

ACC

10000/120/5158

SD/43/2

10000/120/5158

SD/43/2

FOLGORE INF. DIN ORG

July - Oct. 1945

Cover I

546
555

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : MMIA

TO : AFHQ for GHQ C M F

INFO : DISTHREE
AC for NAVY S C

REF : SD 3022

DATE TIME

11/15/45 A

DISTHREE FOR MMIA LO
54 AREA FOR MMIA LO

UNCLASSIFIED

REF YOUR PX48541 OF 13 PARA TWO (.) TRANSFER TO MIN OF
WAR OF FOURTH COMPANY 501 GD BN FOR B A R I IS REGT NO 9 IS
AWAITED (.) COMPANY IS REQUIRED TO REJOIN PARENT BN SOONEST (.)
AFHQ SIGNAL C20872 OF 19 SEPT REFERS (.)

SD/14

555

PRECEDENCE ROUTINEAUTHENTICATED BLH

COPY TO: MIN OF WAR

INTERNAL: A
Q (Two)

FILE: SD/43/2

aa

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: AFHQ
 TO : MMIA
 DISTHREE
 REF : FX 48541

131004 A

RESTRICTED

IMPORTANT

FROM: G(SD) CMF (*)

ONE (*) SAN MARCO REGT WILL PASS FROM COMD DISTHREE
 TO COMD ITALIAN WAR MINISTRY WITH EFFECT 182359 A OCT WITH CHANGE STATUS
 FROM BR-ITI TO ITI-ITI (*)

TWO (*) REGT MAY PASS TO ITALIAN NAVY ON OR AFTER 20 OCT PROVIDED HAND
 OVER TO 502 AND 524 ITALIAN GD BNS COMPLETE (*)

THREE (*) ALL BRITISH EQPT IN EXCESS OF BASIC SCALE WILL BE WITHDRAWN
 SOONEST AFTER 18 OCT UNDER DISTRICT ARRANGEMENTS AND
 DEFICIENCIES VOUCHER TO MMIA BY DDOS DISTHREE (*)

ACK

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: SD/43/2

INFO : A
 Q (Two)
 ST (Two)
 SD/56/2
 SD/13/2

jv 15 Oct 45

G30 1

G30 2 (CFA)

G30 2 (SD)

G30 2 (W2)

G30 2 (L1)

G30 3 (G2)

G30 3 (CFA)

G30 3 A

Sec. G.I. 14/10

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: NMIA LO DISTHREE
 TO : 227 DIV
 INFO: 10 TERR HQ NAPLES
 9 TERR HQ BARI
 NMIA LO C/O 54 AREA
 HQ NMIA
 REF: 3 DLO/527

130930 B

RESTRICTED

I DO NOT RPT NOT AGREE WITH YOUR 02/3813/ORD
 OF 12 SEP (*) MY INFORMATION IS THAT SAN MARCO
 REGT IS UNDER OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF 9 TERR HQ BUT
 ADMINISTERED BY 227 DIV

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action: SD/43/2

Info : A
 Q (Two)

jv 14 Sep 45

GSO 1 _____
 GSO 2 (Ops) _____
 GSO 2 (SD) ☒ _____
 GSO 2 (WE) _____
 GSO 2 (L) _____
 GSO 3 (SD) ☒ _____
 GSO 3 (Orbat) _____
 GSO 3 (I) _____

9

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : M M I A
TO : MINISTRY OF WAR
INFO : AFHQ G-3 AMO
DISTHREE
54 AREA
ALCOM
DISTHREE FOR MMIA LO
54 AREA FOR MMIA LO
REF : SD 2936

31

1700 B

SECRET.

