precisare e definire l'assurdo e offensivo trattamento a cui viene sottoposta una categoria che pure ha tanto dato alla Nazione basteranno i due esempi che seguono:

1°) - Lo stipendio di uno spazzino del Comune di Genova(coniugato senza figli) è di £.6.297,80.

2°) - "l'Unità" del 16 u.s., recava il testo degli accordi salariali raggiunti per la categoria degli operai tessili. Da esso si rileva che un manovale comune, sopra i 18 anni percepisce £.6.000 mensili.

Per contro, lo stipendio di un S/Tenente (coniugato senza figli) è di £.5.984.

Per un Colonnello in s.p.e. (coniugato senza figli) è di £.9.383.""

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Per un Colonnello in s.p.e. (coniugato senza figli) è di £.9.383.""

Comando Divisione "Mantova":

"" Gli ufficiali e sottufficiali, specie quelli in s.p.e. e continuativo, che non hanno altre risorse all'infuori dell'ormai ben misero stipendio,

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'ufficio
sapranno trovare ancora la forma di assolvere in pieno i loro compiti quando, accanto all'assillante preoccupazione per quella che sarà la sorte loro riservata nel prossimo futuro, che purtroppo continuano ad ignorare perchè nessuno si decide a comunicarla ad essi① - non sanno più come risolvere il problema di dare i mezzi di vita alle famiglie lontane, le cui condizioni minacciano di degenerare ora in vera e propria indigenza?""	① Sono già state date disposizioni -già attuate- per la diffusione, fra i reparti, delle notizie interessanti l'Esercito, anche per mezzo di ufficiali addetti al "Benessere". Anche il "Notiziario dell'Esercito" contribuisce a tale diffusione.
PROPOSTE E RICHIESTE DEI COMANDI DIPENDENTI: Il problema dei trasporti per la Sardegna continua a preoccupare in modo particolare i Comandi interessati i quali lamentano che il numero dei posti messi a loro disposizione per l'invio in licenza dei militari sardi non risponde al minimo dell'esigenza. Il Comando Militare Territoriale di Roma scrive: "Continua e si aggrava il malcontento degli elementi sardi per le insolute difficoltà delle comunicazioni con l'isola. Il numero dei militari che	Dagli specchi d'imbarco allegati alla circ.Gab.numero 221700/II del 4/10/45, con cui vengono fissati i posti disponibili dei militari che devono recarsi in Sardegna, risulta che sono stati assegnati, per tutto il territorio nazionale, 1310 posti per il periodo 16/10/45 al 30/11/45, pari a circa 872 posti mensili. Qualche viaggio straordinario è stato inoltre attuato; sareb

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Il Comando Militare Territoriale di Roma scrive:

"Continua e si aggrava il malcontento degli elementi sardi per la insoluta difficoltà delle comunicazioni con l'isola. Il numero dei militari che deve recarsi in Sardegna per licenze, anche per gravi motivi di famiglia e per congedo è notevole ed aumenta ogni giorno. Occorre una soluzione; maggiorazione dei numeri dei posti assegnati mensilmente (per il mese in corso:

sizioni -già attuate- per la diffusione, fra i reparti, delle notizie interessanti l'Esercito, anche per mezzo di ufficiali addetti al "Benessere". Anche il "Notiziario dell'Esercito" contribuisce a tale diffusione.

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'ufficio
solo 32) ovvero transito eccezionale a mezzo natanti della R^ Marina quando i trasportandi raggiungono considerevoli cifre"". Altro elemento che preoccupa alcuni Comandi è l'impossibilità di confezionare un secondo rancio caldo per la truppa durante il periodo invernale, data l'avvenuta riduzione della quota miglioramento rancio.(1) Viene pure fatto presente da qualche comando che sarebbe desiderato un aumento della razione pasta di almeno 100 gr. al giorno, sia pure in sostituzione di uno stesso quantitativo della razione pane. Tale aumento darebbe la possibilità di cucinare un minestrone per la sera. E' sempre molto sentita: - la mancanza del sapone la cui razione mensile è assolutamente insufficiente per mantenere il minimo indispensabile dell'igiene personale (2).	(1) Questione già decisa e comunicata ai vari Enti con apposita circ.(Gab.n.121200/I dall'8/9/45).Per quanto il provvedimento sia stato imposto da ferree necessità di bilancio, pure occorre tener presente che può avere notevole ripercussione data la continua ascesa del costo della vita, che rende sempre più sensibili le decurtazioni. Tale segnalazione viene costantemente ripetuta da tutti i Comandi, in ogni relazione.Sarebbe opportuno che gli organi competenti riesaminassero, se possibile, un aumento delle distribuzioni. Questo ufficio, entro i modesti limiti consentitigli dalle sue possibilità, ha effettuate delle distribuzioni straordinarie di sapone a reparti

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Altro elemento che preoccupa alcuni Comandi è l'impossibilità di confezionare un secondo rancio caldo per la truppa durante il periodo invernale, data l'avvenuta riduzione delle quote miglioramento rancio.(1) Viene pure fatto presente da qualche comando che sarebbe desiderato un aumento della razione pasta di almeno 100 gr. al giorno, sia pure in sostituzione di uno stesso quantitativo della razione pane. Tale aumento darebbe la possibilità di cucinare un minestrone per la sera.

E' sempre molto sentita:

- la mancanza del sapone la cui razione mensile è assolutamente insufficiente per mantenere il minimo indispensabile dell'igiene personale (2).

- la mancanza di capi di corredo, specie di calzature.

- la necessità di alloggiamenti idonei

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi	Considerazioni dell'ufficio
alla stagione invernale a cui si va incontro.	
- la mancata corresponsione della prescritta indennità di O.P. a tutti i militari che giornalmente affiancano i CC.RR. nel servizio di Ordine Pubblico svolgendo lo stesso compito ed affrontando gli stessi pericoli.	L'ufficio segnala tale questione alla Dir.Gen.Serv. Comm.e Amm.vi perché esamini quali possibilità esistano al riguardo.
- la opportunità di una differenza di trattamento economico fra i reparti delle Divisioni (che non hanno sede fissa) e i reparti territoriali.	La proposta sembra giustificata; si potrebbe esaminare la possibilità di ripristinare l'indennità di marcia che nel passato si corrispondeva in simili casi. Anche tale questione viene segnalata alla Dir.Gen.Serv. Comm. e Amm.vi perché la prenda in esame.

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

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ti i militari che giornalmente affiancano i CC.RR. nel servizio di Ordine Pubblico svolgendo lo stesso compito ed affrontando gli stessi pericoli.

- la opportunità di una differenza di trattamento economico fra i reparti delle Divisioni (che non hanno sede fissa) e i reparti territoriali.

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Anche tale questione viene segnalata alla Dir.Gen.Serv. Comm. e Amm.vi perché la prenda in esame.

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

5318

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

(27)

Subject: Italian Army Welfare Funds.

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

A 240

3 Aug '45.

To : MMIA LO, 230 Division,
c/o Florence Command.

Reference your report 230/I9 dated 22 July, '45.

1. The following notes by S/Captain, Welfare, MMIA, reference welfare paras of the above quoted report, are forwarded for your information: -

I. FOnds allocated direct by the welfare office in Rome are divided on an equitable basis.

2. The funds to which this report refers are allotted by the Gabinetto for the relief of necessitous families of wounded and deceased soldiers, and the allocation is still made on a "danger" basis.

3. Brig. Tamassia has recently pointed out to the Gabinetto that the par capita basis would now be more just.

S.P.A. 5347

S.P. ARCHER, Major.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

SPA/ecc

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→ COL. "A"

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3116

A2. Pass this to L.O. 230 Dio
reference his para on welfare
WP

FPA

WD

G
A
Q

Subj: Weekly Report n° 1
(22 July 1945)

MMIA LO 230 Division
c/o FLORENCECommand
Phone: Florence 1393
File 230/19
22 July 1945

To: Land Forces Sub-Comm. (4 copies)
(MMIA)
R O M E

REINFORCEMENTS:

The programme of absorbing some 2000 ex US-ITIS into the Division is going ahaed. By 23 July all 1000 from Leghorn should have been received leaving about 1000 to come from 5 Army. Discharge of 1914 Class should be over soon after latter are received. Generally speaking it is only Guard and Tpt. Units which require to be kept up to strenght. Work for the Pioneers is diminishing.

EX - COOPERATORS:

All Units and dets. in the area have now been taken over. Total numbers about 1000 all ranks. Only three constituted Units with Officers were taken over. Remainders are awkward detachments.

DIV. SUB.- DEPOT:

Stock at moment consists mainly of boots, blankets and returned clothing. Two generous allotments of clothing are however due shortly from Naples. The local Centro Recuperi is still unable to accept returned clothing and we are having to backward to Naples.

The life of repaired boots is found to be very short. Is the Ministry able to lay hands in any form of grease or animal fat to soften them? District will not release dubbin.

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To: Land Forces Sub-Comm. (4 copies)
(MMIA)
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FORMATIONZ AND DISBANDMENT OF UNITS:

1) Personnel for 871 & 872 graves Platoons are being gathered together in Leghorn. In a day or two they will sent to Florence

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for equipping.

II) 61 & 62 Forestry Corp have been disbanded. All Stores have been handed in and the personnel are awaiting disposal at Laterina (Arezzo). They will most;likely be posted to local Engineer Coys.

III)The precise drill to be followed in the case of formations and disbandments still does not appear to be understood by British Area Staffs. Nobody knows exactly who does what; some delay misunderstanding and duplicatbn is frequently the result.

WELFARE:

Gen. Vivalda has expressed concern that his Division should have been allotted only 50.000 Lire for "Assistenza" for the present 3 months period. This paltry sum compares unfavourably with the million lire allotted to each of the combat Cps and the Ada Divs in the North. The effective strength of the Division is approx. 10.000 all ranks (likely to rise to 11.000 very shortly) which is similar to that of the Combat GPS.

This grievance together with the fact that they receive less pay,less soap, fewer cigarettes and a smaller "quota miglioramento rancio" than the men further north has tended to create an impression in the minds of officers and men that they are being discriminated against.

A

Welfare to confirm report

WP

GENERAL AND DOMESTIC:

I have not received a copy of your G/31 of 4 June laying down headings, etc. for reports; meanwhile I hope this is sufficient.

