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

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

10000/120/5387 6/107 PUBLICITY TO ALLIED ASSISTANCE TO THE ITALIAN ARMY

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JAN. 1946 . JAN. 1947

COVER I

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

Pass to P.&S. for action.

Tel. 43951 (9)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

ROME.

22nd May, 1946.

Dear General, 8

I am writing to you with reference to Brigadier Hope's letter G/107, dated 23rd April, addressed to Mrs. Johnson of this Embassy, about publicity for British assistance to the Italian Army.

I have discussed the matter with the Ambassador and, although we agree that there is considerable force in Brigadier Hope's points, I am taking the liberty of bringing up the subject again, because we think it would be a pity for facts and figures about the considerable British and American assistance to the Italian Armed Forces not to be available when required.

This is perhaps not the time to carry out any particular publicity campaign about Allied aid to the Italian Armed Forces, but we and our Provincial Press Offices are continually being asked for information on this subject, which we should like to be able to supply. To take one example, I have recently been introduced to Colonel Fiore-Vernazza, who is Director of Public Relations in the Italian War Ministry, by the M.M.I.A. He has asked me for material about Great Britain, some of which might very well be our contribution to the rebuilding of the Italian Army. We should also like to make this Allied assistance the subject of occasional "Feature" articles, if possible illustrated with photographs.

With regard to the first of the particular points raised by Brigadier Hope, I should like to make it quite clear that we had no intention of taking any credit for work done or materials provided by the Americans. As I said in my original letter to A.F.H.Q., when I first raised the subject, where American interests are involved, we should consult our American colleagues and would try to arrange for any information to be issued through the Public Relations Branch of the Allied Commission. The other two objections should not, I think, stand in the way of making the required information public, provided this is done in such a manner as not to give undue offence.

5051

Maj. Gen. Langley Browning, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
Land Forces Sub Commission,
Allied Commission.

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I should therefore be very grateful if you could consider the matter and agree to make public such information about Allied assistance to the Italian Armed Forces as does not need to be kept secret for security reasons. We would then arrange for a member of our staff to discuss the best methods of release with a member of your staff and with a representative of the Americans.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Stewart

Michael Stewart,
Press Attache.

5050

SUBJECT: Publicity to British Assistance to the Italian Army.

8

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

C/107

23 Apr 46

TO : Mrs Johnson, (Press Section)
BRITISH Embassy,
R O M E

1. The Press Office of the British Embassy in Rome has requested information concerning British assistance to the Italian Army for publicity purposes.

It is understood that this project is part of a campaign to publicise, in this country, the help given by Britain in the re-construction of Italy in order to counteract insinuations that appear in the Italian press from time to time that British action in Italy are purely based on self-interest and are dispoiling Italy of her resources for the benefit of Britain.

2. While this Mission realises the necessity for British publicity on the above lines, and is willing to help in every way possible, there are one or two features in regard to the military help given to the Italian Army that make publicity at the present time undesirable.

3. Firstly there is the Allied aspect of the case. On the surface, the help given to the Italian Army appears to be almost entirely British. The Italian forces were clothed in British battle-dress, equipped with British weapons and trained by British officers in British methods of warfare. If we look below the surface however, we find that a great deal of help was also received from USA. All food supplies to the Italian forces was of American origin as also was much of the under-clothing. Considerable numbers of American officers were involved in the organisation of the Italian Army (MMIA itself is an integrated and not a British Mission) and many of the weapons supplied to the Italians, although of British pattern were constructed in American factories and supplied on Lease-Lend.

It follows therefore, that any publicity that tended to claim credit to the British for the re-construction of the Italian Army, would be liable to cause ill-feeling in the USA.

4. The next objection is that the arming, equipping and training of the Italian Army, although of benefit to the Italians was of equally great benefit to the Allied cause in that it provided additional troops, at a time when our own man-power problem was acute, to fight the Germans. It is thought that the Italians will be quick to realise this fact.

