

acc

10000/120/5259

SD/132

10000/120/5259

SD/132

REPATRIATION - GENERAL

MAR. - DEC. 1945

1311
1360

COVER III

34A
SUBJECT: Italian Military Mission to JUGOSLAVIA.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AG. (MMIA)

SD/132

" Dec 45

TO : POLAD (AMERICAN) A.C.

Ref telephone conversation Mr JONES - Lt Col SOUTHBY
Land Forces Sub Commission on the above subject.

Herewith copy of only reply so far received from AFHQ
to this HQ SD/132 dated 9 Nov 45.

3126

1369

Copy to: POLAD (BRIT) AG (this HQ
SD/132 dated 22 Nov 45
refers)

A. H. G. G. G.
for Major General,
M. M. I. A.

ARCS/eb

(32)

SUBJECT: Proposed Italian Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA.

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C. (MIA)

SD/132

27 Nov 45

TO : Office of Political Advisor (Br) A.C.

1. With reference to your letter 397/45 dated 21 Nov, attached herewith, as requested, are copies of relevant correspondence regarding the sending of a proposed Italian Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA for the purpose of assisting Italian Military (PW or internees) and arranging for their repatriation.
2. The correspondence mentioned in this HQ letter SD/132 of 9 Nov 45 addressed AFM (copy att) refers to a previous request on the part of the Italian War Ministry for the despatch of an Italian Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA with similar aims in view to those outlined in para 1 above. When the matter lapsed in Nov 44, no further action was taken by this HQ till receipt of Italian War Ministry letter No. 224013/11 of 27 Oct 45 (copy att).
3. The matter at present rests with AFM having been requested to give a ruling as to whether the Mission may or may not be despatched, (vide AFM SD/132 of 9 Nov 45).
4. You will be kept informed of further developments.

AKCS/jw
27 Nov 45.

A. H. I. A.
Major General, 61
H. H. I. A.

SUBJECT: Appt of an Italian Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C. (MMLA)

SD/132

9 Nov 45

TO : AFHQ

Ref AFHQ signal Z 61845 of 11 Aug 44 and HQ A.C. letters A/CG 091.
711 of 17 Sept and 7 Nov 44.

1. The Minister of War has continued to press for action in connection with members of the Italian Army still in YUGOSLAVIA.
2. Enclosed herewith is copy of a letter from the Minister of War asking for permission to send a small Italian Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA with the purpose of assisting ex-members of the Italian Army still in that country.
3. About 20,000 ex-soldiers are probably involved.
4. Political Advisors, both British and American, to Allied Commission, have been contacted and both see no political objection.
5. The request does not appear to clash with your ruling in LSCD/344 dated 24 Sept 45 which refused permission for Italian Military HQ at UDINE to concern itself directly with Italian troops specifically in VENEZIA GIULIA.
6. This application is concerned with YUGOSLAVIA proper.
7. May a ruling please be given at an early date.

1357

LB
Major General,
M. HQ I. A.

Internal: A
Q (Two)

ARCS/abc

TRANSLATION

From : The Minister for War
 To : Maj. Gen. Browning
 Subject : Appointment of an Italian Military Mission in Yugoslavia.

Ref : 221813/II

Date : 27.10.45

Repatriation of an Italian Military either PWs or interned from Central and Western Europe is now almost completed. An Italian Military Liaison Mission in Germany with the American Occupation GHQ and also recognized by the British and French GHQs has greatly assisted in tracing, assisting and repatriating our co-nationals.

Many Italian military are still in Yugoslavia but nothing definite has been in their favour so far. They are military who were either interned in Yugoslavia as PWs captured by the Germans after Sept. 8th 1943 or having escaped capture and imprisonment entered Yugoslav territory and there voluntarily fought in the ranks of Marshal Tito's Army or in those of partisan formations.

This problem is difficult to solve and all attempts to solve it by diplomatic channels have been unsuccessful so far.

The necessity of giving practical assistance to these military of ensuring their repatriation after so many months of hardship and of giving news to thousands of families whom still know nothing of their relatives urges me to leave no channel unexplored provided it offers a possibility of solving the problem.

I therefore submit the matter to you feeling confident that I will meet with the backing and understanding which, in similar cases, you have never refused in favour of our soldiers. 1358

Should you agree to the appointment of a Mission it would be formed by very few officers particularly chosen among those who, having fought against the Germans in Yugoslav territory, have won for themselves the esteem and respect of those beside whom they fought.

I will be extremely grateful to you for your kind help in the matter and thank you in anticipation for an early reply.

Many Italian military are still in Yugoslavia but nothing definite has been in their favour so far. They are military who were either interned in Yugoslavia as PWs captured by the Germans after Sept. 8th 1943 or having escaped capture and imprisonment entered Yugoslav territory and there voluntarily fought in the ranks of Marshal Tito's Army or in those of partisan formations.

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THE MINISTER

(Sgd) Jecini

RMDeJ

(29)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF - (DR)

24 Sep 45

FILE NO : HSD/312

SUBJECT : ITALIAN Army personnel in NE ITALY
and JUGOSLAVIA

TO : Land Forces Sub Com AG (MILIA)

Reference SD/132/1 of 20 Jul and 2 Aug.

1. It is undesirable to allow the ITALIAN Army to undertake any activities in VENEZIA GIULIA West of the MORGAN line until the peace treaty is concluded. This area is at present under the jurisdiction of AMG.
2. It is similarly undesirable at this time to approach the JUGOSLAV government with a view to moving ITALIAN Army units from that part of VENEZIA GIULIA East of MORGAN line.
3. It is regretted therefore that the Ministry of War must be informed that the request in their letter of 13 July cannot be granted.

A.D. WARD
Major General
Assistant Chief of Staff (Dr)

1355

WHR/ 30/

SD/132

28

397/45

Office of Political
Adviser (P2)Director,
Land Forces Sub-Commission.

G.

I understand that the Italian Government have officially approached the Allied Commission for permission to send a mission to Yugoslavia to negotiate the return of Italian troops (including prisoners of war) in Yugoslavia and that you are taking the matter up with Allied Force Headquarters.

2. I should be grateful if I might be provided with a copy of the correspondence in order that the British Ambassador may take supporting action in London.

21.11.45


Asst. Asst. (P2)

See folio 25 & 26.

R/23/11

See fol 24

GSO 1 _____
 ex 2 (P2) _____
 GSO 2 311 _____
 GSO 2 11 _____
 GSO 2 1 _____
 GSO 3 (50) _____
 GSO 3 (1941) _____
 GSO 3 (1) _____

1351

20030

B/F to me pt.

APC

SO/13/73

G/2700

NOV 040035

PRIORITY

ZA 51728

NOV 031706

FROM : A BUREAU COPY

TO : DIRECTOR

INFO : ADAMS 1-1-1 A

GEO 1

GEO 2 (GPA)

GEO 3 (GPA)

GEO 4 (GPA)

GEO 5 (GPA)

GEO 6 (GPA)

GEO 7 (GPA)

GEO 8 (GPA)

Ref your B/P/012 dated 29 Oct.

1. Intention noted.
2. Consider order of priority of repatriation as (a) be
 - A. Made. No would have been placed by mixed medical condition affected whether co-operator or non-co-operator.
 - B. Co-operators.
 - C. GUNDO and GUNDO DIVE and Italian naval personnel who assisted in in detention and are now in GUNDO.
 - D. Non-co-operators.
 - E. Medical health and conditions.
3. Repatriation by sea, used in 4 columns port, present rate of acceptance at one time, holding capacity of camps there, rate of clearance per day toward.

20000	7000	10000	1000
11000	7000	10000	1000
20000	5000	5000	1000
4. Repatriation by rail.			
11000	5000	2000	1000

Adopted rate here represents maximum possible excluding all other incoming

135?

traffic. Endeavouring to raise holding capacity to 10000.

5. Agree your 5th.
6. Request present practice continues all re-entrants arriving in status of IV and retaining this status until disembarkation at port of detrainment at hand over point where responsibility passes to Italian Govt for determination and disposal.
7. Proposed receive re-entrants on plan above forthwith. Limiting factor throughout is lack of sufficient transport facilities from ports to permit rapid clearance inland of base reception areas. Overall plan of total repatriation from America has been agreed and moves already begun. Since this uses same reception organization here now moves from elsewhere into Italy must be phased in with that plan.

PRC

Info-action : IP- 33
 L- Forces 33
 Info : Chief Commissioner
 CA Sect
 File 2
 Fleet

COX A 042

IP (2)

2- (30) (2) —

PLANT

1352

maf.

SUBJECT: App of an ITALIAN Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA

LAND FORCE HQ OCE, A.C. (INTA)

NO/132

9 Nov 45

See to 34

20 1 AMW

Ref AMW signal F-61845 of 11 Aug 44 and HQ A.C. letters N/CC 091.711 of 17 Sep and 7 Nov 44.

1. The Minister of War has continued to press for action in connection with members of the ITALIAN Army still in YUGOSLAVIA.
2. Enc herewith is copy of a letter from the Minister of War asking for permission to send a small ITALIAN Military Mission to YUGOSLAVIA with the purpose of assisting ex-members of the ITALIAN Army still in that country.
3. About 2,000 ex-soldiers are probably involved.
4. Political advisors, both BRITISH and AMERICAN, to ALLIED COMMISSION, have been contacted and both see no political objection.
5. The request does not appear to clash with your ruling in BRU/PA dated 24 Sep 45 which refused permission for ITALIAN Military HQ at UZICE to concern itself directly with ITALIAN troops specifically in YUGOSLAVIA.
6. This application is concerned with YUGOSLAVIA proper.
7. May a ruling please be given at an early date.

