

785020

ACC

10000/120/3414

WEL/C

Encl

Jan.

10000/120/3414

WEL/C

Individual Welfare(817
875)

Jan. 1945 - Jan. 1946



74629

Ministero della Guerra

Ufficio Benessere del soldato alle armi.

Divisione *For.*
Pret. N. 2002 *Allegato*

Roma

10 GEN 1946

MINISTERO DELL'ASSISTENZA
POST = BELLICA = Servizio Pri-
onieri di Guerra = Ufficio
Militare = Div. 2

ROMA
Corso Vittorio Emanuele II
Registrazione

OGGETTO: notizie da comunicare al soldato CORAGLIA Bartolomeo
M 376095 - 2615 Italian Coy M.E.T.C. = Middle East.



e, per conoscenza:

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
per il Signor Capitano COPPLE
(rif. Wel/c - 8/1/46)

ROMA

Pregasi compiacersi voler far comunicare al soldato

CORAGLIA BARTOLOMEO,

che tanto la madre, signora Torrero Francesca, residente nel
Comune di Baldissero d'Alba, (Cuneo) che tutta la famiglia so-
dono ottima salute, che riceve regolarmente notizie del figlio
e che percepisce lo speciale sussidio.

L'indirizzo del soldato è il seguente:

CORAGLIA BARTOLOMEO N. 376095 - 2615 ITALIAN COY
M.E.T.C. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST

Vivamente ringraziando

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

Capicaval

0811
Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

OGGETTO: notizia da comunicare al soldato CORAGLIA Bartolomeo
M 376095 - 2615 Italian Coy M.E.T.C. - Middle East.

e, per conoscenza:

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WEL-FIRE

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M.E.T.C. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST

Vivamente ringraziando

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

Arturo Ferrara

Subject :- CORAGLIA, Bartolomeo -
News of Family.

Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.,

(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

WEI/C

8 Jan. 46.

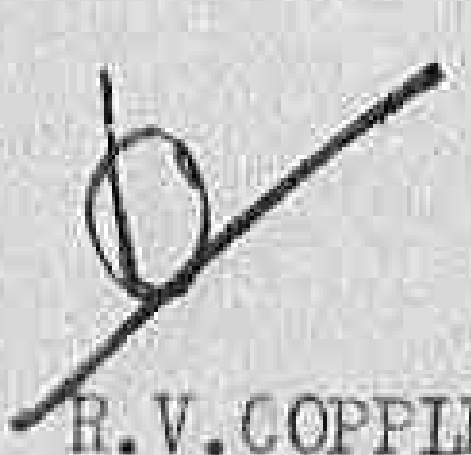
To :- Ministry of War.
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato
Alle Armi.

For the attention of Lt.Col. Negri-Arnoldi, A.

1. You were able recently to supply information relative to the family of the above named soldier.
2. It would be very much appreciated if the information might be transmitted from your office direct to the soldier at this address.

CORAGLIA Bartolomeo, M 376095
2615 Italian Coy M.E.T.C.,
Postal Centre, Middle East.

874


R.V. COPPLE, Captain.

Major General L. BROWNING, CB. OBE. MC.,
Headquarters,
Military Mission to the Italian Army,
R O M E.

WEL/C 7 January, 1946.

My dear

Brigadier Leslie WHEELER, Commandant, Army P.T. Corps, an old friend, and saw me here in Rome on his way back to England after his Middle East tour. Wheeler asked me if I could find out something about your Italian (collaborator) servant's family in Italy. I set the works in motion and I have now heard from the Italian War Ministry that all the family are O.K.; that his mother lives at BALDISERRO d' ALBA, that she receives a special subsidy from the Army and regular news from her son.

I have asked the War Ministry to send full information direct to your servant

(CORAGLIA Bartolomeo, M 376095

2615 Italian Coy M.E.T.C.,

Postal Centre, Middle East.).

Yours

L. B.

Major General.

Brig. SHAW,
M.E. Training School,
GAZA, Palestine.

873

Copy to : Brig. L.F.B. WHEELER,
Commandant,
Army P.T. Corps,
Queen's Avenue,
Aldershot, Hants.

Extract from a letter to Major General L. BROWNING, CB., OBE., MC.
GOC Military Mission to the Italian Army, C.M.F.

From: Brigadier L.F.E. Weiler, Commandant, Army P.T. Corps,
Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hants.

22 November, 1945.

" I am writing also to worry you with a request that maybe you will be unwilling or unable to help in. Whilst staying at Gaza with the M.E. Training School I was looked after by the Brigadier's Italian (collaborator) servant, and he told me that he had never heard a word of his family for two years. I undertook to write to your mission to see if they were able to put him in touch, and I now enclose a letter he passed to me asking for help. He seemed a very decent fellow, and is doing a good job of work where he now is, and his present Brigadier - Shaw, would be very grateful if we can give him any help. Perhaps you could pass this to someone who might work the oracle, I know it would be a very kind act and much appreciated.

Translation of Soldier's letter

" Kindly granted by the Brigadier.

I ask to you if it is possible to have some news from my family, because for 18 months I haven't it. Now I don't know which is the right address, but this one is the best:

Signora Torrero Francesca NOVARINI, Comune BALDISSERO or ask at
ALBA CUNEO, ITALY.

My address in the Italian Army is:

Rank: Soldier. Name: CORAGLIA, Bartolomeo.

Regiment: III^o Artillery Celere, MILAN.

SACCO, Anna,
41 Via Principe
Amedeo,
TORINO.

-----cOo-----
Soldier's address in Middle East is:—

CORAGLIA Bartolomeo M. 376095

2615 Italian Coy. M.E.T.C.

Postal Centre, Middle East.

872

Subject : Felgare - Individual Italian O.R.S.

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

Fel/e

5 Oct. '45.

To : Ministry of War.

Reference your 06169/R.S. dated 1 Oct. 45.

It is regretted that at present this HQ is unable to take any action in this matter.

[Signature]
Major General,
M.M.I.A.

RTH/er

871

Translation

From: Ministry of War
To: MMIA

Ref. No. O 69/ R.S. ^{42A}
Date: Oct. 1, 1945

Subject: Pvt. Giuseppe Collins, was blind.

Memorandum for Capt. Copple.

The mother of the abovementioned soldier - Mrs. Maria Collins, residing at No. 16, Vico Conciliazione, Naples - applied to the Medical Directorate of this Ministry in order to obtain the transfer of her son from the Army Hospital "Amerigo Vespucci" of Trieste to an Army hospital at Naples.

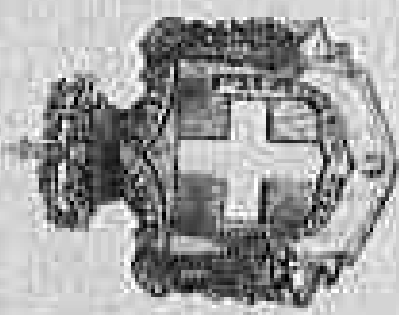
The above Directorate General replied that it is unable to effect ~~and~~ this transfer because the territory of Venezia Giulia is under Allied control.

Kindly let us know whether your Commission could furnish any assistance in the matter.

Thanking you,

Signed: Col. ²⁰med
Ferrara

Wally



SP/am

Ministero della Guerra

Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle Armi

Divisione 1169

R. S. Allegate

OGGETTO Ciesco di guerra - soldato COLLINO Giuseppe.

Risposta al figlio del
D. S.

24/2

PROMEMORIA PER IL SIG. CAPITANO COOPRE

NEL FIRE

La madre del nominato in oggetto - Signora Collino Maria, residente a Napoli, vico Conciliazione n. 16 - si rivolse alla Direzione Generale di Sanità di questo Ministero per ottenere il trasferimento del figlio dall'ospedale militare "Amerigo Vespucci" di Trieste ad un ospedale militare di Napoli.

La suddetta Direzione Generale ha risposto che non gli è possibile provvedere a tale trasferimento perché il territorio della Venezia Giulia è sottoposto al controllo Alleato.

Si prega di voler comunicare se codesta Commissione possa cortesemente interessarsi di questo caso.

Tr. n. 1169

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

Arturo Ferrara

869

TRANSLATION

1169
Date 3/10

TRANSLATE
PLEASE
3/10 07-11-44
Rome, P.M. 3800 1-011 1945

54
ALLA LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
AC. (M.M.I.A.)

R O M A

Prot. N. 03164/3.5. Allegati

Risposta al Foglio del
Dir.