I Have now got a large airing office of my own and am employing a lady secretary. With her assistance and that of a newly acquired typewriter, I hope to be able to keep you better informed.

I am still immobile . The Standard taken over from Col. Egerton has been in workshops for over a fortnight with broken piston rings. On instructions from Capt. Gary I have been had it BLR'd. I have sent Dvr Royds to Rome to wait for a replacement veh.

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Welfare 15 confirm report WP

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Captain
MMIA LO

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(26)

COPY OF TRANSLATION.

From : Ministtty of War. Ref.No. 05818/B.S.

To : M.M.I.A. 14th July 45.

Subject : Women's Auxiliary Corps.

This is in reference to memorandum dated 28th June 1945, of Lt. Gen. Sir R.L. Mc CREEY.

1. The work performed by the "Servizio Femminile Assistenza Militari Italiani" (S.A.F.A.M.I.) (Women's Auxiliary Service of the Italian Army), organised at the request of the 8th Army Command, has been extremely beneficial and is greatly appreciated; may I therefore request that you transmit my sincere thanks to the ladies concerned.

2. A law decree is in the course of promulgation for the organisation of the "Corps Assistanza Femminile"(C.A.F.)(Women's Auxiliary Corps), the only womens auxiliary corps authorised to serve with Italian units; therefore, it is not possible to have C.A.F. absorbed by S.A.F.A.M.I.

3. S.A.F.A.M.I. will be able to continue in existance during 8th Army's stay in Italy, after that, female members of such service may, upon request, join C.A.F. while all others will have to be released.

4. As things stand now, it will be advisable to have both C.A.F. and S.A.F.A.M.I. - however, independantly of each other - under the control of the Soldier Welfare Office of this Ministry.

(Signed) JACINI.

Minister.

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WELFARE

Mandato piano
URGENT.

P.M. 38 C, 1H Luglio 1945 938 2

Ministero della Guerra
UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL
SOLDATO

Al LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
(M.M.I.A.) A.C.
ROMA

Divisione *Sez.*
Prot. N. 0598/18/BS *Allegati*

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. *Sez.* *N.*

OGGETTO Corpo Assistenza Femminile.

Welfare

Riferimento promemoria del 28 Giugno c.a. del Ten.Gen. Sir R.L.Mc Creey.

1) - Il lavoro compiuto dal Servizio Femminile Assistenza Militari Italiani (S.A.F.A.M.I.), costituito per interessamento del Comando 8ª Armata, è stato quanto mai redditizio e molto apprezzato; prego pertanto comunicare alle Signore componenti il gruppo il mio vivo compiacimento.

2) - E' in corso di emanazione un decreto legge per la costituzione del Corpo Assistenza Femminile (C.A.F.), unico corpo di assistenza femminile autorizzato a svolgere attività presso le unità italiane; non è pertanto possibile far assorbire il C.A.F. dal S.A.F.A.M.I.

3) - Il S.A.F.A.M.I. potrà restare in vita sino a quando l'8ª Armata resterà in Italia; dopo di allora le Ausiliarie di detto servizio che lo chiederanno potranno entrare nel C.A.F. mentre le rimanenti dovranno essere lasciate in libertà.

4) - Allo stato attuale delle cose è opportuno che il C.A.F. ed il S.A.F.A.M.I. facciano capo, indipendentemente l'uno dall'altro, all'Ufficio Benessere del Soldato di questo Ministero.

IL MINISTRO

5343

TRANSLATION
IN ... Date 7/7

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1) - Il lavoro compiuto dal Servizio Femminile Assistenza Militari Italiani (S.A.F.A.M.I.), costituito per interessamento del Comando 8ª Armata, è stato quanto mai redditizio e molto apprezzato; prego pertanto comunicare alle Signore componenti il gruppo il mio vivo compiacimento.

2) - E' in corso di emanazione un decreto legge per la costituzione del Corpo Assistenza Femminile (C.A.F.), unico corpo di assistenza femminile autorizzato a svolgere attività presso le unità italiane; non è pertanto possibile far assorbire il C.A.F. dal S.A.F.A.M.I.

3) - Il S.A.F.A.M.I. potrà restare in vita sino a quando l'8ª Armata resterà in Italia; dopo di allora le Ausiliarie di detto servizio che lo chiederanno potranno entrare nel C.A.F. mentre le rimanenti dovranno essere lasciate in libertà.

4) - Allo stato attuale delle cose è opportuno che il C.A.F. ed il S.A.F.A.M.I. facciano capo, indipendentemente l'uno dall'altro, all'Ufficio Benessere del Soldato di questo Ministero.

IL MINISTRO

5343

TRANSLATION

IN { Time 0900 Date 7/7

OUT { Time 15.00 Date 14/7

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

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

(25)

Subject: Welfare.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM A.C.;
(M.M.I.A.) R C M Z
A 240

11 July, '45.

Dear

I write to inform you that, at the special request of Lt. General Sir R. McCREERY, G.O.C., 8 Army, I am personally examining the whole matter of the Special Italian Welfare Service set up by 8 Army and which is of such value.

We consider that the continuance of this Welfare work is as essential for discipline etc. in the Italian Army as has been found to be in other Armies.

I am anxious, therefore, to amalgamate the 8 Army Welfare as above with the Ministry of War Welfare arrangements, so that there may be uniform and single control in this vital branch of military activity.

I will let you know my views further when I have consulted A.F.H.Q.

Yours L. B. ... 5312

COUNT STEFANO JACINI,
Minister for War.



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

(24)

240

R.M.I.A.

05 415

S

· MAINT HQ GEN AREAS

A 2946

RESTRICTED

NR GENERAL HQ CINCSWPA (.) YOUR [illegible] DATED 23 JUNE

MILITARY ATTACHE R.V.S., RECEIVED (.) MAJOR GENERAL, [illegible]

IS NOW OF VITAL AND REAL INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE

Important

5341

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

240 (23)

Subject :- Italian Military - Morale.

Liaison Officer,
Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (MMIA)
c/o HQ., I District
Ref LO/G7

9 June 45.

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

A 1216

5340

I. Attached for your information a copy of a report submitted by British L.O., I75 IPL Coy to 54 Pioneer Group on subject of leave in recently liberated Italy.

Major
MMIA LO., I District.

SPA copy sent to Field Censor 15th A 2 gnp

- C O P Y -

CONFIDENTIAL

I. I have interviewed all men who returned from leave. They report that :

(a) The Carabiniere existed in only 5 of the I7 places to which they went. When they were previously at home, each place had carabiniere.
(b) The non-existance of the Carabiniere in I2 places is attributed to their having been disarmed and disbanded by either the Germans or the Italian Partisians.
(c) There were in their home-towns many men who had deserted to Northern Italy on 8 Sept 43. The authorities had, up to the present, made no effort to recall them for military service as had been done in Southern Italy and Sicily. Some of these absentees stated that they had been partisians.
(d) The general feeling among the civilians in Northern Italy is that now that the war in Europe is ended, there is absolutely no necessity for Italians to continue in the Army. Even amongst the civilians with some sense of duty, the belief, which they openly state, is that all Italian Military personnel will be discharged by, at the latest, the end of June 45.
(e) Attempts were made, principally by the deserters who were at large and persuing a normal undisturded life, to persuade some of the men not to return to their units.

2. It is considered that the main deterrent to a soldier's deserting is his fear of the Italian Army system of denouncing him to the Carabiniere of his home-town. But, in view of the now common knowledge that deserters in Northern Italy have not been apprehended, and are not likely to be for the reasons quoted by the men who have returned from leave, it is felt that only a soldier's sense of duty and hope of a very speedy discharge will induce him to remain with his unit.

3. There is a high degree of feeling in the Company when men with at least 5 years' service go home on leave and see their relations and friends aged 20 and 25 enjoying complete liberty because either they have never been called-up or are deserters who have not been apprehended.

4. If considerable reinforcements could be made available immediately for the discharging of older classes to the maximum,

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

ed to Northern Italy on 8 Sept 43. The authorities had, up to the present, made no effort to recall them for military service as had been done in Southern Italy and Sicily. Some of these absentees stated that they had been partisians.

(d) The general feeling among the civilians in Northern Italy is that now that the war in Europe is ended, there is absolutely no necessity for Italians to continue in the Army. Even amongst the civilians with some sense of duty, the belief, which they openly state, is that all Italian Military personnel will be discharged by, at the latest, the end of June 45.

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3. There is a high degree of feeling in the Company when men with at least 5 years' service go home on leave and see their relations and friends aged 20 and 25 enjoying complete liberty because either they have never been called-up or are deserters who have not been apprehended.

5339

4. If considerable reinforcements could be made available immediately for the discharging of older classes to the maximum, and a steady flow of reinforcements afterwards maintained to enable subsequent classes to be released, bearing in mind the latters length of service, it is probable that desertions would be reduced considerably.

5. It would appear, therefore, that to reduce desertions, maintain an efficient labour force and improve the morale in Italian Pioneer Companies, it is necessary to introduce in recently liberated Italy

(a) an effective system of apprehending deserters and
(b) a call-up of younger classes.

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

(22)

Subject:- Italian Military Postal Service.

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
Q/16
1 June 45.

To:- Ministry of War.

(21)

Reference attached letter Q/16 dated 1 June 45.

1. It is anticipated that approval will be obtained for the War Ministry to operate temporarily the mail delivery service referred to in Appendix "B". It is proposed to allocate transport from No. 3 Special Transport Company.

2. You are requested to complete your plans accordingly and to state when you require the transport to be released.

3. It has been suggested that unnecessary delay is being caused at present by Civil Post Offices despatching all P.M. mail wherever received to Naples for re-direction by P.M. 3400.

Unless you are desirous of some other arrangement, it is suggested you require the Civil Postal Authorities to instruct all concerned that "closed addresses", i.e. letters bearing a P.M. number, will be cleared by the quickest possible means to Sorting Centres as under -

Handed in at any place	Cleared to P.M. at
North of Florence	Bologna
South of Florence	Rome
South of Rome	Naples

4. It is evident that increasing use must be made of the Civilian Postal Services and less reliance placed on Allied Postal Services now that war conditions no longer prevail.