See 8

FOLLOWING SIGNAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM DISTHREE (.)
QUOTE ON ARRIVAL TRANI SAN MARCO REGT IS PLACED UNDER
OF COMMAND TERRITORIAL HQ BARI FOR SUCH INTERNAL SECURITY
DUTIES AS ITALIAN GOVT MAY DIRECT (.) POSITION THUS
IDENTICAL TO RECENT SYSTEM COMMAND GARIBALDI REGT UNQUOTE

552

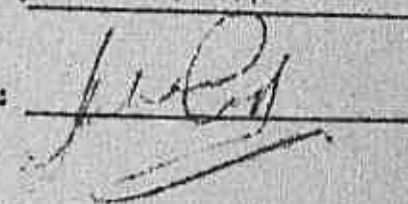
SD DISTRIBUTION:

File : SD/43/2
A
Q(Two)

PRECEDENCE

: ROUTINE

AUTHENTICATED:



COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: DISTREE

291045 B

TO : 54 AREA
TERRITORIAL HQ BARI
ALCOM

SECRET

IMPORTANT

INFO: 227 ITALIAN AIR DIV
AFHQ (OPS) C 3
AFHQ (C 3 AMO)
MILIA
MILIA LO BARI
MOV BARI

REF : SD 112

*Following signal has been received from DISTREE*ON ARRIVAL T R A N I SAN MARCO RECT IS PLACED
UNDER OP COMMAND TERRITORIAL HQ B A R I FOR
SUCH INTERNAL SECURITY DUTIES AS ITALIAN GOVMT
MAY DIRECT (.) POSITION THIS IDENTICAL TO RECENT
SYSTEM COMMAND G A R I B A L D I RECT

Ack

GRATI 551

Do STIRE want
confirmation?SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: SD/43/2

INFO : A

Q (Two)

Jv 30 Aug 45

GSO 1	_____
GSO 2 (Ops)	_____
GSO 2 (SD)	X <u>h</u> X
GSO 2 (WE)	_____
GSO 2 (L)	_____
GSO 2 (SD)	X <u>h</u> X
GSO 2 (Orbat)	_____
GSO 2 (A)	_____

15
31/1

SUBJECT: SAN MARCO Regt

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, A.C. (LMIA)

SD/43/2

22 Aug 45.

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

In reply to your 217782/11 dated 16 Aug 45.
222 3 1

1. I discussed this whole question some time ago personally with Admiral DE COURIEN at a private party and he then agreed that in due course SAN MARCO should revert to the Italian Navy. For reasons of prestige he was anxious that this reversion should not take place directly the Germans surrendered. Accordingly I postponed the GARIBOLDI/SAN MARCO exchange till now.

2. I have kept Naval Sub-Commission A.C. fully in touch with all developments and consulted them before originating this exchange - to which they agreed.

3. It is obviously unsound for GARIBOLDI to go as part of FOLCORE with Italian equipment while SAN MARCO would come to BARI as an independent regiment with British equipment, particularly in view of SAN MARCO's eventual reversion to the Italian Navy.

4. Accordingly, the orders for the GARIBOLDI/SAN MARCO exchange were issued by AFHQ and cannot be departed from.

5. SAN MARCO is to replace GARIBOLDI in the BARI area and will undertake all functions carried out by GARIBOLDI hitherto under orders of BARI Territorial HQ as necessary.

6. (a) Until adequate military internal security troops can be made available at BARI (out of guard battalions etc) it will be necessary to retain SAN MARCO there as a military unit up to full W.E.

(b) The date on which the SAN MARCO can revert to the Italian Navy depends on decisions by AFHQ as regards the immediate future of the Italian Army, now under urgent discussion on a high level. I expect these shortly.

7. When this date can be fixed, I entirely agree that SAN MARCO, which has done such noble and valorous work in battle, should be disbanded after a solemn ceremony showing Allied appreciation.

8. Meanwhile, I hope you will explain all the above to

551

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8. Meanwhile, I hope you will explain all the above to Admiral DE COURTON, who will, I am sure, realise that all action taken has been for the good of ITALY and in connection with the reorganisation of the Italian Army towards a peace time basis.

td

L. Browning
Major-General,
MIA.

Copy to : Naval Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission.