R. Brown
Major General
H M I A

1351

Internal: 6 (200)

ARC/abn

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM : The Minister for War
 TO : Major General BRIDGES
 LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (MIA)

Ref : 224645/11

Date : 27 Oct 45

28

SUBJECT : Aspects of an Italian Military Mission in YUGOSLAVIA

Repatriation of Italian Military either PWs or interned from Central and Western Europe is now almost completed. An Italian Military Liaison Mission in Germany with the American Occupation GHQ and also recognised by the British and French GHQs has greatly assisted in tracing, assisting and repatriating our co-nationals.

Many Italian military are still in YUGOSLAVIA but nothing definite has been in their favour so far. They are military who were either interned in YUGOSLAVIA as PWs captured by the Germans after Sep 8 1943 or having escaped capture and imprisonment entered YUGOSLAV territory and there voluntarily fought in the ranks of Marshal Tito's Army or in those of partisan units.

This problem is difficult to solve and all attempts to solve it by diplomatic channels have been unsuccessful so far.

The necessity of giving practical assistance to these military of ensuring their repatriation after so many months of hardship and of giving news to thousands of families who still know nothing of their relatives urges me to leave no channel unexplored provided that it offers a possibility of solving the problem.

I therefore submit the matter to you feeling confident that I will meet with the backing and understanding which, in similar cases, you have never refused in favour of our soldiers.

Should you agree to the appointment of a Mission it would be formed by very few officers particularly chosen among those who, having fought against the Germans in YUGOSLAV territory, have won for themselves the esteem and respect of those beside whom they fought.

I will be extremely grateful to you for your kind help in the matter and thank you in anticipation for an early reply.

135

YRS GENTLY

(signed) JAGHNY

TRANSLATION

From: The Minister for War

Ref: 221813/II

To: Maj. Gen. Browning

Date: 27.10.45

Subject: Appointment of an Italian Military Mission in Yugoslavia!

Repatriation of Italian Military either PWs or interned from Central and Western Europe is now almost completed. An Italian Military Liaison Mission in Germany with the American Occupation GHQ and also recognized by the British and ~~French~~ French GHQs has greatly assisted in tracing, assisting and repatriating our co-nationals!

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I will be extremely grateful to you for your kind help in the matter and thank you in anticipation for an early reply.

9301

6112 (14)

6512

X THE MINISTER

(Sgd) Jacini

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I will be extremely grateful to you for your kind help in the matter and thank you in anticipation for an early reply.

THE MINISTER
(Sgd) Jacini

0301

0302 (Sgd)

0303

0304

0305

0306

0307 (Sgd)

0308

PMDeJ!

60/132
R/29/10

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War

TO: The Minister for Foreign Affairs
and for info:Gen. Langley Browning, G.C.C., M.M.I.A.
(further to letter 302921/C.A. of 23.10.44)SUBJECT: Troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" divisions.

I am sending you a copy of a detailed report regarding the circumstances of the troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" divisions which has been submitted to me by General Mario Soldarelli, former G.C.C., in 1943, of the "Cuneo" division, ^{then} ~~presently~~ located in Egypt.

I am also enclosing a copy of the letter sent by me - on the subject - to the President of the Council, requesting his intervention in favour of these troops of ours.

In respect of what Gen. Soldarelli has dealt with in ~~request~~ his request relating to:

- conferment of "war of liberation honours" and War Cross
- rates of pay,

the competent departments of this Ministry will take the necessary action, contacting directly, where necessary, the Ministry of Post-War Assistance.

For such as regards, however, the repatriation of the troops in question and recognition of their status of "cobelligerents", I shall

23

REF: 222675/11

DATE: 19th. October 45.

23A
I am sending you a copy of a detailed report regarding the circumstances of the troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" divisions which has been submitted to me by General Mario Soldarelli, former G.O.C., in 1943, of the "Cuneo" division, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{then} located in Egypt.

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^ ^
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- conferment of "war of liberation honours" and War Cross ^{13.8}
- rates of pay,
the competent departments of this Ministry will take the necessary action, contacting directly, where necessary, the Ministry of Post-War Assistance.

^ ^
For such as regards, however, the repatriation of the troops in question and recognition of their status of "cobelligerents", I shall be pleased if you would give all your authoritative support to assist - by diplomatic means, through the Italian Embassy in London - the intervention, requested by me, of the President of the Council for a definite and favourable resolution of this controversial question.

I should be grateful for your kind reply,

Sgd. JACINI

War Minister.

C. Danin Cpl.

M.M. 12.1.43	
FILE	132
DATE	12/27/10

TRANSLATION

23A

7th. October 1945.

COPY

To

The War Minister

ROME

SUBJECT: Troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" divisions in the
Middle East.

As former G.O.C. of the "Cuneo" Division I consider it my duty to point out once more the particular, still more grave, circumstances in which the troops of the above mentioned divisions, employed in Egypt as pioneers under Allied command, find themselves.

They number more than 6000 Italians, who, on the 8th. September, followed, without hesitation, the path pointed out by duty; who held high their flag by the side of British soldiers and Greek soldiers and partisans; who were never taken prisoner; who in Turkey, in Palestine, and in Egypt, preserved complete their love for Italy, their faith in her resurrection.

Unanimous had been the request, one had been the promise; as soon as the assembly area selected by the Allied Command was reached, they were to reorganise, rearm, and immediately recommence training in order to carry on the fight wherever ordered to do so. 13:17

Request and promise were reconfirmed at Cairo in December 1943, before I received orders to return to Italy to acquaint our Supreme Command with the situation, point out requirements relative to the reorganisation of the "Cuneo" Division, and to be informed of the higher authorities decisions in respect of its future employment.

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On the 18th. February 1944, Field Marshal Messe, then Chief of the General Staff, communicated to the Army General Staff, with letter 11280/CP, the following decisions of the Allied Command:

- the Division to be kept in Palestine;
- its transformation into pioneer units;
- repatriation of the officers in excess of requirements;
- permission for me to return to Palestine to communicate to the men who were waiting, the decisions referred to above.

Thus hope and promise collapsed.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Having reached Palestine and proceeded to El Burej camp, where the men of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions were located, together with about 2000 officers and men of the Navy and Air Force who were formerly operating in the Dodecanese, Sporades, and Cyclades, I carried out the duties specified by Field Marshal Messe in the letter quoted above and a further letter (11909/OP of the 19th. March):

- to convey the best wishes of the country;
- to point out the impossibility, for the moment, of repatriation, in view of transport difficulties;
- to convince the men by means of propaganda and persuasion that their work, even though not in the front line, would be useful to their country, and to explain to them the difficult circumstances in which the country found itself and the many difficulties which prevented the employment of the Division in combat;
- to notify the personnel of the pioneers units that they would receive the same treatment as that received by the units of the Italian Army in the rear battle areas of the Allied Armies, and that under no circumstances would they be considered as prisoners of war.

12/4

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Despite the sorrow caused by the transformation from combat units to pioneer units, the men submitted, with perfect discipline, to the Allied decisions conveyed to them by me, from our Supreme Command, certain that they were making an equal contribution, with personal labour rather than weapons, to the liberation of their

Messe in the letter quoted above and a further letter (11909/OP of the 19th.March):

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13/6

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Despite the sorrow caused by the transformation from combat units to pioneer units, the men submitted, with perfect discipline, to the Allied decisions conveyed to them by me, from our Supreme Command, certain that they were making an equal contribution, with manual labour rather than weapons, to the liberation of their country, and hoping that before long circumstances would be favourable for their long awaited repatriation.

As you know, 14 pioneer companies and two M.T. units were formed using personnel of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions, which, as prepared, were transferred to Egypt.

In April 1944 the regimental flags were returned to Italy together with the regimental commanders and about 200 officers

surplus to requirements, including all the senior officers with the exception of Major Ratti of the "Cuneo" Division H.Q., who remained for the completion of the pioneer units and for their liaison with the English H.Q.

Afterwards all the Navy and Air Force personnel were repatriated.

In August 1944, Major Ratti also returned to Italy.

" " " "

The conditions of the men incorporated into pioneer units deteriorated with the passage of time despite the fact that the contribution of work they gave was considerable and much appreciated by the Allies.

The initial conditions were not maintained; the promises and assurances given at the time of the forming of the units were never carried out.

The deterioration was continuous; this gave rise to bad feeling, discontent, recriminations, exasperation, which has led to a great lowering of the morale of the men and has caused many of them, in these last months, to commit severe breaches of discipline.

I quote, as an example:

- the change of status, (from cobelligerent to cooperator) which has put on the same level, or rather in the same moral and physical conditions, troops, who, at the time of the Armistice, joined with the Allies, lined up with them to fight the Germans, and who were never

and even with troops captured by the Allies before the 8th.

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I quote, as an example:

- the change of status, (from cobelligerent to cooperator) which has put on the same level, or rather in the same moral and physical conditions, troops, who, at the time of the Armistice, joined with the Allies, lined up with them to fight the Germans, and who were never made prisoner, with troops captured by the Allies before the 8th. of September and who, while confined in P.O.W. camps, were given the opportunity to become cooperators and did so;
- the reduction in rations;
- the replacement of cobelligerent items of uniform with P.O.W. items of uniform;
- withdrawal of authorisation to fly the Italian flag in the camps;
- internment of many men;
- the repatriation of various personnel already interned because of their political precedents at the time of the forming of the

pioneer units or beforehand;

- the transfer to Italy of many pioneer companies formed exclusively of personnel drawn from P.O.W. camps, so that - strange as it may seem - while many P.O.W.s who became cooperators in 1944 have been repatriated to Italy to contribute to the war of liberation with their labour and have recently been handed back to the Italian Authorities, have been granted leave and been discharged if belonging to the older classes, none of the men of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" divisions who have never been prisoners, never interned, cobelligerents since the Armistice, employed as cooperators before anybody else, have yet set foot on their mother soil despite their clear right to priority, despite oft repeated promises;
- the ever increasing isolation, the ever increasing feeling of having been abandoned, the precarious and excessively slow communication with their families, the fate of which is still unknown to many even after two years.