5338

You are requested to prepare an official Instruction explaining the present and immediate future operation of the Military Mail Service and to issue this for the information of all Units in the Army. A copy should be sent to this H.Q.

The instruction should explain how mail is handled -
(a) from soldier to civilian

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

for the War Ministry to [illegible]
delivery service referred to in Appendix "B". It is proposed to allocate transport from No. 3 Special Transport Company.

2. You are requested to complete your plans accordingly and to state when you require the transport to be released.

3. It has been suggested that unnecessary delay is being caused at present by Civil Post Offices despatching all P.M. mail wherever received to Naples for re-direction by A.P.M. 3400.

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Handed in at any place	Cleared to P.M. at
North of Florence	Bologna
South of Florence	Rome
South of Rome	Naples

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The instruction should explain how mail is handled -
(a) from soldier to civilian
(b) from civilian to soldier.

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

M.G.
Com. A.
A. 1°
A. 2°
A. 3°
Med.
Welfare
Provost

Copy:
"A"
S.T.

RAC/fem

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

Subject:- Italian Military Postal Service.

(21)

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
Q/16
/ June, 45.

To: C.G. Fifth Army.
C.G. Fifth Army. (for British Increment)
H.Q. Eighth Army.Rear
H.Q. No. 1 District
H.Q. No. 2 District
H.Q. No. 3 District
All M.M.I.A. L.O's.

1. The future of the Italian Army postal service has been under review and every endeavour has been and is being made to improve the service especially in the North.

2. A list of Italian Post Offices with their present location is given at Appendix "A".

3. The War Ministry are making increasing use of civilian postal facilities which are improving daily. Eventually all Italian Army mail will be absorbed into the normal civil postal communications of the country. The principal handicap to be overcome by the civil postal service is the present lack of transport from East to West in the North and between rail head at Leghorn, Florence and Forli to Genoa, Bologna, Milan and Venice. Furthermore, they are hampered by inadequate transport facilities from Rome to the rail heads referred to above.

4. Meanwhile Allied postal services are utilised to the fullest possible extent in collecting from and delivering to Field Post Offices. Such assistance is, however, limited by the resources of the Allied postal units concerned and any bulk transfer of mail is only permitted at Naples where British and American base Post Offices are situated. The Italian Army has at present no transport available for its own postal delivery service, but as a temporary measure and subject to approval by A.F.H.Q. it is intended to inaugurate a daily delivery service as indicated at Appendix "B". 5337

5. The War Ministry are opening a distributing centre at Bologna and will eventually be operating three principal Army postal centres at Rome, Naples and Bologna.

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

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5337

5. The War Ministry are opening a distributing centre at Bologna and will eventually be operating three principal Army postal centres at Rome, Naples and Bologna.

6. The War Ministry have issued instructions to all units of the Italian Army as to the correct address to be used by the soldier. Where adequate civilian postal facilities are available, no P.M. No. is used, and in the case of static units, no undue delay should occur.

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Units requiring to use a P.M. No. must inevitable suffer when they are moved from one place to another and it is in this connection that close liaison should be maintained between them and the nearest Allied Military Post Office, so that the latter ma, assist where this is possible.

7. Further information on this subject will be notified as soon as the arrangements outlined above have been put into effect.

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

COPY TO: M.M.I.A. "A"

RAC/fem

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

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

COPY TO: M.M.I.A. "A"

RAC/Tem

5336

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

Appendix 'A'.

P.M. No.	Present Location.	Unit Served.
3400	Naples	205 Adm. Div. Base Post Office
3800	Rome	Base Post Office
16	Padova	228 Adm. Div.
30	Messina	SABAUDA Div.
64	Adria (Ferrara Chioggia)	CREMONA Gruppo
72	Palermo	AOSTA Div.
75	Cagliari	CALABRIA Div.
79	S. Giovanni Lupatolo (Bologna)	FRIULI Gruppo.
92	Cesano	RTD ICF
104	Rimini	MANTOVA Gruppo
112	Florence	230 Adm. Div.
114	Bolzano	Territorial HQ
126	Salerno	227 Adm. Div.
127	Leghorn	212 Adm. Div.
146	Villafranca di Verona	FOLGORE Gruppo
155	Milan	LEGNANO Gruppo
167	Lonato (Brescia)	231 Adm. Div.
179	Peschiera (Verona)	210 Adm. Div.
181	Naples	212 Adm. Div.
185	Cesena	209 Adm. Div.
216	Genoa	Territorial HQ
217	Udine	" "
218	Turin	" "
219	Florence	" "

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

5335

72	[illegible]	
75	Cagliari	CALABRIA Div.
79	S. Giovanni Lupatolo (Bologna)	FRIULI Gruppo.
92	Cesano	RTD ICF
104	Rimini	MANTOVA Gruppo
112	Florence	230 Adm. Div.
114	Bolzano	Territorial HQ
126	Salerno	227 Adm. Div.
127	Leghorn	212 Adm. Div.
146	Villafranca di Verona	FOLGORE Gruppo
155	Milan	LEGNANO Gruppo
167	Lonato (Brescia)	231 Adm. Div.
179	Peschiera (Verona)	210 Adm. Div.
181	Naples	212 Adm. Div.
185	Cesena	209 Adm. Div.
216	Genoa	Territorial HQ
217	Udine	" "
218	Turin	" "
219	Florence	" "
225	Bologne	" "
226	Milan	" "

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" " 5335

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

Appendix "B"

FROM BOLOGNA

TO

N.W.		N.E.
Modena	Turin	Ferrara
Ostiglia	Genoa	Rovigo
Nogara	Piacenza	Padova
Verona	Parma	Treviso
Brescia		Udine
Milan		

A 240. (21)

Subject:- Italian Military Postal Services.

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
Q/16
31 May 45.

To:-

A.F.H.Q. for 'Q' (Maint) (6)

Reference is made to the notes of meeting held at A.F.H.Q. and circulated under AFHQ/2410/Q Maint 29 Apr 45.

1. The following difficulties have arisen in connection with the Italian Army Postal Services -

(a) In a desire to speed up the onward despatch of mail, P.M. 3800 has been passing to Allied Post Offices in Rome a greater volume of mail than was originally intended. This has been corrected (see MMIA letter Q/16 dated 26 May, to Ministry of War) but if Naples is to be made the only bulk clearing centre, considerable delay must ensue.

(b) Many of the Italian Field Post Offices have moved up to the North. The link between the Civilian Postal Service in the North and the South is weakened by lack of adequate transport facilities

(i) between Rome and Railhead at Leghorn and/or Florence
(ii) between Rome and Forli
(iii) between Leghorn, Florence and Forli to Genoa, Bologna, Milan and Venice.

Although the War Ministry have been urged to avail themselves of the civil Posts to the fullest possible extent, facilities are at present limited.

2. (a) The Italian Military Postal Authorities intend as soon as possible to operate their own forward daily delivery service as under:-

5338

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

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(a) In a desire to speed up the onward despatch of mail, P.M. 3800 has been passing to Allied Post Offices in Rome a greater volume of mail than was originally intended. This has been corrected (see MMIA letter Q/16 dated 26 May, to Ministry of War) but if Naples is to be made the only bulk clearing centre, considerable delay must ensue.

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Although the War Ministry have been urged to avail themselves of the civil Posts to the fullest possible extent, facilities are at present limited.

2. (a) The Italian Military Postal Authorities intend as soon as possible to operate their own forward daily delivery service as under:-

5333

FROM BOLOGNA

TO

N.W.

Modena
Ostiglia
Nogara
Verona
Brescia
Milan
Turin
Genoa
Piacenza
Parma

N.E.

Ferrara
Rovigo
Padova
Treviso
Udine

Mail	
Col. A.	
A. 1°	
A. 2°	
A. 3°	
Med.	
Welfare	
P	

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(b) The present distribution of P.Ms. is as shown at Appendix 'A'.

(c) It is most desirable that in addition to Naples and Rome, a third distributing centre should be established at Bologna. Censorship difficulties no longer restrict development on these lines, but it is necessary to obtain Allied assistance in conveying mail to and from the distributing centres until such time as the proposal at 2(a) above can be put into effect.

3. May this H.Q. be informed:-

(a) What facilities can be offered the Italian P.Ms. at Rome and Bologna by Allied Postal Units.

(b) If there is any objection to the Italian Army operating the mail delivery service proposed at 2(c) above, when sufficient Italian transport can be made available.

F. J. Noakes

F.J. ~~MOAKES~~ Colonel
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:-

AFHQ (for G1(Br) ref 4336/A4 25 May 45.
CG 15 Army Group
HQ A.C. (for Commn Sub Comm. A.C.)
M.M.I.A. "A"
WAR DIARY (2)

5332

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

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F. J. Noakes

F.J. NOAKES Colonel
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:-

AFHQ (for G1(Br) ref 4336/A4 25 May 45.
CG 15 Army Group
HQ A.C. (for Commn Sub Comm. A.C.)
M.M.I.A. "A"
WAR DIARY (2)

5332

/fem

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

Appendix 'A'.

P.M. No.	Present Location.	Unit Served.
3400	Naples	205 Adm. Div. Base Post Office
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72	Palermo	AOSTA Div.
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217	Udine	" "

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72	Palermo	AOSTA Div.
75	Cagliari	CALABRIA Div.
79	S. Giovanni Lupatolo (Bologna)	FRIULI Gruppo.
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216	Genoa	Territorial HQ
217	Udine	" "
218	Turin	" "
219	Florence	" "
225	Bologna	" "
226	Milan	" "

5331

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

A 240 (29)

Subject: Italian Postal Service.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. M. I. A.) R O M E
Q/16

26 May 1945

To: Ministry of War.

1. As a result of establishing a Censorship Unit in ROME confusion is being caused by the volume of mail now being cleared through PM 3800 (ROME).

This is entirely contrary to what was agreed with the Allied Postal Authorities and unless an immediate remedy is effected may result in the withdrawal of Postal facilities now offered by the Allied Authorities.

2. The original intention of opening a Censorship Unit in ROME, as requested by you, was to avoid the necessity for mail from the North being sent from ROME to NAPLES and back again before delivery in the North.

It is understood that PM 3400 (NAPLES) has ceased dispatching to PM's in the forward area wef 17 May and has notified 15 Base APO (NAPLES) that all the mails for such PM's will be dispatched in future by PM 3800 (ROME).

