

ACC

10000/120/4113

29

Ita

July 2

10000/120/4113

29

Italian Army Material

360  
607

July 25, 1944 - Nov. 14, 1945

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.  
(M.M.I.A.) FLORENCE COMMAND  
A.P.C. 650

RCV/lde/51.  
November, 14, 1945.

Subject : Italian Military Property.  
To : Comm.Gen. 7th Territorial Headquarters - Florence.

1. Ref. your prot. #8706/Serv.Prot. of 10 of November 1945 and copies of directives from my HQ. on same subject.
2. Am forwarding your request to Florence Command recommending favorable action. Suggest that you continue to notify this office in the future of any similar situations which may occur and we will take action.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. MMIA LO  
Florence

Cc : M.M.I.A.

29

607

XDX 650

Local Resources Items - November 1945.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 6 Nov.  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence # 7

For your information.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

606

89

xxx 650

Barracks "P.Ferrucci" - Pistoia.

RCV/ebf

Sr      PBS      6 Nov  
MMIA LO      1945  
Florence

Forwarded recommending that these premises be derequisitioned and that you notify this office when the Italians can take possession of their property. Suggest that the premises should not be left unguarded for fear of vandalism and that we be notified when you expect to remove your guards so that the Terr HQ may place Italian Guards on duty there at that time.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

## FLORENCE COMMAND

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

Office of origin M.M.I.A. LO FLORENCE Date 31 OCTOBER 1945  
 Classification UNCLASSIFIED Telephone 1629  
(Restricted - Confidential - Secret) (Originating officer)  
 Precedence ROUTINE  
(Deferred - Routine - Priority - Operational Priority - Urgent)

To: MIKE MIKE ITEM ABLE ROME

UNCLASSIFIED PD REFERENCE YOUR SIGNAL SUGAR TARE SLANT ONE ZERO TWO ZERO  
 SLANT ABLE OF TWO SEVEN OCTOBER SUBJECT PRESENT HOLDINGS LOAD CARRIERS OF  
 SEVEN ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSPORT COMPANY PD LOAD CARRIERS NOW ON HAND TOTAL  
 SIX ZERO PD

*R.C. Van Kirk*  
 R.C. VAN KIRK,  
 Major, Inf.,  
 Sr MMIA LO  
 Florence.

Distribution

Content and classification

authenticated by \_\_\_\_\_

Signal Corps Message Center Number 604  
(Do Not Write In This Space)

XXX 650

## Request for Beretta Pistols and Holsters

Sr Arty 5 Nov.  
MMIA Directorate 45Request that 2 Beretta pistols and holsters be  
issued to the M.M.I.A. Detachment in Florence.R.C. Van Kirk  
Major, Inf.  
Sr. (MMIA) LO  
Florence

603

xxx 650

Transfer of Vehicles to Italian Army.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G.  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 2 Nov.  
Florence # 7 1945

For your information and guidance.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

XXX

Industrial Oxygen for 7th Ital. Repair Unit.

RCV/ebf

Sr      Soc.      31 Oct  
MMIA LO Ossigeno      1945  
Florence

You are authorized to issue to the 7th  
Repair Unit upon payment, 3 oxygen tanks for  
use by the Italian Army in repairing Italian  
Army vehicles.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Infl,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

601

## FLORENCE COMMAND

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

Office of origin M.M.I.A. LO FLORENCE Date 31 OCTOBER 1945  
Classification UNCLASSIFIED Telephone 1629  
(Restricted - Confidential - Secret) (Originating officer)  
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SIX ZERO PD

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MIA LO  
Florence.

Distribution

Content and classification

authenticated by

600

Signal Corps Message Center Number

(Do Not Write In This Space)

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AC (MMIA)

FLORENCE

APO ~~XX~~ 650

US ARMY

Subject: Report on Load Carriers.

| IND<br>NO. | FROM                | TO                         | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | MMIA LO<br>Florence | G.O.<br>No 7<br>ADM<br>Tpt | 27 Oct<br>1945 | <p>Reference attached signal.</p> <p>Request you furnish me immediately the number of load carriers you have in order that I may answer this signal.</p> <p><i>R.C. Van Kirk</i><br/>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. MMIA LO<br/>Florence</p> |

xxx 650

Italian Military Vehicle.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 29 Oct  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence # 8

1. Reference attached communications.

2. Request that the officers and men connected with this transaction be court martialed and directed to pay for the truck in question. When the truck was here in Florence it was agreed that it could proceed to Rome but with the distinct understanding that it was then to be delivered to the Italian War Ministry in Rome and not to come back up north. It didn't need any gasoline after it got to Rome and everybody concerned with permitting the truck in question to go to Milan should be dealt with severely for they should have known that the truck would be lost to the Italian Army.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

Lt. Col. Mario Capitani to receipt for Vet. equipment.

RCV/ebf

Sr Lt. Col. 29 Oct  
MMIA LO Mario 1945  
Florence Capitani

Request you go to the 2 Vet. Remount and  
Con. Sec. located at Viale Duca di Genoa, near the  
Robertson Club and receipt for certain vet. equip-  
ment to be delivered to you in connection with the  
transfer of the 1300 mules to the Italian Army.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence.

xxx 650

Equipment for 7th Repair Unit.

RCV/ebf

Sr Societa' 29 Oct  
MMIA LO Ossigeno 1945  
Florence

Request that the 7 Repair Unit be issued 3  
acetylene tanks per week for the purpose of repairing  
Italian Army Vehicles.

*Oxygen Tanks*

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

596

xxx 650

## Vacating and Guarding of Italian Military Property.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 29 Oct  
MMIA LO PBS 1945  
Florence

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Forwarded recommending that American Units be instructed to notify this office or our office in Leghorn a few days in advance of their intention to vacate Italian Military property in order that we may notify the Italian HQ concerned so that guards may be posted promptly.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

Vacating and Guarding of Italian Military Property.

RCV/ebf

Sr GOC 29 Oct  
MMIA LO Florence 1945  
FlorenceCommand  
211  
Area

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Forwarded recommending that all Allied Units in this area be instructed to notify this office a few days in advance of their intention to vacate Italian Military property in order that we may notify the Italian HQ so that guards may be posted promptly.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

Italian Army M.T.

RCV/ebf

MMIA LO C.G. 27 Oct.  
Florence Terr HQ 1945  
# 7

1. Reference attached communication.
2. For your information.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

593

27

xxx 650

Italian Military Vehicles.

RCV/ebf

MMIA LO Ital 27 Oct.  
Florence LC 1945

1. Reference attached communication.
2. If you elect it is approved that you move your E.F.V. or a part of it to Pontedera or 4-L-68 Leghorn in connection with the repair of the 400 German vehicles.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

592

## Monthly Vehicle Report.

1 Ital Sr 26 Oct  
Lo MMIA 1945  
LO

Herewith enclosed is a copy of the monthly vehicle report from 7th Territorial Command concerning the units mentioned below:

Carabinieri Legion, Florence  
230 Division  
4th Efficient Vehicle Park

2nd Lt. M. Innocenti

---

2 MMIA LO MMIA 27 Oct  
Florence 1945

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

## Report on Load Carriers.

MMIA LO C.O. 27 Oct  
Florence No 7 1945  
ADM  
Tpt

Reference attached signal.

Request you furnish me immediately the number of  
load carriers you have in order that I may answer this  
signal.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. MMIA LO  
Florence

590

XXX 650

## Sale of Derelict Italian Army Vehicles.

JJW/ebf

MMIA LO MMIA  
Florence22 Oct  
1945

1. Reference telephone conversation  
Major Taylor—Captain Ward, 20 October 45.

2. Enclosed herewith are applications  
for the sale to private individuals of derelict  
Italian Army vehicles. These vehicles have not  
been inspected.

JOHN J. WARD,  
Captain, CAC,  
MMIA LO  
Florence

## ROUTING SLIP

HEADQUARTERS  
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION APO 782

File No. Q

SUBJECT: CEM Material being Shipped By PBS

|   |        |         |          |
|---|--------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 19 Oct | MMIA LO | MMIA LO  |
|   | 1945   | Penbase | Florence |

Forwarded herewith is DD # 7616 for  
items of CEM material currently being  
shipped to Florence.

DD on Remount material will be sent  
when available.

Ira V. Fordyce  
Captain Inf.,  
Liaison Officer

---

2 23 October 1945  
Director  
Florence Commence Comm.

For your information and necessary  
action.

JOHN J. WARD,  
Captain, CAC,  
MMIA LO  
Florence

588

xxx 650

## Recovery of Italian Vehicles

MMIA LO MMIA 16 Oct  
Florence 1945

Enclosed find the originals and copies of translations plus 4 enclosures 7 Terr. Repairs Directorate letter 907/640/Aut/Ric of 6 Oct 45 for your information.

JOHN J. WARD  
Capt, CAC  
M.M.I.A. LO  
Florence

■ 587

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. (MMIA)

APD 650

FLORENCE

US ARMY

RCV/jad  
10 October 1945

SUBJECT: Recovery of Italian Army Vehicles.

TO: Provincial Commissioner  
Padova Province

1. Reference copy of attached letter from your headquarters.
2. The truck mentioned in your communication has been impounded by the 7th Reparto Riparazione here in Florence for the reason that it is an Italian Military truck and found in unauthorized hands. The trailer attached to the truck was released for it was of German extraction.
3. No. 1 District was without authority to allot this Italian Military truck to Ufficio Autotrasporti Padova for vehicles of Italian Army origin are to be returned to the Italian War Ministry through MMIA. It is suggested that by virtue of AFHQ directive AC 386.3/163 LOG-O, dated 22 June 1945, the control of captured vehicles is vested in the Supreme Allied Commander, and not in One District as you indicate.
4. My headquarters in Rome, reference their O/5/10 of 5 September 1945, has issued a recent directive on this subject, see copy attached.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
Florence

cc: MMIA

586

xxxx 650

Vehicles and POL for 21 Recovery Comm

2      Sr    MMIA    10 Oct  
MMIA LO    1945  
Florence

Forwarded recommending approval.

H.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf  
Sr. (MMIA) LO  
Florence

585

xxx 650

## Italian Artillery Equipment on Gorgona Island.

RCV/ebf

Sr Lt. Col. 5 Oct.  
MMIA LO R.G. 1945  
Florence Raymond  
573  
Coast  
Regiment  
RA

1. Reference your 573/S&E/937 of the 28th  
September 45.

2. I passed your first request on to the  
Italian Artillery Director on the 20th of September  
for action but have heard nothing from him. Am  
requesting that a reply to your inquiry be expedited.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

Italian Artillery Equipment on Gorgona Island.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.C. 5 Oct.  
MMIA IO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence #7

1. Reference attached communication and my backslip of 20 September 1945 same subject.
2. Request that a reply be expedited to the original communication attached to my original backslip.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA IO  
Florence

xxx 650

Recovery of Military Materials.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 5 Oct.  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence #7

For your information and guidance.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

582

HEADQUARTERS  
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION  
APO 782

AG \_\_\_\_\_

## INTER OFFICE MEMO

CLASSIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Shipping Ticket

Number each consecutively. Fill in each column, initial action, draw one line across the sheet. Use the entire width of sheet for long memoranda.

| NO | DATE         | FROM                | TO                                                                 |
|----|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 20 Aug 45    | QM PBS              | <del>MMIA</del> Florence, Fortezza da Basso, Director of Artillery |
| 2  | 10 Sept 1945 | Sr MMIA IO Florence | QM PBS                                                             |
| 3  | 2 Oct 1945   | QM PEN-BASE         | SR MMIA IO Florence                                                |

HLB/RGR/jwa

Request attached shipping ticket #12311, dated 20 August 1945, covering supplies issued on DD 8001, be accomplished and returned to this headquarters.

HLB/Deputy QM

Have investigated this and my information now is that the saddles described in the attached shipping ticket are Italian Military equipment which were delivered to PBS by my HQ and came from Italian Military stocks in Sardinia. It is my opinion that the signed shipping ticket should be destroyed for the Italians should not be charged with their own property.

*R.C. Van Kirk*  
R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) IO,  
Florence

cc: MMIA

GHB/JFO/ne

3. 2 Oct 1945  
QM PEN-BASE  
SR MMIA IO Florence

1. Between 21 and 27 July a total of 2,067 each saddles, pack, Italian were shipped to Forezza da Basso, Florence.

2. The above quantity was in addition to the 1,277 listed on shipping ticket 12311, thus making a total of 3,344 pack saddles shipped. Of this amount 1,277 were manufactured in Italy and paid for with U. S. Gov't funds.

3. In view of above, signed shipping tickets are being retained.

581

GHB/QM

xxx 650

Truck for Neo-Fascist Prisoners Camp, Florence.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 4 Oct.  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence # 7

1. Reference MMIA letter G/6 of 20 September 1945 to Minister of War.

2. Request that a truck and driver be made available immediately to the Commanding Officer of the Neo-Fascist Prisoners Camp, Florence, until such time as replacements can be obtained from the North for the truck and driver.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

## Request for Truck Driver and Equipment.

RCV/ebf

Sr Terr HQ 4 Oct  
MMIA LO # 4 1945  
Florence

1. Request that 4 tires and tubes, size 165-400 Aprilia, be made available to Lt. Apostoli who will bring them to Florence to be used on a vehicle at this Headquarters.

2. Further request that a truck <sup>and</sup> driver be made available to Lt. Apostoli for use at the Female Neo-Fascist Prisoners Camp, Florence.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

Request for Truck Driver and Equipment.

RCV/ebf

Sr Terr HQ 4 Oct.  
MMIA LO # 6 1945  
Florence

1. Request that 4 tires and tubes, size 165-400 Aprilia, be made available to Lt. Apostoli who will bring them to Florence to be used on a vehicle at this Headquarters.

2. Further request that a truck and driver be made available to Lt. Apostoli for use at the Female Neo-Fascist Prisoners Camp, Florence.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

Request for Truck Driver and Equipment.

RCV/ebf

Sr Major 4 Oct.  
MMIA IO Edwards 1945  
Florence REME

I am in trouble. Please see that 4 tires and tubes, size 165-400 Aprilia, be made available to Lt. Apostoli who will bring them to Florence to be used on a vehicle at this Headquarters.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA IO  
Florence

■ 577

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.  
(M.M.I.A.) FLORENCE COMMAND  
A.P.O. 650

File

1F  
3 Oct. 1945

~~Oggetto~~ : Potenziamento Arma.

Al : \* Comando Militare Territoriale - Firenze

Si esprime parere favorevole circa quanto richiesto a  
cotesto Comando dal Comando CC.RR. di Firenze con lettera n.247/15  
in data 2 Ottobre 1945.

576

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Maggiore Inf.  
M.M.I.A. LO  
Firenze.

xxx 650

Military Geographical Institute, Florence.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 3 Oct.  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence # 7

1. Reference your recent inquiry as to the status of the officers at the Geographical Institute.

2. Attached is a copy of a letter from my HQ which is an answer to my inquiry of the 18th of September. It would appear that the status of the officers at the Institute is being canvassed and that an increase in officer strength may be approved and in which event the ration strength would likewise be increased.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

575

xxx 650

Vehicle Permit.

RCV/ebf

Sr      Dist.    2 Oct  
MMIA LO      1945  
Florence

Request that a permit be issued to  
Capt. GALVAGNO PIETRO for his automobile, Fiat  
1500, n.44060, to be used in connection with  
the business of the Italian Army. He is not  
authorized to draw P.O.L.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

DI RORAI Barracks, Parma.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 2 Oct  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence # 6

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Any British Officers wanting to requisition Italian Military property should be referred to Capt. Thrupp, MMIA LO, Bologna, c/o 217 Area.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

■ 573

xxx 650

Maps of Florence.

Sr Nat 28 Sept  
MMIA LO Geot 1945  
Florence Inst

Request you furnish me immediately 6  
copies of your recent map of Florence, flat type,  
which the Survey Directorate at AFHQ has re-  
quested. I am to deliver these maps to Rome  
tomorrow so please deliver to the bearer of this  
request.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

572

xxx 650

Italian Military Truck.

RCV/ebf

Sr Prov. 28 Sept  
MMIA LO Comm. 1945  
Florence Bergamo  
Province

1. Reference copies of attached correspondence.

2. Am instructing the Terr. Hq. to keep the truck in question. The registration of this truck by your Transportation Officer was a violation of AFHQ and 5th Army directives and should immediately have been delivered to Rec. Comm. # 21 as he was ordered to do by 5th Army. The Vehicle will now be properly accounted for.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

M 571

## Confiscation of truck

1 Ital Sr 28 Sept  
LO MMIA LO 1945  
Florence

Alleged translation of letter of  
AMC officer - Bergamo--Territorial HQs  
wishes to know your decision on the  
matter,

Ten. A. M. De Martino

---

2 Sr Ital 28 Sept  
MMIA LO LO 1945  
Florence

1. My decision is the truck should not be  
turned back for it is an Italian Military truck  
and should never have been converted to civilian  
use.

2. Reference attached communication from  
the AMC Transportation office, Bergamo Province.  
I will answer that.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

xxx 650

*Italian mil. Truck*

Sr Prov. 28 Sept  
MMIA LO Comm. 1945  
Florence Verona  
Province

1. Reference attached communication from  
your Transportation Officer.

2. Inviting your attention to the fact that  
this truck was not confiscated by Florence author-  
ities but an unauthorized use was permitted by  
your Transportation Officer. Have instructed the  
Terr. HQ. not to return the truck.

cc: C.G. Terr. HQ. #7

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
MAJOR, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Italian Military Dumps, Peschiera Area

RCV/ebf

---

2 Sr MMIA MMIA 20 Sept  
LO 1945  
Florence

568

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Italian Truck Mounted Showers.

RCV/ebf

2      Sr MIA      MIA      20 Sept  
         LO      LO      1945  
Florence Bolzano

Query. Can you handle this?

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MIA LO  
Florence

■ 567

Italian Army Machinery.