The drop in spirits is shown by those very few who for exceptional reasons have been able to obtain repatriation, and finds confirmation in the correspondence, truly not copious, which reaches Italy, very often after being months en route.

134

In the early letters we found faith, voluntary working spirit, and serenity, even though there may have been discontent at being unable to continue the war with their arms.

In the latest: abandonment, humiliation, exasperation, expressions of true and real discouragement.

23c

cobelligerents since the Armistice, employed as cooperators before anybody else, have yet set foot on their mother soil despite their clear right to priority, despite oft repeated promises;

- the ever increasing isolation, the ever increasing feeling of having been abandoned, the precarious and excessively slow communication with their families, the fate of which is still unknown to many even after two years.

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In the early letters we found faith, voluntary working spirit, and serenity, even though there may have been discontent at being unable to continue the war with their arms.

In the latest: abandonment, humiliation, exasperation, expressions of true and real discouragement,

I enclose copies of the most recent letters which I have received (from Sgt. Bona and Pte. Zantonetti, my batman) and a copy of the latest letter addressed to Major Ratti by one of the company commanders, Captain Gristina. (enclosures 1, 2, 3,).

I also enclose a copy of a letter which was sent by 2/Lieut., M.O., Cattina to the above mentioned Major, as soon as he was repatriated. (enclosure 4).

Energetic intervention is now necessary in order that the injustice which has been suffered for so many months by the men of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions, is brought to an end.

It is necessary to prevent these men, who have remained faithful to their feelings of duty, bound by discipline, and are still good soldiers of Italy, falling prey to the most fiery subversive theories.

Doubt as to being abandoned, fed by seeing every promise remain unfulfilled, is gradually becoming certainty.

Today it is no longer possible to tell them that the delay in repatriation is due to a deficiency in shipping, because the war is over and every day prisoners from every part of the world are returning by sea to Italy.

Cobelligerants changed into coopeators, although ~~xxx~~ at one time their hopes and intentions were different, they see themselves taking second place to prisoner cooperators and even just plain prisoners, and cannot explain to themselves how this is coming about, seeing in the fact, injustice, - injustice which exasperates them.

1343

It is necessary to avoid their becoming rebellious.

I therefore ask the Hon. Minister for his high and authoritative intervention to ensure that:

of the "Cuneo" and "Regina"

Today it is no longer possible to tell them that the delay in repatriation is due to a deficiency in shipping, because the war is over and every day prisoners from every part of the world are returning by sea to Italy.

Cobelligerents changed into coopeerators, although ~~now~~ at one time their hopes and intentions were different, they see themselves taking second place to prisoner cooperators and even just plain prisoners, and cannot explain to themselves how this is coming about, seeing in the fact, injustice, - injustice which exasperates them.

1343

It is necessary to avoid their becoming rebellious.

I therefore ask the Hon. Minister for his high and authoritative intervention to ensure that:

- assurance is given to the troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions that Italy has not forgotten them, and that every possible activity intended to obtain their return, is explained.
- repatriation is no longer delayed.

The repatriation could be echeloned, but the first draft should return speedily in order that hope may be revived and become certainty.

And in the repatriation do not forget the 100 carabinieri who always behaved magnificently in their particular service together with the Military Police, and the Senior N.C.O.s who were interned in various camps in Egypt, being surplus to the war establishments of the pioneer units.

- on their return to Italy they shall not be considered for any reason whatsoever, or in any form, as prisoners of war, never having been such;

- they are awarded the "War of liberation" flash and the War Cross to the extent ~~in~~ which the troops, justifiably, deserve.

M.O.W. Circular No. 357, 1945, lays down that the War of liberation flash shall be awarded to those members of the Armed Forces of the State who served after the 9th. September for a period of at least three months, even if not consecutive, under the command of mobilised units.

The end of the operational period in Egypt was fixed in M.O.W. circular No. 162, 1945, as the 30th. November 1943, from the point of view of awards of the War Cross, but this date is the end of the operational period, and not of the mobilisation period for ~~the~~ "Cuneo" Division and the men of the "Regina" who joined it.

The evacuation ~~from~~^{to} Turkey, the journey through this country and Syria, and the stay in Palestine, were carried out by units properly constituted on war establishment and employed under the command of a Divisional H.Q. and with a purpose in view: that of re-preparing itself in an area to be selected by the Middle East

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It was only letter 11280, dated 18th. February 1944, addressed to the Army General Staff by the Supreme Command and signed by Field Marshal Messers, that notified officially, for the first time, that A.F.H.Q. had laid down that the fighting Division should be changed into pioneer and sapper engineer units.

It is from that date then, and no previous one, that, in my opinion, the division should be considered disbanded and consequently

demobilised, if it is not considered more fair to fix said demobilisation date as the 3rd. of April, the date on which I officially informed the assembled officers and men of the decisions referred to in letter 11280, previously quoted, and actual operations for the forming of the pioneer units were commenced.

I consider that this same limit should, in the name of justice, be fixed from the point of view of awards of the War Cross.

If this cannot be done, none will obtain recognition, which after all is only psychological, of all that they did and suffered during the period before the 8th. September, a period of intense activity, frequent German aerial attack, attack actions by sea and invasion of many islands, which also had its victims.

- all troops who formed part of the pioneer companies shall receive payment for their work.

Letter 11915/OP, dated 19th. March 1944¹⁴, addressed to the Army General Staff by the Supreme Command laid down: "the personnel of the division will receive the same treatment as the units of the Italian Army employed in the rear of the Allied Armies".

Letter 11919/OP also of the 19th. March¹⁴ and addressed by Field Marshal Messe to the Army General Staff, confirmed "treatment equal to that of the Italian units at home".

Before leaving for Palestine, at a meeting held at Lecce in the office of the Chief of the Army General Staff, then Lt. Gen. Berardi, the War Minister, Lt. Gen. Orlando, instructed me, in the presence of Gen. Berardi and the Chief of the Allied Mission, Gen.

to notify the troops that

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I communicated the above to the troops during my mission in Palestine and they heard with lively satisfaction this further measure by the government in their favour.

It does not seem, however, that the promise has been maintained, and that the extra pay has only been given to the very few who have so far been repatriated.

I have received some correspondence on the matter; the latest letter complaining of the lack of the extra pay was sent to me last month by Pte. Boschirolì Augusto di Crema (enclosure 5)

It is necessary that what was laid down and clearly specified in the two above quoted official communications, shall be maintained.

They are decisions of the Supreme Command, confirmed by the War Minister, and communicated by me, on precise orders given in the presence of the highest military authorities, to the Italian troops and the Allied Command, in Palestine.

They cannot remain dead letters.

What will the consequences be otherwise ?.

1340

I have considered it necessary, Sir, to bring all this to your personal knowledge in the interests of 6000 and more troops and their families.

Respectfully and in the name of all, I request your authoritative approach to the competent authorities in order Italian soldiers shall be speedily,

specified in the two above quoted official communications, shall be maintained.

They are decisions of the Supreme Command, confirmed by the War Minister, and communicated by me, on precise orders given in the presence of the highest military authorities, to the Italian troops and the Allied Command, in Palestine.

They cannot remain dead letters.

What will the consequences be otherwise ?.

13411

I have considered it necessary, Sir, to bring all this to your personal knowledge in the interests of 6000 and more troops and their families.

Respectfully and in the name of all, I request your authoritative approach to the competent authorities in order that the question of these Italian soldiers shall be speedily, truly, and completely, solved as justice demands.

Sgd. MARIO SOLDARELLI

Major General.

O. Danin Cpl.

TRANSLATIONCOPYEnclosure 1

Major General
SOLDARELLI Mario
Military H.Q.

ROME (Italy)

15 July 1948.

Dear Sir,

Your letter has been gratefully received and has shed a little light on the grey monotony of this pioneer life.

The troops and my comrades have pressed me with questions to which I have replied to the best of my ability, exhorting them to have faith, mainly in you and our officers, but..... morale is going down. This sad existence has lasted too long, too many words have been spoken in blandishment, and today apathy is general and deep in the heart there is deep resentment against all. I am certain that on return, that when Italy is there before our eyes, and with its love will have healed our wounds, all will return to new life. I and the old members of the command have faith in you and we ^{for} ~~are~~ certain that you remember us, and this is helping us to carry on and giving us a little strength; to you we address our prayer that the old "C" arises again, that our sacrifices may have their just reward, and that soon we shall all have the joy of seeing you in our ranks once again on the day of our return.

Gratefully I tender my kindest regards and the regards of all the pioneers to their General.

Respectfully,

M. BONA.

236

Dear Sir,

Your letter has been gratefully received and has shed a little light on the grey monotony of this pioneer life.

The troops and my comrades have pressed me with questions to which I have replied to the best of my ability, exhorting them to have faith, mainly in you and our officers, but..... morale is going down. This sad existence has lasted too long, too many words have been spoken in blandishment, and today apathy is general and deep in the heart there is deep resentment against all. I am certain that on return, that when Italy is there before our eyes, and with its love will have healed our wounds, all will return to new life. I and the old members of the command have faith in you and we ^{are} ~~are~~ certain that you remember us, and this is helping us to carry on and giving us a little strength; to you we address our prayer that the old "C" arises again, that our sacrifices may have their just reward, and that soon we shall all have the joy of seeing you in our ranks once again on the day of our return.

Gratefully I tender my kindest regards and the regards of all the pioneers to their General,

Respectfully,

M. BONA.

6908 BONA Mario

c/o G.H.Q., O2E, M.E.F.