The Allied Post Offices in ROME are designed to serve only local needs and any large transfer of Italian Military mail for onward delivery must take place at the Base Post offices in NAPLES.

3. It is further reported that contrary to this HQ letter Q/16 of 8 May mail from PM 3800 is being handed in to PO 551 (Br) irrespective of the Allied Command under whom the PM concerned is operating.

4. You are required to take immediate action as under in order to remedy what threatens to be a serious dislocation to the Italian Military Postal Services.

(a) Instruct all concerned that PM 3400 will continue to operate as before and will be the main clearing centre at which Italian Military mail is to be transferred to Allied Post offices.

All bags to be clearly marked PM No.____ "Through U.S. Postal Services" or "Through BRITISH Postal Services".

(b) Instruct forward PM's to make up separate dispatches for

(i) Base Censor 9 (ROME) for delivery ROME and North
and (ii) Base Censor 7 (NAPLES) for delivery South of ROME

5330

Mail necessarily dealt with by PM 3800 will be accepted for delivery by the U.S. PO 790G or the Br PO No. 551 provided the bags are clearly marked as in 4 (a) above.

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

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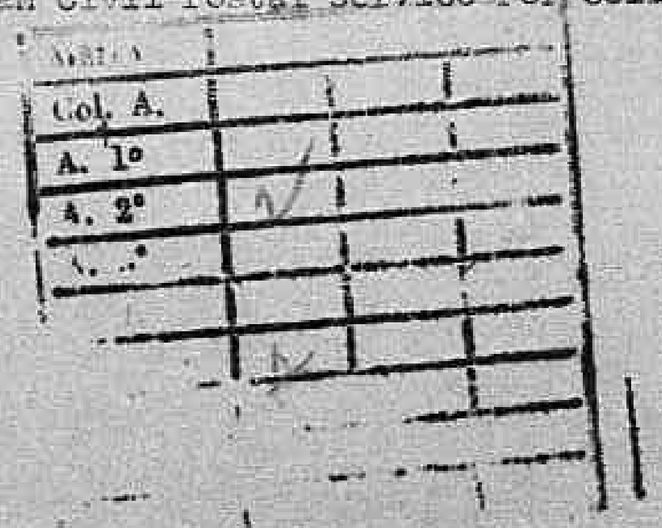
(i) Base Censor 9 (ROME) for delivery ROME and North
and (ii) Base Censor 7 (NAPLES) for delivery South of ROME.

5330

Mail necessarily dealt with by PM 3800 will be accepted for delivery by the U.S. PO 790C or the Br PO No. 551 provided the bags are clearly marked as in 4 (a) above.

(c) Ensure that the correct location of all PM's and the correct designation of the Allied Command under whom serving is reported and communicated to all concerned.

(d) Utilise the Italian Civil Postal service for collection and distribution to maximum extent.



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

5. There is no objection to establishing a PM equivalent to PM 3400 in BOLOGNA but so long as Censorship Control continues it will be necessary for mail from districts North of River PO to be dealt with by Base Censor 9.

Furthermore should the assistance of Allied Postal Services be required in connection with the PM at BOLOGNA prior approval will have to be obtained and you are therefore requested to inform this HQ accordingly.

6. You are required to report not later than 4 June that the distribution of mail from PM 3800 (ROME) through Allied Postal Services has been reduced to the proportions authorised above.

RAC/lc

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

Copy to: AFHQ for Q(Maint).
AFHQ for DD.PS ref P/633 of 25 May 45.
P.O. 551 (Br) ROME for Attention Captain SEALEY.
Chief Base Censor C.M.F. ref CBC/32/2541 of 8 May 45.
9 Base Censor Group ROME for Attention Captain RICHARDS.
Rome Allied Area Command.
HQ A.C. for Communications Sub Commission.
All MMIA LO's.
MMIA "A".

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

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

(19)

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

A240

FROM : 151 Sub Area
TO : MMIA
INFO : PWB MILAN
TURIN
GENOA
VENICE (?)
REF : H 3

261215 B
SECRET
IMPORTANT

FROM HOWARD SLO MMIA (.) I BELIEVE URGENT STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO REMEDY NORTH ITALIAN IGNORANCE OF WAR EFFORT ITAL ARMY AND GRUPPI DI COMBATTIMENTO (.) SUGGEST SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR REPRODUCTION IN LOCAL PAPERS BE SENT BY MMIA DIRECT CAPT ISOLANI PRESS FEATURE SERVICE PWB UNIT 16 WITH REQUEST THAT CAMPAIGN IN FAVOUR OF ITAL ARMY BE INITIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (.) I DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH A CAMPAIGN COULD BE INITIATED QUICKLY THROUGH ITAL CHANNELS (.) ON RECEIPT EDITED OR NON EDITED MATERIAL ISOLANI WILL DISTRIBUTE TO NORTHERN ITALIAN PRESS WITHIN 3 DAYS

SD DISTRIBUTION

Action Copy: G/100
Info : A

see note opposite.

jc/28/5/1945

5329

FROM HOWARD SLO MMIA (.) I BELIEVE URGENT STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO REMEDY NORTH ITALIAN IGNORANCE OF WAR EFFORT ITAL ARMY AND GRUPPI DI COMBATTIMENTO (.) SUGGEST SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR REPRODUCTION IN LOCAL PAPERS BE SENT BY MMIA DIRECT CAPT ISOLANI PRESS FEATURE SERVICE PWB UNIT 16 WITH REQUEST THAT CAMPAIGN IN FAVOUR OF ITAL ARMY BE INITIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (.) I DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH A CAMPAIGN COULD BE INITIATED QUICKLY THROUGH ITAL CHANNELS (.) ON RECEIPT EDITED OR NON EDITED MATERIAL ISOLANI WILL DISTRIBUTE TO NORTHERN ITALIAN PRESS WITHIN 3 DAYS

SD DISTRIBUTION

Action Copy: G/100 — see note opposite.
Info : A

jc/28/5/1945

Spoke Pelling — Echange action — SPA

Min.	
Cul. A.	
A. 1°	
A. 2°	
A. 3°	
Med.	
Welfare	
Prov.	

5329

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

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

(18)

Subject : Unfortunate Italian ...

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.G.
M.I.1.A.
R.S.T.O.
A 246.

/3

Dec 44.

To : Ministry of War.

1. It is considered that the Malia Dimas which is at present issued as NCO Service Dimmilias long should be allowed to NCO only for the benefit of Italian troops in NCO Classes.

2. There appears for this change to be considered as NO NCO NOW.

3. The Malia Dimas has been examined and found to be in good working order.

4. NO NCO DAY should apply to U.S.A. AT ; Scotland for a supply of 15 NO Files.

D.H. Weber Capt
for Major General,
M.I.1.A.

/mcg

Copies to : AG 1 Classified.
SIC 1 Unofficial (for Miss Lo)
MI [illegible]
Major [illegible]
Capt [illegible]

5328

INTER OFFICE MINUTE

'A'

MEL/B/2.

To :- "A2"

1. Reference conversation.

2. There is available in Rome at No 1 Reparto Riparazione an efficient mobile cinema.

3. By agreement with DADRE this has been examined by Welfare, Ministry of War who agree that it is in good order.

4. Col "A" has directed that it be allotted to HQ 209 Div for the benefit of Italian troops in No 1 District.

5. Will you direct Ministry of War with a copy to No 1 District to forward the machine to HQ 209 Div.

6. It is suggested that application be made by Welfare 209 Div to PWE within No 1 District for a supply of 35 mm films.

Copy to:- DADRE.

10 May'45.

hgw.

Copies. Q2 REME HQ 1 Div

5327

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

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5. Will you direct Ministry of War with a copy to No 1 District to forward the machine to HQ 209 Div.

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Copy to:- DAD E.

10 May'45.

h JW.

Copies. Q2 RAME HQ 1 Dist HQ 1 Dist for info A Welf.

5327

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

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

(17)

SUBJECT: Welfare Stores.

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

Ministry of War
Ufficio di Benessere.

1. Reference telephone conversation.

2. Will you please arrange for the attached letter of appreciation to be delivered to Signora Mile di Villegrazia.

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

Internal:- "A" Branch.

1436

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

(16)

SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON POSTAL SERVICE. - Ref. A/27/1 of 23 March.

Reports received from the following:-

50 BLU	F. BLU
51 BLU	803. BRD.
52 BLU	804. BRD.
53 BLU	IRD. Orvieto.
56 BLU	

(a) The average time taken for a letter to cover 300 miles would appear to be about 10 days: estimates vary from 4-6 days (F.BLU) to 17 days (53 BLU).

(b) Delivery appears generally to take rather longer from and to areas North of Rome. (Abbruzzi, Lazzio, Tuscanny etc.) this naturally arises from the universal use of 7 Base Censor Group. Deliveries to and from Sicily and Sardinia take longer, one report stating 3 months (IRD Orvieto).

803 BRD states that 25% of mail takes between 30 and 60 days.
804 BRD reports a number of losses in transit and
803 BRD places losses as high as 30%-50% of all mail.
This is not borne out by other reports.

There are complaints about the lack of parcel post. Facilities for Telegrams appear to vary very considerably in different localities.

(c) Most reports suggest the establishment of a more forward Censor Group as being the most practical step to improvement of the service.

52 BLU suggests an air mail service for Sicily and Sardinia.

(The setting up of a base censor detachment in Rome has already been proposed by MMIA to AFHQ)

Suggestions designed to increase the speed and reduce losses include a campaign to insure that soldiers use correct addresses. (1) the inclusion of a military increment in the civilian service, and a general clean up of unit internal postal arrangements. (2)

(15

Subject:- Morale (Private Mail). A/240 MMIA/178/45.

To: M.M.I.A.,
R O M E .

A
18/4

Reference your A/27/1 d/d 23rd March

herewith report called for.

(a) The average time over an average distance of 300 miles is one week or sometimes a fortnight.

(b) Delays in receipt of letters have not been exceptional and there have been no complaints re losses etc..

(c) It would seem that parcel post facilities are not available and no parcels have been received or despatched by soldiers of this depot.
Telegrams are received within 3/4 days.
To improve the services already available, it is suggested that in every civilian post office in large towns, a nucleus of Italian Army personnel be engaged to deal promptly with the despatching and sorting of soldiers' mail.