5. Finally it will be difficult to stress the value to the Italians of British equipment, organisation and training methods without implying the weakness and inefficiency of the Italian Military Regime and it may be difficult therefore, to [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. T8502

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5. Finally it will be difficult to stress the value to the Italians of British equipment, organisation and training methods without implying the weak-
-ness and inefficiency of the Italian Military Regime and it may be difficult therefore, to put across effective propaganda which would not upset the 'amour propre' of the Italian Military authorities.

6. In view of the above considerations, it is felt that any publicity released at the present moment on British help to the Italian Army would at the best, provide only a small contribution to the general campaign and might on the other hand produce unfortunate rather than useful results.

A/33/4

M. W. Hozel BSS

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

MMH/jw

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T-15020

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

5240

(14) (7) MMIA

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

RECEIVED 25 MAR 1946 3417

AG 091.711 GCT-O

23 March 1946

SUBJECT: Publicity to Allied Assistance to the Italian Army

TO : President
Allied Commission
APO 394
FOR: Land Forces Sub-Commission, MMIA

G.

1. This headquarters has been requested by the Press Office of His Majesty's Embassy at Rome to grant authority to Military Mission Italian Army to provide information concerning Allied assistance to the Italian Army for publicity purposes.

2. Your attention is invited to letter, this headquarters, file AG 413.53 GCT-O, dated 26 January 1946, subject: "Data for Official Army Films". The policy established by that communication is extended to apply to the Press Office request.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

Ralph C. Tilley
RALPH C. TILLEY
Colonel, AGD
Acting Adjutant General

Info copy passed to G (Ents).

Col. GS

Folio

TO SEE
GSO I
GSO II (Sch)
GSO II (Fmn)

TRG M. M. I. A.
File : TRG/ 32.
Date. 4/26/3.

5048

PUBLIC RELATIONS LIAISON OFFICER (BR)
A.F.H.Q.

(6)

11th February, 1946.

M/PR/29.

SUBJECT: Film, "Reconstruction of Italy."

TO : Mrs Johnson,
Press Section,
British Embassy,
Rome.

1. The answer to your question "What military equipment has been supplied by the British Army to the Italian Army" was sent to me on or about January, 23rd but, apparently, disappeared at some point en route. A further enquiry has elicited the information and following are the statistics requested:-

"The following figures represent equipment supplied by the British Army towards the reconstruction of the Italian Army. It should be emphasized that equipment from 'Q' Maintenance is not included.

Armoured vehicles	1,000
Motor cycles	2,000
Load carrying vehicles	7,000
Artillery	500
Small arms	52,000
Mortars	1,600
Compasses, watches, binoculars etc	5,000
Engineering equipment	1,000
Signal equipment (including Wireless sets)	3,500

In addition, 65,000 troops were completely equiped with clothing and necessaries, and a further 75,000 troops were partially equiped."

2. I regret the delay but figures had to be obtained again owing to the misdirection of the original letter.

H.S. Heaton 5047

H.S. HEATON,
Captain,
P.R.L.O.(Br).

Freedom: 182.

Reclassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T85020

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

G.H.Q. C.M.F.

6(A)

SUBJECT:- Road Bridge Construction Data

WKG/1520/WORKS

To :- Public Relations Liaison Officer

4 Feb 46.

Reference your H/PR/29 dated 1 Feb 46.

1. The following road construction data is available:-

(a) During the whole campaign, 2494 Bailey bridges totalling approx 49 miles in length were constructed.

(b) In the same period, 1717 Bailey bridges totalling more than 31 miles in length were dismantled, leaving in May 1945 777 bridges of approx total length of 17½ miles.

(c) The maximum No. of Bailey bridges ~~erected~~ in operation was 823 in Dec 44 and of a total length of alittle over 18 miles.

(d) A small No. of bridges of timber construction were also put up as initial bridges.

2. During the period May 44 - Apr 45, 605 Bailey Bridges were removed or replaced on the Lines of Communication, as detailed below:-

(a) 279 bridges totalling approx. 5 miles in length, were replaced by permanent bridges. This work was mainly carried out by contractors working under the supervision of , and with the assistance of British Army Engineers, transport and materials.