ROV/ebf

J Sr MMIA MMIA 20 Sept  
LO LO 1945  
FlorenceBolsano

Passed to you for such action as you  
think best.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

566

## Inventory of material turned in to Italian Dumps.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA MMIA 20 Sept  
LO 1945  
Florence

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Vehicles.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA MMIA 20 Sept  
LO 1945  
Florence

For your information.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Recovery of Vehicles from U.S. AFOD. #14

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA C.G. 20 Sept  
LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence #7

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Request you advise me when the vehicles listed under AFOD No. 14 Pontedera have been recovered.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

563

Captured Enemy Material.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA C.G. 20 Sept  
LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence #7

1. Reference attached communication.
2. For your information and necessary action.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Italian Artillery Equipment on Gorgona Island.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA C.G. 20 Sept  
LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence #7

1. Reference attached communication.
2. As indicated request you advise me when you can effect removal or what your plans are with respect to this equipment.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Military Geographical Institute, Florence.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA MMIA 18 Sept  
LO 1945  
Florence

1. Reference Ind. No. 1.

2. All the above officers are connected with the Geographical Institute. Yet as I understand it only two of them are on the ration strength. They apparently are in the Italian Army and doing their assigned jobs. It seems to me that they ought to be drawing rations or out of uniform and out of the institute. If they are civilians then they should be dressed as such. Query. What is their status.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

## Italian Military Vehicles.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA MMIA 20 Sept  
LO 1945  
Florence

1. Reference attached communication.

2. The vehicles that were assigned to the Italian Liaison Office at 5th Army went to the Liaison Office Two District at Milano and the vehicle which was assigned to Capt. Mazzarella, LO with 5th Army Surgeon is here in Florence for Mazzarella is now with me. He needs this vehicle for an L.O. is no good without transport. I have initiated action for approval of a W.E. covering the Italian officers, men, and vehicles assigned here.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Vehicle of Garrison HQ.

RCV/obf

Sr MMIA MMIA 20 Sep  
LO 1945  
Florence

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

558

## Pilfering of equipment.

1      Ital      Sr      19  
         Lo      MMIA      Sept  
                 LO      45

Naples Terr. HQ. communicates:

On the 3rd of Aug. and during the travel of equipment of the 230th Div. from Frattamaggiore to Florence some clothing has been stolen. Inquiries have been carried out by CC.RR. The commanding officer of the responsible squad and 11 soldiers have been arrested. Four civilians have also been arrested for taking in stolen goods.

For your information.

A.M. De Martino  
2nd Lt.  
Ital LO

---

2      Sr MMIA MMIA      19 Sept  
         LO              1945  
Florence

For your information and necessary action.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Issues of Italian Army Vehicles.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA C.G. 16 Sept  
LO Terr HQ 1945  
Florence #7

For your information.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

Monthly Vehicle Return.

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|   |          |      |          |
|---|----------|------|----------|
| 2 | Sr       | MMIA | 15 Sept. |
|   | MMIA     |      | 1945     |
|   | LO       |      |          |
|   | Florence |      |          |

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

## Monthly Vehicle Return.

---

2      Sr      MMIA      15 Sept.  
         MMIA              1945  
         LO  
Florence

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr MMIA LO  
Florence

■ 555

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. (IMIA)

APD 782

FLORENCE

US ARMY

15 September 1945

Received from CRISTOFORETTI, Felice fu Damiano, of BOLZANO the  
vehicle described below:

LANCIA 3 RO  
License No. BZ 8233  
Motor No. 10211953  
Body No. 564647A

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (IMIA) LO,  
Florence

## Recovery Commission No. 24

Ital 10      MMIA LO      6 Sept  
G-4                      1945

Following our interoffice nr. 7868/2/  
subject as above, dt 6 Aug 1945.  
Mil terr Hq. No. 4 (Polzano) sollicitates  
authorization for Rec. Comm No 24 to enter the  
dumps listed on the list attached to the inter-  
office 7868/21.

To said list following dumps should be added:  
Caldonazzo (electric material )  
Roncegno-Scurelle (Machinery and various)

Alessandro Cicogna, Capt.  
Italian Liaison Officer G-4

---

2.      MMIA LO      mmia LO 12 Sep  
                                         Milano 1945

Forwarded recommending approval.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
MMIA LO  
5th Army

553

\*29

## Vehicle Windshield Stickers.

MMIA LO CG 12 Sept  
5th Army 210 1945  
Division

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Your request is approved for the transfer of 49 windshield stickers now in your possession to vehicles of the Security Guard Brigades.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
MMIA LO  
5th Army

552

64/29

Tires and tubes for vehicles. (Italian)

MMIA LO MMIA LO 12 Sep  
5th A Milano 1945

Forwarded recommending approval.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
MMIA LO  
5th Army

551

(# 24

*Italian Material*

3      Sr      CG      29 Aug  
MMIA LO   Terr HQ   1945  
#6

Inviting your attention to my 1st Indorsement. G-5 now states that the prefect at BOLOGNA is not under AMG and has returned your communication to me for that reason. It would appear therefore to be entirely an Italian matter but you of course have AFHQ authority to take possession of Italian military property and in this instance as far as Allied authority is concerned, you are authorized to take such action as may be necessary to recover such property.

R.O.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Transportation Office - VERONA Province

RCV/jed

Sr  
MMIA LO

C-5

29 Aug  
1945

Request that the Transportation Officer, VERONA Province, Major Prinsloo, furnish Recovery Commission #21 with a list of vehicles registered in his office, or permit a representative from the Recovery Commission to make such a list. The Recovery Commission wants to see if any Italian military vehicles have been registered in that office through error.

R.C. VAN KIRE  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: Rec Comm #21

549

24

Recovery Comm #21

RCV/jad

|         |      |        |
|---------|------|--------|
| Sr      | Rec  | 27 Aug |
| MMIA LO | Comm | 1945   |
|         | #21  |        |

It is agreeable with me to comply with  
the request made.

R, C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C. (MMIA)

FLORENCE

APO 782

US ARMY

RCV/jad  
10 September 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Military Property belonging to Italian Army.

TO: Commanding Officer  
2626 Engineer Group (Prov)  
APO 464, US Army

CG Rear Fifth Army (Info)

1. Reference attached communications.
2. Request you return immediately or make available the machines mentioned in basic communication since this is Italian Military property.
3. I am not asking that the "13 wagons of printing paper" referred to in Para 3 be returned or accounted for since it is my opinion that Fifth Army Engineer or you according to Allied directives had a right to use the paper and the machines but now since you probably have no further use for the machines, they should be returned.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
Florence

cc: MMIA - your 2/5/8 of 21 Aug 45.  
CG Geographical Inst, Florence

54

27

Attached Communications on Italian Military Property  
belonging to the Italian Army

Sr CG 5 Sept  
WMIA LO Geograph- 1945  
Florence ical  
Inst  
Florence

1. Reference attached communications.
2. Request you have a representative from your office see me immediately.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (WMIA) IO,  
5th Army

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.  
(M.M.I.A.) FLORENCE COMMAND  
A. P. O. 782

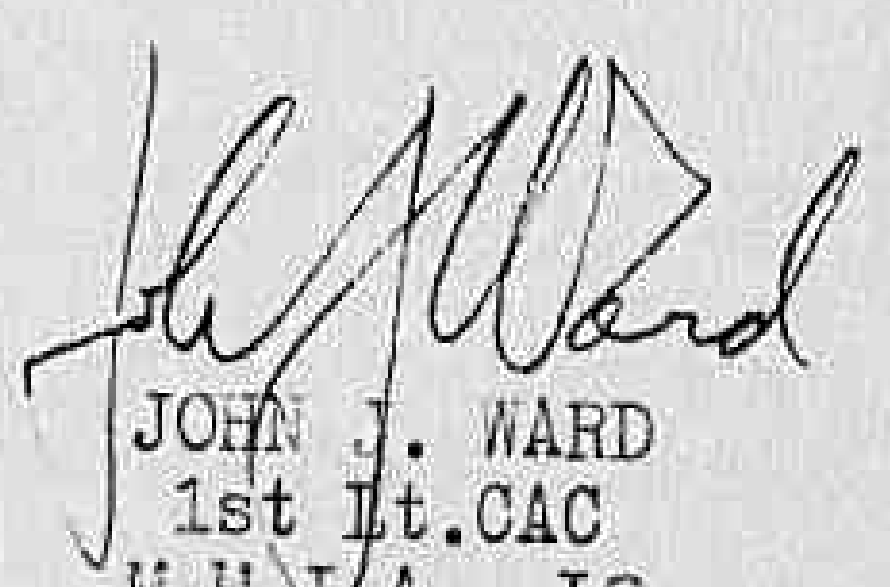
LO/F/10  
28 August 1945

Subject : Geographical Institute, Florence.

To : M.M.I.A. L/O, 5th Army.

1. Attached find M.M.I.A. letter Q/5/8 of 21 Aug. 45, subject as above, and related correspondence forwarded under a/m letter.

2. From investigation, it appears that 2626 Eng. Group, (Prov) is not in the Florence Area. If the unit is in 5 Army, will you contact it re para 3 of M.M.I.A. letter.

  
JOHN J. WARD  
1st Lt. CAC  
M.M.I.A. LO  
Florence

Copy to : Hq. M.M.I.A.

U.C.V.P.M.T. H.Q. 5th Army.

21st July 1944.

This is to certify that Maresciallo Maggiore Bisconti Luigi of the Italian Army is a member of the commission for the collection of Italian Military Material as directed by A.A.I. and is authorized to take possession of all such arms and equipment in 5th Army Area.

Italian transport.

Persons and Italian military material including transport,

- 1) A.A.I. circular dated 1 May 1944, states:  
Italian material including transport belonging to the Italian enemy Army is reserved for the use of the Italian Army.
- 2) Italian military vehicles should be delivered to Italian officers who are members of the section designated by A.A.I. to collect such material.

R.C. Van Kirk,  
Major, Infantry.  
A.A.I.

**Italian Military Vehicles**

Sr Official 3 Sep  
MMIA LO Service 1945  
Florence Officer

7th  
Automobile  
Directorate

Request you take possession of the trucks  
described in basic communication.

H.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
Florence

-----

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.  
(M.M.I.A.) FLORENCE COMMAND  
A.P.O. 782

LO/F/6  
31 August 1945

Subject: Captured Enemy Material

To : M.M.I.A. HQ. Rome.

1. Herewith report called for by your Q554 of 28 August  
45. Following details are being despatched simultaneously by  
signal:

| Quantity | Unit | Item                    | Nationality | Sources                |
|----------|------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 7        | ea   | Trucks, 3 ton           | Italian     | 14 A FOD,<br>Pontedera |
| 8        | ea   | Trailers, 3 ton         | Italian     | "                      |
| 1        | ea   | Fiat, coupe, 2 pass     | Italian     | "                      |
| 5        | ea   | Trucks, 4 ton           | German      | "                      |
| 1        | ea   | Bus, 40 passenger       | German      | "                      |
| 2        | ea   | Trailers, 4 ton         | German      | "                      |
| 20       | ea   | Chassis Frames;<br>Fiat | Italian     | "                      |
| 2        | tons | Small arms              | Italian     | 5 Army                 |
| 500      | tons | Clothing (Salvage)      | German      | PBS                    |

2. The local Italian Artillery Directorate believes the small arms turned in to them by 5 Army were captured in the North. From my inspection, however, it appears they might also be merely arms turned in by disbanded US-ITI units. No definite origin could be proved in time for this report.

JOHN J. WARD  
1st Lt, CAC  
M.M.I.A. LO  
Florence

Italian Material

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LO

G-5

26 Aug  
1945

Forwarded recommending that materials indicated be ordered returned to the Italian War Ministry or to General Cerica's HQ and that the Prefect involved be removed from office.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA

## Request for parts

RCV/jad

Sr 5 Army 26 Aug  
MMIA LO Ord 1945

Request that the following parts for an Alfa Roma,  
6 cylinder,model 2500, be released to me:

- 1 - Battery
- 6 - Spark plugs
- 1 - Coil
- 1 - Fan belt
- 1 - Set Distributor Points

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) 10,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Release of Captured Enemy Material

| IND<br>NO. | FROM         | TO           | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | G-4<br>Rear  | Sr<br>MIA LO | 25 Aug         | <p>Request that an inquiry be made to determine present location and status of items requested in order that a release of the items might be effected.</p> <p>FOR THE AC OF S, G-4:</p> <p>MAX E. WARE<br/>Major, QMC<br/>Asst. G-4</p>                                                                                   |
| 2          | Sr<br>MIA LO | Ital<br>LO   | 26 Aug<br>1945 | <p>Request you check with CC.RR at Verona and determine where the materials listed in basic communication are located, that is, the Dump Number and location. Please furnish me this information so that I may comply with Major Ware's request.</p> <p>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p> |

Request for parts.

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LO

Ord

26 Aug  
1945

Request that the following parts for a FIAT 1100  
be released to MMIA:

Cylinder head - 1  
Connecting Rod - 4  
Valves - 8  
Spring bands for connecting rods - 24

This car is being used by an Italian officer in the  
Italian Liaison Section.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Italian Material

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA 10

G-5

26 Aug  
1945

1. Reference attached communication.

2. Recovery Commission #21 states that Major Prinsloo, Transport Officer, issued the attached communication and acting upon this authority which did not have the approval of Recovery Commission #21, Crescini Luigi went with 8 armed patriots to the Gazzini Workshop of the Recovery Commission located at Via Silvestro, Verona, and removed by force an Italian military truck, type FIAT 634 and delivered it to the AMO Transportation Section.

3. Request that an investigation be made and that if these statements are substantially correct, that the truck be returned to Recovery Commission #21 and that the parties concerned be disciplined.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) 10,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA

537

Italian Ambulances.

RCV/ebf

Sr MMIA 25 Aug  
MMIA LO 1945

Reference attached communication.

I appreciate that this is not our problem but it would seem to me a good use to put to these ambulances since MMIA has all the ambulances it needs. Suggest that this request be passed to the proper person for action.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

Recovery Commissions

RCV/jad

Sr Italian 24 Aug  
MMIA LO IO 1945

For necessary distribution and information.

R.O.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Italian Pack Saddles

RCV/jad

| IND NO. | FROM          | TO                         | DATE              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4       | Sr<br>MMIA LO | MMIA<br>Attn:<br>Col Rose  | 15 Aug<br>1945    | <p>1. Reference your signal 8231 of 19 July, copy attached.</p> <p>2. Inviting your attention to my 1st Ind and the indorsement by the Army QM which is not an answer to our inquiry. I told Major Williams, the officer who wrote the indorsement for Col. MacLaughlin, that we wanted the shipping tickets for the saddles, and nothing else. This transaction involves about \$200,000, I am told. Williams now says that Major Lustig, Penbase, Value 180 or the WAC in his office has the answer. She was to call me but never did. Suggest that you forward to Capt. Clark and have him stay after this for it is apparently up to Penbase now, not 5th Army.</p> <p><i>R.C. Van Kirk</i><br/>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p> |
| 5       | MMIA          | Sr MMIA<br>LO 5th<br>ARMY. | 20<br>Aug<br>1945 | <p>1. We have already received shipping tickets covering saddles and equipment received by PBS from 5th Army and same has been turned over to the Italian Military. Shipping tickets were not priced and we returned same to PBS for pricing in accordance to the directive received from AFHQ.</p> <p>2. So far as your office is concerned, you can consider this matter as being closed.</p> <p><i>Tommy T. Rose</i><br/>TOMMY T. ROSE, Lt. Col.<br/>for Major General<br/>M. M. T. A.<br/>534</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

COPY

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Italian Pack Saddles

| IND<br>NO. | FROM          | TO            | DATE           |
|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|            | Sr<br>MMIA LO | G-4<br>Supply | 20 Jul<br>1945 |

Query: Can you give me the answer on this?

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Italian Military Vehicles.

RCV/ebf

| IND NO. | FROM       | TO        | DATE        |
|---------|------------|-----------|-------------|
|         | Sr MMIA LO | G-5 Exec. | 14 Jul 1945 |



Recovery Commission No. 21 reports that Major H.Y.O. Prinsloo, Provincial Officer, at Legnano-Verona District, is interfering with them in the collection of Italian Military Vehicles. It is stated that on 2 July Major Prinsloo told Lt. Franchini of the Recovery Commission, that the only trucks he could take were "Bianchi Miles". It has been agreed by G-4 that any dispute as to what is an Italian Military Vehicle should be settled by Major Edwards, the MMIA-REME Officer in this area, and an Officer from 5th Army Ordnance. Submit therefore, that local AMG Officers should not decide such matters without submission to the two Officers who have been designated by 5th Army to determine such questions.

*R.C. Van Kirk*  
R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA  
Rec. Comm. #21

|   |                |                 |              |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2 | G-5 Fifth Army | PG Verona Prov. | 18 July 1945 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------|

1. Forwarded for enquiry and report.

FOR THE AC OF S, G-5:

532

*Thomas J. Michie*  
THOMAS J. MICHIE,  
Lt Colonel, A.C.,  
Executive.

|   |               |                |  |
|---|---------------|----------------|--|
| 3 | A.M.G. Verona | G-5 Fifth Army |  |
|---|---------------|----------------|--|



Report returned herewith.  
Request explanation from SR. (MMIA) LO. to Maj. Prinsloo.

*James M. Blackwell*  
JAMES M. BLACKWELL,  
MAJOR,  
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

Release for wheels of Every Pieces

5      Sr      G-4      19 Aug  
MMIALO      Rear      1945

Concur that these should be  
released to AMG.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

531

Material turned in by 21st Engr. Comb. Gp.

---

2. Sr MMIA 19 Aug  
MMIA LO 1945 For your information.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

530

Recovery Comm #21

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LOProvin-  
cial  
Commis-  
sioner  
Verona  
Prov18 Aug  
1945

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 11 August 45, copy attached.

2. Note your suggestion that I am not authorized to communicate direct with C.A.O. Verona Province but I don't concur for I am always authorized to point out improper interference as existed in this situation. Recovery Commission #21 works under my direction and any complaints as to their conduct should be taken up with me or my headquarters in Rome, not direct. I also note you have issued an order to arrest if necessary members of Recovery Commission #21. Request you furnish me a copy of your order so that I may check with AFHQ letter, para 9, O91.711/169 OCT-0 of 16 Nov 1944 which provides in part:

"9c. All personnel of the Italian Army will be subject to Italian Military Law, which will be administered by Italian officers in accordance with the Italian code."

I don't just know whom you told to arrest officers of the Recovery Commission #21 but it is my opinion that you have no more authority to arrest Italian Army officers than you do me.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA  
Rec Comm #21

2 Sr  
MIA 10

C.A.O.  
S.E.  
District  
Verona  
Province

1. Reference your communication of 16 July, copy attached.
2. Inviting your attention to the fact that you are without authority to issue such an order to Recovery Commission # 21. Your statement contained in the second paragraph is not correct.
3. Recovery Commission # 21 have been instructed to disregard such orders.
4. For your information I am attaching copies of communications on this subject which deal also with unauthorized interference upon the part of AMG officers in the collection of Italian military vehicles.

sgt. R.C. VAN KEE  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MIA) 10  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Translation

RCV/jad

| IND<br>NO. | FROM          | TO         | DATE           |
|------------|---------------|------------|----------------|
|            | Sr<br>MMIA LO | Ital<br>LO | 17 Aug<br>1945 |

Request you translate for me and return.