Field.
C.M.F.
15/4/45.

Major, R.A.,
Commanding British Cadre, 5324
804, Italian Base Reinforcements Depot, TRANI.

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

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

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

A240

MESSAGE FORM

14

FROM MMIA

DATE TIME OF ORIGIN

14 [illegible] B

TO O.C. BR CADRE ITALIAN RFTS DEPOT TRANI

REF NO: A 78

RESTRICTED

REFER MMIA A/27/1 OF 23 MARCH (.) PLEASE EXPEDITE REPORT

PRECEDENCE Important

AUTHENTICATED SP Archive Copy.

11440.

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

(13)

SUBJECT: Italian Welfare Workers.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(L.M.I.A.) ROME.
A/27.
9 Apr'45.

To : HQ 8th Army (Rear) for DA-Q/G.

1. Reference R.42641 of 22 Mar of which a copy was sent to DADMS this HQ for information.

2. The view of the Italian War Ministry is that the details of any such organisation should be co-ordinated with the Italian Red Cross, to whose HQ communications may be sent through this HQ if you wish.

Major General
M. M. I. A.

Internal:- ADMS.
ADAWS.

Subject: Italian Welfare Workers

REAR HQ EIGHTH ARMY, CMF.

R 429. M

22 Mar 45.

DA # QMG

Copy: Col VILLA-NOVA (NUCLEI) 'I' Main Army)
DAIMS MMIA Rome.

1. Reference conversations between Brig Stayner and Brig Cameron, and between Brig Cameron and Col Villa-Nova.

2. It is the medical policy in Eighth Army that British Medical Services should be available to personnel of Italian Combat Gps. In fact the majority of seriously sick and wounded from the Gps find their way into British Medical Units and are evacuated along British channels.

3. The appointment of Italian Welfare Workers to work in British Hospitals would greatly add to the comfort and morale of Italian patients, and would assist the medical staff by acting as interpreters.

4. I suggest therefore, that a pool of four Italian ladies to act as Welfare Workers be found as soon as possible. They would be attached to General Hospitals or CCSs., depending on the line of evacuation and the employment of the Combat Gps. They would be given the same status as Nursing Officers, and if they so desire, may live in the Nursing Officers' mess.

5. Italian ladies of suitable status are available; if you agree I suggest they be called forward as soon as possible.

5321

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

DADMS Main Rear.

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5321

L McSaveney

Brigadier,
D.D.M.S., EIGHTH ARMY.

MS.

M/5/280

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

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

12

Subject WELFARE -PRIVATE MAIL

A 240

802 Italian Base Reinforcement
Depot, ORVIETO
Ref.BI/4/2M.
8 April 45

To;- Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
MMIA

Reference your A/27/1 dated the 23rd. March 45.

1. Herewith report as requested on arrangements for private mail of Italian Soldiers.

JHT/rd

J.H. Tangate Major
Commd. British Cadre, Iti. Rft. Depot 532

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

RECRUITS TRAINING CAMP

A.P.O. 185 6th. April 1945

To:- O.C. British Cadre
Iti. Rft. Depot. ORVIETO

Subject:- POSTAL DUTIES

Reference A/27/1 dated the 23/3/45 from Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C. we inform you that:-

1. The average time for a letter to travel 300 miles is 15 days. Money-orders, express and registered letters take the same time.

2. Delays, postal errors and other inconveniences are:-

(a) The mail coming from Sicily and Sardinia takes about 3 months.
(b) Letters coming from the same locality and posted the same day, sometimes arrive with an interval of 5 or 6 days.
(c) Many letters are lost in transit.

3. My suggestions for a better service are:-

(a) Hasten the Censors work
(b) Forward the mail by rail
(c) Use civilian transport for postal duties.

4. So far no letters have been sent abroad.

Sgd. Ten. Col. PAPADIA Piero

Nº 116 di Prot.

7/ . 45.

E. T. By Bartolucci Luciano 2nd Lt. L.O.

5319

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

( ) 27/L

11

SUBJECT: Press Appeal. A/240

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/M.
8 Apr'45.

Ministry of War
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato.

Copy to:- Ufficio Stampa,
Ministry of War.

1. Attached is an amended draft of the Press Appeal for Welfare Stores for the Soldiers, which has been approved by this HQ.

2. Will you arrange for this to be released to the Italian press. It is not desired that it appear in the "Patria" but it is hoped that it will appear in all other papers throughout the country.

3. For the information of this HQ will you please notify the names of any papers which do not carry the article after release.

4. Instructions should be given to Welfare Officers at Formations to issue formal receipts and to send a letter of thanks to every contributor.

5. They should also be given instructions regarding the rendering of returns so that you may give orders for distribution of stores collected to formations.

5318

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

Internal:- "A". Branch.

PRESS APPEAL.

In the hospitals, the convalescent homes, the camps, barracks, and at the front a book can be a companion and a comfort to the soldier far from his own family.

A football, a pair of boxing gloves, a volleyball, a basket ball, a javelin, a discus, etc. can fill the long exasperatingly monotonous rest hours which may be even more hard than the hours spent under fire or in training.

In training camps, nearly always far from populated centres, without a cinema, without theatres, without cigarettes, deprived of so many other things that make life pleasant, our soldiers like to feel that they are being helped and that they have behind them the solid backing and affection of the nation.

Let us help them!! Let us give them the feeling that the country is behind them, admires them, and sustains them.

So please give what you can. Games, sports equipment, books, anything is welcome; your gift, however small, will help some lonely soldier to keep fit and happy.

You will want to be sure that your contribution really goes to the soldiers. Very well ! Notify the right people, at the Military HQ of one of the towns below, and make certain that it is collected by an officer of the Welfare service accredited for the purpose. He will give you an official receipt.

Dont give it to anyone that asks ! Just send a postcard, or call and it will be collected by a representative of the Ufficio Benessere, soldiers working for soldiers, who will do the rest and ensure that all gifts are distributed to and reach our soldiers.

There is a branch of the Ufficio Benessere at the Military HQ in these towns:

ROME, PALERMO, NAPLES, PERUGIA, FLORENCE,
CAGLIARI, BARI.

- 5317 -

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

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ROME, PALERMO, NAPLES, PERUGIA, FLORENCE,
CAGLIARI, BARI.

F 5317

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

(10)

A/240

SUBJECT : Welfare Morale - Private Mail — 50 Brit Liaison Unit

A/16

HQ ~~MMTA~~
rptd : HQ 10 CORPS

A/914

7 Apr 45

Ref your A/27/1 dated 23 Mar 45, herewith report on effectiveness of the arrangements for private mail of the ITALIAN soldiers.

a) The average time taken by a letter or postcard to cover approx 300 miles is 10 days (minimum 3, maximum 17 days).

b) The longest delays occur with mail from TUSCANY. From enquiries which have been made, it would appear that a percentage of the correspondence does NOT reach addressees. Delays on the whole appear mainly to be due to:

i) Delay on the part of postal officials in forwarding correspondence

and

ii) The forwarding of correspondence to NAPLES for censorship.

c) The following are suggestions for improvement in the mail arrangements

i) That the forwarding of correspondence for censorship be quickened

ii) That a censorship office be formed nearer to the operational tps e.g. Florence.

and

iii) That correspondence be sent from NAPLES direct to each combat gp and so avoid further losses.

CMF
JDL/SYB

J.S. Lutzaffe
Maj
DAA and QMG

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

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

(9)

Subject:- Welfare Morale - Private Mail.

A/240 56 BLU
15 AG
7 Apr 45.

Land Forces Sub Comm AC
MMIA.

A/27/1
9/4

Reference your letter A/27/1 of the 23 Mar, the following observations have been made regarding the postal services both to and from the soldier.

(a) The average time for a letter to reach a soldier's family living within 300 miles of the sender is about 10 - 14 days, while the post from family to soldier takes longer, about 14 - 18 days.

(b) In exceptional cases letters from relatively close at hand (150 miles) take over three weeks to arrive. This is the case from LAZIO and ABRUZZI.

(c) Post from the islands take much longer and post from SARDINIA hardly ever arrives, while that from SICILY takes over a month. This is due to the poor shipping facilities.

(d) It has been suggested that an Air Mail service be initiated between SARDINIA and the Mainland as the major delay occurs on this route while a similar air mail service from SICILY would be appreciated.

(e) The main cause of delay is stated to be on the railway system which is apparently not very fast.

Lt Col,
GS.

In The Field.
PSV/mh.

Copy To:- HQ Combat Group MANTOVA.

5315

27/1 8

Subject : Welfare ; Postal Services. LO/A/4.

52 B.L.U.

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

A/240
5
8/4

Ref your A/27/I of 23 March 45.

1. Average time required for letters to arrive at present location of Legnano Group is as fdlows :-

From Rome and the South, 8-10 days, sometimes 5 days.
From Marche, Umbria & Tuscany 12-15 days, occasionally 20.

Letters from the Group to these places take approximately the same time.

Up to date no losses of mail have been reported.

2. Suggestions for the improvement of the Service.

(a) It will be seen from the above that letters take longer to arrive from nearby areas than from regions further South. This is because mail has to go to the Central A.P.O. Naples (A.P.O. 3400) after having been censored by U.M.C.G.
The Service could be speeded up by sending mail from Marche, Tuscany and Umbria to A.P.O. 3800 at Rome instead of to Naples.

(b) As regards mail from the front to Liberated Italy, delay is due to the fact that it has to pass through Base Censor 7, C.M.F.,Naples. If a similar Base Censor could be established in Central Italy much delay would be avpided.

3. Parcels Post, Telegrams and Money Orders.

(a) Up to the present there is NO provision for the sending of parcels by Military Post. This is probably due to lack of transport.

(b) The telegraph service is working satisfactorily in certain areas. In others, where the service is allowed but is in abeyance owing to bad lines, telegrams are phoned to the provincial centres and proceed from thence by ordinary post.

(c) As regards telegrams to the Group, the suggestion has been made that they are sent to the Florence Post Office, whence they could be collected daily by unit transport.

5314

(d) Money services (Postal Orders, Money Orders and Savings)

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

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(c) As regards telegrams to the Group, the suggestion has been made that they are sent to the Florence Post Office, whence they could be collected daily by unit transport.