O. Danin Cpl.

TRANSLATIONCOPYEnclosure 2.

General SOLDARELLI Mario,
 Military H.Q., ROME (Italy)

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I received a postcard dated the 1st. April which took 97 days to reach me. I thank you, Sir, and tender my sincere best wishes, in reply to your own. A great many here, Sir, have some doubt as to your interest in us because now more than a year has passed and so far nothing has materialised. We have had word here from an officer who tells us that he has knocked at all doors but a senior officer has always barred him and he has been unable to find out what our circumstances are at the present.

Here many of ask ourselves "But why is it that nobody remembers us?". I can leave the rest to your imagination.

We have received information here, Sir, that the officers who have been repatriated have said that all goes very well with us and that we want for nothing. I should, however, be very pleased, if a few of them came out here to sample the life that we are living here on this hated soil.

With sincerest best wishes, devotedly,

Sgd. ZANTONETTI ALESSANDRO

23c

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With sincerest best wishes, devotedly,

Sgd. ZANTONETTI ALESSANDRO

7167 ZANTONETTI Alessandro
c/o G.H.Q., 02E., M.E.F.

O. Danin Cpl.

TRANSLATIONCOPYEnclosure 3

23 A

Major Giovanni RATTI

Ministry of War, Army General Staff, A.P.O. 3800

18.8.45

My dear Major,

After the lapse of nearly two years we are really in a mess, seeing that nothing has turned out right for us. Now, however, the war is over and we are taking hope again. At present I am back to pretty nearly as before but at another place together with Lombardini and Errico. Others, however are still locked up, the proportion being about half in prison and about half out. Of the "Cuneo" companies which you know, only three are still going and are very mixed with other elements. We held together for 23 months, always with the best of intentions, but afterwards the inevitable happened for practically all of us and now we are recovering together in the hope of a better tomorrow and with the duty to a renewed Italy. What a hard fate has been ours after many years of sacrifice in war and after two years of loyal collaboration against the Germans.

We certainly deserved better, but, however, no one has understood and helped us. Now perhaps the coming of peace will help some of us but the divisional question exists no longer and it is this that saddens myself and the other officers and men who have carried themselves in such a dignified manner through the prolonged strain.

I assure you that, to the extent which was possible, all have

however, the war is over and we are taking hope again. At present I am back to pretty nearly as before but at another place together with Lombardini and Errico. Others, ^Whowever are still locked up, the proportion being about half in prison and about half out. Of the "Cuneo" companies which you know, only three are still going and are very mixed with other elements. We held together for 23 months, always with the best of intentions, but afterwards the inevitable happened for practically all of us and now we are recovering together in the hope of a better tomorrow and with the duty to a renewed Italy. What a hard fate has been ours after many years of sacrifice in war and after two years of loyal collaboration against the Germans.

1337

We certainly deserved better, but, however, no one has understood and helped us. Now perhaps the coming of peace will help some of us but the divisional question exists no longer and it is this that saddens myself and the other officers and men who have carried themselves in such a dignified manner through the prolonged strain.

I assure you that, to the extent which was possible, all have proved themselves outstandingly, also having the conviction of participating in the rebirth of the country. Now we are only concerned with getting out and coming home to take up life again. It is certain, however, that we shall not all be in at the right moment and this is saddening. In any event, thought, Italian cooperation is now about finished and before long we shall all be free for repatriation. With best wishes and the same affection as ever,

Yours,

Captain Cristina

c/o G.H.Q., 02E, M.E.F.

O. Danin Cpl.

TRANSLATION

23c

CCPYEnclosure 4

Major RATTI,

9.9.45.

Dear Major,

Passing through Suez whilst being repatriated from South Africa, I was asked by Medical Officers Lieuts. Dr. Calo Torquato, 9137, and Dr. Pozzi Luciano, 5320, to speak to you of recent delicate facts regarding the unfortunate, and certainly known to you, circumstances of various contingents of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions. Repatriation having failed to be effected after three months work as promised, the troops are still working hard while their treatment has been reduced to the same level as that accorded to the Suez prisoners which I was able to see some days ago. This state of affairs after 19 months has led to serious consequences since the companies have refused to work. This has naturally been considered as "mutiny" and the consequences will certainly be felt, at least in the repatriation of these troops. The said companies were under the command of the following officers: Gristina, Rambaldi, Silvuni, Cerni, Borella, Ottini, Rolando, Rustichelli, Zaltieri, Pallavicino,

Soriente.

1335

The two medical officers which I have mentioned, who stood solidly behind, and are serving with, these punished men, although doubtless in another camp, earnestly ask you to approach General Soldarelli in order that due consideration be given to all that the said troops have suffered in the past and all that they have given in the carrying out of their duty. They cannot understand how only a part of them have been repatriated and the exasperation caused by such thoughts has affected their judgement for the worse,

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Sortierte

The two medical officers which I have mentioned, who stood solidly behind, and are serving with, these punished men, although doubtless in another camp, earnestly ask you to approach General Soldarelli in order that due consideration be given to all that the said troops have suffered in the past and all that they have given in the carrying out of their duty. They cannot understand how only a part of them have been repatriated and the exasperation caused by such thoughts ~~has~~ affected their judgement for the worse, but they have hope in their superiors for assistance. The Cairo representative, called on to speak, has also shown intentions of bearing in mind the praiseworthy ~~act~~ of the said troops, however the recent fact could still have an influence on their repatriation. I beg of you therefore, having seen their moral plight personally, to spare no effort on behalf of these youths.

I have maintained the promise which I made to them and should like to tender my humble regards,
Obediently,
C. Danin Cpl.
2/Lieut., M.C., Cattini Sante.

TRANSLATIONCOPYEnclosure 5

General Mario Soldarelli

Crema, 5.8.45.

Dear Sir,

You will, perhaps, be surprised to receive this letter of mine; I am turning to you once again to ask you once more about news, which, if I am not mistaken, you gave to us on your return to Egypt in April '44, regarding the payment, in addition to the daily pay, of twenty lire per day which was approved by our government; I have now made enquiries and nobody knows anything about it. I should not like to think that it exists and we are unable to draw it. I am therefore asking you if you know anything.

I am now convalescing and quite well and should like to extend my best wishes for a speedy return, to all my friends who are still in Egypt.

Hoping that you will be able to satisfy my request I tender my sincerest best wishes and beg you to excuse any inconvenience caused,

O. Danin Cpl.

Pte. AUGUSTO Boschirolti.

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War

REF: 221909/11

TO: Prof. FERRUCCIO PARRI,

DATE: 19.10.45.

President of the Council of Ministers

SUBJECT: Troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions

General Mario SOLDARELLI - former C.O.C. of the "Cuneo" Division in Egypt in 1943 - has forwarded to me a new, detailed, report, a copy of which I enclose, in respect of the situation of the troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions who are at present held in camps in Egypt as "prisoners of war - cooperators".

General Soldarelli once more urges the intervention of the Ministry of War in this delicate and controversial question, thus to obtain from the Allied Authorities:

- the rapid repatriation of the above mentioned troops;
- recognition, in their favour, of the "status" of cobelligerent, formerly granted them, rather than that of prisoner-of-war - cooperator.

The said General also submits and urges other measures which come within the sphere of influence and possibilities of my Ministry and the Ministry of Post-War Assistance and which, therefore, will be seen to direct.

236

1331

General Mario SOLDARELLI - former G.O.C. of the "Cuneo" Division in Egypt in 1943 - has forwarded to me a new, detailed, report, a copy of which I enclose, in respect of the situation of the troops of the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Divisions who are at present held in camps in Egypt as "prisoners of war - cooperators".

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- the rapid repatriation of the above mentioned troops;
- recognition, in their favour, of the "status" of cobelligerent, formerly granted them, rather than that of prisoner-of-war - cooperators.

The said General also submits and urges other measures which come within the sphere of influence and possibilities of my Ministry and the Ministry of Post-War Assistance and which, therefore, will be seen to direct.

The situation pointed out in the enclosed report has already, in the past, been made known to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in letters 204386/11 of the 26th. October 1944, and 200287/11, 207172/11, 220170/11, dated 14th. January, 25th. March, and 15th. September, 1945, respectively.

Radio messages of goodwill and faith, directed to the troops of the above mentioned divisions to testify to the remembrance

and interest of the central military Authorities, were sent out, in the name of Minister Casati and myself, in April and September last.

Up till June 1944, the Allied Control Commission was approached, in agreement with the then Supreme Command, for authorisation for the dispatch to the Middle East of a Colonel, as representative of the Ministry of War, with the duties of welfare and disciplinary control in respect of the troops in question. After lengthy negotiations the dispatch of Colonel Tiberi was authorised; the mission entrusted to him was practically never commenced, insofar as is known, he was stopped, as soon as he arrived in Egypt, by the Allied Command in the Middle East, which, not recognising the duties entrusted to him by M.M.I.A., placed him in a dilemma - to return to Italy immediately or retention "in loco" as a prisoner of war.

Similar negative results were obtained to requests put forward in the past by numerous men of the two divisions to participate, at home, in the war of liberation; on this particular matter the Presidency of the Council was also approached, in the above quoted letter, No. 200287/11 of the 14th. January 1945.

Finally, in agreement with the Ministry of Post-War Assistance (then still the High Commissariat for Prisoners of War), further negotiations were entered into with the P.O.W. Subcommission of the Allied Commission with the object of obtaining the rapid repatriation of the troops in question. This step also failed to reach the desired end so that, despite the promises and interest of the said Sub-commission, nothing was obtained.

negotiations the dispatch of Colonel ~~Robert~~ ^{Robert} was ~~discussed~~ ^{discussed}, mission entrusted to him was practically never commenced, insofar as is known, he was stopped, as soon as he arrived in Egypt, by the Allied Command in the Middle East, which, not recognising the duties entrusted to him by M.M.I.A., placed him in a dilemma - to return to Italy immediately or retention "in loco" as a prisoner of war.