*R.C. Van Kirk per [initials]*  
 R.C. VAN KIRK  
 Major, Inf  
 Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
 5th Army

*Ital  
LO* *Sr.  
MMIA LO* *17 Aug*

*Complied with.*

*L. C. [unclear], Capt  
 G4 Helium L.O.*

527

(29)

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Bologna Detachment of 24th Rec. Commission

| IND<br>NO. | FROM                | TO            | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.         | Ital<br>L.O.<br>G-4 | Sr<br>MMIA LO | 16 Aug<br>1945 | <p>1. As by MMIA directives, Ministry of War issued orders to Bolzano Terr. Hq to send a detachment of 24th Rec Commission to Bologna Terr. Hq. Said detachment, with Capt. Gavotti as C.O. moved immediately to Bologna.</p> <p>2. Subsequently Bologna Terr. Hq has represented that they did no need said detachment, stating that the various "Direzione" under their command were doing the recovery work in Emilia Region, and requesting that the detachment be transferred back to Bolzano.</p> <p>3. Could you please have the necessary orders issued on the matter?</p> <p>Alessandro Cicogna<br/>Capt, Artillery<br/>Ital. L.O. G-4</p> |
| 2          | Sr<br>MMIA LO       | MMIA          | 17 Aug<br>1945 | <p>For necessary action.</p> <p>R.C.VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Cars Under Load at Barbarano Villaga

| IND NO. | FROM          | TO             | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3       | Tpn O         | G-4<br>Rear    | 11/8/45        | <p>1. Three cars of unknown material as stated in basic have been found to contain:</p> <p>12 guns (Ital) 90MM<br/>4 gun bases</p> <p>2. Guns weigh approximately 3113 pounds each and from casual inspection do not appear to have been damaged.</p> <p>ARTHUR R. FORSTER<br/>Major, TC<br/>Transportation Officer</p> |
| 4       | G-4<br>Rear   | Sr<br>MMIA LO  | 13 Aug<br>1945 | <p>Request that action be taken to remove guns from subject railcars.</p> <p>FOR THE AC OF S, G-4:</p> <p>MAX E WARE<br/>Major, QMC<br/>Asst G-4</p>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 5       | Sr<br>MMIA LO | Rec Com<br>#21 | 14 Aug<br>1945 | <p>Request compliance with 4th Ind.</p> <p>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

Equipment

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LO

G-4

14 Aug  
1945

After investigation I find that the items included in the attached list are all needed by the Italian Army with the exception of 24 large motors and 366 small ones. Request that the balance of the material listed be released to MMIA for the benefit of the Italian Army.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

524

24

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LORec  
Comm  
#2114 Aug  
1945

1. Request you take possession of the Italian military vehicles indicated in the attached list without further delay.

2. You will not permit any Allied officer to interfere with you in the collection of Italian Army material. Any attempt at interference will be reported to me.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: Transportation Officer  
Belluno Province

Italian Pack Saddles

RCV/jad

4 Sr  
MMIA LO

MMIA

15 Aug  
1945Attn:  
Col Rose

1. Reference your signal 8231 of 19 July, copy attached.

2. Inviting your attention to my 1st Ind and the indorsement by the Army QM which is not an answer to our inquiry. I told Major Willams, the officer who wrote the indorsement for Col. MacLaughlin, that we wanted the shipping tickets for the saddles, and nothing else. This transaction involves about \$200,000, I am told. Willams now says that Major Lustig, Penbase, Value 180 or the WAC in his office has the answer. She was to call me but never did. Suggest that you forward to Capt. Clark and have him stay after this for it is apparently up to Penbase now, not 5th Army.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

522

Material turned in.

Ital LO Sr MMIA 11 Aug  
G-4 LO

Attached is a list of material turned  
in from 103rd Engr Bn units to  
Italian dumps as shown on the lists.

Alessandro Cicogna, Capt.,  
Italian Liaison Officer, G-4

---

2 Sr MMIA 13 Aug  
MMIA LO 1945

For your information.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

German Escort Wagons

RCV/ebf

3 Sr MMIA LO 10 Aug  
MMIA LO Milan 1945

1. Reference attached MMIA signal Q/495 of 4 August and 2 other signals same subject.

2. Request you obtain necessary release from Two District and forward to Torino for action in accordance with provisions of signal Q/495.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

■

520

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Recovery Comm #24

| IND NO. | FROM        | TO            | DATE          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3       | G-4<br>Rear | Sr<br>MMIA LO | 8 Aug<br>1945 | <p>In view of fact British 2 District will take over control of this area on or about 20 August 1945, it is recommended this request be held in abeyance and presented to 2 District after turnover.</p> <p>FOR THE AC OF S, G-4:</p> |

/s/ George H. Revelle Jr, Lt Col  
for EDMUND R. WALKER  
Lt Col, GSC  
Executive Officer

|   |               |                  |                |                                                              |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Sr<br>MMIA LO | MMIA LO<br>MILAN | 10 Aug<br>1945 | <p>Inviting your attention to the previous indorsements.</p> |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## Italian Military Vehicles

1 Italian Sr 8 Aug  
Liaison MMIA LO 1945  
G 4

Forwarded as agreed verbally.

Alessandro Cicogna  
Capt. Artg  
Ital L.O. G 4

2 Sr C.A.O. 9 Aug  
MMIA LO N.E. 1945  
District  
Verona  
Province

1. Reference your communication of 16 July, copy attached.

2. Inviting your attention to the fact that you are without authority to issue such an order to Recovery Commission #21. Your statement contained in the second paragraph is not correct.

3. Recovery Commission #21 have been instructed to disregard such orders.

4. For your information I am attaching copies of communications on this subject which deal also with unauthorized interference upon the part of AMG officers in the collection of Italian Military vehicles.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA  
Rec Comm #21

518

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Recovery Comm. # 24

| IND NO. | FROM             | TO               | DATE          |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | Test<br>LO<br>G4 | Sr<br>MMIA<br>EO | 6 Aug<br>1945 | <p>1. Mil. Terr. HQ IV (Bolzano) requests that Recv. Comm. #24 be authorized to enter the dumps listed on encl., in order to find out whether and what Italian Military material is stocked in them.</p> |

2. Could you please take care of the matter?

A. Cicogna, Capt.  
Italian Liaison Offr.  
G - 4

|   |               |     |               |  |
|---|---------------|-----|---------------|--|
| 2 | Sr<br>MMIA LO | G-4 | 8 Aug<br>1945 |  |
|---|---------------|-----|---------------|--|

Forwarded recommending approval.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

517

400 Escort Wagons for MMIA

RCV/jad

Sr G-4 8 Aug  
MMIA LO Supply 1945

1. Reference attached signals.
2. Request you approve or recommend approval of the release of the combat wagons, return to me and I will forward to 2 District for final release. The vehicles can then be obtained by the Territorial HQ at Turin until rail movement can be arranged.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA

516

(29)

Istituto Geographico Militare

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA 6 Aug  
MMIA LO 1945

Reference your Q/54 of 31 July 1945.

Again inviting your attention to the original communication with endorsements. As I understand it, these materials are located at the Feltre Sanitas Park, Merano, and AFHQ should release them. Am advised they are not available from Italian sources.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Material turned in.

---

2      Sr      Ital 6 Aug  
MMIA LO      LO      1945

Request you tell me where the material  
is located.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO  
5th Army

■ 514

## Italian Navy Material

RCV/jad

3      Sr      G-4      30 Jul  
MMIA LO      1945

1. I agree with Col. Clarke that this is a matter for AFHQ. The only information that I have in my files relevant at all to the subject is AFHQ Circular #29 of 9 December 1944, which provides in part:

"2. No materiel, supplies or stores will be removed from any Italian Military Depot, factory, or Italian Military organization, by units or individuals of this command without express authority of one of the following Sub-Commissions of the Allied Commission at Rome:

b. For stocks from Italy Navy Depots, Naval Forces Sub-Commission. In an emergency only, authority may be granted by the appropriate Liaison Officer of one of the above Sub-Commissions of the Allied Commission, in the area where depot or organization is located.

3. The above does not preclude the right of operational commanders to make such use of the items mentioned as may be necessary for operational reasons only."

G-5 has however put out a letter on this subject to a Provincial Commissioner at Vicenza, copy attached as Appendix "A". AFHQ directive AG 386.3/163 LOG-O of 22 June 1945, paragraph 4, sub-paragraph a, refers to Enemy Naval and Air Forces Material but I don't believe this is applicable.

2. Have nothing on the French Navy Material.

3. Would appear that a directive from AFHQ on the subject would be in order as we have had on Italian Military material.

513

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

29

Italian Recovery Comm #21

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA 30 Jul  
MMIA LO 1945

1. Reference my buck slip of 26 July 1945.
2. Copy of attached communication for your information. G-5 is becoming much more cooperative. Lt. Col. Michie is now acting Executive. You remember he is the one Col. Kerr took after in Florence last Winter. Now he and I even drink beer together.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

512

Release of Material

RCV/jad

Sr G-4 29 Jul  
MMIA LO Supply 1945

Forwarded recommending approval.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Electrical Equipment.

RCV/ebf

Sr Rec 27 Jul  
MMIA LO Comm 1945  
#21

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Request you investigate as to whether this is Italian Military equipment and report. If it is I will ask that it be released to you.

R.O.VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Recovery Comm #24

RCV/jad

Sr G-4 14 Jul  
MMIA LO 1945

Request that the following named Italian officers of the Recovery Commission #24, attached to Bolzano Terr. HQ #4 be permitted to collect Italian Army material in their region in accordance with Allied policies and now in the possession of unauthorized persons:

Maggiore D'alessio Vittorio  
Capitano Gavotti Giuseppe  
Tenente Rinaldo Francesco  
" Visconte Cesare  
Sottotenente Barbarossa Esperito

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Recovery Commission #21.

RCV/ebf

82 CB 12 Jul  
MHIA LO Terr 1945  
HQ #4

Information has come to me that you have ordered Recovery Commission #21 to move from Garda. This Recovery Commission was sent into 5th Army Area to work under my direction, see MHIA letter 4 July 1944. This unit is engaged in most important work at this time and both Major Edwards, RSM -- MHIA and I think it would be a great mistake to move them at this time since we are just now commencing to move Italian Military vehicles from the 5th Army Ordnance Parks.

cc: MHIA  
21 Rec Com

R.O. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Or (MHIA) LO  
5th Army

M

508

(29)

Captured Medical Supplies

RCV/jad

Sr G-4 27 Jul  
MMIA LO Supply 1945

Think the requisitions are now in order and  
ready for your approval.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

507

(29)

Recovery Commission #21

RCV/jad

ST G-5 26 Jul  
 MIA LO Exec 1945

1. Reference attached communication marked as Appendix "A".
2. Request that Transportation Officer Vicenza Province be advised that he is without authority to issue orders to the Recovery Commission, that he is violating not only AFHQ directive but 5th Army directives when he is interfering with the collection of Italian Army Material and that the truck in question should be turned back to the Recovery Commission pending decision by Major Edwards, RMC MIA, and a 5th Army Ordnance representative as to whether it is an Italian Military truck.
3. Further request that he be instructed that if he means an Allied Military Court when he says that the Recovery Commission "will be dealt with by an Allied Court", that such a court has no jurisdiction over Italian officers or soldiers.
4. Suggest as previously indicated, any dispute as to ownership of vehicles should be determined by the officers mentioned above, and not by a transportation officer on the ground.
5. Attached as Appendix "B" is a copy of my instructions to the Recovery Commission. If any Italian officer connected with this commission fails to comply with these orders, I will be obliged to report the incident to my HQ in Rome and ask his transfer or removal.

506

cc: MIA  
 Rec Team #21

R.C. VAN KIRE  
 Major, Inf.,  
 Sr. (MIA) LO,  
 5th Army

Transportation Officer Vicenza Province AMG

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LO  
Rec  
Comm  
#21  
26 Jul  
1945

1. Reference copies of attached communications.
2. In the future you are not to permit Local AMG officers to interfere with you in the collection of Italian Army Material, and are not specifically to return any materials or vehicles back upon their orders. You should advise any officer in the future who tries to give you such orders, or threaten you with arrest and trial, to contact G-5.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

CC: G-5

Italian Army Material.

ACV/ebf

3      Sr      CG      25 Jul  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
//6

Inviting your attention to the  
2nd Indorsement.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army.

■ 504

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Istituto Chimico Farmaceutico Militare

| IND<br>NO. | FROM               | TO         | DATE            |
|------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
|            | Italian<br>Liaison | MMIA<br>LO | July 21<br>1945 |

1. Istituto Chimico Farmaceutico Militare (Lt Col Scotti) requests release of material listed on attached documents and kept in the Feltre Sanitas Park (Merano)
2. Said material should be shipped to Istituto Chimico Farmaceutico Militare of Florence.
3. Could you please take care of the matter?

A. Cicogna  
Captain, Artillery  
G-4 - Representative

|   |               |               |                |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2 | Sr<br>MMIA LO | G-4<br>Supply | 23 Jul<br>1945 |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|

Forwarded recommending approval of the release.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

503

Italian Army Material.

RCV/ebf

Sr G-4 24 Jul  
MMIA LO 1945

Forwarded recommending approval.

R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

■ 502

29

Packing Material - Istituto Geographico Militare

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA 24 Jul  
MMIA LO 1945

Since these items are controlled by AFHQ, I suggest  
the request should be forwarded there.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

■ 501

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Controlled Dumps

| IND<br>NO. | FROM          | TO                 | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | G-4<br>Rear   | MMIA LO            | 17 Jul<br>1945 | For necessary action.<br><br>FOR THE AC OF S, G-4:<br><br><br>MAX E WARE<br>Major, QMC<br>Asst G-4                                                                                   |
| 2          | Sr<br>MMIA LO | Rec<br>Comm<br>#21 | 23 Jul<br>1945 | If you can make any of these spares available,<br>you are authorized to do so but not the tires, of<br>course.<br><br><br>R.C.VAN KIRK<br>Major, Inf.,<br>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br>5th Army |

Subject: Packing Material - Istituto Geografico Militare

Sr MMIA  
LO

G-4

23 Jul  
1945

For warded recommending approval.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: 21st Recovery Commission

| IND NO. | FROM         | TO                                         | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | G-5          | G-4<br>Senior<br>MIA<br>Liaison<br>Officer | 23 Jul<br>1945 | <p>1. The attached documents are forwarded with a request that the allegations be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action instituted if the allegations be found to be true, also that report be made to this section of action finally taken.</p> <p>FOR THE AC OF S, G-5:</p> <p>THOMAS J. MICHIE<br/>Lt Colonel, A.C.<br/>Executive G-5</p> |
| 2       | Sr<br>MIA LO | Rec<br>Comm<br>#21                         | 23 Jul<br>1945 | <p>For compliance with 1st Indorsement and report to me.</p> <p>R.C.VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

C.OPY/rf

R.C.V.F.N.T. H.Q. 5th. Army.

21st July 1944

This is to certify that Maresciallo Bisconti Luigi of the Italian Army is a member of the commission for the collection of Italian Military Material as directed by A.A.I. and is authorised to take possession of all arms and equipment in 5th. Army Area.

Italian Transport.

Persons and Italian Military material including transport.

- 1) A.F.E.Q. circular dated 1 May 1944 states:  
Italian material including transport belonging to the Italian Army is reserved for the use of the Italian Army.
- 2) Italian military vehicles should be delivered to Italian officers who are members of the section designated by A.A.I. to collect such material.

R.C. Van Kirk  
Major. Infantry.  
M.M.I.A.

Empty Olive Oil and Wine Containers.

RCV/ebf

Sr C.G. 20 Jul  
MMIA LO 210 1945  
Div.

1. Ref. attached signal.
2. Request Compliance.

R.C.VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army.

Captured Medical Supplies

RCV/jad

Sr Liaison 18 Jul  
MMIA LO Officer 1945  
Folgore  
Group

Request you make out a proper requisition, return  
it to me. G-4 will approve it and 5th Army Surgeon  
will then fill the requisition.

H.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

D R A F T

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMYRCV/jad  
2 July 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Army Material.

TO: Distribution.

1. In accordance with AFHQ Circular #13 of 1 May 1944 and A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2, dated 1 July 1944, an Italian Cerseti Detachment has been employed in this area collecting Italian Army material. They have full authority to collect all war material belonging to the Italian Armed Forces not operationally in use by the Allies. For the time being, they are collecting war material in the hands of partisans and civilians.

2. The following named Italian officers are authorized to collect Italian war material in this area:

Maggiore D'Alessio Vittorio  
Capitano Gavotti, Giuseppe  
Tenente Rinaldo Francesco  
Tenente Visconti Cesare  
Sottotenente Barbarossa Esperito

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Recovery of Animals

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA LO 9 Jul  
MMIA LO MILAN 1945

Attached is a copy of buck slip with indorsements which as I understand it, explains the policy on captured animals in this area. If the policy is not in conflict with the policy in your area, suggest you pass it to Territorial HQs 1, 2 and 3, but if it is, contact me and we'll try and get a uniform policy established.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Captured Medical Supplies

RCV/jad

4      Sr      G-4      17 Jul  
     MMIA LO      Exec      1945

Issue is approved. I will acknowledge receipt for MMIA.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

492

29

Recovery Comm #24

RCV/Jad

|   |        |      |        |
|---|--------|------|--------|
| 3 | Sr     | Ital | 16 Jul |
|   | MIA LO | LO   | 1945   |

For compliance with 2nd Indorsement.