5314

(d) Money services (Postal Orders, Money Orders and Savings) are being carried out regularly and satisfactorily.

Major,
M.M.I.A. L.O.

5 April 45.

Copy to : 52 B.L.U.

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

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

7/2

TRANSLATION

From : HQ. " PICENO DIVISION" Ref : 05/ 2229/SSM
To : F. BLU. IRTC. ICF. A240 Dated : 4/4/45
Subject : MORALE ASSISTANCE.

Re your A/9/1/139 dated 26/3

In reply to your queres, following order of questions in your said letter.

A) The average time for a letter to cover 300 miles is between 4-6 days.
B) Generally speaking there are no reports of long delays, losses of mail, or wrongly directed mail, which provoke complaints. In any case, the wrongly directed mail, which is usually verified can be attributed to one of the following causes)-

1) Incomplete addresses furnished by Mil, in their letters.
2) The scarcity ~~of transport means~~, and uncertainty of transport means.
3) Actual War Conditions.

C) For the improvement of the service the following reccomendations will be impressed on the dependent units.

1) That they aquaint the men of the absolute necessity of indicating clearly, in their addresses, their, Regiment, Btn, & Coy, (or corresponding units).
2) To ensure that the personel in charge of the collection and distribution, are very scrupolous in their work.
3) That before mail is returned, and stamped (unknown) meticulous investigations must be carried out in all other units, of the existance or otherwise of the addressee.

The Parcel Post Service is actually suspended,

The Telegraphic service cannot function with normal speed because signals which are received during the day must, for reasons behond our control, be collected and forwarded en block the following morning to the ROME TEL OFFICE.

COL L MALAVASI.

G/D

5313

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

(7/2

SUBJECT :- Welfare Morale - Private Mail

IN

'F' BLU IRTC ICF
Ref AQ/9/1/225

4 Apr 45

LAND FORCES SUB COMM AC (MMIA)

Ref your A/27/1 of 23 Mar 45.

Att is copy of a report from RTC ICF in respect of Italian Private Mail.

AMGG/ell

Lt-Col RA

Internal

File
Float

5312

COPY

COMANDO DIVISIONE "PICENO"
C.A.C.F.I.C
Uff Servizi - Sezione S.M.

Nr. 05/2229/S.S.M di prot P.M. 92 li 4 Aprile 1945

OGGETTO: Assistenza Morale -

- AL "F" BLU - IRTC ICF SEDE
(rff f.A/9/1/139 del 26/3)

e, per conoscenza:

- AL C.A.C.F.I.C. - Ufficio Assistenza - SEDE

Si risponde a quanto richiesto seguendo l'ordine di elencazione del foglio cui ci si riferisce -

a) Il tempo medio impiegato da una lettera su una distnaza di 300 miglia è compreso fra 4 e 6 giorni.

b) Nel complesso non si lamentano ritardi eccezionali, perdite di corrispondenza od altri disguidi che provochino comunque reclami.
Ad ogni modo i disguidi che si verificano quasi sempre sono imputabili:

1) agli indirizzi incompleti forniti dai militare nelle loro corrispondenze;

2) alla scarsità e precarietà dei mezzi di trasporto;

3) alle attuali contingenze di guerra.

c) per il miglioramento del servizio sarà ribadita agli enti dipendenti la raccomandazione:

1) che rendano edotti i propri uomini dell'assoluta necessità che nella indicazione degli indirizzi sia chiaramente precisato: Reggimento; Battaglione (o ente corrispondente), Compagnia (o ente corrispondente), di appartenenza;

2) che invigilino affinchè ritiro e distribuzione della posta sia fatto da personale molto scrupoloso;

3) che prima di restituire la posta con l'annotazione "sconosciuto" si assicurino meticolosamente presso tutti gli altri reparti, dell'esistenza o meno del militare destinatario.

Il servizio dei pacchi postali è attualmente sospeso.
Il servizio telegrafico non può svolgersi con la normale celerità perchè

[211]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785080

Si risponde a quanto richiesto sequendo l'ordine di elencazione del foglio cui ci si riferisce -

a) Il tempo medio impiegato da una lettera su una distnaza di 300 miglia è compreso fra 4 e 6 giorni.

b) Nel complesso non si lamentano ritardi eccezionali, perdite di corrispondenza od altri disguidi che provochino comunque reclami.
Ad ogni modo i disguidi che si verificano quasi sempre sono imputabili:

1) agli indirizzi incompleti forniti dai militare nelle loro corrispondenze;

2) alla scarsità e precarietà dei mezzi di trasporto;

3) alle attuali contingenze di guerra.

c) per il miglioramento del servizio sarà ribadita agli enti dipendenti la raccomandazione:

1) che rendano edotti i propri uomini dell'assoluta necessità che nella indicazione degli indirizzi sia chiaramente precisato: Reggimento; Battaglione (o ente corrispondente), Compagnia (o ente corrispondente), di appartenenza;

2) che invigilino affinchè ritiro e distribuzione della posta sia fatto da personale molto scrupoloso;

3) che prima di restituire la posta con l'annotazione "sconosciuto" si assicurino meticolosamente presso tutti gli altri reparti, dell'esistenza o meno del militare destinatario.

Il servizio dei pacchi postali è attualmente sospeso.
Il servizio telegrafico non può svolgersi con la normale celerità perchè i telegrammi accettati durante la giornata debbono, per ragioni di forza maggiore, essere preventivamente collezionati e poi portati tutti insieme all'ufficio telegrafico di Roma al mattino del giorno successivo.

d'ordine
IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
Colonnello L Malavasi)

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

A/240

7/1

Subject: Welfare - Private Mail.

M.M.I.A. IO
att 53 BLU.

A/5
4 April 45.

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

Ref your A/27/1 of 23 March 45 herewith report as required.

a. The average time taken for a letter from the soldier to his home in Rome is 15 days and 20 days to Naples.
Mail to Sicily and Sardinia takes about a month. The same average times work in the opposite directions.

b. The main cause of delay is apparently censorship at Rome and a bottle neck at Base Censor Naples. There is no delay in the distribution of mail within the Group itself.
Telegrams take about as long as ordinary mail and it would appear that there is no telegram service in operation. Men complain that their relatives pay extra for a service which in fact does not operate. The only telegram service that functions is that of the CC.RR. when sending official requests for compassionate leave from soldiers' families.
There is apparently no parcels service available at all.

c. There is room for improvement in the bottle necks of Rome and Naples and in the speeding up of censorship and delivery. At the moment a man requiring an urgent reply from his family say in Naples must expect to wait about 40 days. From morale point of view speeding up generally is very necessary.

/s/ R. Monies Maj
M.M.I.A. IO

JRM/

DD

Lt/ 19 Cpl

5310

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

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L.R. Morris Maj
M.M.I.A. LO

JRH/

5310

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

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

Subject - Welfare morale - Private Mail

Ref. 5/14/JF.

2 Apr 45

To,
MMLA Rome

Ref your A/27/I of 23 Mar. the following is a report received from Col Musso regarding the working arrangements for the mail of Italian soldiers:-

(a) The average time for a letter sent over a distance of 300 miles is about 15 days.

(b) Approx 25% of the corres suffers a delay of from 30 to 60 days. An average of from 30% to 50% of the corres gets lost - mostly that to and from Northern Italy.

It is suggested that to prevent these troubles it would be necessary to establish an automobile Mail Service to the principal centres in Northern and Southern Italy (twice a week) in which a quick distribution in the different localities could be made. As far as islands are concerned the forwarding of mail depends upon sea or air services.

Col Musso further added that whilst the cause of these delays and losses is not yet determined, he is of the opinion that the following reasons are at any rate contributory factors:-

(a) Communications not yet established in different countries.
(b) Letters kept for a too long a period in the censorship offices.
(c) Neglected service in the various Post Offices.
(d) Movement of troops with change of address and negligence in the Military or civilian services in forwarding corres immediately to the new address

5303

(R.E. GARRETT)
Major, RA
O.C. (Br. Cadre) 803 Italian Base Reft Depot

Field.

A/27/I

(6)

Subject: Welfare Morale - Private Mail. 51 British Liaison Unit.

Q 8.

To:- M.M.I.A.

(5)

Ref your A/27/I dated 23 Mar 45. Herewith information required, as supplied by GRUPPO CREMONA.

(a) Average time for a letter to reach its destination from a distance of 300 miles is 6-7 days.

(b) (i) The greatest delay effects correspondence from Sicily, Sardinia, Umbria and Tuscany.

(ii) A great deal of correspondence has failed to arrive (particularly from Sardinia).

(iii) Some units report that unstamped letters sent by military personnel from the Naples, Taranto and Sardinia districts are being delivered with "postage due" stamps to be paid for by the addressees.

(iv) A considerable amount of mail is received without any kind of date stamp and, therefore, in many cases it is impossible to say exactly how long letters have been in transit.

R Hatch

Major,
DAA & QMG.

Field.
1. Apr 45.
RWH/RH.

5308

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

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Major,
DAA & QMG.

Field.
/. Apr 45.
RWH/RH.

? Registered under [illegible] PH

Col. P.

Do you wish to see these replies as they come in, or do you wish to see them when all have been received?

altogether WP JPA

5308

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

(5)

Subject : Welfare morale - private mail.

Addresses as below

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
A/27/I
2[illegible] March 45.

In order that the effectivness of the arrangements for private mail of the Italian soldiers may be reviewed and considered, will you please forward to this HQ on April the 7th a report showing how the personal arrangements for the Italian soldiers are working both to and from their formations under following headings :-

(a) Average time for a letter over average distance (300 miles)

(b) Exceptional delays, losses or other complaints.

(c) Suggestions for improvement.

together with any remarks regarding parcels, telegrams or outside (liberated Italy) services.

S P Archer Capt.

S.P.ARCHER, Capt.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Distribution :

OC. 50 BLU
" 51 "
" 52 "
" 53 "
" 56 "
" 'F' "
OC Br.Cadre
It. Reinforcements Depot at AFRAGOLA
" " " " " TRANI
" " " " " ORVIETO
for information :'Q'MEDIA
ADAWS "

SPA/fc

5307

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

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" " " " " ORVIETO
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ADAWS "

SPA/fc

5307

See folio 6-7-8-10

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

SUBJECT: Morale and Conditions of Italian Troops.