OGGETTO Cieco di guerra - soldato COLLINO Giuseppe.

PROMUOTTA PER IL SIG. CAPITANO COOPER

=====

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Si prega di voler comunicare se codesta Commissione possa cortesemente interessarsi di questo caso.

Si ringrazia

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Ferrara)

869

TRANSLATION

IN { Date 11/5 }
1/10

IN { Date 16/30 }
3/10

WELFARE

Subject : Welfare - Italian Army.

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

WEL/C.

28 Sep. '45.

To : Ministry of War.

(Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle Armi)

Reference your 07551/BS dated 17 Sep. '45. and our letter of
even reference dated 18 Sep. '45. addressed to NO.8 Coml. Pay Office (Copy
to you)

It has been laid down by A.P.H.Q. that this is a matter entirely
for the Ministry of War - Treasury Dept.

Your application is therefore returned.

/ey

Internal 'A'

Major General,
M.M.I.A.

868

Subject: Remittance Italian Army

40^A

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
C.M.F.

Ref: 1 H.Q./Pay/45/149

26th September, 1945.

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

38^A

Your WML/C dated 18th September, 1945
addressed to No. 8 Base Command Pay Office.

This is entirely a question for the
Italians, and their War Office should make the
arrangements with their Treasury.

J. P. Briceman
(I.P. BRICEMAN) Brigadier,
D/Paymaster-in-Chief,
A.F.H.Q. (British).

Copy to: Command Paymaster,
No. 8 Base Command Pay Office.

867

See Folio 39^A, 38^A.

785020

Subject: Remittance - Italian Army.

~~Deputy Paymaster-in-Chief,
A.F.O. (Br),
C.A.O.~~

14/1

39th

WELFARE

— 38^A

Reference the attached letter WEL/O dated 18th September 1945, from Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C. (M.M.I.A.).

May I please be favoured with your instructions in this matter.

No. 8 Base Command Pay Office,
C.M.F.
21st September 1945.

Lt. Col.
Assistant Command Paymaster. 866

Copy to Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C. (M.M.I.A.) Rome.

38A

SUBJECT : Welfare - Italian Army.Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.E.I.A.) R O W E.
WEL/C.

18 Sep '45.

To : No. 8. Command Pay Office,
C. M. F.

1. A request has been received by this HQ from the Italian Ministry of War for assistance in the following case.
2. The Italian 209th Adm. Division desire to pay a sum of money to the wife of an H.C.O. of the unit; she is in financial difficulties; and is resident in TRIPOLI.
3. Can you please suggest how this transfer can be effected? Any necessary credentials can be forwarded by this H.Q. through BTNA.

S/Capt.,
Welfare,
M.E.I.A.Copy to : Ministry of War,
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato.

865

Internal: "A".

See File 39^A.

COPY.

Subject: Welfare - Italian Army.LAND FORCES SUB COM A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME
A 024

18 MAY 45

To : AFHQ for G1 BR.

Reference your G1 BR/9904/A4 dated 15 May.

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

/S W. PIDSLEY
Colonel
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

864

36A

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Information News and Censorship Section

Press and Radio Censorship Branch

Unit No.2 APO 512

17 May '45

SUBJECT : Radio Messages

To : Land Forces Sub Commission
M.M.I.A., Allied Commission

Reference your letter INT/113 dated 11 May 1945:

1. Broadcasting of radio messages by Italian military personnel from the Rome, Florence and Bari stations is approved, subject to the following conditions:

- a. No individual messages may be sent.
- b. The service must be confined to a list of names, preceded by some generic phrase such as "the following are in good health" etc.
- c. Soldier's name, rank, regiment and P.M. number only will be transmitted.

2. In order to ensure that this service is restricted to bona fide military personnel, all lists for transmission should be forwarded, to the respective radio censor, bearing the stamp of the local Ufficio Assistenza, or other military body responsible for the collection of the names. This stamp will be accepted by all radio censors as authorisation for broadcast.

Copy to : Lt.Col. J.L. Hayden
Radio Censor, Rome
Local Press Censor, Florence
Local Press Censor, Bari.

I.C. ALEXANDER
Major, I.C.
Senior Local Press & Radio
Censor.

863

Reference your letter INT/113 dated 11 May 1945:

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I.C. ALEXANDER
Major, I.C.
Senior Local Press & Radio
Censor.

863

Copy to : Lt.Col. J.L. Hayden
Radio Censor, Rome
Local Press Censor, Florence
Local Press Censor, Bari.

ORIGINAL WITH 'C' (INT) FILE INT/113.

35A

Spoko major Alexander to radio
messages 1700 16.5.45. He will send
reply by hand 17th.

16 May 45

D

862

SUBJECT: Broadcast of Radio Messages to
Italian Military Personnel in
Northern Italy.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MIA)

INT/113

11 May 45

TO : MAJOR ALEXANDER
PRESS & RADIO CENSORSHIP I.M.C., A.F.H.Q.
62 VIA VENEZIA, ROME

1. In order that Italian Military south of the Army Areas may send messages to their parents and relatives in Northern Italy the Italian War Ministry have requested authority to broadcast messages from the Rome, Florence and Bari stations.
2. These special programmes would consist of short messages addressed to relations and friends in the north from individual soldiers, in which soldier's name, Regt. and P.M. number only would be transmitted.
3. It is considered that the above proposal, put into effect, would do much to alleviate the anxiety of both soldier and parent and improve the morale of many service personnel who have been unable to communicate with their families for so long.
4. Will you please state if there are any security or other objections to the above proposals and give the matter your urgent attention.

Copy to: G.C. BANG (for "La Patria" L.O.)

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

cgl.

V.R. Selby
Major-General
MIA

861

SUBJECT: Field Postcards.

COPY. 32

Land Forces Sub Comm. A/S,
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.
2/16

5 May '45.

To : Ministry of War.

1. Reference your 9/5720/301/Serv 30 April.
2. The introduction of a Field Postcard is now approved. In view of the probability that civil postal services will be established at an early date it is suggested that the number of cards now printed shall be limited. To cover the interim period, however, it is desirable that an immediate issue be made. A specimen of the approved card which is to be printed on green cardboard is being sent to you separately.
3. You will ensure that the following arrangements are made to operate the scheme :
 - (a) A suitable sorting section will be established at P.M. 3800 which will identify the civilian address with the appropriate forward P.M. No. Cards to be passed through the Censure Centrale Militaire, Rome made up in batches according to the P.M. No.
 - (b) All P.M.'s. will be notified that the Field Postcard is being introduced and that they are responsible for arranging delivery as soon as possible and by any means possible to the civilian addressee.
4. You will report when the cards have been issued and on the progress of the scheme to this Headquarters.

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

860

Copy to : A.
A.C. Communications Sub Comm.Specimen card handed to
Lt. Col. Angeloni morning
of 5 May '45, per ADAMS.Verbal message re liaison with Ministry
Postal People.

SUBJECT : Italian Y.M.C.A.

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

REL/C.
2 May 1945.

To : D.A.W.S.
A.F.H.Q.

Copy:- C.V.N.W.
A.F.H.Q.

1. As a result of the visit to Rome of Dr. Strong, General Secretary of the World Alliance Executive Committee of Y.M.C.A., in company with the Chairman of CYW. CMF, a letter, a copy of which is attached, was written to the Italian Ministry of War.
2. The Minister of War has now replied. While appreciating sincerely the offer of assistance for the betterment of the Italian soldier's welfare he regrets that he is not in a position in present circumstances to accept the offer.
3. M.M.I.A. will watch the situation so as to be able to communicate with you further should events make it possible.

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

Internal:- "A" (Ministry of War 203229/11 OF 26 Apr refer) 859

COPY

310

SUBJECT: Italian Y.M.C.A.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.). ROME.
A/27/3.
11 Mar '45.

Ministry of War.

1. The Chairman of the British Council of Voluntary War Workers has introduced to this HQ Dr.Strong, who is the General Secretary of the Executive of the World Alliance of the Young Men's Christian Association.
2. Dr.Strong has said that the Y.M.C.A. is interested in the reforming of the Italian Y.M.C.A. (Associazione Cristiano per i Giovane) with a view to the welfare work they would carry out for the Italian soldiers.
3. To this end it is possible that the Allied Y.M.C.A. would be ~~pre~~pared to assist.
4. Before any steps are taken in this matter I would like to have your views on whether or not you would desire such a body to come into operation again.