H.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Recovery Italian Army Material.

| IND NO. | FROM          | TO                  | DATE               | Ref. No. 7531/21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | ItalLo        | Sr<br>MMIA<br>LO    | 12<br>July<br>1945 | <p>1..Attached is copy in Italian and in English of a ban which the Italian Territorial HQ # 4 (Bolzano) would like to issue for the recovery from the civilians of Italian Army material.</p> <p>2. Territorial Hq (Bolzano) states that Mj Gen. Dunlop, AMG Venezia Region and Mj C arew Hunt MMIA LO 8th A rmy, have granted approval for proclamation of a similar ban in the provinces of Rovigo, Padova, Venezia, Treviso, Udine.</p> <p>3. Territorial Hq #4 requests approval for the proclamation of the attached ban in 5th Army area.</p> <p>Alessandro Cicogna<br/>Capt. Artillery<br/>Italian LO G-4</p> |
| 2       | Sr<br>MMIA LO | CG<br>Terr<br>HQ #4 | 14<br>July<br>1945 | <p>The answer to your inquiry was contained in my buck slip to you of 9 July 1945. As previously suggested it is my opinion that this is a matter to be handled by AMG with your assistance.</p> <p>R.C. VAN KIRK,<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th A rmy</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

490

(19)

## Recovery of Animals

RCV/jad

4 Sr CG 9 July  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
#4

Inviting your attention to the 2nd and 3rd Indorsements. As explained, 5th Army AMG should put out the directive concerning animals and equipment unless you are specifically designated to do so by AMG officers in certain areas. You should however, render all assistance possible in getting this census made of all animals that have been captured. This census has been ordered by AFHQ and is being carried out by the Army Remount Officer and AMG.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA LO Milan

## Italian Military Vehicles.

RCV/sbf

Sr O-5 14 Jul  
MMIA LO Exec. 1945

Recovery Commission No. 21 reports that Major H.Y.O. Prinsloo, Provincial Officer, at Legnano-Verona District, is interfering with them in the collection of Italian Military Vehicles. It is stated that on 2 July Major Prinsloo told Lt. Franchini of the Recovery Commission, that the only trucks he could take were "Bianchi Miles". It has been agreed by G-4 that any dispute as to what is an Italian Military Vehicle should be settled by Major Edwards, the MMIA-SEMA Officer in this area, and an Officer from 5th Army Ordnance. Submit therefore, that local AMG Officers should not decide such matters without submission to the two Officers who have been designated by 5th Army to determine such questions.

H.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA  
Rec. Comm. #21

488

(29)

COPY

COPY

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Recovery of animals

RCV/jad

| IND NO. | FROM                  | TO                                    | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Ital<br>LO            | Sr<br>MMIA LO                         | 2 Jul<br>1945  | <p>1. Military Territorial HQ #4 has drafted the attached ban, warning civilians to turn in all captured animals to Italian Military Authorities.</p> <p>2. This ban has been brought to the attention of AMG Bolzano, they have informed that 5th Army HQ was responsible for granting the authority of publishing it.</p> <p>3. Will you please request 5th Army approval for the content and publication of said ban?</p> <p>Alessandro Cicogna,<br/>Capt, Artillery<br/>Italian LO G-4</p>             |
| 2       | Sr<br>MMIA LO         | G-5                                   | 3 July<br>1945 | <p>For your consideration. My reaction to the request is that if a directive of this kind were to be put out, it should be by AMG and not by the Italian Military Authorities. Query: Am I right or wrong?</p> <p>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3       | Ag Of<br>5th A<br>AMG | Van Kirk<br>Sr MMIA<br>LO<br>5th Army | July 6<br>1945 | <p>Similar orders have gone out from Italian Commands all over Northwest Italy - have forward this to AFHQ and MMIA ALCOM for further explanation. If this policy is persisted in - it will seriously complicate present 5th Army Q Remount Service operations as well as AMG efforts through Prefects in all provinces to do this very thing - this is causing endless confusion besides being a duplication of effort. These orders should be withdrawn.</p> <p>Stanley Andrews, Lt Col<br/>Spec Res</p> |

487

Removal of German Equipment

RCV/jad

Sr CEM 8 Jul  
MMIA LO G-4 1945  
Supply

For necessary action.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Italian Military Material - Reggio Emilia

RCV/jad

2      Sr      G-5 Ex 10 Jul  
      IA LO 5 Army 1945

Request you investigate the incident described in the first indorsement for certainly no officer has authority to sell Italian military property. If the information is correct, then the deal should be rescinded and the money returned to the purchasers.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (IA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: IA

## Request for Clothing and Equipment

RCV/jad

Sr CEM 8 Jul  
MIA LO C-4 1945  
Supply

1. Reference attached request.
2. Not favorably considered.
3. Suggest that I be authorized to have inventories made of the Italian military equipment and clothing in these dumps in order that MIA may know how much clothing and equipment we may eventually count on.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Release of CEM

RCV/jad

| IND NO. | FROM          | TO            | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | G-4<br>Rear   | Sr<br>MMIA LO | 6 July<br>1945 | <p>1. Attached is list of Italian Motor Vehicle parts requested by 210th Infantry Division.</p> <p>2. As provided by AFHQ letter of 22 June, subject: "CEM in Italy", parts for Italian Military vehicles will become property of MMIA after Allied Military commitments are met.</p> <p>3. A substantial portion of spare parts listed can be released but, before any positive action is taken, full concurrence of MMIA is requested.</p> <p>4. Please expedite.</p> <p>FOR THE AC OF S, G-4:</p> <p>MAX E. WARE<br/>Major, QMC<br/>Asst G-4</p> |
| 2       | Sr<br>MMIA LO | G-4<br>Supply | 6 July<br>1945 | <p>Release of parts listed is approved.</p> <p>R.C.VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Spare Parts for Fiat Vehicles

RCV/jad

|   |         |      |       |
|---|---------|------|-------|
| 4 | Sr      | Ital | 6 Jul |
|   | MMIA LO | LO   | 1945  |

Inviting your attention to the 3rd Ind.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject:

| IND NO. | FROM          | TO                         | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | G-5           | MMIA<br>LO<br>G-4          | 5 Jul<br>1945  | <p>1. As requested the following is the paragraph from the monthly report of AMG Verona Province for the month of June concerning which Lt Col Michie talked to Major Van Kirk this morning:</p> <p>"11c. The 21 Recovery Commission of the Italian Army is authorised in this Province to recover, for the Italian Army, German Military Vehicles of Italian Military origin. It is charged that this Commission is laying claim to all German Military vehicles. Report of this has been made to Fifth Army and an investigation requested."</p> <p>FOR THE AC of S, G-5:</p> <p>THOMAS J. MICHIE,<br/>Lt Colonel, A.C.<br/>Executive</p> |
| 2       | Sr<br>MMIA LO | C.O.<br>Rec<br>Comm<br>#21 | 5 July<br>1945 | <p>Inviting your attention to the 1st Indorsement. Query: Is this correct or not? If it is, it should be stopped immediately.</p> <p>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Return of Mules to Italian Army

RCV/jad

Sr Dietri- 4 July  
MMIA LO bution 1945

Capt. Cavalli Pier Luigi, Italian Army, is authorized to accept the mules and halters intended for the Italian Army and to receipt for them.

P.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

## HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Recovery of animals

RGV/jad

| IND NO. | FROM          | TO            | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Ital<br>LO    | Sr<br>MMIA LO | 2 Jul<br>1945  | <p>1. Military Territorial HQ #4 has drafted the attached ban, warning civilians to turn in all captured animals to Italian Military Authorities.</p> <p>2. This ban has been brought to the attention of AMG, Bolzano, they have informed that 5th Army HQ was responsible for granting the authority of publishing it.</p> <p>3. Will you please request 5th Army approval for the content and publication of said ban?</p> <p>Alessandro Cicogna<br/>Capt, Artillery<br/>Italian LO G-4</p> |
| 2       | Sr<br>MMIA LO | G-5           | 3 July<br>1945 | <p>For your consideration. My reaction to the request is that if a directive of this kind were to be put out, it should be by AMG and not by the Italian Military Authorities Query: Am I right or wrong?</p> <p>R.C.VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Inf.,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br/>5th Army</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

Italian Military Truck 626 FIAT

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA LO 4 Jul  
MMIA LO PBS 1945

1. Reference attached correspondence.
2. Request you handle, I am too far away. My suggestion is that you have the Italians take possession of the truck without further delay.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Spare Parts for FIAT vehicles

| IND NO. | FROM       | TO         | DATE        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Ital LO    | Sr MMIA LO | 3 July 1945 | Attached is a list of spare parts for FIAT vehicles required by the Territorial HQ #4, Bolzano.<br><br>Alessandro Cicogna<br>Capt, Artillery<br>Italian LO G4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2       | Sr MMIA LO | Army Ord   | 4 July 1945 | Forwarded recommending approval of the request for the release of the parts listed. These could be released from Caserma Principe Eugena Savoia, Baggio near Milano, but I consider that since the vehicles are located in the Bolzano area and your dumps are also there, that the parts should come from there and not from Milano.<br><br>R.C.VAN KIRK<br>Major, Inf.,<br>Sr. (MMIA) LO,<br>5th Army |

## Escort Wagons - Captured Material

RCV/jed

Sr G-4 3 July  
MMIA LO Supply 1945

1. Reference AFHQ signal FX 12717 of 25 June and MMIA signal Q405 of 2 July.
2. Request you allot 400 escort wagons or horsedrawn vehicles to MMIA for Italian Army requirements.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA

Release of GCRR Materials

RCV/jad

|         |      |        |
|---------|------|--------|
| Sr      | C.O. | 2 July |
| MMIA LO | Rec  | 1945   |
|         | Comm |        |
|         | #21  |        |

Request you investigate and determine whether or not the material and equipment described in basic communication belonged originally to the CC.RR. If it did, then in accordance with the 4th Indorsement it may be released to the Carabinieri at Verona.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## Release of CC.RR Materials

1    AMG    G-4    24 Jun  
       (CPS) Liaison    1945

Can the material asked for be released please.

Originally thw whole was CC.RR property.

E.J. BYE Lt Col

2    Ital    Sr    25 Jun  
       Liaison    MMIA    1945  
       G-4    LO

To your attanetion.

Said material is to be found in dumps located at Rovereto (A710040)

R. di Palma, Lt  
 f/Alessandro Cicogna, Capt

3            Sr    MMIA    26 June  
           MMIA LO    1945

Forwarded recommending approval. This is not the regular way to handle this, I know, but Col. Bye thinks the situation us rather urgent and asks that the items listed be released direct as indicated.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
 Major, Inf.,  
 Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
 5th Army

C O P Y

## Captured Enemy Material

1 G-4 MMIA LO 18 Jun  
Rear Fifth 1945  
Army

1. Advise Army Ordnance immediately of MMIA position, as referred to in attached cable, and releases will be made as surpluses are determined.

2. Please return to Supply Division with information as to action taken.

FOR THE AC OF S, G-4:

MAX E. WARE  
Major, QMC  
Asst G-4

2 Sr Army 21 Jun  
MMIA LO Ordnance 1945

MMIS is prepared to accept surpluses referred to. Request you advise me when available, where and how much, and I will immediately cause the necessary action to be taken.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

3 ORD SR MMIA 24 Jun  
LO 1945

1. Reference telephone conversation Major Van Kirk and Major Kicks, determination of surplus captured stocks of Italian Military automotive spares will be made following a joint survey of CEM dumps by representatives of MMIA and this office.

2. Ordnance will arrange tour of CEM dumps when your representative (Major Edwards) contacts this office.

FOR THE ARMY ORDNANCE OFFICER:

473

A.B. HICKS  
Major, Ord Dept  
Assistant

Captured Enemy Material

RCV/jad

4 Sr G-4 27 Jun  
MMIA LO Supply 1945

In compliance with your request a conference was arranged between Col. Clark, 5th Army Ordnance, and Major Edwards, REME representative, and a satisfactory solution reached, see copy of authorization which Col. Clark furnished Edwards.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

~~Re: Request for Entrance by MMIA Guards~~  
Army Material Dumps

RCV/jad

Sr G-4 22 Jun  
MMIA LO Supply 1945

In compliance with your request, have telephoned Major Bird, the MMIA LO at Milan, and sent him a buck slip, see copy attached.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Army Material Dumps

RCV/jad

4 Sr MMIA 22 Jun  
MMIA LO LO 1949  
2 Dist  
Milan

1. Copies of above indorsements and notices attached.

2. Have been advised by G-4 that if any more such notices are found or trouble is caused, that the MMIA LOs concerned will be ordered out of Army area. Please check again and see that all notices which Donnel put up in Army area and particularly at PIZZIGNETTONE are taken down immediately. I feel certain you posted no guards but if any instructions concerning this equipment were issued to the Italian soldiers guarding the dumps, these should be rescinded at once.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA  
G-4 Supply

Italian Terr HQ #14

RCV/jad

Sr G-5 22 Jun  
MMIA LO Exec 1945

att:  
Col.  
Michie

1. Reference telephone conversation Michie-Van Kirk of 21 June 1945 and G/7/2 of 12 June 1945 from 50 British Liaison Unit.

2. I was asked by G-4 Exec for my comments on Para 5. In compliance with your verbal request, attached is a copy of my buck slip to G-4.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## Italian Material

RCV/jed

Sr CG 22 Jun  
MMIA LO TERR HQ 1945  
#6  
Bologna

1. Reference your N.1222 di prot. Serv/ of 4 June 1945.

2. All dumps of captured material are being guarded under 5th Army directives. A few containing strictly Italian material are being guarded by Italian personnel. It is contemplated by higher headquarters to eventually deliver to the Italian Army all Italian Army material at which time it will be necessary that your HQ provide guards for the dumps and installations in your area. I am recommending to my HQ in accordance with General Cerica's suggestion that certain guard companies be attached to each Territorial headquarters to be used for this purpose. I will notify you when this plan is to be put into effect.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## Captured Enemy Material

RCV/jad

Sr G-4 21 Jun  
NMIA LO Exec 1945

1. Reference Para 5 attached communication.
2. The Italian Terr. HQ #4 has no "Amgot Charter", but Recovery Commission #21 in this area has been authorized by 15th Army Group and 5th Army since July 15, 1944, to collect Italian military material under my supervision. Other recovery commissions have been authorized since that date.
3. All Italian ammunition except small arms is to be destroyed under NMIA supervision as soon as detailed orders from AFHQ are received. I have however, verbal orders to proceed on small dumps of Italian ammunition.
4. Territorial HQ #4 is responsible for the administration, discipline and the morale of the Italian troops assigned or attached to it. AMGOT officers have no command function over these Italian HQ or troops except as may be delegated to them by the CG of 5th Army.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (NMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Captured Enemy Material

RCV/jad

Sr Army 21 June  
MMIA LO Ordnance 1945

MMIA is prepared to accept surpluses referred to.  
Request you advise me when available, where and how  
much, and I will immediately cause the necessary action  
to be taken.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

3 Sr MMIA LO 11 Jun  
MMIA LO 2 Distr 1945  
HQ  
Milano

Inviting your attention to the 2d Indorsement.  
No one has authority to put up notices similar  
to the one attached without 5th Army's express  
approval. If you know of any other such notices,  
they should be taken down immediately.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

RCV/jad  
11 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Army Vehicles

TO: Provincial Commissioner  
Bolzano Province  
Venezie Region

1. Reference your RXII/BZ/118 of the 5th of June 1945.
2. Suggest that all Italian vehicles on the road and in use today are not Italian military trucks and do not have to be turned in to Italian military channels. Only those which have the "R.E." Regio Esercito on the instrument board of the truck or vehicle belong to the Italian War Ministry. Further suggest therefore, that you have a careful examination made and if the trucks you refer to are marked as indicated, then Recovery Commission #24 which is located at Bolzano and attached to Territorial HQ #4, same city, should be notified so that they can make collection. I realize this is not in accordance with the exact provisions of the G-5 directive, copy attached, with which you are familiar but the Recovery Commission I refer to is located closer to you and was not in the area at the time the original directive was drawn. Recovery Commission #21 is located near this HQ and of course delivery may be made to either commission for both are authorized to collect vehicles.
3. A great number of Italian trucks were made by the Italian factories for the German Army and these do not bear the "R.E." markings so are considered as captured enemy material and disposed of accordingly. MMIA's interest is only in Italian military vehicles.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: Recovery Comm #21  
Recovery Comm #24

Subject: Captured Enemy Equipment

1. Ord Officer ~~MMIA~~ <sup>Captured Enemy Equipment</sup> 11 Jun 1945

Sr  
MMIA LO

1. Request two samples of the ~~Official~~ <sup>RSV/Adleo</sup> special 7 power X 50 binocular type MGA be secured from the Italian Ministry of War or the Italian Ministry of Navy. It is also possible that the samples were turned over to the Italian Air Minstry for study. These glasses have definite and urgent intelligence value.

/s/ John G. Detwiler  
Colonel, O.D.  
Ordnance Officer  
Fifth Army

2 Sr MMIA 11 Jun 1945  
MMIA LO

Forwarded recommending approval. Am advised there were only 10 pairs of these glasses ever made and some of the Italian Ministries have them. The glasses eliminate 2 prisms and in that respect are better than our American glasses. If 2 of the 10 pair can be located and you will release them, Col. Detwiler will make collection wherever they are. I released copies of the specifications which a Milano firm had a few days ago and sent you a copy of the release and they are now enroute to the U.S. Now the Colonel wants 2 pairs of the glasses if he can get them, one for the Army and one for the Navy.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

RCV/jad  
6 June 1945

SUBJECT: Field Glasses, MGA Galileo, 7X50.

TO: Officine Galileo  
Milan Branch  
Attention: Mr. Jacetti

1. You are authorized to release for intelligence purposes to 5th Army Ordnance Officer the drawings referred to in the attached copy of his letter to my headquarters.
2. Am furnishing the information copies of both communications to my headquarters and the Italian War Ministry.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

cc: MMIA - 2

Attached Cable - Request for Move of 24 Recovery Unit

RCV/jad

Sr       G-4    6 June  
MMIA LO   Exec   1945

1. Reference copy of attached signal.
2. Forwarded recommending approval.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

## Return of Italian Military Material

RCV/jad

Sr MIA 6 June  
MIA LO 1945

Reference attached directive.

Under date of 9 May 1945, I made a request upon 5th Army AMG for this kind of directive and apparently this is in compliance therewith. This should help considerably in the work of the Recovery Commissions in this area.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MIA) LO,  
5th Army

## Italian Military Vehicles

ECV/jad

Sr Naval 6 June  
MMIA LO Officer 1945  
in  
Charge  
LEGHORN

1. Reference your 23/101/1 of 1 June 1945.
2. Attached is a copy of the basic correspondence.

R.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Italian Material

RCV/jad

Sr CG 30 May  
 MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
 #6  
 In conformity with your request, attached are copies of directives which authorize the Recovery Com-  
 missions in this area to function. In addition to these  
 directives, AFHQ ~~under~~ <sup>directive</sup> date 22 April 1945, AG. 386.3/183 LOG-0 <sup>stated:</sup>

"9c. Recaptured Material of Italian Military Origin. Recaptured material of Italian military origin may be turned over immediately to the Italian military authorities for Italian maintenance. Such material may also be used by Italian troops for support of operations. The channel of transaction in material of Italian origin which is to be returned to the Italian military authorities will be MMIA. Receipt for material so handed over will be taken by the issuing Allied Services and forwarded to AFHQ through normal channels. All remaining recaptured Italian war material will be reported to AFHQ and disposal instructions awaited."