4

Land Forces Sub Com, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
AQ/27/1
22 November 1944.

To: A.F.H.Q.

copy to: H.Q. AAI.

3

Reference your letter, AG 091.711/201 GCT-O of 14 Nov 1944.

1. (a) In general, the points raised in paragraph 2 of your letter are, I fear, attributable to: -

(i) Misunderstanding or lack of knowledge of Italian Army matters on the part of the Allied officers concerned.

(ii) Failure to utilise properly the Italian H.Q. under command for administrative purposes and the services of the M.M.I.A. LO

(b) All these points have been the constant pre-occupation of M.M.I.A. and the Italian Ministry of War, and the improvement over the Italian Army as a whole has been considerable since the days of chaos early this year. This improvement continues.

2. The letter of the Engineer Section, which was attached as an enclosure to the above quoted letter:

(a) Refers to only about 1% of the Italian Army.
(b) States no facts.
(c) Is based on the report of a comparatively junior Italian officer or on conclusions of Allied officers with local outlook.

3. (a) There is under command of 3 District an Italian Division Headquarters, 227, which has ample powers of discipline, and ample facilities for administration. A further Italian Div H.Q., 230, is being constituted to look after the East side of ITALY. There is also an M.M.I.A. LO at 3 District HQ to explain or deal with any points at issue. All of the points raised in para 2 of the Engineer Section letter could have been solved or explained had reference been made to the proper authority in 3 District.

(b) Action to improve the situation regarding the points raised in para 2 (a), (b) and (c) is the responsibility of 3 District through H.Q. 227 Division, which has long been in existence and was expressly constituted for that purpose. That H.Q. has obviously not been correctly employed.
As regards 2 (d), the terms of service offered to the Italian soldier are entirely a matter for the Italian Government. They cannot be judged by Allied standards. They are dependent on what the already swollen mil-

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

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As regards 2 (d), the terms of service offered to the Italian soldier are entirely a matter for the Italian Government. They cannot be judged by Allied standards. They are dependent on what the already swollen military budget of the bankrupt Italian state can stand, what the terms were in the past, Italian as compared with Allied expectations etc. In fact, the pay has been raised and the Italian soldier is getting a better ration than he ever had before.

4. The recommendations set out in paragraph 3 of the letter of Engineer Section are therefore discussed as a matter of information.

(a) CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

The clothing and equipment of the Italian Army is specified by A.F.H.Q. It is not now possible to maintain the specified scale with Italian Army items supplemented by items turned over by the Allies. Italian soldiers are not clothed according to Allied standards.

contd sheet 2/..

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

4. (a) CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT (Contd.)

- Gas capes are not authorised, except as a loan from Allied stocks, and the procedure for securing such equipment is specified by A.F.H.Q. The only solution for the meagre clothing scale is the donation of more Allied clothing. I am instructed that such a donation is not possible.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.

See paragraph 3 above. It seems that 3 District have not appreciated their responsibility for the Italian troops under their command, nor the proper use of their Italian Div H.Qs. Apparently it has not been realised that, as a corollary to the handing back of liberated ITALY to the Italian Government, the internal control and administration of the Italian Army has been handed over to the Italian Military Authorities, subject to Allied supervision generally. We cannot alter a decision given on a WASHINGTON-LONDON level and "pass the Administration to the British Army."

(c) RATIONS.

This whole question has already been thrashed out and decided on a high level. The ration is prescribed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. It is not the ration recommended by authorities in this theatre. The new single scale ration was put into effect 1 Aug 1944. This ration is a considerable improvement over the former B scale issued. Considering the Allied furnished portion, the Italian portion furnished by the War Ministry, and the portion purchased by the local commanders from the cash allowance made available to them by the Italian Government, the ration is not insufficient. It is possible that the troops are not actually getting the three parts of the ration. This again is a responsibility of command.

(d) TERMS OF SERVICE.

The Italian soldier is paid by the Italian Government. N.A.A.F.I. supplies are not available from Italian sources, and the Allies will not issue from Allied stocks. It is not possible to compare Co-operators with Italian troops, as Co-operators are maintained according to International Law. It is useless to maintain that more pay, more food, more N.A.A.F.I. would improve conditions, unless the Allies are willing to give the additional pay, food, etc., any or all of which the Italian Government will gladly accept.

(e) Here again it cannot have been realised that as a matter of high Allied policy, the Italians are responsible for their own discipline. The whole question of punishment centres, prisons etc., is bound up with the matter of manpower to run these within the limited ceiling. Proper Allied supervision and influence would ensure better discipline. M.M.I.A. is a liaison formation. It is 3 District which commands these troops. Actually, after much discussion, the scale of punishments possible by junior commanders is about to be increased.

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

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(f) and (g) Pertinent A.F.H.Q. orders prescribe the method of removing unsuitable officers. Unfortunately the Italian Army does not have sufficient suitable personnel to meet all demands of the Allies. The best Italian troops are dead P of W or in Northern ITALY. Tradesman, in numbers, just do not exist.

5. (a) A great deal of the above was explained in my AQ/8 of 17 Oct to 3 District (copy to you) and your 6518/Q (Maint) of 16 Oct, in reply to their 527 Q dated 11 Oct.

contd. Sheet 3/...

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

5. (Contd.)

(b) I myself, on a visit to 3 District on 2 November, explained these very points in person to C.E. 3 District. It was clear to me that he did not previously realise the situation, the issues involved or the implications of your various Directives.

(c) Your AG 091.711/169 GCE-O of 16 November will further help to explain. Though there has been delay in the issue of that policy letter, owing to rewrites to meet changing conditions, yet we and other Districts have worked smoothly for months on the procedure outlined generallytherein.

(d) In view of the above, I think the situation is now much clearer in 3 District !

The whole of the comments appear to have arisen out of lack of knowledge of procedure and a false conception of what is or is not possible when dealing with an Italian Army organised out of chaos; from a beaten race never very efficient whose best troops are either dead, P of W or in North ITALY; and in a situation circumscribed by extremely difficult political and economic conditions arising out a devastated, co-belligerent ITALY in particular and the World War in general.

L. Browning

Major General,
M.M.I.A.

tvs.LB.
5.c.

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

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tws.LB.
5.c.

5304

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

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

SECRET

AWK/vmg

S: 24 November 1944

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

SECRET
By Authority of
SACMED
Initials
Date 14 November 1944

AG 091.711/201 GCT-O

SUBJECT: Italian Military Morale

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394
For: Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA)

1. Reference is made to your letter, file AQ/27/1, dated 1 November 1944, addressed to Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy, covering report of CIC Officer, Fifth Army, (SJS/aah), dated 10 October 1944, and memorandum of your Liaison Officer, Fifth Army, (RCV/jad), dated 25 October 1944. Reference is also made to the attached letter from Engineer Section, this headquarters, file ESD/440, dated 1 November 1944.

2. It is considered essential that a solution be found to the problems raised in letter from Engineer Section, file ESD/440, and in particular to those set forth in paragraphs 2 (a), (b), (c), and 3 (b), (e), (f), and (g).

3. It would appear probable that the points raised in paragraph 2 above are largely attributable to the low standard of leadership and keenness shown by Italian junior officers and senior noncommissioned officers. It is requested that an investigation of these problems be instituted and a report rendered to this headquarters upon a suggested solution.

4. With regard to the questions of rations, clothing, equipment and conditions of service in general, it is considered that until these are raised to equal those at present in effect for cooperators, the situation (in spite of any objection which may be raised by the Italian Government on the grounds of their inability to maintain such conditions at a later date) is rather anomalous. Application for any alteration to the scales of rations, clothing and equipment would have to be made to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Your comments and recommendations on this matter are also requested.

By command of General WILSON:

A. W. ROBERTS,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General

1 Incl
Ltr, Engr Sec, AFHQ,
file ESD/440, dtd 1 Nov 44

Copy to:
Hq AAI (w/Incl)

HEADQUARTERS 1 SIGNAL SERVICE 5303 A. C.

SECRET

SECRET

MMIA

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENGINEER SECTION
C.M.F.

COPY

ESD/440

1 Nov. 44

SUBJECT: It:Engr Units forming part of British Artizan Works Coys.

TO : G-3(ORG), AFHQ.

1. After several months experience of the working of the scheme to dilute British Artizan Works Coys by reducing the British personnel and adding an Italian element (a Reperto Lavoratori Artieri Coy), many serious defects have come to light. There is no doubt at all that British Artizan Works Coys so diluted have greatly lost in efficiency, the loss varying in degree with the particular unit. In some cases the Italian element has been useful and is working well but in other cases owing to slackness, ill discipline, and inefficiency, it is true to say that they have been a liability and not an asset. The loss of efficiency was so apparent that it was decided to obtain the views of CsRE and Art Works Coy Cmds, and also to have every unit in 3 District visited by the Italian Liaison Officer, Lieut.Colonel Blanco, attached to HQ 3 District.

2. From these reports and from inspections made, the main causes of weakness in these units appear to be:-

(a) Good discipline cannot be ensured by the application of the limited powers of punishment at present allowed to the Italian Coy Comds.

(b) The administration of these Italian units is very poor indeed and action to improve it is far too slow.

(c) Unsatisfactory personnel. Action to replace useless officers, NCOs and men is too slow.

(d) Not sufficiently encouraging terms of service are offered to the Italian soldier.

3. To improve this state of affairs it is essential that the following recommendations are carried out.

(a) Clothing and Equipment. The clothing scale allowed for the Italian soldier is very meagre, but even so the articles which are issued to him are often threadbare and of very poor quality. It is recommended that some improvement in the quality of clothing is made and that the following additional articles should be issued to each soldier:-

Gas Cape.
Second Battledress, or suit of Overalls.

f 3302
f 3303

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

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3302
3303

Gas Cape.
Second Battledress, or suit of Overalls.
Second pair of boots.

Of these articles the Gas Cape is essential. It is impossible to get soldiers to work in the rain unless they have them. Once issued with this scale of clothing and equipment proper discipline and proper administration must ensure that it is maintained.

(b) Administration. The administration of these units must be improved. It is the impression that they are uncared for and are visited and inspected only by the Italian Liaison Officer of District HQ. It is felt that the administration of these units must be made a direct responsibility of and energetically carried out by an Italian Army HQ. Either that, ot let the administration pass to the British Army.