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The Ministry of War has therefore done all that lay in its physical and practical possibilities; I consider, therefore, that any further action in the matter on the part of My Ministry, dealing, as I see it, with questions whose result depends more on decisions of a political-diplomatic nature rather than military, would be doomed to failure.

I therefore submit the question in its entirety to you, for you to take such action with the Chief of the Allied Commission which you consider that you may be able to take in favour of these troops of ours.

I would inform you that I have also approached the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the matter, urging its intervention through diplomatic channels by means of the Italian Embassy in London.

I await your kind communication on this matter,

Sgd. JACINI

War Minister.

O. Danin Cpl.

22

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : AFHQ
 TO : ALCOM ROME
 INFO : MMIA
 REF : C 31135

240929 A

UNCLASSIFIED

21
 YOUR 7527 (.) CLINGING - BARRATT CONVERSATION ALSO REFERS (.) PRIMARY
 RESPONSIBILITY IS THAT OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT (.) IF RESOURCES AVAILABLE
 TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ARE INSUFFICIENT NORMAL BID FOR TRANSPORTATION SHOULD
 BE SUBMITTED (.) SEE AFHQ LETTER AG 386. *GOT* 19. OCT.

20?

SD DISTRIBUTION

ACTION : SD/132
 A
 INFO : Q (Two)

30/25/10/45

230 1

G 1 2 10 1

G 1 2 10 1

G 1 2 10 1

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G 1 2 10 1

G 1 2 10 1

G 1 2 10 1

1333

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : ALCOM cite ACPT
 TO : AFHQ CITE FHGEF
 INFO : MTOUSA
 REF : 7527

22 OCTOBER 1945

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PARA 1 (.) SUBJECT REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN POW (.)

PARA 2 (.) MTOUSA SIGNAL C 26273 OF 8 OCT STATES :

"PENBASE WILL NOT MOVE PWS FROM PORT AREAS

"TO CAMPS (.) CONSIDERED THAT MATTER OF REPATRIATION

"OF ITALIAN EX PRISONERS RESPONSIBILITY OF ITALIAN

"GOVT (.) EXTENT THAT ALLIED FORCES WILL BE ABLE

"TO ASSIST ITALIAN GOVT NOW UNDER STUDY (.)

PARA 3 (.) IN VIEW SEA PURPOSE DUE NAPLES 28 OCTOBER IPW

SUB COMMISSION AMALGAMATION WITH MMIA ESSENTIAL

TO KNOW IF MMIA TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR

MOVEMENT FROM PORT

COPY TO : MMIA
 IPW SC
 DPRSC

SD DISTRIBUTION :

ACTION : SD/132
 A

INFO : Q (Two)

sb 25 Oct, 45

ASO 1

ASO 2

ASO 3

ASO 4

ASO 5

ASO 6

ASO 7

ASO 8

ASO 9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIALALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 5129145
L. FORCES STC (3)

AP-77720

19 October 1945

AC 33.5 2010

INFO COPY

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War

TO: Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 594
FOR: Land Forces Sub Commission (LHFA)**A**

3(1-3)

1. Effective 25 October 1945, such Allied responsibilities as exist in the reception and disposal of repatriated Italian prisoners of war will rest with LHFA, which will thereafter deal directly with the Italian Ministry of War in these matters.

2. Effective that date, LHFA will assume responsibility for the following:

a. Represent to higher and other headquarters, requests (if any) from the Italian Ministry of War for Allied assistance where Italian military resources are insufficient to cope with the number of P/W being repatriated at any one time, e.g. requests for the use of transport, handing over of buildings requisitioned by the Allies, and camp equipment for reception centres etc.

b. Complete arrangements with Allied Commission for the feeding of repatriated Italian P/W from civilian ration stocks prior to re-enlistment or demobilization.

c. Insure that arrangements are made by the Italian Ministry of War and Territorial Headquarters for the taking over of the P/W at ship-side (and/or railway terminals), at which point respective US and British responsibility ceases.

3. Effective that date, Allied Commission will transfer to LHFA the personnel of the Italian Prisoners of War Division.

4. The primary task of LHFA remains the direction and training of the new Italian Army and the new commitment must not interfere with the performance of this task.

BY COMMAND OF THE ACTING SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

DATE

20 OCT 23/45

G. T. CHRISTENSEN
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

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1 - G-3 (AD)		

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GSO 2 (C)

GSO 2 (S)

GSO 2 (W)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (S)

GSO 3 (C)

GSO 3 (S)

CONFIDENTIAL~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

19.

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : MTOUSA
 TO : USFET
 INFO : TSFET-DELTA BASE-POW COMD
 AMIA - ALCOM
 REF : C 18398
 MESSAGE CENTRE : R/7211

102134 B

PRIORITY

TROOPS

DESERED THAT ITALIAN SERVICE BEING RETURNED IT A L Y
 FOR RELEASE NOT BE RETURNED WITH U S EQUIPMENT OTHER
 THAN THAT NECESSARY FOR HOUSEKEEPING IN TRANSIT (.)
 ANY ITALIAN EQUIPMENT HELD SHOULD BE RETURNED FOR USE
 BY ITALIAN ARMY (.) NEW SUBJECT (.)
 WOULD APPROPRIATE 48 HOUR NOTICE ON WATER AND RAIL
 SHIPMENTS OF SUBJECT ITALIANS (.)

DISTRIBUTION

Info-Action : 1 Forces SC 2
 " IPOW DIV
 Info : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
 FILE 2
 FLOAT

SD DISTRIBUTION

Action Copy: SD/132

Jc/11/9/45 Info 16/132.

A
Hav. (two)

GSO 1

GSO 2 (GSO)

GSO 2 (SD)

GSO 2 (VFE)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 2 (SD)

GSO 2 (GSO)

GSO 2 (L)

SUBJECT: Italian Mission in ALBANIA

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

SD/132 ✓

// July 45

TO : Director, Finance Sub Commission, A.C.

Ref your 13081/F of 7 July 45.

1. Mission referred to has not been approved by Land Forces Sub Commission.
2. Signal from Advanced ALBANIAN Aid dated 1 July addressed to 52 Area states that last Italian Military have been evacuated from ALBANIA and the Italian Ministry of War has been notified of the fact. Therefore it is felt that this Sub Com has no further interest in the matter.

REP

for Major General
MMIA

Internal: A
MOV

WS

1327

IMMEDIATE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION

7 July 1945

13081/F

SUBJECT: Italian Mission in Albania.

TO : Director,
Land Forces Sub-Commission.

1. Attached is translation of a letter addressed to this Sub-Commission by the Ministry of the Treasury.

2. Please indicate if the Mission mentioned therein has been approved by your Sub-Commission.

[Signature]
Joint Director,
Finance Sub-Commission.

Copies to: Political Advisers (A) and (B)
(for your comments, please)

MMIA-'G'

FILE: 50/132

DATE: 9/7

GSO 1

GSO 2 (C) *[initials]*GSO 2 (G) *[initials]*GSO 2 (W) *[initials]*

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (SD)

GSO 3 (Orkell)

GSO 3 (H)

091000

See 18

TRANSLATION

MINISTERO DEL TESORO
 Direzione Generale per le Valute

2829/451-7

SUBJECT: Italian Mission in Albania.

TO : Allied Commission,
 Finance Sub-Commission.

It has been agreed between the Italian and Albanian Governments to send an Italian Mission to Albania for sending home and assisting Italian civilians and soldiers.

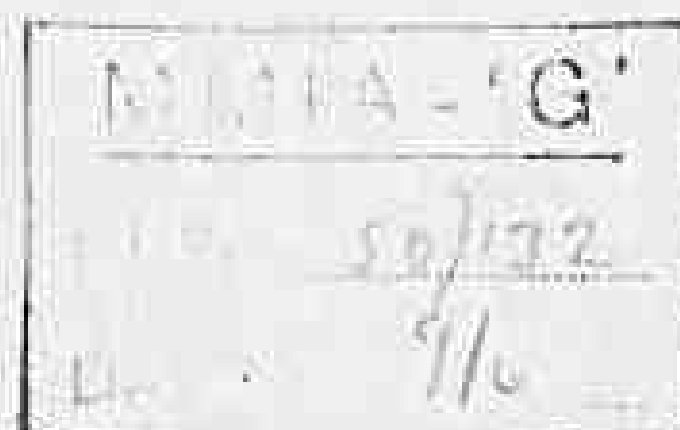
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs with a "telespresso" N.61/7879/333 of July 1st, in communicating that the mission presided over by the Consul General Turcato, is ready to leave for Albania having obtained the approval of the Allies, requests to be given 45,000 Albanian francs, to be assigned to the said Consul for the first needs (renting of office, furnishing of some retribution to local employees advances on allowances, office expenses, etc.).

At the Ministerial meeting of April 14th last it was decided to put at the disposition of the mission, for the first 6 months, the amount of 1,000,000 Albanian francs to be obtained by the payments of those Italians who when returning to Italy will ask to transfer their fortunes, reimbursable in Italy in Italian currency. With reference to above and keeping in mind the necessity of sending this mission, your Allied Finance Sub-Commission is requested to give its opinion about the assignment of 45,000 Albanian francs which the Istcambi would put at their disposition and also about the use as above stated of 1,000,000 Albanian francs.

THE MINISTER

/s/ ???

1325



1/2 COPY INCOMING SIGNAL.

FROM : SACRED CITE PIROT.