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

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

858

304

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

Reports received from the following:-

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

(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.BIU) to 17 days (53 BIU).

(b) Delivery appears generally to take rather longer from and to areas North of Rome. (Abruzzi, Lazio, Tuscany 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 BIU 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 85% include a campaign to ensure that soldiers use correct addresses, the inclusion of a military increment in the civilian service, and a general clean up of unit internal postal arrangements.

SUBJECT: Welfare Stores.

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

WRL/C.

70 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.

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

Internal:- "A" Branch.

856

27 Feb '45.

COPY.

Lt.Col. A.R.C. SOUTHEY,
50 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

On behalf of all ranks of the Unit, Lt.Col. A.R.C. SOUTHEY wishes to thank the ladies of FRIULI for their most welcome message of greeting and friendship, and for their extremely kind gift of wine, which is immensely appreciated by the unit.

All ranks are greatly heartened by the spirit prompting the ladies of FRIULI, and will continue to do their utmost to foster the traditional accord between our two countries.

Mme Marie Luisa Mile di Villegrazia,
Viale Gorizia 25C,
ROME.

855

SUBJECT: Censorship of Italian
Military Mail

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.A.)
File No. INT/113
March 45

TO : AFHQ (3)

1. Serious discontent and lowering of morale is being occasioned in the Italian Army by the uncertainty and delay in the delivery of the troop's mail. Whereas a civilian letter takes only 3 or 4 days between South and North Italy, letters to or from military personnel take 3 or 4 weeks. In any circumstances this would be bad enough, but at a time when we are trying through welfare to build up morale and prevent desertion by allaying family anxieties, this inefficient mail service is having an extremely adverse effect on the troops.

2. It is believed that the trouble is mainly due to the military censorship bottleneck at Naples where mail is collected and then forwarded to various Italian A.P.Os through Allied channels. I am not, however, in a position to obtain the working details of this organization.

3. It is not unnatural that, to overcome this deficiency, many of the troops make use of the civil post, either directly or through a civilian friend, thus defeating the purpose of military censorship and endangering military security. It is for consideration therefore whether complete military censorship is now worth while as civilians have almost as much knowledge of military affairs as Italian troops themselves.

4. Everything possible is being done by the Italians themselves over minimizing these delays, but it is felt that the only real solution is to make some big change in the censorship routine. It would be appreciated therefore if you would have the whole question investigated and notify me of any improvement you are able to effect.

Internal: A Welfare

Major General
M. M. I. A.

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Internal: A Welfare

Major General
M. M. I. A.

WB

A.O.A.W.S.

Agreed to suspend action on this till 15 Apr.

Verdict multi 3 2 efforts to improve situation.

A is action for certain information available.

B.F. 15 April.

SP
21 Mar. 1944
D. M. I. A.

SUBJECT: Italian Military Postal Service.

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

Army Welfare Services,
A.F.H.Q.

1. Reference telephone conversation with DDAWS on 5 April.
2. Attached for information is a copy of MMIA letter Q/16 of 2 April.

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

Minute.

WELFARE

G.O.C.

1. May I have your instructions on the attached proposal for a pool of moral uplift advisers.

- (a) you will notice the offer comes from the "advisers" themselves and did not originate in the War Ministry.
- (b) although their duties would include "active propaganda and morale assistance" it is stated that "political propaganda" would be excluded - is this possible?

2. I feel that the Allied decision to introduce welfare facilities into the Italian Army has already been welcomed by the various political parties as a heaven - sent opportunity for advertising their wares; as examples we have.

- (a) Palermo put his money on the "rest hostel".
- (b) Leonardi is trying to send round her team of women who are not acceptable to Casati on political grounds.
- (c) Casati wants to put christian democrats soldiers into CESANO as "reliable elements".

Infante has his own ideas.

3. It seems we should decide whether :-

- (a) to accept this situation as inevitable and try and give each party a fair chance.

or (b) to try and cut out all political aspects to the detriment of what we believe to be "welfare".

4. I consider that if we are to continue the Welfare ⁸⁵² at all we must accept the political danger and try and ensure fair play. I therefore ~~suggest~~ you approve this scheme in principle limiting the strength of this team to 30, each of whom is to be personally approved by Allied Authority before being commissioned.

W. Pickley

(b) although their duties would include "active propaganda and morale assistance" it is stated that "political propaganda" would be excluded - is this possible?

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(c) Casati wants to put christian democrats soldiers into CESANO as "reliable elements".

Infante has his own ideas.

3. It seems we should decide whether :-

(a) to accept this situation as inevitable and try and give each party a fair chance.

or (b) to try and cut out all political aspects to the detriment of what we believe to be "welfare".

4. I consider that if we are to continue the Welfare scheme at all we must accept the political danger and try and ensure fair play. I therefore ~~suggest~~ ⁸⁵² you approve this scheme in principle limiting the strength of this team to 30, each of whom is to be personally approved by Allied Authority before being commissioned.

"made"

St. Pauling

G.V.C. spoke to m 13 March and agreed to further
up to AFHQ & instructions UP

See 24

TRANSLATION

From Ministry of War.
To: M.M.I.A.

Ref No. CC424/BS.
Date 6 Feb '45.

Subject: Mobile Welfare personnel.

A group of men of profession, Intellectuals and men of study, who are not officers of the Italian Army, wishes to be able to give its time to the war of liberation effort: Propaganda and welfare work among the Combattants.

This contribution and request, highly appreciated, should be accepted immediately.

It is therefore the intention of this ministry to organise under the auspices of the Welfare unit and mobile welfare pool composed of said personnel of high breeding, possessing reliable patriotic qualities and also rich in experiences and capabilities, to be employed in the combat groups and supply units in operational areas.

Hqs and non combattant units will not benefit from said institution.

These mobile welfare personnel will have to be composed of volunteers ready to be posted to any required destination.

They will be posted to Regiments and supply units depending from the Hq of said unit for duties and technically from Welfare office. Their duties would be active propaganda and moral assistance in the way and form most accessible to soldiers with whom they will come in contact and share in their existence.

The pool would comprise of :-

- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Sub supervisor
- Staff.

The number of staff will be according to the number of Units formed for the time being. Their number at present can be fixed at 30, liable to be increased as units are being formed.

They will be granted the rank of Captain if over 40 years of age and of Lieutenant if younger. The age factor was chosen so as to avoid misunderstanding due to the difficulties in judging the merits of each and it also conforms with the experience factor increasing naturally with the age.

851

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HQs and non combatant units will not benefit from said institution.

These mobile welfare personnel will have to be composed of volunteers ready to be posted to any required destination.

They will be posted to Regiments and supply units depending from the HQ of said unit for duties and technically from Welfare office. Their duties would be active propaganda and moral assistance in the way and form most accessible to soldiers with whom they will come in contact and share in their existence.

The pool would comprise of :-

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They will be granted the rank of Captain if over 40 years of age and of Lieutenant if younger. The age factor was chosen so as to avoid misunderstanding due to the difficulties in judging the merits of each and it also conforms with the experience factor increasing naturally with the age.

They will receive pay according to rank given. Military rations and billets and all the other privileges due to officers.

Uniform according to Rank.

Condition of service: Duration of War.

Disciplinary obligation: according to their capacities.

Judicial treatment according to their acting rank.

(2)

We beg you to let us know if this suggestion, which is seen favourably by the Italian Government can be studied by the Allied Authorities and if agreeable can authorisation be given for a Welfare pool to be formed and used.

S/ CASATI.

850

2415
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.H.L.A.) HQMIL.

N/27.

15 Mar '45.

TO : A.F.H.Q. (3)

Welfare - Italian Army.