AFHQ Signal FX75707 of 15 May 1945 stated:

"Italian military vehicles will be handed over to MMIA reference paragraph 9c basic directive and AFHQ Circular Number 5 dated 11 April current."

In 5th Army area however, the Recovery Commissions should not attempt to take possession at this time of Italian military transport and material in Allied Parks but confine their efforts to the Italian military material improperly in the hands of civilians and partisans.

H.C. VAN KIRK  
 Major, Inf.,  
 Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
 5th Army

cc: MMIA

## Italian Army Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA 26 May  
MMIA LO 1945

1. Reference your Q/5/10 of 17 May 1945 and attached communication.

2. I think both of these communications refer to the same three vehicles. In any event, the 3 vehicles which the Lt OC 13 Advanced R.V.P. refers to should be removed from his park before he has to move. This group is no longer in Army area and I am 200 miles from where it is, so somebody else should handle this matter.

R.C.VAN KIRK  
Major, Inf.,  
Sr. (MMIA) LO,  
5th Army

Territorial HQ #7

RCV/jad

Sr      MMIA      17 May  
MMIA LO      1945  
            atten:  
            Col Kerr

1. Recovery Commission #24 should be assigned to Bolzano area.

2. Before any real progress can be made on the recovery program of Italian military vehicles in this area, authority will have to be obtained from 5th Army to take possession of Italian military vehicles in their ordnance parks or get AFHQ to tell them that these vehicles should be delivered to the Italian Army. (See Major Edwards signal to you of 16 May, Ref No 4135).

3. Vehicles are still in the hands of Partisans for they are still armed. 5th Army AMG in IV Corps area was all set to tell the Partisans to turn in their arms and vehicles but General Crittenberger stopped them. As a result the Partisans are still killing anybody that doesn't have a red scarf on. The only way AMG can tell how many have been killed is when they see the new graves in the cemetery the next morning. They count the graves and then determine how many were not wearing scarves.

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

INTER-OFFICE REFERENCE SHEET  
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Italian Materiel

RCV/jad

| IND. NO. | FROM            | TO                           | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | Sr<br>MIA<br>LO | G-4<br><del>Rec</del><br>Sup | 11 May<br>1945 | <p>Forwarded recommending approval.</p> <p>Suggest that a platoon of a pack mule outfit or a similar unit be placed on temporary duty with the Recovery Commission #21 during the emergency now existing in the recovery of Italian Army material. I have requested more assistance from my HQ to aid in this work but in the meantime guards are necessary since proper civilian guards cannot be employed in this area and as a result military personnel must be used.</p> <p><i>R.C. Van Kirk</i><br/>R.C. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Infantry<br/>Sr. (MIA) L.O.,<br/>5th Army</p> |
| cc:      | Rec Comm<br>MIA | #21                          |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Italian Vehicle

RCV/jad

Sr CG 14 May  
MMIA LO Terr HQ 1945  
#1  
Florence

1. Reference basic communication.

2. If no other vehicle is available and if you determine the truck is absolutely necessary for the public good, then you are authorized to permit this vehicle to remain in its present service for a period of 30 days but you should take possession of it, register and mark it properly, assign one of your own soldiers to drive it and be responsible for the vehicle at all times. At the end of the 30 day, the situation should again be canvassed and recommendations made as to its continuance in its present service.

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

Italian Military Material

ECV/186

Sr AND 11 May  
MIA 5 Army 1945  
ID

1. Recovery Commission #21 reports to us that Capt. Elliot, AM officer at Garda (AA-70P) has issued instructions to civilians not to deliver Italian military vehicles to this commission and is interfering with the Commission in the performance of its duties.

2. If this information is correct, request that instructions be issued to Capt Elliot to the effect that it is his duty to carry out AFHQ directives and not to obstruct the work of this commission. It is pointed out that for these civilians to keep Italian military vehicles is not only a violation of Allied directives but of a decree of the Italian government.

M.G. VAN KIRK  
Major, Infantry  
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

cc: MIA  
Rec Comm #21

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Naval Material

RUY/jad

| IND. NO. | FROM                       | TO   | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------|----------------------------|------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | Sr<br>MMIA<br>LO           | MMIA | 11 May<br>1945 | <p>1. Reference AFHQ Circular No 29 of 9 Dec 1944.</p> <p>2. For the information of the Naval Forces Sub-Commission. It is reported to me that there is an Italian submarine complete, located in a cement lock near Riva 540-040 sheet A, head of Lake Garda.</p> <p>3. If upon examination I find this place is not properly guarded and posted, I will have Recovery Commission #21 post guards pending delivery to proper authority.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <br/> R.C. VAN KIRK<br/> Major, Infantry<br/> Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,<br/> 5th Army </p> |
|          | cc: Rec Comm #21<br>File ✓ |      |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET  
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Aviation Material

RCV/jad

| IND.<br>NO. | FROM              | TO    | DATE           |
|-------------|-------------------|-------|----------------|
|             | Sr<br>MEMIA<br>LO | MEMIA | 11 May<br>1945 |

Reference AFHQ Circular No 29 of 9 Dec 1944.

For the information of the Air Forces Sub-Commission. It is reported to me that there is a large Italian Air Corps underground assembly plant for aeroplanes located near Riva 540-040 sheet A at the head of Lake Garda. There is considerable machinery there consisting of valuable generators, lathes and similar equipment. There are several fusilages there and one or two completed planes.

If upon examination I find this place is not properly guarded and posted, I will have the Recovery Commission post guards pending delivery to proper agency.

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

cc: Rec Comm #21 ✓  
File

Italian Material

HCY/jot

ST  
MIA  
LD

G-4  
Exec

11 May  
1945

Forwarded recommending approval.

Suggest that a platoon of a port unit outfit or a similar unit be placed on temporary duty with the Recovery Commission #21 during the emergency now existing in the recovery of Italian Army material. I have requested more assistance from my HQ to aid in this work but in the meantime guards are necessary since proper civilian guards cannot be employed in this area and as a result military personnel must be used.

L.C. VAN KIRK  
Major, Infantry  
Sr. (MIA) L.C.,  
5th Army

cc: Rec Comm #21  
MIA

## Italian Military Material

HIV/jed

Sr 5th 9 May  
 MIA 10 Army 1945  
 A.M.G.

1. Reference AFHQ Circular #7, Para II of 27 April 1945 and AFHQ directive AD 386.3/143 LCG-0 of 22 April 1945.

2. Since AFHQ policy with reference to Italian Military Material belonging to the Italian Army has not changed with the termination of hostilities and since a large number of Italian Military vehicles, parts and property are now in the hands of patriots and civilians, it is requested that a directive be issued directing all patriots and civilians to turn in all vehicles, parts and property of Italian Military origin immediately to Recovery Commission #21, c/o 216th Italian Infantry Division, this HQ, or to any Italian Territorial HQ in this area, or to any MIA officers. It is further suggested that for any patriot or civilian to retain such property without MIA approval is not only a violation of AFHQ directives but of a decree of the Italian government.

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

cc: MIA  
 Rec Comm #21

Italian Ammo

RCV/jad

|         |      |       |
|---------|------|-------|
| Sr      | Rec  | 8 May |
| MMIA LO | Comm | 1945  |
|         | #21  |       |

Request you take possession of the Italian Artillery  
Shell assembly plant described in the attached signal and  
place guards in it.

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

Italian Ammo

RGV/jad

|         |      |       |
|---------|------|-------|
| Sr      | Rec  | 8 May |
| WMIA LO | Comm | 1945  |
|         | #21  |       |

1. Reference attached communication.

2. Request you take possession of the ammo described in basic communication and place guards on it. As I understand it, this dump is located at San Lucina, near a bend in the road, the coordinates are 605-508.

R.C.VAN WINK  
Major, Infantry  
Sr. (WMIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

Italian Military Ambulance of San Marcello

RCV/jad

Sr C.A.O. 1 May  
MIA San 1945  
LO Marcello  
c/o  
Civil  
Affairs  
Section  
IV Corps

1. Reference the request contained in your communication of 21 April 1945.

2.. I agree with you that the ambulance which you describe should not be taken from your hospital at this time. Am instructing the Italian Army Recovery Commission #21 operating in this area not to take possession of the ambulance for at least three weeks at the expiration of which time the situation should again be canvassed.

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

cc: Rec Comm #21

Italian Military Ambulance of San Marcello

RCV/jad

Sr      Rec      1 May  
MMIA    Comm    1945  
LO      #21

c/o  
Terr HQ  
#6

1. Reference attached communication.
2. Request you delay action for 3 weeks as indicated in Para 2.

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

Italian Army Materiel

RCV/jad

Sr      Rec      28 Apr  
MMIA LO   Comm      1945  
#21

You are authorized to take possession of the materiel included in the attached list located at the FIAT Agency in Florence providing it is determined by you that it is Italian Army materiel.

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

444

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr  
MIA LO 27 Apr  
1945

1. Reference your Q/5/10 of 19 April 1945.
2. Attached communication for your information and necessary action. Suggest that the German truck should be reported to CEMS at AFHQ and the Italian wrecker allotted to one of the Recovery units in this area for their use.

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LO MMIA 27 Apr  
1945

In conformity with your request, am enclosing list of  
recovered Italian vehicles and their disposition.

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

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Ref 29

Subject: Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

| IND.<br>NO. | FROM                 | TO                    | DATE           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | Sr<br>MMIA IO        | AMG<br>Florence       | 8 Apr<br>1945  | <p>1. Reference attached letter.</p> <p>2. Suggest that if what Col. Ripa di Meana says is true, it is a direct violation of orders.</p> <p>a. MMIA Signal AQ2463 of 26 December 1944 to 15th Army Group provides in part:</p> <p>"Imperative that prompt and effective action be taken to prevent further dissipation of these vehicles and to insure that they are returned to Italian Army in their present operating condition, also to regularize this matter of principle throughout this theater."</p> <p>b. 15th Army Group Signal 562 of 27 December 1944 to CG Fifth Army follows:</p> <p>"Your attention is invited to MMIA cable AQ2463. It is directed that necessary action be taken to obtain for MMIA referred to vehicles with least practicable delay and that this HQs be advised of resultant action."</p> <p>3. This company should be instructed to return the batteries and tires which they apparently removed from the trucks. I granted this company 2 weeks time in which to make arrangements for other trucks and apparently they used the time to destroy the "operating condition" of the trucks involved. In the future no extensions of time will be granted by me.</p> |
| cc:         | MMIA                 |                       |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|             | Att:                 | Col Kerr              |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1.          | AMG 5<br>ARMY.       | SCAO<br>FLO.<br>CITY. | 9 Apr<br>1945. | <p>1.</p> <p>V. H. R.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2.          | SCAO<br>FLO.<br>CITY | Sr<br>MMIA IO         | 25 Apr<br>1945 | <p>1. Attached letter of 20/4/45, of 3elt<br/>Valderno Co., fully explains the foregoing. Senior MMIA IO has repeatedly agreed in conferences in this office that the civilians were entitled to remove from such vehicles any civilian tires or other parts</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

(over)

that had been supplied by them.

*Thomas J. Michie*

THOMAS J. MICHIE  
Lt. Colonel, A.C.  
Senior Civil Affairs Officer  
A.M.G., Florence City

RCV/jad

Sr      Rec      26 Apr  
MIA    Comm    1945  
LO      #21

Attn:  
Col  
di Meana

If Major Kriel, CEMS, approves, request you and your detachment report to him at the 4th Corps Ordnance to assist him in his work and at the same time perform your own duties.

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

cc: CEMS

Italian Materiel

RCV/jad

Sr Lt.Col 26 Apr  
MMIA LO Macarri 1945  
Rec  
Comm  
Terr HQ  
#7

Am advised by PBS Ordnance that there are 150 Italian rifles and 25 M.G. at Reclamation Dump 4-L-61 near Leghorn. Request you make collection and move to Fortezza Da Basso.

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

Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr Major 25 Apr  
MMIA LO John H 1945  
Frick  
CE  
Asst  
PSO  
AMG  
Florence

1. Reference attached AFHQ directive.
2. Your request that Italian military vehicles remain in possession of civilians cannot be approved for it is contrary to AFHQ directives. Am asking Lt. Col. Macarri to take possession of these vehicles and I trust that you will cooperate with him in this respect.

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

cc: Lt. Col. Macarri

Italian Truck

RCV/jad

Sr Lt. Col. 25 Apr  
MMIA LO Bruno 1945  
Maccari  
Vehicle  
Repair  
Office  
Terr HQ  
#7

Request you take possession of an Italian military truck in the hands of Farraceton Co., #1 Via Sassei, Firenze. This is the truck Major Blair, Transportation Section, AMG, Telephone-Firebox 25 called me about but I told him the vehicle would have to be delivered to the Italian Army.

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

Italian Material

RCV/jad

Sr Salvage 25 Apr  
 MMIA Officer 1945  
 Lo W.O.  
 Givertz  
 Air  
 Force  
 Ord  
 Depot  
 14

1. Reference your telephone call to G-4 Fifth Army Rear.

2. Lt. Franchini, the Italian officer who was with me at the time Major Krisl, GEMS, and I visited your office has gone forward and is working in the forward areas.

3. Lt. Col. Bruno Maccari has taken over Franchini's duties. Please deliver to him any Italian trucks or materiel you have on hand. He will continue to make collection in the future.

4. Attached is the latest AFHQ directive on Italian Materiel. This is in accordance with the information which I gave you.

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

cc: Mailed to Addressee

## Italian Army Material

ROV/jad

3 Sr Recovery 24 Apr  
MMIA LO Comm 1945  
#21

Request you furnish me immediately a statement showing the disposition of all the vehicles that you have collected as indicated by your report. My HQ wants this information in order that they may have a complete record.

2nd Ind. for your information.

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

2 MMIA Sr 19 Apr  
MMIA 1945  
LO

Seen by Col. Kerr. Report most satisfactory. Await details disposal vehicles recovered. War Ministry notified of your recommendation that Lt. Col. Ripa di Meana and 2/Lt Franchini be commended.

/s/ R.A. Curties

Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr O.C. 24 Apr  
MMIA LO Rear 1945  
HQ  
Desert  
Air  
Force

1. Reference your RHQDAF/5157/SEO of 20 Apr 45.
2. The authority for the Italian Army repossessing its vehicles is contained in the attached directive from AFHQ.

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

## Italian Military Property

RCV/jed

Sr      G-4      20 Apr  
MMIA LO      1945

1. In accordance with A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2 dated 1 July 1944 of which the following is an extract:

"The Italian Commanders concerned have been authorized to place notices on their property indicating its ownership. These notices will be respected."

2. Authority is requested to place a notice similar to the attached form on all Italian Military buildings in this area not operationally necessary to Allied troops. If this form is approved, I will have the Italian officers coordinate with 5th Army Real Estate Section before actually posting the notices. Suggest that the form be amended to read as follows:

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464      US ARMY

\_\_\_\_ 19

**N O T I C E**

Property of the Italian Armed Forces not to be requisitioned or interfered with without reference to Army Engineer Real Estate Section.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TRUSCOTT:

JOHN R. CICERO  
Major, AQD  
Asst Adjutant General

433

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

## Italian Military Trucks

RCV/jad

Sr  
MMIA LO  
MMIA 20 Apr  
1945  
Attn:  
Col.  
Kerr

1. Reference your Q/5/10 of 18 April 1945.
- 2.. Contents noted. Have requested the JA of Territorial HQ #7 to take the action you suggested.

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

Italian Army Trucks

RCV/jad

Sr Judge 20 Apr  
NMIA LO Advocate 1945  
Terr  
HQ #7

Attached are copies of correspondence pertaining to the two trucks which the Recovery Commission #21 took from the Solt Valdarno Company and which were the property of the Italian Army. You will note from a reading of these communications that before these trucks were delivered to the Recovery Commission, the good tires and batteries were removed contrary to 15th Army Group orders. The removal of the tires and batteries was also a violation of a recent Italian decree on the subject. My HQ requests that you file a complaint against the civilians responsible for this misappropriation or diversion of Italian Military property, have them confined in jail and tried.

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

cc: Recov Comm #21

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr O.C. 20 Apr  
MIA LO No 15 1945  
S&T  
Column  
RAF

1. Reference your 15STC/74/1/3 of 16 April 1945.

2. Since my communication of 14 April 1945, I have received the attached directive from AFHQ which you may wish to forward on to your superior HQ. It is appreciated that this directive would not be effective if these vehicles were captured in France and the directives there different than in this theater. Also assuming the directives are different in that theater and the vehicles have been registered with the British War Dept, then your possession may be proper.

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

Italian Military Vehicles

RGV/jad

Sr O.C. 20 Apr  
MMIA LO No 15 1945  
S&T  
Column  
RAF

1. Reference your 15STC/74/1/3 of 16 April 45.
2. Since my communication of 14 April 1945, I have received the attached directive from AFHQ which you may wish to forward on to your superior Hq.

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

Italian Transport

RCV/jed

Sr      Rec    19 Apr  
NMIA LO    Comm   1945  
          #21

1. Reference attached communication.
2. If the machine mentioned in basic communication is of Italian Military origin, request you take possession of it immediately.

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

cc: Maj. Kriol

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr AMG 19 Apr  
MIA LO Florence 1945

1. Reference attached communications and copy of latest directive on Italian Military Vehicles.

2. Request you cause an investigation to be made and if you determine the lists of attached parts are for Italian Military vehicles, it is requested that they be released to Recovery Commission #21.

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

## Requisition of Transport

RCV/jad

Sr G.F. 16 Apr  
MMIA LO Wright 1945  
Major  
H.A.C.  
D.A.D.  
Claims  
and  
Hirings

1. Reference your CC3/60/1165/A.
2. Reference your query Para 3, the Italian Army has the right to requisition in certain areas but certainly it should not be done in this case and I would oppose it. If the Italian troops get their own transport and with what we furnish them from Allied sources, that should be sufficient.