DATE
02

TIME OF ORIGIN.
1840 H

TO : M.M.I.A.

REF: EX 16236.

SECRET.

YOUR H 369 NOT TO ALL REFERS (.) REPATRIATION ITALIAN UNITS STRENGTH
1055 OFFICERS 543 ENLISTED MEN SURPLUS TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS AUTHORIZED
BY THIS HEADQUARTERS EX 16236 ACTION TO NASC INFO AMET CIA M.M.I.A.
SIGNED SACRED CITE PIROT (.) SHIPPING NOW BEING ARRANGED FOR LATTER
PART JULY (.) EXACT DATE OF EMBARKATION CASABLANCA WILL BE
FORWARDED WHEN INFORMATION AVAILABLE (.) REPATRIATES WILL BE RETURNED TO
ITALY AS ~~OPERATING~~ OPERATING UNITS AND NOT AS INDIVIDUALS

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY.

DISTRIBUTION:

A 104. ACTION

G(SD) (2)

PLCAT.

/sl.

MM. - C.

FILE: 50/132

DATE: 4/7

GSO 1

GSO 2 (1)

GSO 2 (2)

GSO 2 (3)

GSO 2 (4)

GSO 2 (5)

GSO 2 (6)

GSO 2 (7)

GSO 2 (8)

GSO 2 (9)

GSO 2 (10)

GSO 2 (11)

GSO 2 (12)

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : AFHQ Sgd SAC Cite FHGCT 28 1418 B
 TO : MMIA SECRET
 RPTD : ALCOM
 REF : FX 14104

IN RECEIPT CABLE FROM A G W A R WHICH
 STATES THAT REPATRIATION OF 33000 ITALIAN
 COOPERATORS NOW IN U S A AT RATE OF
 10000 PER MONTH STARTING 1ST JULY MAY BE
 DELAYED UNTIL 31ST OCTOBER (.) WHEN ABOVE
 PERSONNEL AVAILABLE RELEASE, IT IS PLANNED
 THEY BE REPATRIATED IN UNITS AND NOT AS
 INDIVIDUALS

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION : A
 INFO : SD/132
 Q (Two)

JW/ 29 June 45.

DIST

ACTION - L FORCES SC 2
 INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER
 CA SEC
 WMD & POW SC
 DISPER SC
 FILE 2
 FLOAT

GSO 1

GSO 2

GSO 3

GSO 4

GSO 5

GSO 6

GSO 7

GSO 8

RESTRICTEDSUBJECT: Repatriation from BALKANS and FRANCE

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

A/122/9

19 June 45

TO : AMHQ (2)

EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER, A.C. (2)
DISPLACED PERSONS & REPATRIATION SUB-COM, A.C.

1. Following is the position from 11 Nov 44 thru 16 June 45 regarding Italian personnel arrived TARANTO ex BALKANS and FRANCE:-

(a) Received in ST ANDREWS & TUNER CAMP
Dispatched from Camp
Remaining in Camp

55599
51645
3954

(b) Personnel has been dispatched from Camp as follows (accumulated total):-

To Hospital	3502
To P.W. Camp	27
Demobilised	6486
Leave then GRUPPI	1560
To GRUPPI	784
Leave then TRANI (ER-ITI)	8450
Leave then ASTRONI (US-ITI)	8887
To TRANI (ER-ITI)	7611
To ARZEO (ER-ITI)	512
To PASCO CORESE (ER-ITI)	9
To ASTRONI (US-ITI)	236
To VITERBO (GARIBOLDI DIV)	1969
Leave then VITERBO (GARIBOLDI DIV)	581
Leave then Pack Transport Coy	4
To Pack Transport Coy	2826
Deserted from Camp	618
Various (CC RR, RCF, Air Force, Navy, Medical)	7281

2. Of the 55599 shown as received in camp, 3563 are personnel who have been readmitted to Camp from Hospital.

INFO COPY

Approved
for Major General
MMIA

Copy to: PRS

(a)	Received in ST. ALBERTS & TULER CAMP	55599
	Dispatched from Camp	51645
	Remains in Camp	3954

(b) Personnel has been dispatched from Camp as follows (accumulated total):-

To Hospital	3602
To P.W. Camp	27
Detained	6486
Leave then GRUPPI	1560
To GRUPPI	764
Leave then TRANI (ER-ITI)	8450
Leave then ASTRONI (US-ITI)	8887
To TRANI (ER-ITI)	7611
To ARMEZO (ER-ITI)	512
To PASSO CORESE (ER-ITI)	9
To ASTRONI (US-ITI)	236
To VITERBO (GARIBOLDI DIV)	1969
Leave then VITERBO (GARIBOLDI DIV)	581
Leave then Pack Transport Coy	4
To Pack Transport Coy	2826
Deserted from Camp	818
Various (OO RR, RCT, Air Force, Navy, Medical)	7281

2. Of the 55399 shown as received in camp, 3363 are personnel who have been readmitted to Camp from Hospital.

for Major General
MOTA

Copy to: PRS
PENSTULA
MALLA LO PRS
MALLA LO I
MALLA LO I

Internal: Mk to G00
C of S

7472

MMIA - 'G'
50/172
20/6

ST LAG SD/132/2

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 0000 2 0000
 0000 2 0000
 0000 2 0000
 0000 2 0000

C O P Y S I G N A L

FROM WMD & IPOW SUB-COM

8 June 1945

TO AFHQ G-5 SECTION

"A" DISTR: A 019 Action

INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EXEC COMMISSIONER

G.A. SECTION

META

TRANS. S/C

MA to GOC

G(SD) (2)

Q

ST

9945

S E C R E T

Para 1 (.) REUR FA 84971 dated 31 May (.) Para 2 (.) After consulting Italian Govern-

ment the following is suggested plan (.) Para 3 (.) Ref Para 3 (.)

(a) Repatriation to commence August at rate of

40,000 First month	-	20,000 per fortnight
50,000 Second month	-	25,000 per fortnight
60,000 Third month	-	40,000 per fortnight
Up to 100,000 Fourth month	-	50,000 per fortnight

(100,000 being maximum figure per month until repatriation completed)

Figures given for 1st and 2nd months to include 10,000 per month already accepted, my signal 8199 dated 22 May 1945 refers (.)

(b) (c) Ports - Genoa with Transit Camp for	10,000
Leghorn or Civitavecchia Camp for	10,000
Napoli with Transit Camp for	10,000
Cagliari with Transit Camp for	5,000
Palermo with Transit Camp for	5,000
Taranto with Transit Camp for	10,000
Ancona or Venezia with	10,000

Transit Camp for

(d) The Italian Government request Groups consist of Camp Units under own leaders and are shipped to Ports nearest their homes (.) First shipments to include all coal miners and those in older age Groups (.)

Para 4 (.) Ref Para 4 (.) (b) (c) Recommend that Italian Army Transport

units be made available for road hauls as necessary (.) to effectuate

proposals new Transit Camps will be required at Genoa, Ancona or Venezia,

and Leghorn or Civitavecchia for 10,000 with Camps at Naples and Taranto

increased to take further 5,000 (.) Extra Italian personnel required to

administer and run new and increased centres - 120 Officers 155 NCOs and 840 ORs (.)

Transport for Camp Administration - 8 cars or utilitarian LBS 21 three ton

(a.) Repatriation to commence August at rate of

40,000 First month - 20,000 per fortnight
 50,000 Second month - 25,000 per fortnight
 60,000 Third month - 40,000 per fortnight
 Up to 100,000 Fourth month - 50,000 per fortnight
 (100,000 being maximum figure per month until repatriation completed)

Figures given for 1st and 2nd months to include 10,000 per month already accepted, my signal 9199 dated 22 May 1945 refers (.)

(b) (c) Ports - Genoa with Transit Camp for 10,000
 Leghorn or Civitavecchia Camp for 10,000
 Napoli with Transit Camp for 10,000
 Cagliari with Transit Camp for 3,000
 Palermo with Transit Camp for 3,000
 Taranto with Transit Camp for 10,000
 Ancona or Venezia with
 Transit Camp for

(d) The Italian Government request Groups consist of Camp Units under own leaders and are shipped to Ports nearest their homes (.) First shipments to include all coal miners and those in older age Groups (.)

Para 4 (.) Ref Para 4 (.) (b) (c) Recommend that Italian Army ^{Transport}

units be made available for road hauls as necessary (.) to effectuate proposals new Transit Camps will be required at Genoa, Ancona or Venezia, and Leghorn or Civitavecchia for 10,000 with Camps at Naples and Taranto increased to take further 5,000 (.) Extra Italian personnel required to administer and run new and increased centres - 125 Officers 185 NCOs and 840 ORs (.) Transport for Camp Administration - 2 cars or utilities 21 three ton trucks and 6 M/Cs (.)

Para 5 (.) Absolutely essential nominal rolls be received this HQ before arrival of any personnel (.)
 Para 6 (.) If personnel and Transport as requested can be provided from Italian Army, this HQ agree to Italian Govt proposals and of opinion that movement from Camps to vicinity of homes and Depots can be arranged (.)
 Para 7 (.) MMIA request early statement of policy on use of Italian Army Personnel and Transport (.)

ek

MMIA 'G'
File No. 52/112
D. T. 9/6

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL.

0001

FROM: A.F.M.Q.

0002

0003

TO: ALCOM N O 47

INFO: M.M.I.A.

0004

0005

0006

REF: FX 84971

I H P O H T A N T.

MAILED
FILE: 52/132
DATE: 1/6

- 95 -
SECRET (.) SIGNED SIGNED CITE VIDEO (..).

REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN P W ABROAD IN USA AND U K COUNTRY PARA 1 (..)
CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN HERE BY AMERICAN AND BRITISH PER OMEL SECTION
FOR PHASED PLAN REPATRIATION ITALIAN P W NOW HELD OUTSIDE ITALY (..)
U S A POLICY KNOWN TO BE REPATRIATE SOONEST POSSIBLE FROM ABROAD AND
ALSO REMUCH CONSIDERABLY FORTHWITH NUMBERS HELD IN ITALY AND NORTH AFRICA
AS SERVICE UNITS PERSONNEL (.. POLICY NOT YET KNOWN ON U K SIDE BUT IS
BEING SOUGHT (..)

PARA 2 (..) PROPER EXECUTION ANY PLAN DEPENDANT ON ABILITY OF ITALIAN
AUTHORITIES RECEIVED AND DISPOSED WITHOUT AFFECTING STABILITY OF ITALIAN
ECONOMY OF REPATRIATES NOT REQUIRED FOR RE ENLISTMENT ITALIAN ARMY (..) 7221
PARA 3 (..). IN ORDER TO ASSIST PREPARATION PLAN REQUEST YOU CONSIDER IN
CONJUNCTION WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND SUBMIT URGENTLY (..) (e) PHASED
PLAN WHICH SHOULD SHOW PROGRESSIVE INCREASES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, GIVING
MAXIMUM NUMBERS CONSIDERED DISPOSABLE TO CIVILIAN LIFE (..) (b) SUGGESTIONS
AS TO PORTS AT WHICH REPATRIATES DISSEMBARK (..) (c) PLAN FOR ACCOMMODATION
PENDING FINAL DISPOSAL GIVING DETAILS OF TRAVEL AND STAGING AREAS ENVIASSED (..)
PREFERENCES FOR REPATRIATIONS BY AGE GROUPS AND TYPES OF REPATRIATION (..)

PARA 4 (..). IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE KNOWN IN

SECRET (.) SIGNED SAVED CITE PHONO (.)

FILE: 20/100

DATE: 1/6/

REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN P W ABROAD IN USA AND U K COUNTRY PARA 1 (.)
 CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN HERE BY AMERICAN AND BRITISH PER ORHEL SECTION
 FOR PHASED PLAN REPATRIATION ITALIAN P W NOW BEING OUTSIDE ITALY (.)
 U S A POLICY KNOWN TO BE REPATRIATE SOONEST POSSIBLE FROM ABROAD AND
 ALSO REPAIR CONSIDERABLY FORTHWITH NUMBERS HELD IN ITALY AND NORTH AFRICA
 AS SERVICE UNITS PERSONNEL (.) POLICY NOT YET KNOWN ON U K SIDE BUT IS
 BEING BOUGHT (.)

PARA 2 (.) PROPER EXECUTION ANY PLAN DEPENDANT ON ABILITY OF ITALIAN
 AUTHORITIES RECOVER AND DISPOSED WITHOUT AFFECTING STABILITY OF ITALIAN
 ECONOMY OF REPATRIATES NOT REQUIRED FOR RE ENLISTMENT ITALIAN ARMY (.) 1200
 PARA 3 (.) IN ORDER TO ASSIST PREPARATION PLAN REQUEST YOU CONSIDER IN
 CONNECTION WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND SUBMIT URGENTLY (.) (a) PHASED
 PLAN WHICH SHOULD SHOW PROGRESSIVE INCREASES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, GIVING
 MAXIMUM NUMBERS CONSIDERED DISPOSABLE TO CIVILIAN LIFE (.) (b) SUGGESTIONS
 AS TO POINTS AT WHICH REPATRIATES DISMISSED (.) (c) PLAN FOR ACCOMMODATION
 PENDING FINAL DISPOSAL GIVING DETAILS OF TRANSIT AND STAGING AREAS ENVISAGED (.)
 PREFERENCES FOR REPATRIATIONS BY AGE GROUPS AND TYPE OF REPATRIATION (.)
 PARA 4 (.) IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE BORNE IN
 (a) G-1 RESPONSIBILITY WILL FINISH AT DOCKSIDE (b) SHORT INTERIM PERIOD
 AFTER ARRIVAL AND PENDING DISPOSITION NECESSARY IN TRANSIT AREAS TO CHECK
 RECORDS AND CARRY OUT DEMOBILIZATION IF RETURNING TO CIVIL LIFE (.)
 RESPONSIBILITY THIS PERIOD WILL BE THAT OF THE ALLIED COMMISSION IN
 CONNECTION WITH M.M.I.A. (.) MOVEMENT TO RAILHEAD WITHIN VICINITY OF HOME
 WILL PROBABLY BE CARRIED OUT WHEN ALLIED RE-EMPLOYMENT TRAFFIC WILL BE
 HEAVY AND MOVEMENT OF REPATRIATES WILL BE CORRESPONDINGLY DIFFICULT (.) HENCE
 PROPER IN TRIM STAGING AREAS WILL BE NECESSARY ON ROUTES HOME (.)

COPYS I G N A L

FX 77927
MAY 18/2004B

E/I462
MAY 19/I705B
ROUTINE

FREEDOM SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE: FHGAB

ALCOM ROME INFO: MIDEAST 52 AREA MMIA

RESTRICTED.

REFERENCE MIDEAST SIGNAL A5/I27I5 OF 15 MAY TO AFHQ
AND ALCOM ONLY. FOLLOWING ITALIAN POW'S EX MIDEAST BTA TARANTO
21 MAY 1945. 65 POW'S OFFICERS FOR ITALIAN ARMY MMIA ARRANGE
RECEPTION TARANTO. 6POW FOR ITALIAN NAVY 8 NON CO-OPERATOR
POW'S AWAITING TRIAL TO BE HANDED TO ITALIAN MINISTRY OF MARINE
SOONEST 52 AREA PROVIDE ADEQUATE GUARD PENDING HANDOVER

A DIST

FLOAT
SD
A (ACTION)

DIST.

ACTION : WMD & IPW
INFO : A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
LAND FORCES SC
FILE.

3-12 (0-0) X 25

3-12 (0-0) X

3-12 (0-0) X

3-12 (0-0) X

3-12 (0-0) X

3-12 (0-0) X

3-12 (0-0) X

SD/132
22/132
22/5

21500

1720508

CONFIDENTIAL

Reur OET 12231 of 14. As agreed with MCCARTHY will ensure that ALCON and ITALIAN Govt review repatriation of 5,000 from ERITREA by 5th June 1945. Will do all possible to expedite. Believe it not necessary to send officer as facts are know here.

Diet

Info-Action - Disper & Rep SC
" WMD & POW SC
INFO A/President
Chief Commissioner
CA Sec
L. Forces SC
File

A Distr:
Action - A 102
SD ✓
Float

GGG 1

6

677

CONCLUSION

0.1

44.5

622

CEPH

MAHA - 'G'
 22/12
 18/5

INFO COPY

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: 52 BLU

111250 B

TO : MMIA

SECRET

INFO: MMIA LO REAR 5 ARMY
MMIA LO REAR 8 ARMY

IMPORTANT

REF : LO 102

FROM HOWARD FOR INGLEDUEW (.)
 I BELIEVE 5 AND 8 ARMIES WOULD CONSIDER
 PROPOSAL FROM FREEDOM TO ALLOW
 DEMOBILIZED ITALIAN ARMY MEN TO
 RETURN TO THEIR HOMES NORTH OF THE
 REAR ARMY SECURITY LINE (.)
 8 ARMY ONLY SENSITIVE ABOUT NORTH EAST
 ITALY WHERE NO REPATRIATION WOULD BE ALLOWED (.)
 ANY PROPOSAL PUT UP SHOULD STATE APPROXIMATELY
 NUMBERS INVOLVED BY PROVINCE AND METHOD OF
 REPATRIATION SUGGESTED

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action Copy: A
 SD/132
 I
 Col Ingleduew

jv 15 May 45

CSO 1

CSO 2 (1st)

CSO 2 (2nd)

CSO 2 (3rd)

CSO 2 (4th)

CSO 3 (1st)

CSO 3 (2nd)

CSO 3 (3rd)

SUBJECT: Italian Soldiers in France

7
CONFIDENTIAL.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MIA)

SD/132 ←

5
May 45.

TO : EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER, A.C.

6
Your reference 540/15/EC, subject as above, dated 1 May 45.

1. From the Italian Army standpoint, the Italian POWs in France are civilians and therefore are not within the jurisdiction of MIA.
2. MIA does not consider any former Italian soldier or POW as being an "in fact effective" Italian soldier and does not recognize any Italian unit unless it appears on the Italian Army "Order of Battle" as published by this HQ.
3. Certain Italian officers have, however, been sent to France at the express wish of SHAEF and these officers will be taking care of Italian ex soldiers or P of N interests.

de
K
Major-General,
MIA.

Copy to: MA to GOC

1317

je.

Tel Ext. 341

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

LTS/c1

6A

Ref. 54Q/15/XC

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Soldiers in France

TO : Land Forces Subcommittee (MMIA)

6B See 7

Reference attached copy of letter from the Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Italian Government, ref. 6/1044/472, dated 18 April 45, subject as above.

This office has no recent information on the subject. Will you please approach it from the Italian Army standpoint and inform us of the action taken?

1 Incl.
as above

GSO 1

GSO 2 (Ops)

GSO 2 (SD)

GSO 2 (W)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (SD)

GSO 3 (Orbat)

GSO 3 (R)

[Signature]
Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

MMIA

FILE: 50/132

DATE: 2/5

1316

COPY

6B

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

6/1044/472

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Italian soldiers in France

1. Reference is made to Memorandum 6/329/146 of January 31st concerning the situation of Italian soldiers in France.

2. According to recent information the condition of those soldiers have not improved: on the contrary the fact that no alteration has taken place in the preceding state of affairs, the long privations and the belief that no practical assistance is being afforded them by their Country have inevitably produced a further deterioration in their already distressing material and moral situation.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs beg to reassert their belief that an equitable and humanitarian solution of this latter problem can be reached only with the repatriation of the soldiers to Italy and they have again interested the French Embassy to this effect.