Encl#1

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

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(c) Rations. All Br Comds of these units are very emphatic that the ration scale is not high enough for working men. This case has often been put up before but so far as can be asdertained no improvement has been made.

(d) Terms of Service. The best results will only be obtained by making the terms of service more encouraging. At the present time the Italian soldier has little incentive to stay in his unit, behave well and work well. Improvements in clothing and rations suggested above, together with a a small NAAFI issue, would give the desired effect. The terms of service in Italian Co-operator Companies produce well diciplined and contented units. These units are clothed, fed and equipped in a similar manner to Br units and they receive NAAFI issue which is very highly prized.

(e) Discipline at the moment in these Italian units is not good. In some units it is very bad. The number of absentees is far too high. It is strongly recommended that some power of punishment, other than detention and loss of pay, should become legal. Strenuous field punishment at a well run Field Punishment Centre involving physical hardship is recommended.

(f) Replacement of Unsuitable Personnel. The speed with which unsuitable officers, NCOs and men are removed and replaced is far too slow. It is recommended that power should be given to the British Coy Comd to return at once to the Depot men who prove to be unsatisfactory.

(g) Tradesmen. The tradesmen are of a very poor quality and in many cases have no knowledge whatever of their trade. Steps are required to ensure that real tradesmen are posted to these units. It may be necessary to institute trade tests and trade pay.

4. It was hoped that on dilution the loss of efficiency would not be appreciable and our serious rft situation could be alleviated but results have fallen far short of expectation.

May we be informed what steps can be taken to implement the above recommendations.

For the Chief Engineer:

(Sgd) T.L. COFFIN,
Lt.Col.R.E.,
S.O.R.E. I.

COPY

5300

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

MMIA

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
Administrative Echelon
APO 400

AQ
27/1
10 "

ALH/jra
8 November 1944

SUBJECT: CIC Report on Italian Army Morale.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO 464, U. S. Army.

1. Attached hereto are the following papers:

a. Report by 305 CIC Detachment 5 Army, 10 October.

b. Memo from MMIA LO to G-4 5 Army, 25 October.

c. Memo AQ/27/1, from MMIA to AAI, 1 November.

2. In view of the apparent incredibility of the official source in vital factors as noted in para 2 of the MMIA Memo of 1 November, it is believed that further investigation is justified. If the CIC has drawn false conclusions from various incomplete interviews with various officials, there appears to be only a question of faulty judgement. If on the contrary the CIC report is based on catagoric statements of one or more Italian Army officials, it appears that the cause of the allied forces will be better served by exposing them for a determination of the reason for making false statements and such further action as the investigation may show to be necessary.

For the Commander-in-Chief,
Allied Armies In Italy :

A. L. HAMBLEN
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
DCAO

cc: MMIA

MMIA

5299

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

COPY

SUBJECT: Morale of Italian Troops

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
Tel:- FILPOT 222
3074/9/A(O)
7 Nov 44

DCAO

Would you please accept action on the enclosed correspondence:-

(a) AQ/27/1 dated 1 Nov 44 (from Land Forces Sub Commission, AC (MMIA), Rome to HQ AAI)
(b) SJS/AAH dated 10 Oct 44 (from HQ Counter Intelligence Corps Fifth Army (305th CIC Detachment to A.C. of S., G-2 (CI), Fifth Army, APO 464, US Army)
(c) RCV/jad dated 25 Oct 44 (from HQ Fifth Army, Sr (MMIA) L.O. to G-4, Fifth Army).

/s/ ??????
Col.
for Brigadier,
DAG.

TW/JLH

5298

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SUBJECT: Morale of Italian Troops.

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
AQ/27/1
1 November 1944

TO : Hq, AAI

Copy to: AFHQ
MMIA LO, Fifth Army

1. Inviting attention to the attached copy of report of CIC officer, Fifth Army to G-2, Fifth Army, and memorandum of MMIA LO, Fifth Army to G-4, Fifth Army, both with reference to the Morale of Italian troops.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the CIC report:

a. There has been no reduction of the combat troops allowance from 45 lire to 32 lire.

b. 3 lire per day is the normal commutation of rations.

c. There has been no suspension of the daily allowance of 32 lire for soldier patients wounded or sick.

3. This appears to be a test case. I need hardly say that it is dangerous precedent for CIC to express views on the Italian Army based on the opinions of one or two Italian officers who may or may not have other ends in view in making their statements.

4. It appears that the "official source" quoted in the CIC report is an Italian officer. The MMIA LO, Fifth Army, attempted to ascertain from the CIC the identity of this officer, without result. Due to the fact that much of the information given to the CIC is entirely incorrect, it is believed that the Italian officer responsible is either a knave passing out information which tends to discredit his Government and the Allies, or a fool so ignorant as not to be suitable for retention in the Italian Army. Therefore it is requested that the CIC divulge the name of the informant so that our LO with Fifth Army can question him and make a report on the entire matter.

/s/ Clayton P. Kerr, Colonel
/t/ CLAYTON P. KERR,
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/lak
2 Incl:
Incl 1-Copy of report of CIC officer
Incl 2 Copy of Memo of MMIA LO, Fifth Army

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HEADQUARTERS
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS, FIFTH ARMY
(305th CIC DETACHMENT)
APO 464

SJS/aah
10 October 1944

SUBJECT: Morale of Italian Troops.

TO: A. C. of S., G-2 (CI), Fifth Army, APO 464, U. S. Army.

1. From an official Italian source this officer has received the following information concerning the moral of Italian troops.

2. The rapid advance of the Allied troops resulted in an increase of absence without leave among the personnel of the 210th Division. This was especially prevelent among members of the older classes who again found their families behind the Allied lines, although it was also true of younger personnel who are natives of Southern Italy, who had no news from home and who were becoming alarmed at the distance between them and their families. This condition is aggravated by the fact that furloughs are restricted. Moreover, the deep advance of the Allied armies has created a great distance between the collecting stations of the reserve troops and the Division, with the result that at times the assignment and delivery of these reserves to the fron is problematic. At the same time, the operations and labor duties of the Italians have remained the same or have been increased, and the troops are said to be becoming exceedingly tired.

3. The following factors have also influenced the morale of the troops:

a. Reduction of the combat troops allowance from 45 lire to 32 lire.
b. Reduction of the commutation of rations from 5 lire to 3 lire.
c. Suspension of the daily allowance of 32 lire for soldiers patients wounded or sick.

4. Most of the men have no faith in either the present or the future of Italy because of the effect that the misery of the population has had upon them.

5. It is believed that the following measures are necessary to raise the morale of the troops (according to source).

a. The men awaiting trial by Court Martial should be sent away from their units. Because of their undisciplined bearing and attitude of indifference to the consequences of their misdeeds, they set a bad example for the others, and in some cases they are regarded as collaborators with the enemy and as being responsible for spreading subversive propergander.

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b. There should be a purge of the officers. Some are indifferent to their duties, either because of their political beliefs or because of incapacity, while others are unsuitable because they are not trusted as they are only interested in their own welfare.

c. The Division should either be supplied with foodstuff such as oil and salt, which are completely lacking, or should be furnished with means of transportation to enable the barious units to make their own purchases at distant markets.

d. There should be a new issue of clothing, most of which is presently in bad condition.

e. There should be an organized distribution of newspapers and magazines, as well as radios.

/s/ Stephen J. Spingarn
/t/ STEPHEN J. SPINGARN
Major, M.I.
Chief, CIC, 5th Army

Evaluation: B-2

Source: cic -23

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/jad
25 October 1944

Subject: Morale of Italian Troops.

To : G-4, Fifth Army

1. Noted.

2. The "official Italian source" as indicated in the CIC's report on morale conditions should be disclosed in order to assist in making a proper evaluation of this report. No report, however, on morale conditions of Italian troops can be judged on the same basis as Allied troops for the Italians have lost a war and they have the status of Co-belligerents and not Allied.

3. AFHQ policy requires that the Allies should show sympathy for the Italian officers' and soldiers' difficulties and consideration for their legitimate needs. They should be treated fairly in all things and given encouragement. Good will should be shown them without familiarity and consideration without weakness. It is the duty of the Italian Army personnel to cooperate willingly with Allied directives and we are enjoined to see that they do cooperate. The policy towards them is "firmness without rudeness."

4. AFHQ has determined the supply policy for the Italian troops and has set the scale of issue for clothing, equipment and rations to them. Any additional clothing or equipment beyond the scale must be approved by MATOUSA.

5. Ref. Par 3 basic communication. The question of pay of Italian officers and men is a matter for the Italian War Ministry.

6. Ref. Par 5a basic communication. Concur absolutely, and I have personally recommended to my headquarters that when men are tried and sentenced by the Italian Military courts, that the sentence should be more severe. Have pointed out that Allied soldiers may be shot for offenses that Italian soldiers are getting away with. General Cortese, CG, 210 Division, has recommended that Italian prisoners be sent to the Island Elba. I agree with General Cortese's views.

7. Ref. Par 5b basic communication. If Allied officers will comply with AAI and 5th Army directives, they will report such Italian officers, as described to me, and I will ask my headquarters to demobilize them. This is being done as rapidly as we find such officers.

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8. Ref. 5c basic communication. For a period of time last summer, the oil and salt was in short supply, but that is not true now and the last time I investigated, the Italians were receiving more than the scale. The Italian transportation situation has been reviewed many times during the last few months with the result that it has inproved. It is suggested that no reasonable request made by any Italian unit upon 5th Army Transportation Section, has been refused, and I know of no Italian unit going hungry because of a failure of transportation. My experiance has been that all Italian requests for transportation must be screened carefully, otherwise, they will be doing just what the report suggests, running a convoy of trucks "to make their own purchases at distant markets". (underscoring mine)

9. Ref. Par 5d basic communication. Approximately 140 tons of clothing have just been issued to Italian troops in 5th Army and they are equipped to scale.

10. Ref. Par 5c basic communication. It is contrary to our CCS policy to issue newspapers, magazines and radios to the Italians but the Italian War Ministry can, if they so elect.

R. C. VAN KIRK
Major, Infantry
Sr. (NNIA) L.O.
5th Army

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