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jed

Sr C.O. 14 Apr  
MMIA LO Air 1945

Force  
Ord  
Depot  
#14

Attn:  
Lt Col.  
Niels  
J.  
Schultz

1. Am informed that your unit is in the process of repainting two Italian "RE" Army trucks Type Fiat 626.

2. Your attention is invited to the attached excerpts from various directives. It would appear that these trucks should be delivered to the Recovery Commission #21 for benefit of the Italian Army. If you agree, please call me at Lightning Rear 54 and I will arrange collection.

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

Cc: MMIA

## Italian Military Trucks

RCV/jad

Sr O.C. 14 April  
NMIA LO 15th 1945  
Supply  
and  
Transport  
Unit  
RAF

Reference attached communication from Recovery Commission addressed to me.

Attached is also a copy of excerpts of directives on above subject. It would appear immaterial how you originally came into possession of these trucks, the question being are they Italian military trucks, if so, then they should be delivered to the Italian Army? If you elect to release the trucks, please call me at Lightning Rear 54 and I will have the Recovery Commission #21 make collection.

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

cc: NMIA

Italian Naval Guns

RCV/jad

Sr NMIA 14 Apr  
NMIA LO 1945

Major Krist, CECS, has just reported to me that there are 26 Regio Marine large guns and range finders located at Querseta, R 1, north of Viareggio. Suggest that this information should be forwarded to Naval Sub Commission.

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

## SECRET

## Italian Vehicles

Sr MMIA 13 Apr  
MMIA 1945  
LO Att:  
Col.  
Korr

1. The truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. A couple of weeks ago I sent the CG 12th Air Force a back slip citing all the directives on Italian materiel and requested him to make available to the Recovery Commission #21 an Italian truck the Air Corps had. A few days later a Colonel Reed, the General's Executive Officer, called me and asked whether those directives really meant what they said. I assured him they did and he said, "come and get your truck". The Recovery Commission then made collection.

2. Day before yesterday a warrant officer, a Mr. Givertz called me from FOD 14, an Air Corps Depot at Pontedera (299-599) and asked if I were interested in Italian and German vehicles. I said yes, to Italian vehicles and told him Major Kriegl, GEMS was in German vehicles. Also told him Kriegl and I would be there yesterday. We went and found that he had just completed burning up with acetylene 300 Italian and German vehicles which had become unserviceable and he had orders to survey them. For fear the vehicles might get on to the black market or be recaptured by the Germans, he decided to destroy them.

3. It seems that the Air Corps Colonel after getting my back slip referred to, decided to have the Air Corps comply with the AFHQ directive and to turn all Italian and German vehicles in the possession of their units into the depot at Pontedera for ultimate delivery to Kriegl or the Italian Army. There were 2 or 3 Italian trailers there yesterday, all with good rubber which had not been burned, also 30 tires. Franchini is making collection of these today. The W.O. said he would set aside a lot for Italian trucks and we agreed that he was to call us whenever sufficient number had been turned in to justify a trip over there by the Recovery Commission. He stated that he expected several hundred vehicles in various states of repair to be turned over in accordance with the Air Corps orders.

4. I pass this information on without comment. All poor Franchini could do was to wave his arms and say "What a pity?". Will keep you advised of developments.

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

Attached

BCV/jad

Sr      Rec      11 Apr  
MIA LO    Comm    1945  
          #21

Request you investigate in accordance with attached  
correspondence.

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr Major 10 Apr  
MIA LO G. F. 1945  
Wright  
DAD  
Claims  
&  
Hirings

1. Reference your CC3/60/1165/SA.
2. Am your referring your communication to the Italian Recovery Commission No. 21 for its information.
3. Attached are excerpts from directives under which the Recovery Commission is working in repossessing Italian Military materiel. It is not necessary for them to requisition an Italian Military vehicle, they should just take possession of it.

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

cc: Recovery Comm No. 21

## Italian Military Vehicles

RGV/jad

Sr      Recov    10 Apr  
MIA LO    Comm    1945  
          No.21

Attached letter from Claims and Hirings is for your information. I also enclose copy of my letter to them. The vehicle in question should be located and identified.

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

## INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: **Attached Report on Italian Army Material**

REV/jed

| REF. NO. | FROM          | TO                           | DATE          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | Sr<br>MMIA LO | MMIA<br>Att:<br>Col.<br>Kerr | 9 Apr<br>1945 | <p>1. Reference attached report on Italian material.</p> <p>2. This is an excellent report and represents a lot of hard work by Recovery Commission No.21 under most adverse circumstances. As you know, we have had opposition from all sides. In some instances I have had to personally go out and take possession of trucks. Lt. Col. G. Ripe di Moana, head of the Recovery Commission No.21 should be commended upon his superior efforts. 2nd Lt Franchini Marcelle who has been his outside man should likewise be commended. Lt. Franchini speaks English very well and has served not only as Interpreter for the Recovery Commission but also for the 5th Army G.P.S.S.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.O. VAN KIRK<br/>Major, Infantry<br/>Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,<br/>5th Army</p> <p>CC: Recovery Comm #21</p> |

Attached Report on Italian Army Material

RCV/jad

NY  
NWIA 10  
NWIA 9 Apr  
1945  
Att:  
Col.  
Karr

1. Reference attached report on Italian material.

2. This is an excellent report and represents a lot of hard work by Recovery Commission No. 21 under most adverse circumstances. As you know, we have had opposition from all sides. In some instances I have had to personally go out and take possession of trucks. Lt. Col. G. Riva di Nason, head of the Recovery Commission No. 21 should be commended upon his superior efforts. And Lt. Franchini Marcello who has been his outside man should likewise be commended. Lt. Franchini speaks English very well and has served not only as interpreter for the Recovery Commission but also for the 5th Army C.R.M.F.

R.C. VAN NINE  
Major, Infantry  
Sr. (NWIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

CC: Recovery Comm #21

Ref 29

Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr AMG 8 Apr  
MEMIA LO Florence 1945

1. Reference attached letter.

2. Suggest that if what Col. Ripa di Meana says is true, it is a direct violation of orders.

a. MEMIA Signal AQ2463 of 26 December 1944 to 15th Army Group provides in part:

"Imperative that prompt and effective action be taken to prevent further dissipation of these vehicles and to insure that they are returned to Italian Army in their present operating condition, also to regularize this matter of principle throughout this theater."

b. 15th Army Group Signal 562 of 27 December 1944 to CG Fifth Army follows:

"Your attention is invited to MEMIA cable AQ2463. It is directed that necessary action be taken to obtain for MEMIA referred to vehicles with least practicable delay and that this HQs be advised of resultant action."

3. This company should be instructed to return the batteries and tires which they apparently removed from the trucks. I granted this company 2 weeks time in which to make arrangements for other trucks and apparently they used the time to destroy the "operating condition" of the trucks involved. In the future no extensions of time will be granted by me.

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

cc: MEMIA  
Att: Col Kerr

**RESTRICTED**

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

RCV/jad  
19 March 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Army Buildings and Property.

TO : A. C. of S., G-4

1. Reference AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944, A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2 of 1 July 1944, A.C. Letter 360/11/CA of 10 August 1944, paragraph 1b AFHQ Circular 29 of 9 December 1944, S.A.E. Instructions R-1113 dated 7 December 1944, MMIA Signal AQ2463 of 26 December 1944 and 15th Army Group Signal #562 of 27 December 1944.

2. On this date in conjunction with two Italian officers, I visited the following Italian Army properties located in this area. My observations are:

a. Caserma ROVEZZANA, former Italian Paratrooper barracks, vicinity Florence.

- (1) Now occupied by 12th and 90th Bakeries R.A.S.C., a signal park, an R.A.F. unit, an R.E. unit, all under 13 Corps.
- (2) Was advised that these units expect to move out in the near future but that new units are moving in and are going to make extensive changes and repairs.
- (3) My recommendation is that when the British units now occupying these premises move out, that no more be permitted to move in; that no extensive repairs or changes be undertaken in the meantime; and that the premises at that time be turned over to the Italian Army Territorial Headquarters #7.

b. COVERCIANO, vicinity Florence, former Italian Workshops for heavy vehicles, Stabilimento Montaggio and Riparazione Autovicoli, now occupied as a British Rest Camp.

- (1) The camp is staffed by 7 officers and 150 EM, and accommodates 4000 personnel.
- (2) Extensive improvements and alterations have been made on a long term policy.
- (3) Recommend no change.

c. SCANDICCI, vicinity Florence, Caserma 3, Reggimento Artiglieria C.A., now occupied as 5th Army Stockade and PW Camp.

- (1) This installation now houses 1 PW Co, 16 officers and 132 EM, 7 Escort Guard Cos and 1500 prisoners. Is being expanded to accommodate 20,000 prisoners.

**RESTRICTED**

## RESTRICTED

(2) Recommend no change.

d. FORTEZZA DA BASSO in Florence, formerly occupied by Director Italian Artillery, an Italian Artillery depot and barracks, an Italian Military Tribunal and Jail. Now partially occupied by the 86th Ordnance and 972nd Ordnance companies, 7 officers and 195 men each, and some Italian troops under Territorial Headquarters #7.

- (1) This Fortress occupies several acres of land with numerous buildings in various states of repair. The large Military Tribunal building containing the Italian offices, Court Room and jail is unoccupied with the exception that one of the Ordnance companies is using it as an orderly room.
- (2) In the occupation of these premises, it appears that no attempt has been or is being made to conserve valuable space, or to comply with directives pertaining to the restricted use of Italian Army property. The Italian Army needs this entire installation for offices, a military prison, store houses and barracks. The Italian troops in 5th Army area have no military prison.

3. Recommendations. That the large Military Tribunal building, located on the right at the entrance of the Fortezza Da Basso and occupied as an ordnance orderly room, be vacated at once and delivered to the Italian Army; that the two ordnance companies be instructed to conserve space; that the Italian Army be permitted to occupy the buildings not now beneficially employed, and to commence repairing the destroyed buildings in the Fortezza, and when the two ordnance companies move out, that the entire premises be delivered to the Italian Army.

*R.C. Van Kirk*  
R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,  
5th Army.

cc: MMIA  
(Ref your Q18 of 8 March 1945.)

414  
RESTRICTED

REF no 29

Lt Col Giuseppe Morfino, Inf.

ROV/jad

Sr MMIA 6 Apr  
MMIA LO Att: 1945  
Col  
Kerr

1. Reference my 29 of 9 March 1945, subject Italian Army Material Recovery and my 2d Ind, same subject of 4 April 1945.

2. Lt. Col. Morfino has now instructed the gas works here in Florence not to turn the two military trucks over to Recovery Commission #21. Those are the ones Col. Kerr granted an extension on with the understanding that Italian military drivers be put on them and turned over to the Recovery Commission at the end of a weeks time. I have instructed the Recovery Commission to proceed, take actual possession and deliver them to Territorial HQ #7.

3. Am advised that Col. Morfino is also the Italian officer who let Signora Oei Guilio, Piazza Signoria #3 keep the Italian truck and didn't report it to me. This was the same deal in which the American officer was involved and I wrote you about yesterday.

4. I again request that Col. Morfino be relieved. I think Col. Morfino's activities should be investigated. Query: Should I ask Territorial HQ #7 to do it or will you ask the Italian War Ministry to take action?

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

2      Sr      NMIA      4 Apr  
NMIA LO      1945  
ATT.  
Col Kerr

1. Reference attached communication.
2. In addition to the information contained in basic communication and 1st Ind, it seems that a high ranking American officer was involved with this woman and received the \$2000.00 she mentioned.
3. I have not seen the writer of the original communication but am advised by the I.G. that she is a clever operator. Am not sure but what an Italian officer is also involved for this is the first information I have had concerning this truck although it apparently has been in this area since last Fall. Am asking the Recovery Commission to take possession of the truck and to investigate the reason for the delay in the collection of this vehicle. Apparently some Italian officer has known about it for some time and has had some dealings with this woman.
4. Attached is a copy of my buck slip to the Recovery Commission. Will keep you advised of developments.

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

Italian Military Vehicle - Lancia 3 RO

RCV/jed

Sr Recovery 4 Apr  
MIA LO Comm 1945  
#21

1. Reference attached communication from Signorina  
Cei Guilio, Piazza Signoria #3.

2. Request you take possession of the truck involved  
at once. Please investigate the reason for the delay in  
making collection of this vehicle. If some Italian officer  
or any other person has made some deal with this woman in  
connection with the retention of this truck, I want that  
information.

R.G. VAN KIRK  
Major, Infantry  
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

cc: MIA

## Italian Military Equipment

RCV/jad

Sr SCAO 30 Mar  
MMIA LUCCA 1945  
LO

It is reported to me that the attached list of Italian Military equipment is held by the Civilian Hospital at Viareggio. If this information is correct, request you issue instructions for delivery of this equipment to the Italian Army. Please notify me when and where collection may be made and I will have an Italian officer obtain this equipment.

I assume you are familiar with the directives referred to in the attached communication.

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

Italian Truck

RCV/jad

Sr Recovery  
MMIA LO Comm 30 Mar  
#21 1945  
Col  
Ripa  
di  
Meana

Request that you send an officer and a driver tomorrow morning to the 332 HQ Motor Pool, 12th Air Force, located near the water point in Florence to get an Italian Army truck III AFSG 332-ASG-HQ48-12th US Air Force USA 1605 TT 9398. Please give the American officer from whom you get the truck a receipt for it.

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

Italian Army Material

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA 25 Mar  
MMIA LO 1945

For your information. Will try to handle locally but  
I get little cooperation from AMG officers.

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

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464  
US ARMY

MOV/Ad  
21 March 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Material and Installations.

TO : Distribution.

1. Your attention is invited to:

a. AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944, which provides in part:

"1b. Italian Material. All Italian material belonging to all arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in the possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice is considered as Italian material and, except as otherwise directed by this headquarters is reserved for the use of the Italian Army under the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission."

b. AFHQ Circular 29 of 9 December 1944 states:

- "1. Reported instances have been reported of Allied troops removing material, supplies or stores from Italian Military Depots without proper authority. This is a violation of paragraph 1b, AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944.
2. No material, supplies or stores will be removed from any Italian Military Depot, Factory, or Italian Military organization, by units or individuals of this command without express written authority of one of the following Sub-Commissions of the Allied Commission at Rome;
  - a. For stocks from Italian Army Depots, Land Forces Sub-Commission (WHL).
3. The above does not preclude the right of operational commanders to take such use of the items mentioned as may be necessary for operational reasons only.
4. The appropriate Sub-Commissions, Allied Commission, will post notices in Italian Depots, covering these instructions.
5. All commanders are directed to publish these instructions to members of their command, and to take appropriate action on any violation."

c. 3.4.2. Instructions, Fifth Army, Section B-113, dated 7 December 1944 provide in part:

- 1b. Italian Material. All Italian material belonging to all arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in the possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice is considered as Italian for all purposes, except as otherwise directed by this headquarters in accordance with the use of the Italian Army when the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission.
2. AFHQ Circular 29 of 9 December 1944 states:
  1. Suspected instances have been reported of Allied troops receiving material, supplies or stores from Italian Military Depots without proper authority. This is a violation of paragraph 1b, AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944.
  2. No material, supplies or stores will be received from any Italian Military Depot, Factory, or Italian Military organization, by units or individuals of this command without express written authority of one of the following Sub-Commissions of the Allied Commission at Rome:
    - a. For stores from Italian Army Depots, Land Forces Sub-Commission (LAFS).
  3. The above does not preclude the right of operational commanders to make such use of the items mentioned as may be necessary for operational reasons only.
  4. The appropriate Sub-Commissions, Allied Commission, will post notices in Italian Depots, covering these instructions.
  5. All commanders are directed to publish these instructions to members of their command, and to take appropriate action on any violations.
3. S.A.S. Instructions, Fifth Army, Section 2-1113, dated 7 December 1944 provide in part:
  2. Restricted training as listed below are reserved for special purposes (e.g. civilian rehabilitation, Army Services shops, manufacturing for military use, etc.) and will not be considered by the Army Engineer (Civil Estate) for general use, except without special investigation.
4. Installations belonging to the Italian Armed Forces.

d. A.A.I. letter 2096/12/52 dated 1 July 1944 of which the following are extracts:

incidents have occurred (particularly in 1943 and other nearby occupied localities) where property, transport and materials belonging to the Italian Forces have been removed from them without proper authority and when the operational need for such action no longer existed.

In future no buildings, road signs, transportation or other materials belonging to the Italian Armed Forces, or in the possession of effective units of the Italian Army, Navy or Air Force, will be occupied, requisitioned, seized or made use of without prior reference to this HQ.

The Italian Commanders concerned have been authorized to place notices on their property indicating its ownership. These notices will be respected.

e. A.A. Memorandum, 369/11/54 of 19 Aug 1944, provides in part:

"1. This constitutes a full authority for the Italian Armed Forces to collect all vehicles and other war material originally held on charge by them.

2. Every assistance should be given to the Italian Armed Forces in their efforts to maintain themselves by the salvaging and collecting into depots of war material scattered throughout the country."

f. MIA Signal A22463 of 26 December 1944 provides in part:

Executive that prompt and effective action be taken to prevent further disposition of these vehicles and to insure that they are returned to Italian Army in their present operating condition, also to regularize this matter of principle throughout this theater."

g. 15th Army Group Signal 567 of 27 December 1944 to 15th Army follows:

"Your attention is invited to MIA cable A22463. It is directed that necessary action be taken to obtain for MIA referred to vehicles with least practicable delay and that this HQ be advised of resultant action."

406

L. F. VAN HESS,  
Major, Infantry,  
Br. (MIA) L.S.,  
15th Army

The Italian Commanders concerned have been authorized to place notices on their property indicating its ownership. These notices will be respected.

e. A.C. Memorandum, 360/11/CA of 10 Aug 1944, provides in part:

"1. This constitutes a full authority for the Italian Armed Forces to collect all vehicles and other war material originally held on charge by them.

2. Every assistance should be given to the Italian Armed Forces in their efforts to maintain themselves by the salvaging and collecting into depots of war material scattered throughout the country."

f. MIA Signal A22463 of 26 December 1944 provides in part:

Impetative that prompt and effective action be taken to prevent further dissipation of these vehicles and to insure that they are returned to Italian Army in their present operating condition, also to regularize this matter of principle throughout this theater."

g. 15th Army Group Signal 463 of 27 December 1944 to OI Fifth Army follows:

"Your attention is invited to MIA cable A22463. It is directed that necessary action be taken to obtain for MIA referred to vehicles with least practicable delay and that this can be achieved of resultant action."

Distribution: As Necessary

cc: MIA

406

R. S. VAN RINK,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

RCV/jad  
21 March 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Army Materiel.