In the meanwhile, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be very grateful if the Allied Commission would kindly acquaint them with the steps which, on their part, they may have seen fit to take in the matter.

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

(initialled)

1315

Rome 18 April 1945

TRANSLATION

From Under Secretary of State for War Ref 5371/SS.c.6.IV

To Gen BROWNING, GOC MMIA

Date 24th March 45

Subject; Italian Military Personnel in Albania

FILE: 52/32
DATE: 30/3.

Further to this morning's conversation, I detail hereunder agreements made by me at Tirana with the Chief of the Albanian Government, Col Gen ENVER HOKHA.

- (a) The Albanian Government adheres to the proposed repatriation of all Italian subjects residing in Albania with the exception of Italian enterprises and specialised enterprises which are indispensable for the reconstruction of the country.
- (b) The repatriation will be carried out in groups with effect from 15th April 45 and in the following order :-
 - (1) All military personnel (including those incorporated in the "GRAMSCI" Brigade and in the two Batteries stationed at Tirana) and sick personnel.
 - (2) A group of approximately 10,000 civilians.
 - (3) All remaining civilians.
- (c) Nominal rolls of repatriated subjects will be forwarded as soon as possible to the Albanian Government by General PICCINI.
- (d) Italian subjects to be repatriated will be authorized to take away with them their belongings, furniture and personal effects.
- (e) The Albanian Government will inform the Italian Government the categories of specialized men together with the number of men required of each category whom they will consider necessary to retain for the reconstruction of the country.

The Albanian Government agrees that the Italian Government may replace specialists remaining in Albania and who desire to be repatriated, with other specialists of the same category.

Italian workers remaining in Albania or those who go there from Italy will be in possession of a regular working contract in which their pay will be shown. The clauses of this contract will be made out with the agreement of both parties.

I shall be grateful to hear your proposals with regard to the practical carrying out of the repatriation in question.

/s/ Mario PALERMO

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE: 5J/32

DATE: 30/3.

26 March 1945

Ref. 800/EC

SUBJECT: Signor PALERMO, Italian Government Under-Secretary of State for War.

TO : G-5 AFHQ

Ref. AFHQ letter file G-5: 300.4-4 dated 21 March 45, subject as above.

1. In so far as this Headquarters is concerned, the matter of Palermo's unauthorized visit to Albania has been thoroughly investigated. In brief, there is no record of any specific authority ever having been given by this Headquarters for such a visit. Originally, an Air Forces Sub-Commission operational report disclosed that such a trip had been made. Accordingly, a full investigation was immediately instituted.
2. On 22 February 45 the former Political Section received a memorandum from the Minister of Foreign Affairs stating that within the next few days it was expected Signor Palermo would ask MMIA for permission, etc., for a brief journey to Tirana (see incl 1). The Political Section referred the memorandum to Land Forces Sub-Commission MMIA, and it was agreed that any expression of opinion on the proposed trip would be reserved until such time as the Minister of War directly approached MMIA (see incl 2). However, no such formal request was ever received by MMIA from the Minister of War and thus the matter was allowed to stand with no further following up.
3. Meanwhile, however, Air Forces Sub-Commission on 4 March 45 had received directly from the Italian Air Ministry a request for air transport facilities to be extended to Palermo in order that he might undertake an important Tirana trip (see incl 3). Believing that official permission for the trip had been settled on a much higher level, Air Forces Sub-Commission arranged to facilitate the passage. The request was accordingly referred to the Balkan Air Forces Movement Section (see incl 4), where, eventually, aircraft was provided for the trip.
4. It has been reported that, in accounting for his actions to the Prime Minister, Palermo stated permission had been obtained from Air Forces Sub-Commission AC. The Air Vice Marshal Bowen-Buscarlet, AOC, states that at no time was permission or any specific authorization given to Palermo for such a journey by Air Forces Sub-Commission. Your attention is further invited to the statement (see incl 5) made by Squadron Leader Bradshaw of Air Forces Sub-Commission, who handled the original inquiry.
5. It is understood that during his visit to MMIA (General Browning on 25 March 45, Palermo was to give an explanation of his visit to Albania; however, the Minutes of this meeting do not disclose that any such explanation was given. Apropos of this, MMIA has this date (26 March) received from the Minister of War a proposed plan for repatriating Italian Military and civilian personnel now residing in Albania. This plan, it is understood, was worked out by Palermo and Colonel General Hoxha, of the Albanian Government, during the recent Albanian trip. Action in

4224 4A

- 2 -

regard to this plan is being held up pending the return of Major General Brown-
ing the latter part of this week.

6. In order to help prevent recurrence of similar incidents, the Civil
Affairs Section, this Headquarters, has prepared and submitted to your Section a
plan for processing trip requests of Italian officials.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Colonel
Acting Executive Commissioner

5 Incls.
as above.

Copy to: Civil Affairs Section
Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA)
Air Forces Sub-Commission
Liaison Division.

VO

1312

NOTES ON MEETING HQ MMIA ROME 180. hrs 12 MARCH 45

(Following S.A.C. visit to HQ CESANO)

1.

PRESENT : Major General BROTHING, (GOC, MMIA)
Brig PROBERT and Lt Col WALES (DMT)
Brig ANDERSON and Maj BARNES (G3 Org)
Col PINCHLEY and Lt COLIN LINDEN (MMIA)

2. S.A.C.'s (TRAINING)

- (a) All officers, men and vehicles of B.T.U. at CESANO will be kept by D.M.T. for transfer to Trg branch MMIA when W.E. is approved.
- (b) D.M.T. will try to find a good S.S.O. I (Trg) for MMIA and attach until posting is authorised by W.E.
- (c) Agreed that, pending amalgamation or disbanding of Trg increments and BLU's, each Trg increment would work under orders of its O 1/c BLU.
- (d) D.M.T. will try and send a S.S.O. II (Trg) to Trg BLU from those surplus to Combat Groups and notify MMIA his name.
- (e) Special Section MMIA will take care of training matters till G.S.O. I (Trg) arrives.

3. REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN P.W. OFFICERS from U.I. for duty with RT. having been agreed in principle by S.A.C., MMIA will send names, numbers and conditions to G 3 (Org) soonest. AFHQ will request repatriation by AIR (S.A.C. offered to ask 3 of 5 personally if necessary).

4. S.A.C. having agreed to examine application for Local rank of Colonel for O 1/c Trg BLU, MMIA to submit recommendation.

5. S.A.C. having supported the request for extra battle dress or denims for rfts at R.F.C. G3 (Org) will take up the question of a pool of 20,000 suits and notify MMIA result

6. G3 (Org) will take up at AFHQ S.A.C.'s decision to re-examine Italian Army ration scale.

7. MMIA strong recommendations for division of responsibilities of R.F.C. CESANO were considered and have been submitted to AFHQ in writing.

8. AFHQ awaits views of 15 Army Group before giving a ruling on MMIA's proposals for the formation of Patriot recon units. It was agreed that the main object of this scheme was "to take the heat out of the problem," and that the organisation should achieve that object, which has as much a political as a military flavour.

9. G3 (Org) was asked to ensure that MMIA was kept informed of any discussions on post war Italian Army matters.

- (c) Agreed that, pending amalgamation or disbanding of trg increments and BLU's, each trg increment would work under orders of its O 1/c BLU.
- (d) D.M.T. will try and send a G.S.C. II (trg) to "P" BLU from those surplus to Combat Groups and notify MMIA his name.
- (e) Special section MMIA will take care of training matters till G.S.O. I (Trg) arrives.
3. REPARATION OF ITALIAN P.V. OFFICERS from U.I. for duty with RT, having been agreed in principle by S.A.C., MMIA will send names, numbers and conditions to G 3 (Org) soonest. AFHQ will request repatriation by AIR (S.A.C. offered to ask 3 of 3 personally if necessary).
4. S.A.C. having agreed to examine application for local rank of Colonel for O 1/c "P" BLU, MMIA to submit recommendation.
5. S.A.C. having supported the request for extra battle dress or denim for rfts at H.I.C. G 3 (Org) will take up the question of a pool of 20,000 suits and notify MMIA result.
6. G 3 (Org) will take up at AFHQ S.A.C.'s decision to re-examine Italian Army ration scale.
7. MMIA strong recommendations for division of responsibilities of S.A.C. G.S.O. were considered and have been submitted to AFHQ in writing.
8. AFHQ awaits views of 15 Army Group before giving a ruling on Mal! proposals for the formation of patriot rescue units. It was agreed that the main object of this scheme was "to take the heat out of the problem," and that the organization should achieve that object, which has as much a political as a military flavour.
9. G 3 (Org) was asked to ensure that MMIA was kept informed of any discussions on post war Italian Army matters.
10. G 3 (Org) agreed to ensure that the GSO II (Liaison) appointment which S.A.C. proposed to transfer from MMIA to "P" BLU as D.A.-MG referred only to the person of Major O.L. MDI and NOT to the appointment on the S.A. of MMIA, which was still required.
11. G 3 (Org) will define the new trg responsibilities of MMIA in relation to D.M.T. D.M.T. will initiate action in this respect.
12. Man management courses being organized by MMIA will be in line with similar courses at CMTC and RTU. Action MMIA to produce definite proposals for AFHQ to issue.
13. G 3 (Org) was asked to let MMIA have the revised "priority list" as soon as possible.

COPIES TO: G 3 (Org)

D.M.T.

INT: MMIA.

SD/132 ← Info