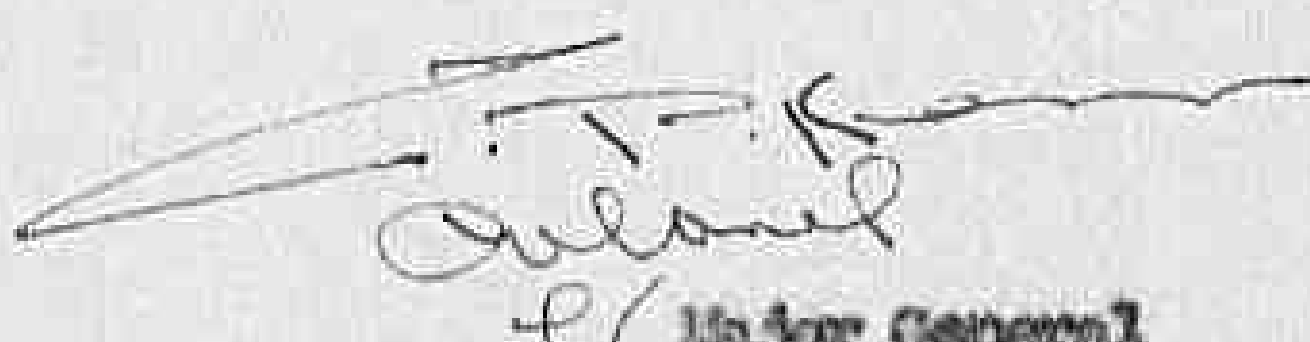
In furthering your instructions for the improvement of welfare in the Italian Army various proposals are received by this Mission from the Italian Ministry of War.

Some of these may be open to criticism on the grounds that they give an opportunity for exerting political influence. I enclose one such proposal relative to the commissioning of certain intellectual and moral advisors.

I have considered this question and am of the opinion that this is a risk we must accept if we are to make any headway with welfare at all. I therefore recommend that the scheme proposed in the attached letter be approved subject to such general supervision as we are able to exercise.

May I have your instructions on this matter in general and on this case in particular.

WP/


Major General
M. H. L. A.

849

Copy
S.D.

01681/E.S.

Directorate of Welfare.

TRANSLATION

L.A. 3800 3 March 1942.

Land Forces Sub-Commission
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.

Formation of "Roll of Mobile Welfare Personnel".

A group of intellectuals, professional men, and men of letters, who are not officers of the Armed Forces, wish to offer their work as a contribution to the war of liberation, in activities amongst fighting soldiers, for morale and welfare.

The request, which is highly appreciated, would have to be accepted quickly.

It would therefore be the intention of this Ministry to organize, under the Welfare Service, a Roll of Mobile Welfare Personnel, comprising such helpers, of high standing, of sound patriotic sentiments, and with wide experience and capability, for employment in Regiments, Combat Groups or Static Divisions, operating in forward areas.

These persons would not be employed in Non-Combatant Commands and units, and would have to be volunteers, willing to operate anywhere required.

As stated, they would be sent to Regiments or units, and would come under the Commander for administration and employment, but under the Directorate of Welfare for briefing; their task would be the dissemination of suitable propaganda and morale work in the form most suited to the soldiers with whom they would come in contact, and whose life they would share.

All political propaganda would be excluded.

The "Roll of Personnel" would include

- 1 Inspector,
- 1 Vice Inspector
- Personnel.

The number of personnel is dependent on the number of units affected; for the present the number can be fixed at 50; subject to augmentation according to the number of units.

They will be taken on in the rank of Captain if over the age of 40, and Lieutenant if under 40. The standard of age is suggested, as it is desired to avoid the difficulty of assessing the merits of each person and relying on the criterion of experience, rather than that of maturity of years.

Administration will be in accordance with the rank assigned;

they will be entitled to normal rations; they will be accommodated by the unit, and will be entitled to all the facilities enjoyed by an officer

Uniform - in accordance with rank.

Engagement - for the duration of the war.

Standards - according to the rank assigned.

It would therefore be the intention of this Ministry to organize, under the Welfare Service, a Roll of Mobile Welfare Personnel, comprising such helpers, of high standing, of sound patriotic sentiments, and with wide experience and capability, for employment in Regiments, Combat Groups or Static Divisions, operating in forward areas.

These persons would not be employed in Non-Combatant Commands and units, and would have to be volunteers, willing to operate anywhere required.

As stated, they would be sent to Regiments or units, and would come under the Commander for administration and employment, but under the Directorate of Welfare for briefing: their task would be the dissemination of suitable propaganda and morale work in the form most suited to the soldiers with whom they would come in contact, and whose life they would share.

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- 1 Inspector,
- 1 Vice Inspector
- Personnel.

The number of personnel is dependant on the number of units affected; for the present the number can be fixed at 30; subject to augmentation according to the number of units.

They will be taken on in the rank of Captain if over the age of 40, and Lieutenant if under 40. The standard of age is suggested, as it is desired to avoid the difficulty of assessing the merits of each person and relying on the criterion of experience, rather than that of maturity of years.

848

Administration will be in accordance with the rank assigned; they will be entitled to normal rations; they will be accommodated by the unit, and will be entitled to all the facilities enjoyed by an officer.

Uniform - in accordance with rank.

Engagement - for the duration of the war.

Discipline - according to their terms of engagement.

Judicial treatment - according to their terms of engagement.

I ask for Allied approval of this scheme, and the necessary authorization to enable it to be commenced, as already requested in a letter from the Directorate of Welfare under reference OMA/2.3. of 6 February.

/s/ A Casati,

Minister for War.

SUBJECT: Mobile Welfare Personnel.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
A/27.
15 Mar '45.

Ministry of War.

1. Reference O1681/BS. of 3 Mar.
2. Your proposal has now been referred to AFHQ for their consideration.

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

J. McC/

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

847

Copy for Wufane 22

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

R O M E
Q/16

28 March 45.

Memorandum on Italian Postal Service.

To: Chief of Staff, through Col. 'Q'.

1. On the 27th of March I discussed the Italian Military Postal Service with Lt. Colonel CECCHIA S.M.R.E. Services Branch and Major FERTUSATI, Sezione Postale.

2. The system in outline is as under:

(a) There is at Rome an Italian Military Post Office No P.M. 3800 which serves the main Italian Army Base Post Office 3400 at Naples. Various Field Post Offices have been established to serve particular formations. A list (not complete) of these is given at App. 'A'.

(b) A soldier, if serving with a Unit or Formation to which a Field Post Office has not been allotted, makes use of P.M. 900. P.M. 900 is located at Naples and is in effect part of 7 Base Censor Group.

(c) All mail subject to censorship passes through 7 Base Censor Group. Although no undue delay arises from the Censorship this is a bottleneck and delay is caused by the necessity for transferring mail from an address in the North to Naples and back to the North for delivery. An immediate speeding up in the mail service would result from having a section of 7 Base Censor Group located with P.M. 3800 at Rome. 846

(d) Censorship is compulsory when mail enters an operational zone i.e. forward of the Army Rear boundaries. The letter which originates outside the operational Area is posted in a civil Post Office and is transferred by the civil Postal Service to No 7 Base Censor. After censorship mail is passed to P.M. 3400 made up into batches according to the P.M. number. Letters which have been addressed to

- II -

P.M. 900 are re-addressed to the formation with which the individual is serving. P.M. 3400 are responsible for passing mail intended for P.M.s serving Formations under U.S. Command to 2nd U.S. Base Post Office, and mail for P.M.s serving Units under British Command to 15 Base Army Post Office. From these points mail is delivered forward under British or U.S. Postal Service arrangements.

(e) Return mail is dealt with in the reverse manner, passing through 7 Base Censor to P.M. 3400 whence it is transferred to the Civil Postal Service. To avoid the recipient being charged postage, the Ministry of War intends that Units shall be supplied with a stamp endorsed "military mail NO surcharge".

(f) In the case of mail which does not have to enter the operational zone and is therefore not subject to Allied Military censorship, letters are handled by the Civilian Postal Service and directed through either P.M. 3400 Naples or P.M. 3800 Rome. Such mail is subject to normal civil censorship and to Allied Military censorship at certain collecting centres where sections of the Italian censorship Unit (see para 3) are located. If from an address North of Naples to an address North of Naples, 3800 will arrange delivery without the letter passing through P.M. 3400. The War Ministry have a P.M. working in Sicily and Sardinia and at certain territorial HQs. A soldier may use as his address one of the above P.M.s or the nearest civilian Post Office whichever is the most convenient.

(g) There remains the civilian with which a soldier wishes to correspond and who is residing in the operational zone. If the civilian's address is not served by the Civil Postal Service, there are no means by which the soldier can communicate with his relatives or friends. It is to cover this particular case that the Ministry of War desire to introduce the Field Postcard.