TO : Commanding General  
12th Air Force  
APO 650, US Army

1. Attached request is forwarded for consideration. Am enclosing copy of directives on this subject.
2. If this request is approved, I will arrange collection. My telephone number is Lightning Rear 54.

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

2 Incls

cc: MMIA

RESTRICTED

(2) Recommend no change.

d. FORTEZZA DA BASSO in Florence, formerly occupied by Director Italian Artillery, an Italian Artillery depot and barracks, an Italian Military Tribunal and Jail. Now partially occupied by the 36th Ordnance and 972nd Ordnance companies, 7 officers and 195 men each, and some Italian troops under Territorial Headquarters #7.

(1) This Fortress occupies several acres of land with numerous buildings in various states of repair. The large Military Tribunal building containing the Italian offices, Court Room and jail is unoccupied with the exception that one of the Ordnance companies is using it as an orderly room.

(2) In the occupation of these premises, it appears that no attempt has been or is being made to conserve valuable space, or to comply with directives pertaining to the restricted use of Italian Army property. The Italian Army needs this entire installation for offices, a military prison, store houses and barracks. The Italian troops in 5th Army area have no military prison.

3. Recommendations. That the large Military Tribunal building, located on the right at the entrance of the Fortezza Da Basso and occupied as an ordnance orderly room, be vacated at once and delivered to the Italian Army; that the two ordnance companies be instructed to conserve space; that the Italian Army be permitted to occupy the buildings not now beneficially employed, and to commence repairing the destroyed buildings in the Fortezza, and when the two ordnance companies move out, that the entire premises be delivered to the Italian Army.

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

cc: MMIA

(Ref your Q18 of 8 March 1945.

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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APO 464 US ARMY

RCV/jad  
16 March 1945

Ref. File 29

Subject: Italian Army Trucks

To : Major Robert A. Bell S.C.  
Public Works & Utilities Sub-Commission A.C.  
Florence, Via Cerretani 6.

1. Reference your letter of 7 March 1945, above subject.
2. In conformity with your request, am attaching an A.C. directive on the subject which is explanatory of my position in the matter. In addition, there are more recent directives from 15th Army Group and 5th Army on the subject.
3. Have made an examination of one of the 2 trucks described in your letter. Both trucks are just alike and there is no dispute as to these trucks being Italian Military trucks. The body and cab are the same as when originally constructed by Fiat Co for Italian War Department in 1940. They have, however, been repainted a maroon color with the name of the Selt-Valdarno Electric Company on them. It is true they are equipped for transmission line work in the rural areas, and has in the body a "capra" which is used for moving heavy objects. It is only a steel frame about 4 feet high with a "block and tackle" on it which can be removed without injury to the truck or the "capra" for it is only fastened onto the body with bolts.
4. In my opinion, if the "capra" were removed from the trucks by the Electrical company, it would not be a violation of MMIA signal AQ2463 of 26 December 1944 which requested a return of the trucks to the Italian Army in their present operating condition. 15th Army Group on the 27th of December 1944, signal No. 562, directed Fifth Army to take necessary action in accordance with the MMIA signal.
5. Attached is a copy of my instructions to Recovery Commission #21 to allow the Electric company two weeks in which to remove the "capra" and to get replacements for these trucks. It is pointed out, however, that the company will still have one more large truck and three smaller ones.

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

Copies to: MMIA  
Recovery Commission #21

403

Italian Army Trucks

REV/jad

Sr (MIA) 16 Mar  
MIA LO 1945

Reference your signals Q22 of 1 March and AQ2463 of  
26 Dec 1944.

Attached for your information.

R.C. VAN EIRK,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

cc: Maj Bell  
Recovery Conn. #21

Italian Military Transport

RCV/jed

Sr Recovery  
MIA 10 Comm 16 Mar  
#21 1945

Request that you take possession of the two trucks described in Major Bell's letter to me at the expiration of 2 weeks from this date. You will note that the "capes" are to be removed from the bodies but the trucks are to be delivered in their present operating condition.

W.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

cc: MIA  
Maj Robert A. Bell

Attached Copy of Letter

RCV/jad

Sr Lt Col 16 Mar  
NMIA LO DiMeana 1945  
Recovery  
Comm  
#21

Attached for your information and guidance.

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

Ref No. 29

Italian Army Material Recovery

RCV/jad

Sr LFSCAC 9 Mar  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1945

1. Reference Browning-Van Kirk conversation and attached communication.

2. The name of General Cerica's C. of S. is Colonel Carlo Piccinini. Col. Piccinini sent this request of Delegation T to me at the time Lt. Col. Morfino, Direzione Automobilistica Delegation T, stopped the Cerseti Detachment from collecting the Italian military trucks in Florence. Col. Piccinini states in para 1, his letter, that civilians may use the trucks temporarily, which directive I do not consider exists. Reference para 2 of his letter, the Cerseti detachment have always had in their possession, written authority to collect Italian materiel in this area. Reference para 3 his letter, this refers to Italian War Ministry's letter, Ref No. 133/MM of 6 Feb 1945, which the Colonel now admits had been received by his HQ, but he didn't know it at the time that he made this request on me.

3. In view of Col. Piccinini's attitude as was observed by the G.O.C. MMIA on the 5th of March, his failure to cooperate as I think he should on the Italian military truck situation in Florence, and his failure to know what his HQ had received in the way of directives, I consider that he should be relieved. Lt. Cols. Morfino and Grimaldi of Direzione Automobilistica Delegation T, should also be relieved. It was Col. Grimaldi who made the deal with AMG to accept 8 trucks in settlement of all our demands which resulted in the famous Clayton P. Kerr letter of Dec 26, AG/5.

4. I recommend that these three officers be relieved from their present assignments for failure to properly cooperate in carrying out Allied directives.

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

Ref No 29

|   |         |       |       |
|---|---------|-------|-------|
| 2 | Sr      | CC    | 5 Mar |
|   | MMIA LO | Deleg | 1945  |
|   |         | "T"   |       |

1. Reference Italian LO's 565418 of 4 March 1945 and your n.1092/Aut of 23 Feb 1945.

2. My HQ and I have no objection to you entering into any agreement you want to in connection with the collection and salvaging of Italian military vehicles for the Italian Army, but no agreement should be made or will be permitted by my HQ or me as suggested by Niccolo Theodoli in sub-para d of his letter. This is the very thing that will not be approved by me, reference Col. Kerr's letter of 26 December 1944 to Italian War Ministry, and Italian War Ministry's directive 133/WM of 6 Feb 1945.

3. My attention has been called to paragraphs 4 and 6 of Italian War Ministry letter of 6 Feb 1945 referred to above. These as I understand them, mean that if Italian military trucks are hauling supplies such as coal, oil etc, for necessary public utilities, then the trucks may be used for that purpose for a limited time providing Italian military drivers are put on the trucks and are made responsible for them, as was recently done by "S.I.N.". In each instance of this kind, approval should first be obtained of all necessary HQs.

cc: MMIA

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

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

RCV/jad  
3 March 1945

Ref. No. 29

Subject: Italian Military Vehicles.

To : A. C. of S., G-4, Headquarters Fifth Army.

1. In conformity with your request, the Italian Military Vehicle situation briefly is; that since receipt of signal 562, 15th Army Group of 1 January 1945, requesting Fifth Army to obtain approximately 30 military vehicles from civilians in Florence for MMIA, the following events have occurred:
  - a. MMIA signalled on 2 January 1945, Reference No. AQ2491, that AMG officers in Florence were interfering with collections of vehicles.
  - b. January 3, 1945 I asked the Cerseti Detachment which is the Italian agency authorized to collect Italian materiel in 5th Army area, to go through the records at the Vehicle Registration Office in Florence and make a list of Italian Military vehicles.
  - c. January 27, 1945, the list consisting of 32 vehicles was compiled and copies furnished me. Delay was occasioned by the fact that the civilian records were not in order and every registration card had to be examined to see if it were for an Italian military vehicle.
  - d. January 27, 1945, I sent a buck slip to AMG Florence asking them to assist in securing the return of the vehicles which the Italian officers had listed for me. I sent a copy of this list to MMIA in Rome telling them of the action taken.
  - e. February 2, 1945, Lt. Col. Michie, AMG Florence, designated Major T.E. Mosley to investigate and report on the trucks which the Italian officers claimed were Italian Military vehicles.
  - f. February 12, 1945, AMG Florence asked Major Mosley as to the progress he was making.
  - g. February 13, 1945, I reported to MMIA in writing what was being done.
  - h. February 25, 1945, I received a copy of Major Mosley's report from AMG Florence.
  - i. February 25, 1945, I sent the report to the Cerseti detachment asking them to take possession of the vehicles they could find. Same date I sent a copy to MMIA.
  - j. March 1, 1945, in my weekly liaison log, I again reported progress to MMIA, extract of copy was sent to Col. O'Neill.
  - k. March 2, 1945. Had another conference with AMG and told them that the Cerseti was proceeding to take possession of the trucks.

2. Difficulties are encountered in finding and identifying the trucks listed, for the civilians keep moving them and claim they are civilian, not military. Am advised, one of the trucks has now been sold and is now in Rome. The trucks were originally obtained from the Germans, have in most instances been repaired by civilian parts and as a result, difficulty is experienced in almost each instance as to the identity of the truck, whether it is civilian or military.

3. I propose to send a reply to NMIA's signal Q22 of 1 March, as per copy attached.

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

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## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr LFSCAC 25 Feb  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1945

1. Reference your AQ2772 of 12 Feb 1945 and ST/1004 of 19 Jan 1945.
2. Attached are copies of list of vehicles furnished me by AMO Florence and my instructions to Cerseti Det. here in Florence. As soon as my request has been complied with, will notify you.

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr GERSETI 25 Feb  
MMIA LO 1945

1. Reference attached communication and your S.N. 98 of 11 Jan 45.

2. Request you take possession immediately of all vehicles on the attached list furnished me by AMG Florence, and deliver these vehicles to the proper Italian Military authorities for the use of the Italian Army. You will notify me when this request has been complied with in order that I may notify MMIA.

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

Copy to AMG Florence

SUBJECT: Property of Italian Army

MMIA /  
-----

Copy to: APM Brit Incre  
Q  
-----

MMIA L.O.,  
British Increment,  
Fifth Army,  
CMF

Phone No: Lightning Rear 163

5LO/5/Q

17 Feb 45

The firm of MANETTI H. ROBERTS, Via Pisacane No 1, FLORENCE, is in possession of a vehicle Fiat 626 RE 114793, (the property of the Italian Army) which they bought from the Germans.

The registration number has since been changed to FI 30677 and the only documents possessed by the firm to support their possession of the vehicle are receipts in German signed by a German officer.

I am requested by 231 Div to ascertain what steps they may take for the immediate recovery of this vehicle.

AMN/ET

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*a.m. newton*  
Capt.,  
MMIA L.O.,  
British Increment,  
Fifth Army.

## Hospital Facilities of the Italian Army

I L.O. Sr Feb 16  
G-4 MMIA LO 1945

1. Ref. attached statements (2).
2. Request your action in order to obtain the disposal of the Italian Army equipment.

/s/ A. Cicogna  
/t/ A. CIOGNA  
G-4 Italian L.O.

2 Sr Prov 16 Feb  
MMIA LO Comm'r 1945  
Siena

1. Reference attached communication.
2. For your information, a copy of Brig. Lush's directive of 10 Aug 1944 is attached.
3. Since there is no dispute as to ownership of the property involved, and that it is Italian Military material, it is requested that an order be issued by you directing that this property be turned over to the Italian Military authorities without further delay.
4. This equipment is urgently needed by the Italian Military Medical officers who have orders from my HQ to open an Italian Military hospital at Leghorn

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

cc: Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MMIA)

Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr IFSCAC 13 Feb  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1945

Reference your signal AQ2772 of 12 Feb 1945, Subject; Italian Military Vehicles Florence. Attached copy of letter is latest information I have had from AMO Florence. Am pressing them almost daily for action.

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

REV/jad

Sr LFBGAC 6 Feb  
MIA LO (MIA) 1945

1. Further in reference to your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945.

2. Attached is a list of Italian vehicles which Corsetti say are Italian Military vehicles but have been repaired by use of civilian parts or civilian transport repaired with Italian Military parts. As soon as a decision is reached on the 32 vehicles already listed to you and asked for from AMG Florence, I will ask for these. As indicated, there is more doubt as to the identity of these 42 than the 32 now under consideration by AMG Florence.

R.C. VAN KINE,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

Attached letter

RCV/jad

Sr Public 6 Feb  
NMIA LO Safety 1945  
Officer  
Florence

Forwarded recommending approval.

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

F/23  
2nd Feb. 1945.

SUBJECT : Italian Army Transport.  
TO : Major T. B. Mosley.

1. The Liaison Officer between the Italian Army and 5th Army Rear H. Q. has been ordered to collect trucks as per attached list and turn them over to Italian Army authorities as they are claimed to be formerly property of the Italian Army.

2. It is requested that S.C.A.O. be provided with a report as soon as possible of:-

- a) which of the trucks here listed are in Florence,
- b) which of them are in running condition,
- c) which of them are running because they have been repaired with civilian parts and what is the extent of such reparation.

3. Also attached herewith find letter dated 17th December listing certain trucks duplicated on said list which have already been investigated, and ~~are~~ turned over to the Italian Army.

BERTHAM M. GOLDSMITH,  
Major, A. U. S.  
Administrative Officer,  
A.M.G. City of Florence.

enc/

c/c to Lt. Col. T. J. Michie,  
Liaison Officer, Major R. C. Van Kirk.

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## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr LFSCAC 27 Jan  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1945

1. Reference your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945.
2. Attached is list of Italian Vehicles referred to in my Liaison Log of 25 January 1945, Para 2, sub para (1). Am asking AMG Florence to assist me in securing these vehicles. Will notify you when accomplished.

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

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

Sr AMO 27 Jan  
MMIA LO Florence 1945

Request aid in securing return of Italian Military  
Vehicles on attached list to the Cerseti Detachment which  
is authorized to take possession of such vehicles.

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

## OFFICE REFERENCE SHEET - FIF. ARMY

OFFICE G-4 Rear FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SUSPEND DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

| Inl. No. | From                                              | To          | Date           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | <del>EXX</del><br><del>EXX</del><br>Sr<br>MMIA LO | G-4<br>Exec | 13 Jan<br>1945 | <p>Recommend approval of Col. Ripa di Meana's request, and that the AMG transport officer be directed to either let the Cerseti detachment have access to its vehicle registration lists or furnish Col. Ripa di Meana a list of vehicles registered in order that he may check the list for Italian Military vehicles improperly registered.</p> <p><i>R.C. Van Kirk</i><br/>R.C. VAN KIRK,<br/>Major, Infantry,<br/>Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,<br/>5th Army</p> |

Buck Slip Indorsement

RCV/jad

xxx  
xxxx  
Sr LFSCAG 9 Jan  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1945

1. Reference your AQ/2491 of 2 January 1945.

2. Col. O'Neill, G-4 Fifth Army, wrote the following indorsement on a buck slip to Colonel Walker, "It appears that we can hold Major Van Kirk entirely responsible for all dealings with the activities of MMIA. Therefore, let's handle everything through him and hold him responsible that directives are carried out and that in case of trouble he brings the case to us with all the facts".

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

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

RCV/jad  
7 November 1944

Subject: Italian Military Transport.

To : G-4 Exec., 5th Army,  
A.P.O. #464, U.S. Army.

1. For your information.

2. Since July 7th 1944, an Italian Cerseti Detachment has been employed in 5th Army area, with 5th Army's approval, collecting Italian Army materiel.

3. Authority for the operation of this Cerseti is covered in Brig. Lush's ACC directive of 10 August 1944, Ref.360/11/CA

"1. This constitutes a full authority for the Italian Armed Forces to collect all vehicles and other war material originally held on charge by them.

"2. Attention is drawn to:

(a) AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944, which clearly states: "Italian Material. All Italian Material belonging to arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in the possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice is considered as Italian material and, except as otherwise directed by this headquarters is reserved for the use of the Italian Army under the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission."

(b) A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2 dated 1 July 1944 of which the following are extracts:

"Cases have occurred (particularly in ROME and other newly occupied localities) where property, transport and materials belonging to the Italian Forces have been removed from them without proper authority and when the operational need for such action no longer existed."

"In future no buildings, real estate, transportation or other materials belonging to the Italian Armed Forces, or in the possession of effective units of the Italian Navy, Army or Air Force, will be occupied, requisitioned, seized or made use of without prior reference to this HQ."

"The Italian Commanders concerned have been authorized to place notices on their property indicating its ownership. These notices will be respected."

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"3. Every assistance should be given to the Italian Armed Forces in their efforts to maintain themselves by the salvaging and collecting into Depots of war material scattered throughout the country."

4. Lt.Col. Ripa di Meana, Italian officer in charge of this detachment, advised me on the 2nd of November 1944 that 60 Italian Army Military vehicles were located in Florence at the following addresses where private garages are located:

Via Lorenzo il Magnifico  
Via Ponte Rosso  
Viale Principe Umberto  
Via della Querce  
Via Vittorio Emanuele  
Via S.Niccolo

? Since an A.A.I. Directive states that this detachment operates under my authority in this area, I instructed the Cerseti detachment to make collection and to put the vehicles in operation. Accompanied by Lt.Col. di Meana, I inspected 3 different garages where this transport is stored, the bodies for the trucks were in one place, motors in another and rubber hidden someplace else. The garage owners say they bought the trucks from the Germans and that they are theirs and didn't intend to give them up. A lot of truck bodies had AMG signs on them. I talked to the British officer in charge of vehicle registration in Florence, and he said not to pay any attention to these signs but to go ahead and collect the vehicles. He had, however, authorized some civilians to haul food in certain Italian Army trucks and asked that before Cerseti took possession of these trucks, that we list them and ask him to release the trucks to the Italian Army. This, I agreed to do. We were agreed that the first demands for such transport was for military use and not civilian. I caught one garage owner repainting some of these trucks, to try and disguise their identity, in fact, he was just painting out the "RE" as I walked up.

5. On November 4, 1944, Col. di Meana acting under the authority outlined above, started to move the vehicles not then in use, to the Italian Ordnance shop for repairs. Immediately a Captain Sanders, AMG, of the Florence Command, acting under orders of Lt. Col. Rolph, AMG, same command, notified Col. di Meana to stop taking these vehicles and told him that if he didn't, he would call the MP's and have him arrested. Col. di Meana stopped immediately and notified me.