(MIA SB/43/2 dated 30 Jul and
AFHQ AC.091.711/057 COT-0 dated
7 Aug refer)

Discussion at Chief Comm meeting 23 May also referred.

Translation

From M; of W.
To M.M.I.A.

Ref. 217782/II

222 3 I

Date 16/8/45

Subject "S. Marco" Reg.

I forward a copy of letter B.985I dated 13/8/45 from the Admiralty.

I would be grateful if you would inform of your intentions regarding the "S Marco Reg.

And especially I would like to know:
Whether, bearing in mind the difficulties in which the Navy finds ~~XX~~ itself regarding transport, the S Marco Reg. could be placed at the disposal of the Navy in order to be demobilised and reduced to those units with which it is concerned.

Whether, instead, the said Reg. is to continue to remain as it is in its present formation, passing to the command of the Terr. Mil. HQ. Bari, with the same tasks as the Garibaldi Reg.

^{CASE}
In the first ~~XXXX~~ I agree with the Admiralty on the adviseability of disbanding the unit after a solemn ceremony, showing appreciation of the valourous contribution of the S Marco Reg. in the War of Liberation.

It would then be adviseable to send the a/n Reg. directly to Taranto, instead of Bari, where the Navy could offer the best living conditions to the S Marco units.

DAK.

MMIA-'C'

FILE: 58/48/2

DATE: 11/20/45

(Jacini.)

210930

COPY

From Admiralty
To M. Of W.

Translation

Ref. B. 9851.

Date 13/8/45

Subject "S Marco" Reg.

Through information supplied to me 4 or 5 days ago by an officer of the S Marco Reg. sent to Rome, I have learnt that, by instructions issued directly from M.M.I.A. to the "Folgore" group the S Marco Reg. is to replace the Garibaldi Reg. at Bari where they are to be transferred by train, disarmed, leaving their arms on the spot until they can be taken over by the Garibaldi Reg.

I have tried to obtain more precise information as to units effected and the repercussions of this unforewarned measure, but up to date I have not succeeded in obtaining anything concrete or definite.

I think it necessary therefore to clarify the position of the S Marco reg. and put forward any urgent matters.

2) In Sept. 1943, after the armistice, the R. Marina started to form the S Marco reg., with W/E for its own special requirements, forming first the "Bafile" Batt.

The forming of such a batt. carried out overcoming difficulties and obstacles with the view that the R. Marina should take a direct part in the land operations in order to liberate the southern part of the country from the invader.

Later the "Grado" batt. was added to the "Bafile".

The two battalions took part in operations from Mar. to Sept. 1944 first on the Cassino front under command of the Allied *Army*

afterwards with the C.I.U. on the Adriatic front.

In Aug-Sept. on request made to me directly by the Army Chief of Staff, in spite of difficulties regarding personnel and transport that *it* brought about, I adhered to the proposal to bring the W/E of the batt.

to that of three battalions, in accordance with British W/E, incorporating it on the fighting strength of the Folgore group.

The S Marco reg, after a long period of training, took part honourably and with loss of blood in war operations from Feb. to May 1945 for the liberation of the northern regions of the peninsula.

3) At present, owing to the termination of hostilities the service of the S Marco reg. are no longer required, and considering the difficulties in which the R. Marina finds itself regarding transport and personnel, of which the S Marco continues to form a special W/E unit, I think it should be placed completely at the disposal of the R. Marina in order to be demobilised and reduced to those units with which they

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And since I cannot deal with the question directly with M.M.I.A. with whom I have never had direct contact, I would ask you to kindly communicate with the a/n Allied Authority putting forward to them the following proposals:

a) The moving of the S Marco reg. to Bari, that would be advisable to avoid, should be in any case considered as a temporary location while awaiting transfer to a locality indicated by the R. Marina to be demobilised.

b) The move from the present station should at least be carried out with British individual armament, with the understanding that the

P.T. 0

R. Marina will arrange to return such armament when the reg. is demobilised, in accordance with instructions which will be agreed upon.