3. The War Ministry is desirous of submitting a revised WE to cover the Italian Army Postal Service. This will include a censorship Unit for which a total of 100 all ranks is already authorized, under category 5. At present, 15 censorship sections have been formed and are employed at various centres through which the mail passes on its way from the place of origin to No 7 Base censor or to P.M. 3800. 845

Registered mail may not at present be dealt with by P.M.s in the operational zone. It is therefore necessary

.....

-III-

for all Post Offices to be advised when a particular P.M. moves into the forward area. This is considered undesirable from the standpoint of security. The matter has been represented by Communications Sub Comm. to A.F.H.Q. G 5 who say there is no objection to registered mail being dealt with in the forward areas subject to the method of dealing with such mail being approved by the British and American Postal Authorities. Both A.G. Postal (U.S.) and D.D.A.P.S. have signified their consent subject to certain simple conditions.

5. To sum up, improvement in the Italian Army mail is dependent on the following action : -

- (a) The opening of a detachment from No 7 Base Censor Group at P.M. 3800 (see draft letter at App. 'B')
- (b) Improved transport facilities, Allied Military as well as Italian Military and civilian. This would appear to be a matter for Communications Sub Comm. to handle with A.F.H.Q.
- (c) The introduction of a Field Postcard for men with relatives in the operational zone (see draft letter at App. 'C')
- (d) The extension of registered mail to P.M.s in the operational zone (see draft letter at App. 'D').

Rae

844

REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO
Cartolina postale in franchigia

Grado.....
Cognome.....
Nome.....
Reparto.....
Indirizzo.....
.....
.....

Da completarsi dallo scriv
prima dell'invio

REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO
Cartolina postale in franchigia

+ Al.....
.....
.....
a cura
C.C.M. 7 Base Censor Group
NAPLES
+ Scrivere l'indirizzo
civile completo

All cards to be filled
colour

848

REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO
Cartolina postale in franchigia

Grado.....
Cognome.....
Nome.....
Reperto.....
Indirizzo.....
.....
.....

Da completarsi dallo scriv
prima dell'invio

REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO
Cartolina postale in franchigia

+ Al.....

a cura

O.C.M. 7 Base Sensor Group
NAPLES

+ Scrivere l'indirizzo
civile completo

843

All cards to be this
colour

Cancellare le frasi che non servono. La cartolina non sarà accettata qualora siano aggiunte parole o frasi.

Li.....194..

(Bene

Sto (ammalato
(in convalescenza

Datemi notizie con la presente.

Abbracci

firma.....

Per la risposta usare la parte destra della cartolina.

+(Ho ricevuto la vostra)

ma dato

Cancellare le frasi che non servono. La cartolina non sarà accettata qualora siano aggiunte parole o frasi.

Indirizzo.....

.....

.....

Li.....194..

Sto bene/ammalato

Padre sta " / "

Madre " " / "

Pratello " " / "

Sorella " " / "

Vostri " " / "

(moglie " " / "

(Figlio " " / "

(Figlia " " / "

Abbracci

firma.....

strappare seguendo questa linea

MINUTE.

Col. "A"

Postal Services - Italian Army.

1. The Ministry of War put up the scheme for the use of a field service postcard to improve the transmission of family news to and from the soldier.
2. The scheme was put up to AFHQ with the request for approval, "very soon", over the signature of the G.O.C. on 16 Feb. (A/Q 16.)
3. On 1 Mar we asked AFHQ if a decision could be given.
4. On 12 Mar an answer was sent saying it was still under consideration.
5. It is now 19 Mar.
6. As was pointed out in the proposal, this is a scheme which would, by increasing the soldier's facilities for family news, be a contributory cause in reducing the numbers of desertions.
7. The Ministry not unnaturally ^{is} asking for an answer.

19 Mar '45.

842

PD

ADAMS

ADAMS.

I will phone the officer responsible at AFHQ if not
will me who signed 4 above *W.P.*
sp.

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19 Mar '45.

842

PDZ

ADAMS

ADAMS.

I will phone the office responsible at AFHQ if
 will me who signed 4 above *W.P.*
20/3.

DAAG Hq. All G. (Br) Freder 459

*Le'A' spoke to DARS (2)
 G. (Br) + present for an
 answer. Answer sent
 to be in route*

Draft.

A.F.H.Q. for G-1(Br)

1. Serious discontent and lowering of morale is being occasioned in the Italian Army by the uncertainty and delay in the delivery of the troops mail. Whereas a civilian letter takes only 3 or 4 days between south and north Italy, letters to or from military personnel take 3 or 4 weeks. In any circumstances this would be bad enough, but at a time when we are trying through Welfare to build up morale and present desertion by allaying family anxieties, this inefficient mail service is well/nigh fatal to our plans.
2. It is believed that the trouble is mainly due to the military censorship bottleneck at Naples where mail is collected and then forwarded to various Italian APC: through Allied channels. I am not, however in a position to obtain the working details of this organisation.
3. It is not unnatural that to overcome this many of the troops make use of the civil post, either directly or through a civilian friend, thus defeating the purpose of military censorship and endangering military security. It may be for consideration therefore whether complete military censorship is now worth while as civilians have almost as much knowledge of military affairs as Italian troops themselves.

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4. Everything possible is being done by the Italian themselves to minimizing these delays, but it is felt that the only real solution is to make some big change in the censorship routine. It would be appreciated therefore if you would have the whole question investigated and notify me of any improvement you are able to effect.

Minute

WELFARE

G.O.C.

1. May I have your instructions on the attached proposal for a pool of moral uplift advisers.

(a) you will notice the offer comes from the "advisers" themselves and did not originate in the War Ministry.

(b) although their duties would include "active propaganda and morale assistance" it is stated that "political propaganda" would be excluded - is this possible?

2. I feel that the Allied decision to introduce welfare facilities into the Italian Army has already been welcomed by the various political parties as a heaven - sent opportunity for advertising their wares; as examples we have.

(a) Palermo put his money on the "rest hostel".

(b) Leonardi is trying to send round her team of women who are not acceptable to Casati on political grounds.

(c) Casati wants to put christian democrats soldiers into CESSANO as "reliable elements".

Infante has his own ideas.

3. It seems we should decide whether :-

(a) to accept this situation as inevitable and try and give each party a fair chance.

or (b) to try and cut out all political aspects to the detriment of what we believe to be "welfare".

840

4. I consider that if we are to continue the Welfare scheme at all we must accept the political danger and try and ensure fair play. I therefore ~~think~~ you approve this scheme in principle, limiting the strength of this team to 30 each of whom is to be personally approved by Allied Authority before being commissioned.

W.P.

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W.P.
11/2.

Original to Chief Clerk

for transmission to Eng. Gen.

11/3

D

TRANSLATION

16

From Ministry of War.

To: M.A.I.A.

Ref No. 00434/33.

Date 6 Feb. 43.

Subject: Mobile welfare personnel.

A group of men of profession, intellectuals and men of study, who are not officers of the Italian Army, wishes to be able to give its time to the war of liberation effort: Propaganda and welfare work among the Combatants.

This contribution and request, highly appreciated, should be accepted immediately.

It is therefore the intention of this Ministry to organise under the auspices of the welfare unit and mobile welfare pool composed of said personnel of high breeding, possessing reliable patriotic qualities and also rich in experience and capabilities, to be employed in the combat groups and supply units in operational areas.

His and non combatant units will not benefit from said institution.

These mobile welfare personnel will have to be composed of volunteers ready to be posted to any required destination.

They will be posted to Regiments and supply units depending from the HQ of said unit for duties and technically from welfare office. Their duties would be active propaganda and moral assistance in the way and form most accessible to soldiers with whom they will come in contact and share in their existence.

The pool would comprise of :-

- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Sub supervisor
- .. Staff.

The number of staff will be according to the number of Units formed for the time being. Their number at present can be fixed at 30, liable to be increased as units are being formed. 8

They will be granted the rank of Captain if over 40 years of age and of Lieutenant if younger. The age factor was chosen so as to avoid misunderstanding due to the difficulties in judging the merits of each and it also conforms with the experience factor increasing naturally with the age.

They will receive pay according to rank given. Military

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They will receive pay according to rank given. Military rations and billets and all the other privileges due to officers.

Uniform according to rank.
Condition of service: duration of war.
Disciplinary obligation: according to their capacities.
Judicial treatment according to their acting rank.