6. The question of whether the local civilian garage men are to be reimbursed by the Italian government for the money they allegedly paid the Germans for these 60 trucks, as I see it, is a matter for the Italians to determine subsequently, and is not now involved.

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7. In view of the Allied directives, the urgent requirements for transportation by all elements of the Italian Army operating with the Allied Forces and in view of possible dissipation of this transport by the civilians in whose possession this transport now is, it is urgently requested that necessary action be taken to permit Col. di Meana to proceed with his mission without further interference by Allied officers.

*R.C. Van Kirk*  
R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,  
5th Army.

cc: MMIA

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

RCV/jad  
7 November 1944

OPNS. FILE

Subject: Italian Military Transport.

To : G-4 Exec., 5th Army,  
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1. For your information.

2. Since July 7th 1944, an Italian Cerseti Detachment has been employed in 5th Army area, with 5th Army's approval, collecting Italian Army materiel.

3. Authority for the operation of this Cerseti is covered in Brig. Lush's AGC directive of 10 August 1944, Ref. 360/11/CA

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(a) AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944, which clearly states: "Italian Materiel. All Italian Materiel belonging to arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in the possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice is considered as Italian materiel and, except as otherwise directed by this headquarters is reserved for the use of the Italian Army under the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission."

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380

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Via S. Niccolo

Since an A.A.I. directive states that this detachment operates under my authority in this area, I instructed the Carseti detachment to make collection and to put the vehicles in operation. Accompanied by Lt.Col. di Meana, I inspected 3 different garages where this transport is stored, the bodies for the trucks were in one place, motors in another and rubber hidden someplace else. The garage owners say they bought the trucks from the Germans and that they are theirs and didn't intend to give them up. A lot of truck bodies had AMG signs on them. I talked to the British officer in charge of vehicle registration in Florence, and he said not to pay any attention to these signs but to go ahead and collect the vehicles. He had, however, authorized some civilians to haul food in certain Italian Army trucks and asked that before Carseti took possession of these trucks, that we list them and ask him to release the trucks to the Italian Army. This, I agreed to do. We were agreed that the first demands for such transport was for military use and not civilian. I caught one garage owner repainting some of these trucks, to try and disguise their identity, in fact, he was just painting out the "RE" as I walked up.

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6. The question of whether the local civilian garage men are to be reimbursed by the Italian government for the money they allegedly paid the Germans for these 60 trucks, as I see it, is a matter for the Italians to determine subsequently, and is not now involved.

7. In view of the Allied directives, the urgent requirements for transportation by all elements of the Italian Army operating with the Allied Forces and in view of possible dissipation of this transport by the civilians in whose possession this transport now is, it is urgently requested that necessary action be taken to permit Col. di Meana to proceed with his mission without further interference by Allied officers.

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

cc: MMIA

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DRAFT

DRAFT

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

RCV/jad  
7 November 1944

Subject: Italian Military Transport.

To: : G-4 Exec., 5th Army,  
A.P.O. 464, U.S.Army.

1. For your information. Since ~~about~~ July 7th 1944, an Italian Cerse<sup>5th Army</sup>ti Detachment has been employed in 5th Army area, with ~~its~~ <sup>its</sup> approval, collecting Italian materiel.

2. ~~The complete~~ Authority for the operation of this Cerse<sup>5th Army</sup>ti is covered in Brig. Lush's ACC directive of 10 August 1944, Ref. 360/11/CA.

1. This constitutes a full authority for the Italian Armed Forces to collect all vehicles and other war material originally held on charge by them.

2. Attention is drawn to:

(a) AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944, which clearly states:

"Italian Material. All Italian Material belonging arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in the possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice is considered as Italian material and , except as otherwise directed by this headquarters is reserved for the use of the Italian Army under the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission".

(b) A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2 dated 1 July 1944 of which the following are extracts: 377

"Cases have occurred (particularly in Rome and other newly occupied localities) where property, transport and

Italian Cerseti Detachment has been employed in 5th Army area, with its approval, collecting Italian materiel.

2. ~~The complete~~ Authority for the operation of this Cerseti is covered in Brig. Lush's ACC directive of 10 August 1944, Ref. 360/11/CA.

1. This constitutes a full authority for the Italian Armed Forces to collect all vehicles and other war material originally held on charge by them.

2. Attention is drawn to:

(a) AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944, which clearly states:

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(b) A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2 dated 1 July 1944 of which the following are extracts: **377**

"Cases have occurred (particularly in Rome and other newly occupied localities) where property, transport and materials belonging to the Italian Forces have been removed from them without proper authority and when the operational need for such action no longer existed".

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0 2 4 0

seized or made use of without prior reference to this HQ."

"The Italian Commanders concerned have been authorized to place notices on their property indicating its ownership. These notices will be respected."

3. Every assistance should be given to the Italian Armed Forces in their efforts to maintain themselves by the salvaging and collecting into <sup>the</sup> Depots of war material scattered throughout the country.

4. When ownership of any material is in dispute the matter will immediately be referred to this HQ for investigation and final decision.

4. Lt.Col. Ripa di Meana, Italian officer in charge of this detachment advised me on the 2nd of November 1944, that <sup>68</sup> ~~36~~ Italian Army Military vehicles were located in Florence at the following addresses where private garages are located:

Via Lorenzo il Magnifico  
Via Ponte Rosso  
Viale Principe Umberto  
Via della Querce  
Via Vittorio Emanuele  
Via S.Niccolo

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Since an A.A.I. directive states that this detachment operates under my authority in this area, I instructed the Cerseti detachment to make collection and put <sup>to the vehicles</sup> ~~in~~ in operation. Accompanied by Lt. Col. di Meana, I inspected 3 different garages where this transport is stored, the bodies for the trucks were in one place, motors in another and rubber hidden someplace else. The garage owners say they bought the trucks from the Germans and <sup>that</sup> they are theirs and <sup>intend</sup> ~~they~~ didn't want to give them up. A lot of trucks <sup>bodies</sup> had AMG signs on them, ~~but~~ I talked to

ing and collecting into Depots of war material scattered throughout the country.

4. When ownership of any material is in dispute the matter will immediately be referred to this HQ for investigation and final decision.

4. Lt.Col. Ripa di Meana, Italian officer in charge of this detachment advised me on the 2nd of November 1944, that <sup>the</sup> ~~35~~ Italian Army Military vehicles were located in Florence at the following addresses where private garages are located:

Via Lorenzo il Magnifico  
Via Ponte Rosso  
Viale Principe Umberto  
Via della Querce  
Via Vittorio Emanuele  
Via S.Niccolo

Since an A.A.I. directive states that this detachment operates under my authority in this area, I instructed the Cerseti detachment to make collection and put <sup>to the vehicles</sup> ~~it~~ in operation. Accompanied by Lt. Col. di

Meana, I inspected 3 different garages where this transport is stored, the bodies for the trucks were in one place, motors in another and rubber hidden someplace else. The garage owners say they bought the trucks from the Germans and they are theirs and <sup>intend</sup> ~~they~~ didn't want to give them up. A lot of trucks had ALG signs on them, ~~but~~ I talked to the British officer in charge of vehicle registration in Florence, and he said not to pay any attention to the signs but to go ahead and collect <sup>the</sup> ~~these~~ vehicles. He had, however, authorized some civilians to haul food in Italian Army trucks <sup>certain</sup> ~~but~~ asked that before Cerseti takes possession of these trucks, that we list them and ask him to release the trucks to the Italian Army. This, I agreed to do. <sup>we</sup> ~~Every one was~~ agreed that the <sup>first</sup> ~~1st~~ demands for such transport was for military use and

not civilian. I caught one garage owner, repainting some of these trucks, to try to disguise them, in fact, he was just painting out the "RE" as I walked up.

5. On November 4, 1944, Col. di Meana acting under the authority <sup>not then in use</sup> outlined above, started to move these vehicles to the Italian Ordnance Shop for repairs, and immediately a Captain Sanders, AMG, of the Florence Command, acting under orders of Col. Rolph, same command, notified Col. di Meana to stop taking these vehicles and told him that if he didn't, he would call the MP's and have him arrested. Col. di Meana stopped immediately and notified me.

6. The question of whether the local civilian garage men are to be reimbursed by the Italian government for the money they allegedly paid the Germans for these 60 trucks, since as I see it, <sup>it is a matter</sup> ~~that~~ it is a matter for the Italians to determine and is not now involved.

7. In view of the Allied directives, and the urgent requirements for transportation by all elements of the Italian Army operating with the Allied Forces, and in view of possible dissipation of this transport by the civilians in whose possession this transport now is, it is <sup>it is necessary action be taken to permit</sup> urgently requested that Col. di Meana be permitted to proceed with his mission <sup>without further interference by allied officers.</sup>

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

375

acmmia

Command, acting under orders of Col. Rolph, same command, notified Col. di Meana to stop taking these vehicles and told him that if he didn't, he would call the MP's and have him arrested. Col. di Meana stopped immediately and notified me.

6. The question of whether the local civilian garage men are to be reimbursed by the Italian government for the money they allegedly paid the Germans for these 60 trucks, since as I see it, that is a matter for the Italians to determine and is not now involved.

7. In view of the Allied directives, and the urgent requirements for transportation by all elements of the Italian Army operating with the Allied Forces, and in view of possible dissipation of this transport by the civilians in whose possession this transport now is, it is <sup>urgently requested</sup> that Col. di Meana be permitted to proceed with his mission <sup>without further delay</sup> <sup>by allied</sup>

officers

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

375

COMMIA

## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

Sr HQ 3  
MMIA LG MMIA RCV  
1944

Attached report on Italian Military Vehicles for your information. This report supplements one sent you previously. Have instructed CERSETI to collect this transport and get it in operation. Inspected 3 different garages today where this transport is stored, the bodies for the trucks were in one place, motors in another and rubber hidden some place else. The garage owners say they bought the trucks from the Germans and ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> didn't want to give them up. A lot of trucks had AMG signs on them but I talked to the British officer in charge of vehicle registration in Florence, and he said not to pay any attention to the signs but to go ahead and collect those vehicles. He had, however, authorized some civilians to haul food in Italian Army trucks, but asked that before CERSETI takes possession of these trucks, that we list them and ask him to release the trucks to the Italian Army. This, I agreed to do. Every one ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> agreed that the list demands for such transport is for military use, not civilian. I caught one garage owner, repainting some of these trucks, to try to disguise them, in fact, he was just painting out the "RE" as I walked up. Lt. Col. Ripa di Meana of CERSETI is keeping a record of all this and there should be a day of reckoning for some of these individuals.

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

2 Sr LFSCAC 24 Jan  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1945

For necessary action through A.C. channels, since Leghorn is not in this area. If however, you authorize it, I'll take the matter up direct with the proper authorities when I am in Leghorn.

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



373

Subject: Truck lancia Eso RO - Pistoia

G-4 It. Sr. MMIA 29-1-45  
Liaison LO G-4

1. Commune of Serravalle Pistoiese (Pistoia) was in possess of a vehicle of Italian Military origin;
2. Pistoia AMG HQ requisitioned subject vehicle for Pistoia Supply Section, and claimed that the vehicle had not to be released to the Italian Army without specific authority from 5th Army A.M.G. HQ.
3. Your action is required in order to recover said vehicle.

/s/A. Cicogna  
/t/ Alessandro Cicogna, Capt  
Italian Liaison G-4

2 Sr G-5 24 Jan  
MMIA IO 1945

Recommend approval of request contained in 1st Ind.

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

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## Italian Military Vehicles

RCV/jad

XXX  
XXXX  
Sr      Cmdr      13 Jan  
MMIA LO      Exec      1945

Recommend approval of Col. Ripa di Meana's request, and that the AMG transport officer be directed to either let the Cerseti detachment have access to its vehicle registration lists or furnish Col. Ripa di Meana a list of vehicles registered in order that he may check the list for Italian Military vehicles improperly registered.

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

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

RCV/jad  
12 January 1945

Subject: Italian Army Materiel

To : See Distribution

1. In accordance with AFHQ circular #13 of 1 May 1944 and A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2 dated 1 July 1944, an Italian Cerseti Detachment consisting of; Lt. Col. Ripa di Meana (I) and Capt. Alessandro D'Alessandro (I) was appointed.

2. These officers are authorized to act under the authorities cited above (see copies as per appendices A and B attached).

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

Copies to: MMIA  
Lt. Col. Ripa di Meana  
Capt D'Alessandro

27/1/9

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

RCV/jad  
7 January 1945

Subject: Italian Army Materiel

To : Commanding Officer, Peninsular Base Section, (Att. G-4 Salvage)  
A.P.O. #782, U. S. Army.

1. In accordance with AFHQ circular #13 of 1 May 1944 and A.A.I. letter 2030/12/Q2, dated 1 July 1944, an Italian Cerseti Detachment has been employed in this area, collecting Italian Army materiel. They have full authority to collect all war materiel belonging to the Italian Armed Forces not operationally in use by the Allies.

2. Capt. Alessandro D'Alessandro is a member of this Cerseti detachment and is desirous of obtaining some parts from old Italian Army vehicles in one of your dumps, the parts to be used in the repair of other vehicles. I would appreciate it if you would give him permission to visit the dump in question. If you approve, it might be well for you to arrange with him to remove all Italian materiel from your dumps and place in Italian dumps.

*R.C. Van Kirk*  
R.C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Infantry,  
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,  
5th Army

Copies to: MMIA  
Capt. D'Alessandro

AG 386.3 BPGDS (7 Jan '45) 1st Ind.  
HEADQUARTERS, PENINSULAR BASE SECTION, APO 782, 19 January 1945

HTJ/dvg

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Army, APO 464

1. Concur in plan set forth in basic communication, except that C.E.M. can not be released.

2. Recommend that a representative of the Italian Cerseti Detachment contact Penbase Ordnance.

For the Commanding Officer:

*D. J. HASTIN*  
D. J. HASTIN  
Major, A.G.D.  
Asst Adj Gen,

## Vehicle Census Report

RCV/jad

Sr MMIA LFSCAC 31 Dec  
LO (MMIA) 1944

In conformity with Adm. Inst. No. 14 of 26  
October 1944, as amended.

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

## Vehicle Census Report

RCV/jad

XXXX  
XXXXXXXX  
Sr LFSCAC 31 Dec  
MMIA LO (MMIA) 1944

1. In conformity with Adm. Inst. No. 14 of 26 October 1944, your HQ and ST/1004 of 27 November 1944 and ST/1004 of 22 December 1944.

2. Receipt is acknowledged.

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

OPNS. FILE

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

RCV/jed  
13 October 1944

Subject: Italian Army Material.

To : O.C. British Increment 5th Army.

1. Reference basic communication. Suggest that AFHQ Circular 13, of 1 May 1944, states:

a. "Italian Material". All Italian Material belonging to all arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice, is considered as Italian material and, except as otherwise directed by this headquarters, is reserved for the use of the Italian Army under the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission."

b. A.A.I. letter, 2030/12/02, dated 1 July 1944, of which the following are extracts:

"Cases have occurred where property, transport and materials belonging to the Italian Forces have been removed from them without proper authority and when the operational need for such action no longer existed".

"In future, no buildings, real estate, transportation or other materials belonging to the Italian Armed Forces, or in the possession of effective units of the Italian Navy, Army or Air Force, will be occupied, requisitioned, seized or made use of without prior reference to this HQ".

"The Italian Commanders concerned have been authorized to place notices on their property, indicating it's ownership. These notices will be respected."

2. Request you investigate and that if what Capt. Cigogna says is correct, that this British R.A.F. unit be instructed to return the materiel described, to the CECINA Cerseti Depot.

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

## Italian War Material

RCV/jad

XXXXXX  
XXX  
Sr.(MMIA)14  
L.O. Surgeon Sept. information.  
1944

1. Enclosed report is for your

2. For your further information:

~~Quoted~~a. AFHQ Circular 13 of 1 May 1944,  
which clearly states:

"Italian Material". All Italian Material belonging to all arms and services of the Italian Ground Forces and in the possession of the Italians at the time of the armistice is considered as Italian material and, except as otherwise directed by this headquarters is reserved for the use of the Italian Army under the direction of the Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission."

b. A.A.I. letter 2030/12/02 dated 1 July 1944 of which the following are extracts:

"Cases have occurred (particularly in ROME and other newly occupied localities) where property, transport and materials belonging to the Italian Forces have been removed from them without proper authority and when the operational need for such action no longer existed".

"In future no buildings, real estate, transportation or other materials belonging to the Italian Armed Forces, or in the possession of effective units of the Italian Navy, Army or Air Force, will be occupied, requisitioned, seized or made use of without prior reference to this H.Q."

OPNS. FILE

## Italian War Material

XXXXXX

XXX

Sr. (MMIA) 14  
L.O. Surgeon Sept  
1944

" The Italian Commanders concerned  
have been authorized to place notices on  
their property indicating it's ownership.  
These notices will be respected."

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

364

Ammo Factory

RCV/jad

XXXXXX

XXXXX

Sr  
MMIA LOHQ  
MMIA3  
Nov  
1944

There is an Italian ammunition factory in good shape with several tons of nitroglycerine in it, at San Morcello, 403-102. All it needs is power to start it going.

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

cc; CERSETI

Italian Army Material

RCV/jad

XXXXXXX

XXXX

Sr.

MMIA

LO

HQ

MMIA

24

Oct

1944

For your information and such additional action,  
if any, as you may consider proper.

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

Italian Army Material

BCV/jad

XXXXX

XX

Sr. Italian 13  
 MMIA LO Oct  
 LO and 1944  
 Cerseti

My information is that one of the notices pertaining to Italian Army Material has been placed on a building, a former convent and used by the Italian Fascist Militia, located at Della Orlagta, in front of the Bank of Italia. If this information is correct, request you remove the notice immediately and notify Major Hume, Medical Officer, Palazzo Vecchio, of your compliance.

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

cc: Major Hume,  
 Medical Officer, Florence Command.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
A. P. O. #104, U. S. ARMY

RCV/fnt  
25 July 1944.

Subject: Italian Transport.

To: Persons with Italian Military Material, including Transport.

1. AFHQ Circular #13 dated 1 May 1944, Paragraph 16, states that Italian Material, including transport, belonging to the Italian Army is reserved for the use of the Italian Army.

2. Italian Military vehicles should be delivered to Italian officers who are members of the section designated by AMI to collect such material.

*R. C. Van Kirk*  
R. C. VAN KIRK,  
Major, Infantry,  
MIA; LC.

360

0 2 5 9