4 At the end of the 1915-18 war, the S Marco reg. was ~~was~~ demobilised along with the army, full ceremonial parade being carried out in order to show full recognition of the brave and bloody contribution given in the defence on the Piave and at the victorious conclusion of the war.

Though the present conditions are somewhat different, I would be happy if the feeling of a hurried liquidation could be avoided by members of the reg. at the demobilisation.

DAK

(De Curten)

Land Forces Sic

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

891

AG 091.711/057 GCT-0

7 August 1945

SUBJECT: SAN MARCO Regiment

TO: Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394
FOR: Land Forces Sub Commission (MMIA)A/c S.D./43/2.
Info S.D./43/1.

1. Reference is made to MMIA letter SD/43/2 of 30 July 1945.
2. Exchange of GARIBALDI and SAN MARCO Regiments is approved in principle and warning orders have been issued to effect the gradual handover. Cable, this headquarters, FX 32261, dated 4 August 1945, refers.

BY COMMAND OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER:



R.H. Frese
R. H. FRESE
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

GOC on return
CofS

Copy furnished:
Navy Sub Commission AC

1501 *[Signature]*
1502 (Ops) _____
1502 (SD) _____
1502 (W) _____
1502 (S) _____
1503 (S) _____
1503 (C) _____
1503 (I) _____

517

MMIA - 'C'
FILE: SD/43/2
DATE: R/9/8.

090930

SECRETSubject: SAN MARCO Regt, FOLCORE Combat Group

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.,
(M.L.I.A.)
R O M E
SD/45/2

See to L.

30 July, 1945

To : A.F.H.Q.

1. As you know, the SAN MARCO Regt. is composed of marines but is embodied under military authority in the FOLCORE Group. This worked satisfactorily during the war but it is obviously unsuitable to have a Marine Regt. mixed up with soldiers in peace time.
2. We have a spare combat regt. in the GARIBOLDI Regt. now at BARI. I consider that GARIBOLDI should take the place of SAN MARCO in FOLCORE Group as soon as possible.
3. Apart from the obvious advantage of this, it would pave the way for the eventual return of SAN MARCO to the Navy. In due course presumably SAN MARCO may be converted into Naval Port Security Troops and then come under orders of the Navy. In the BARI area it would be conveniently situated for dispersal as Port Security Troops to a number of the main ports in ITALY.
4. Moreover unfortunately owing to the non-co-ordination by the Navy Minister and the Minister of War, the class 1915 to 1919 in SAN MARCO FOLCORE Group only the 1914 class has so far been demobilized. This may give rise to unrest and discontent within the Group, the other regiments of which is the high-spirited MEMMO Regt. Separation of SAN MARCO from the FOLCORE Group would allay any possible unrest. A further point is that GARIBOLDI Regiment is largely composed of northerners and it would undoubtedly increase their morale if they were moved North.
5. I recommend that the GARIBOLDI Regt. be made up to the scale of Br Tpt, guns and equipment as at present held by SAN MARCO, the Italian arms and equipment now held by GARIBOLDI being withdrawn and given to the SAN MARCO. As both firms are on identical WEs there should be no difficulty.
6. May I have an early reply please.

546

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4. Moreover unfortunately owing to the non-co-ordination by the Navy Minister and the Minister of War, the class 1915 to 1919 in SAN MARCO have already been demobilized whereas as regards the army troops of FOLGORE Group only the 1914 class has so far been demobilized. This may give rise to unrest and discontent within the Group, the other regiments of which is the high-spirited NEMO Regt. Separation of SAN MARCO from the FOLGORE Group would allay any possible unrest. A further point is that GARIBALDI Regiment is largely composed of northerners and it would undoubtedly increase their morale if they were moved North.
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J. Browning

Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to : Navy Sub Commission, A.C.

R/ 30/7