(2)

We beg you to let us know if this suggestion, which is seen favourably by the Italian Government can be studied by the Allied Authorities and if agreeable can authorisation be given for a Welfare pool to be formed and used.

S/ CASATI.

838

SUBJECT: Italian Y.M.C.A.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
A/27/3.
11. Mar'45.

Ministry of War.

1. The Chairman of the British Council of Voluntary War Workers has introduced to this HQ Dr.Strong, who is the general secretary of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of the Young Men's Christian Association.
2. Dr.Strong has said that the Y.M.C.A. is interested in the reforming of the Italian Y.M.C.A. (Associazione Cristiano per i Giovane) with a view to the welfare work they would carry out for the Italian soldiers.
3. To this end it is possible that the Allied Y.M.C.A. would be prepared to assist.
4. Before any steps are taken in this matter I would like to have your views on whether or not you would desire such a body to come into operation again.

W. Pidsley
Colonel.

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

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

Col 'A'.

Italian YMCA

14A

1. The attached notes are for your information
2. Do you consider the project should be encouraged?

9. Mar.

John

ADAMS

836

Sigeb. Helms Y.M.C.A.

The following information was obtained at a meeting this morning with:-

Prof. Strong. - General Secretary of the World Committee of the World Alliance Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Whittemore. Y.M.C.A. - Chairman of Y.W.W. conf.

1. Y.M.C.A. is interested in the renovation of Y.M.C.A. Helms & is prepared to back it with moral support, advice, & financial help. Although Professor Whittemore liquidated Y.M.C.A. it is thought that sufficient of the original personnel exist to start again.

2. U.S. Y.M.C.A., who do not function outside U.S. on welfare, have agreed & are sending 10 Americans to Y.W.W. to act in capacity of secretaries of the U.S. Y.M.C.A. of them 10 Mr. Whittemore is prepared to use one (Mr. Nelson) on the job of liaison, advice etc to Helms Y.M.C.A. The above has the approval of Dr. G.

3. I asked if I was the Y.M.C.A. when he had

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assist to act in capacity of secretaries of the Br Y.M.C.A.
of these 10 Mr. Belmont is prepared to use one
(Mr. Nelson) on the job of liaison, advice etc to
Italian Y.M.C.A. The above has the approval of Dr. G.

3. I asked if I was the Y.M.C.A. when he is kept
the welfare of Italian soldiers with ~~money~~ ^{through}
Dr. Y.M.C.A. substitutes in existence or through money
+ advice given to the Italian Y.M.C.A. ^{European}
It is thought that Italian Y.M.C.A. would do it, ~~then~~

4. Prof. Strong intends to see reps of Italian Y.M.C.A.
to discuss the matter. He will inform me of what arises
over

5. ~~that~~ I will like Belmont to see Tammara
on 19 Mar when he will again be in Rome.

6. Probable advantage The YMEA is not political
7. Probable disadvantage He called YMEA, although
founded on the protestant religion. The emphasis is on the
word Christian. - i.e. all are welcome. But will
the reaction of the Catholic Italian soldiers be?

8. If properly conducted it could be of
great advantage to soldiers welfare - both morale
and less + more.

Italian Postal Rates.Troops Sending Mail.

Forward areas	(Internal	FREE.
	(Foreign	Normal rate.
	(Top weight (Int.	90 grs.
	((For.	40 "
	(Registration	NO.

L of C Areas	(Internal	Normal rate (Free facilities under discussion)
	(Foreign	
	(Top weight (Int.	90 grs.
	((For.	40 "
	(Registration	YES.

Mail to Troops

Forward Areas.	1/2 normal rate to OR's & Junior NCO's
L of C "	Normal rates.
Registration	Not to forward areas.
Top weight	As above.

Normal Postal Rates.

Internal. Letters - 1 Lira for 1st 15gm.
 .5 " " each subsequent 15gm or part.

Postcards - 6 Lira.

Foreign. 2.5 lire for 1st 20gms. & 1.5 lire for each extra 20gm.

Parcels - up to 1 Kgm - 5 lire.

D COPY 12A
SUBJECT: Mobile Welfare Personnel

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
ROWE.
A/27.

2 Mar'45.

Ministry of War

1. The letter No.00424/B.S. of 6 Feb 45 from your Welfare Directorate signed by General Tamassia and advocating the formation of a mobile propoganda and a moral assistance team has been brought to my notice.
2. Before considering this matter I wish to have an assurance that the formation of such a nucleus has the recommendation to emanate from the Minister of War and not from a technical service such as Welfare.
3. If the Minister is satisfied that there is a need for such a nucleus, its duties and means of performing them, should be more clearly defined to enable me to assess the practical value of such a scheme.

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

WGP/jrp

Original File A/27 Folio 123.

832

785020

Subject: Postal Arrangements - Italian Army.

11A

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROLLS.
A/16.
1 Mar'45.

To: A.F.H.Q.
HQ. 15 Army Group.

8A

- 1: Reference AQ/16 of 16 Feb.
2. May a decision now be given on this proposal?

W.D.

& Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Internal - A.D.A.W.C.

Answer 12 Mar
Still under
consideration
by

831

SUBJECT: O.C.A.T.I.C.

10^A
A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/C/10
27 Feb'45.

Ministry of War
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato.

With reference to conversations on the subject of the Organizzazione Centri Assistenza Truppi Italiani Combattenti the Countess Boroneo of a committee set up by that body, is desirous of contacting Italian Army Welfare Officials. It is understood that you will now take up this matter.

D
Lt. Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

830

THE ITALIAN RED CROSS

The Italian Red Cross has its Headquarters at Via Puglia 6, Rome. It is the National Red Cross of Italy and is fully recognised by the International Red Cross at Geneva, and works in strict adherence to the Geneva Convention.

It operates through its Provincial Committees and Sub-Committees in the various localities of liberated Italy in giving aid to those of Italian nationality.

The work covered by the Italian Red Cross includes:-

1. Direct assistance in the field.
2. Legal and administrative advice.
3. Enquiry and Postal Message Services.
4. Moral and financial help for those in great need.
5. All queries regarding Italian Prisoners of War.

The Italian Red Cross does not develop any direct activity with regard to persons other than Italian nationals; and any information received in regard to other nationals is transmitted to the Allied authorities for action.

Marchese Theodoli
Via Toscana 4.
Rome.

1. In this letter 03/10 of 21 Dec 46 (copy attached), the Ministry of War was informed that in view of the increased civilian postal services authorized by the 14th letter 12/12/46 (copy attached) it was not considered necessary to introduce special postal arrangements for correspondence between Italian Military personnel and their families in recently liberated areas.

2. Nevertheless the Ministry of War has requested that they may be allowed to implement a special military postal scheme on the grounds that such a postal service by transmitting family news would be of great morale benefit to the Italian Soldier. This view is strongly supported by this HQ as part of the Welfare Service now being organized.

3. The proposal made by the Ministry of War is to introduce a service post card with a printed text (see specimens attached which is being improved). The cards are only to be used by soldiers whose families are resident within liberated areas where the civil postal service has not been re-established.

This service is to be operated by the Italian Army Postal Service and the GDM will bring under them the Allied Postal Services on transport. The cards having been delivered to the family by the GDM will be completed and returned to the GDM who will in turn return them to the Italian Military postal service for delivery to the soldier.

4. It is requested that the proposal may be approved by staff and 15 Army Group HQ very soon particularly with a view to preventing, during times from the Italian Army, any or when have their origins in family anxieties due to lack of information.

/s/

Major General,
G. S. I. S.

Copy to: Spc 2nd MIA
Spc 2nd MIA

828

WELFARE FOR ITALIAN TROOPS OPERATING WITH 8th Army.

extract from Corriere Allorto.

27 Jan '43.

No. 97.

The activity, which is increasing daily, in welfare for the troops of a Italian division operating with 8 Army is brought to light through an interview by a correspondent of war with the senior welfare officer of the div. Two mobile canteens working near the front line take daily to the troops over a 1,000 cakes, newspapers and magazines. Three static canteens at Rimini, Cesena, and Forli give the troops the possibility of a rest centre, where organized civilian committees at Rimini and Cesena help the active work of the soldiers spiritual welfare.

Thanks to the co-operation of Allied Welfare Officers it has been possible for the soldiers to attend cinema shows, there are three shows a week at Rimini, Cesena and Forli. In order to continue to obtain help from the people of the newly liberated territory there has been created a welfare office for the families of prisoners of war. This office facilitates as much as possible the distribution of news concerning the fate of acquaintances, also every sort of correspondence. The help given by the public is notable, for example the office at Pesaro, has been visiting daily by a average of 100 people.

The newspaper of the division is "Il Piave" which has now reached a circulation of almost 1,000 and is distributed to all units. The situation is relieved by the fact that, although the ruin is that all welfare activity is effected only out of the funds of the office, the people of the liberated territories have often brought contributions to the start of this work.

A NEW DAILY FOR THE ARMY.

Rome. 21 Jan.

The Land Forces Sub Commission of the

Allied Commission has announced to-day that the Italian army will shortly have its' own daily paper. It is to be called "Patria" and will be published at Rome, Florence and Bari. A certain amount of help will be given to "Patria" by the Allied army newspaper units in the form of means of communications and news.

"Patria" will be entirely independent. The policy governing its articles, and the method of presenting news will be decided by the papers' own editors, who will be Italian army personnel.

The paper will not be simply a means of distributing news, but will also offer plenty of scope for publicity of the points of view of people in the army. It can be said that it will be a daily for the people in the army. 823

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TRANSLATIONCopy
G.D.

P.M. 3800 6 February '45.

Land Forces Sub-Commission
(M.I.I.A.) ROME.

Directorate of Welfare /B/S.

Formation of "Roll of Travelling Welfare Workers"

A group of intellectuals, professional men, and men of letters, who are not officers of the Armed Forces, wish to offer their work as a contribution to the war of liberation, in activities amongst fighting soldiers, for morale and welfare.

The request, which is highly appreciated, would have to be accepted quickly.

It would therefore be the intention of this Ministry to organize, under the Welfare Service, a Roll of Travelling Welfare Workers, comprising such helpers, of high standing, of sound patriotic sentiments, and with wide experience and capability, for employment in Regiments, Combat Groups or Static Divisions operating in forward areas.

These persons would not be employed in Non-Combatant Commands and units.

The "Roll" would have to be of volunteers, willing to operate anywhere required.

As stated, they would be sent to Regiments or units, and would come under the Commander for administration and employment, but under the Directorate of Welfare for briefing: their task would be the dissemination of suitable propaganda and morale work in the form most suited to the soldier with whom they would come in contact, and whose life they would share.

All political propaganda would be excluded.

The "Roll of Workers" would include

- 1 Inspector
- 1 Vice Inspector
- Workers. ?

The number of workers is dependant on the number of units affected, for the present the number can be fixed at 30; subject to augmentation according to the number of units.

They will be taken on in the rank of Captain if over the age of 40, and Lieutenant if under 40. The standard of age is suggested, as it is desired to avoid the difficulty of assessing the merits of each person and relying on the criterion of experience, rather than that of maturity of years.

Administration will be in accordance with the rank assigned; they will be entitled to normal ratings; they will be

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Administration will be in accordance with the rank assigned; they will be entitled to normal rations; they will be accommodated by the unit, and will be entitled to all the facilities enjoyed by an officer.

Uniform - in accordance with rank.

Engagement - for the duration of the war.

Discipline - according to their terms of engagement.

Judicial treatment " " " "

The proposal has received the approval of the Italian Government: please state whether it is acceptable to the Allied Authorities, and if so, please grant authority so that the "Roll of Travelling Welfare Workers" may be constituted without delay.

S/ G.C. Tanassia,
Brig. General.

C O P I A

G.D.

P.M. 3800, li 6-8-1945

LAND FORCES SUB.COMMISSION A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

N. 00486/B.S.

UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL SOLDATO/B/S.

R O M A

Costituzione di un ruolo transitorio B.S.-

Un gruppo di professionisti, intellettuali, uomini di studio ecc., che non sono ufficiali delle Forze Armate, desidera di poter dare la propria opera nella guerra di liberazione in corso, svolgendo opera di propaganda e di assistenza presso i combattenti.

Richiesta e contributo, altamente apprezzabili, dovrebbero essere accettati al più presto.

Sarebbe pertanto intenzione di questo Ministero organizzare, alla dipendenza dell'Ente Benessere del Soldato, un "ruolo transitorio B.S." comprendente simili coadiutori di alta levatura, di sicuri sentimenti patriottici, ricchi di esperienza e di capacità, da impiegare nell'interno dei reggimenti dei Gruppi di combattimento e delle Divisioni Logistiche che operano in zona di operazione.

Rimane escluso l'impiego di tale personale presso i Comandi e con unità non combattenti.

Detto "ruolo transitorio B.S." dovrebbe pertanto essere costituito da elementi volontari, disposti ad accettare qualunque destinazione.

Essi verrebbero, come si è detto, inviati ai Reggimenti e Raggruppamenti Logistici con dipendenza di impiego dal Comandante della unità e tecnica dall'Ufficio Benessere, con il compito di svolgere attiva propaganda e assistenza morale nei modi e con le forme meglio accessibili al soldato con il quale verranno a contatto e del quale vivranno la vita.

Esclusa ogni propaganda di carattere politico.

Il ruolo comprenderà:

1 Ispettore

1 Vice Ispettore

- Gregari -

Il numero dei gregari è in relazione alle unità (reggimento e similari) costituite. Per ora il loro numero può essere fissato a 30: succetibile di aumento se saranno costituite al unità.

Verranno assimilati ai gradi di capitano, se di età superiore ai 40 anni, e tenente, se di età inferiore. In criterio dell'età è suggerito dal Sa- siderio di evitare sperquazioni dovute alla difficoltà di ben valutare i meriti di ciascuno e risponde al criterio dell'esperienza, ascendente equilibrio dovuto alla maturità di anni.

- Trattamento economico in relazione al grado

Un gruppo di professionisti, intellettuali, uomini di studio ecc., che non sono ufficiali delle Forze Armate, desidera di poter dare la propria opera nella guerra di liberazione in corso, svolgendo opera di propaganda e di assistenza presso i combattenti.

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- Trattamento economico in relazione al grado assegnato - Diritto alla razione viveri; alloggio militare, e a tutte le altre agevolazioni di cui godono gli Ufficiali.

- Uniforme corrispondente al grado.

- Obblighi di servizio - per la durata della guerra.

- " disciplinari: derivanti dalla loro condizione di assimilato.

- Trattamento giuridico in relazione alla loro qualità di assimilati.

//...//

[illegible]

Prégo far conoscere se la proposta-che ha raccolto il gradimento del Governo Italiano-può essere accolta dall'Autorità Alleata e autorizzare in caso positivo la costituzione de "ruolo transitorio B.S." da attuarsi senza indugio.-

IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA
(G.C. TAMASSIA)

11) Auswertung

47.

News from Recently Liberated Regions.

1. There is no official channel for the passage of news from such areas.
2. It is not possible to obtain reports of the use of unofficial channels.
3. Letters addressed to such areas would normally be returned to the sender. Letters for the northern parts of Pisa and Florence provinces would, ~~however~~ however, be retained as delivery may shortly become possible.

L

S/

Subject: Postal Service, Italian Army.

A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.I.I.A.) ROME.
MIL/C/S.
15 Jan. 45.

"A" Branch M.I.I.A.

1. Reference your letter to the Ministry of War AG/16 of 22 Dec.

2. The Ministry of War apparently still consider that the services suggested in their 30145 of 23 Nov/44 would be of great value, and the matter has been passed to Italian Welfare for further action. Attached is a copy of Italian Welfare letter 008/B.V. of 24 Jan, a translation, and a copy of the proposed card.

3. It would appear that lack of news of families is a contributory cause of the percentage of absence without leave and this scheme would provide a means for the soldier to obtain news of his family from areas where the civil postal system is not available.

4. It is therefore recommended that the scheme be approved as follows:

(i) The service to be available to all serving soldiers.

(ii) The service postcards only to be addressed to the soldier's family when the family is resident within a liberated area where authority has not yet been given for the reinstatement of the civil postal service.

(iii) The service to be carried out by the Italian army postal service, and the CC.M.I. and help to be given by the Allies S.S. by the use of Allied army postal services.

824

R. J. J.
It. Col.

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(iii) The service to be carried out by the Italian army postal service, and the G.O. R.P. who help to be given by the Allies e.g. by the use of Allied army postal services.

824

R. J. S.
Lt. Col.
A.D.A. W.S.

TRANSLATIONMinistry of War.Welfare Office.

No. 0082/B.S.

P.M.3000. 24.Jan.45.

A.D.A.W.S.

M.M.I.A. Rome.Subject. Postal Service.
Italian Army.

Ref. M.M.I.A. A2/16. - 22 Dec '44.

1. The provisions relative to the institution of a civilian postal service in areas close to operational zones do not solve the problem confronting S.M.R.. It is thought convenient to repeat and clarify the question.

2. Men of the army who are stationed in liberated territory, and whose homes be immediately to the South of the operational zone in areas not yet handed over to the civil authority, complain that the rules at present in force prevent them from getting news of their families, - news which they have lacked for a long time.

With the object of eliminating this cause of discontent, and while awaiting the passing of the recently liberated areas to the control of the Italian authorities, when the civil postal system can be extended, it is proposed to introduce a postal service, by means of a special postcard with a printed text, solely for the use of serving soldiers who have families, possessions, or interests, in operational zones or in adjacent areas.

This service would have to be through the Military Post Office serving Italian units at the front, which would pass the cards to stations of the CC.RR. for delivery. The card itself (see enclosure). After being filled in with the required information, would be returned to the CC.RR. who would in their turn pass it to the Military Post Office for onward transmission to the enquirer.

This form of Welfare, which would be carried out with the means already at the disposal of the Combat Groups and Divisions (209,210,228) would certainly tend to minimise absence without leave and to reduce the numbers of soldiers appearing in operational zones without proper authority, naturally anxious to know what has happened to their friends and families during so long a time.

823

G.C. TAMASSIA
Brigadier General.

P.C.C.

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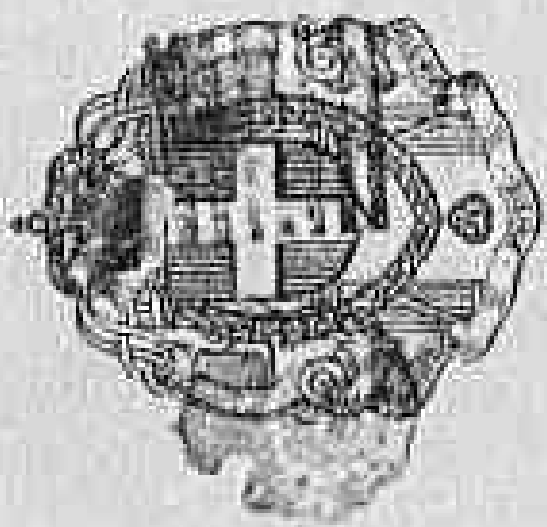
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P.C.C. /S. A. Anguloni, Lt. Col.

G.C. TAMASSIA
Brigadier General.



An/fi

Ministero della Guerra

UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL SOLDATO

N° 0082/P.S. di prot.R.M. 3800, 1^o Gennaio 1945OGGETTO: Disposizioni postali -Esercito italiano.

A. D. A. W. S.

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

R O M A

Rif. lettera L.F.S.C. A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
AQ/16 - 22 Dicembre 1944

I provvedimenti relativi alla istituzione del servizio postale civile in alcune zone attigue a quelle di operazione non risolvono il problema prospettato dallo Stato Maggiore R. Esercito. Reputo conveniente ripetere e chiarire il quesito.

I militari alle armi dislocati nel territorio liberato e che hanno le famiglie residenti nelle località immediatamente a Sud della zona di combattimento e non ancora restituite alle Autorità Civili, si lagnano che le vigenti disposizioni impediscano loro di aver notizie dei loro cari -notizie delle quali mancano da lungo tempo.

Allo scopo di eliminare tale causa di malcontento ed in attesa che i territori di recente liberazione passino sotto il controllo delle Autorità Italiane e possa estendersi ad essi il servizio di posta civile si propone di istituire a mezzo di speciali cartoline a testo fisso un servizio di corrispondenza per i soli militari alle armi aventi le famiglie, gli avari, gli interessi nelle zone di operazione od immediatamente a contatto con queste.

Tale servizio dovrebbe essere appoggiato agli Uffici della Posta Militare, esistenti presso i reparti italiani al fronte i quali a loro volta si servirebbero delle stazioni RR. per il recapito di destinazione.

La stessa cartolina (vedi allegato) verrebbe, dopo ricevuta delle notizie richieste, riconsegnata alle stazioni CC.

OGGETTO: Disposizioni postali -Esercito italiano.

A. D. A. W. S.

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La stessa cartolina (vedi allegato) verrebbe, dopo riempita delle notizie richieste, riconsegnata alle stazioni CC. RR. che a loro volta le restituirebbero agli Uffici della Posta Militare per il successivo inoltro al richiedente le notizie.

Tale forma di Permessi che sarebbe svolta con i mezzi
./.



REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO

Cartolina postale in franchigia

MITTENTE

Grado CAPORALECognome BARBANTINome GIOVANNIReparto 270^a Compagnia
PanettieriP.M. PALERMO

or P.M. 3800

Al SIGNOR

LUIGI BARBANTI15 Via GARIBALDI

ALFONSINE

P.M. 179

(1)

821

a cura dello S. M. R. E.

785020

Palermo 15 Gennaio 1945
 or P.M. 3800
 STO' BENE - DATEMI NOTIZIE CON LA PRESENTE.
 ABBRACCI.
 firma Giovanni Barbanti

(Spazio riservato per la risposta.)

ANNULLARE IL NON APPLICABILE

1. Sto bene
 Annunziato
 alla ospedale

4. - La nostra casa è in piedi
 danneggiata

2. Padre
 Madre
 Fratelli
 sorelle stanno bene

Abbracci

3. Moglie
 Figli
 Figlie stanno bene

Firma

LUIGI BARBANTI

This P.M.(A.P.O.) is the address of the Delegation of the SMRE in Florence, from where the postcard will be sent to the P.M. of the nearest Combat Group or Division to the address. (e.g. Alfonsine).

The P.M. will deliver the postcard to the Carabinieri or Town Major for the consignment to the addressee, and it will then be returned to the original sender in Palermo, or P.M. 3800

SUBJ CT:-- Radio Messages

A.D.A.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(L.M.I.A.) RCM.
W.I/C/L.

21 Jan. 43.

D.A.D.L.

W.I.

Copy -- A2. W.I.

1. Ref conversation DADI -- ADAMS.
2. Attached is copy of a letter received from Italian Welfare, at the War Ministry on the above subject.
3. When explaining this matter verbally Italian Welfare stated :-
 - (i) That although soldiers were permitted to make use of this service they did so 'as civilians'; i.e. Capt X would be referred to in the message as Mr. X.
 - (ii) That Messages should be sent to Welfare at the War Ministry through unit Commanders and Welfare channels. The necessary forms are made out at the Ministry and transmitted to the Vatican Radio office.
 - (iii) That all information on this subject will be included in a directive the Italian Director of Welfare is issuing.

Lt. Col.

A.D.A.S.

819

TRANSLATIONSUBJECT: -Radio Messages.Ministry of War,
Ufficio Benessere
del Soldato.

PM. 3800

19 Jan 45.A.D.A.W.S.
M.M.I.A.

Reference enquiry W1/P/7A. dated 17 Jan 45.

1. The Information Office of the Holy See
(Vatican) provide for the daily transmission
of radio messages to occupied Italy.
2. Military personnel are permitted to send
such messages, through the offices of this Ministry.
ageny *Office*

Sgd. TAMMASSIA
Brig.General.



Ministero della Guerra

UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL SOLDATO

N° 0044/B.S. di prot.

P.M. 3800, 11 19 Gennaio 1945

OGGETTO: Radio messaggi.

A. D. A. W. S.
c/o LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
M. M. I. A.

R O M A

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- Riferimento richiesta WL/P/7A del 17 Gennaio 1945.
- 1°) - L'Ufficio Informazioni della Santa Sede (Vaticano) provvede alla trasmissione giornaliera di radio messaggi per l'Italia occupata.
  - 2°) - Ai militari è concesso inviare tali messaggi tramite gli Uffici dipendenti da questo Ente. =

IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA

*Luigi Sanna*

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI STATISTICA

OGGETTO: Radio messaggi.-

A. D. A. W. S.

c/o LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION

M. M. I. A.

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IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA

*Luigi Ferrarini*

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