(b) 87 bridges totalling approx. 2½ miles in length, were replaced by temporary bridges, nearly half of which were the Works Directorate designed Flambo Steel bridge.

(c) 239 bridges, totalling approx. 5½ miles in length, were removed but NOT replaced.

(d) In addition numbers of causeways across wide rivers were built in the summer months, but NO data as to lengths is available.

3. It is regretted that NO data for the period since the conclusion of the campaign in ITALY is readily available.

5/46

J. Miller

J. MILLER
Capt. R.E.
for Colonel,
D.D. WORKS.

JM/LM

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

12

TRG/30

Lt-Col W.I. MEDLAM
(TRG) Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.
Rome 48908, Extension 389

DO/WIM

2 Feb 46

(5)

Dear Mrs J

see folio 4A

I have been asked by AFHQ to supply you with certain information concerning Allied help to the Italian Army. I understand you will use this information to make a film on the subject.

If you would ring me up we could fix a date to meet.

Mrs JOHNSON
Press Section,
British Embassy.,
ROME

see F. 14

5045

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 413.53 GCT-O

26 January 1946

(4)

SUBJECT: Data for Official Army Films.

TO: Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394
FOR: Land Forces Sub-Commission, MMIA

1. Reference is made to the following letters; copies of which are attached:

a. Public Relations Liaison Officer H/PR/29 (a), 15 January 1946. (1)

b. G(Trg), [illegible]/87, 18 January 1946. (2)

c. GSI, GSC, [illegible]/61/3, 21 January 1946. (3)

2. Authority is granted for MMIA to release such information regarding the training and equipping of the Italian Army as is necessary for the purposes of the subject film.

3. NO information regarding weapons on the secret list will be released.

4. Care should be taken that the Allied complexion of MMIA itself is made clear together with an explanation as to why the equipment, training methods and liaison units are British rather than American or a combination of the two.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORDAN:

EDMUND R. SHUGART
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

3 Incls:
1 - Ltr Public Relations Liaison Off AFHQ, dtd 15 Jan 46
2 - Ltr G(Trg) GSI GSC Tel Freedom 530, [illegible]/87 dtd 18 Jan 46
3 - Ltr Gen Mr GSC, dtd 21 Jan 46

5044

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 785020

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES

ESD/81/3

21 JAN 46

(3)

SUBJECT : Data for Official Army Films

TO : G-3 AFHQ

COPY TO : G(Trg)
PRLO (Br)

1. Attached copies (1) of Public Relations Liaison Officer letter H/PR/29 (a) of 15 Jan and G(Trg) letter TRG/87 (2) of 18 Jan are forwarded for your consideration.

2. Statistics with regard to the military equipment supplied are being prepared by 'Q' this Headquarters.

3. In view the request made in para 3 of the second letter under reference, may the necessary AFHQ authority be given for MAIA to release such information as may be necessary in respect of training given to the Italian Army.

(Signed) A. A. Holmes,
Major, G.S.,

for W.D. MORGAN,
Lieutenant General,
Commander-in-Chief.

MWS/ase/G(SD)

5043

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

SUBJECT: Data for Official Army Film.

G(Training)
GHQ CMF

Tel. FREEDOM 530 (2)

TRG/87

18 Jan 46

G(SD)

Copy to:- Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MMIA)
PRLO (Br) AFHQ

Ref your MSD/81/3 dated 16 Jan 46.

1. As this Branch has no records of Italian Army Trg, it is considered that the infm required can best be obtained direct from MMIA.

2. Col PIDSLEY of MMIA has agreed to supply the necessary infm provided AFHQ approve. As MMIA are integrated he requests that American approval may also be obtained.

3. Will you, therefore, please forward AFHQ authority for MMIA to divulge this infm and request Mrs. JOHNSON of the Press Section, British Embassy to visit Col PIDSLEY.

Sgd. ??? for Brigadier,
G (Trg).

5042

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS LIAISON OFFICER
A.F.H.Q.

15 January 1946

Copy

H/PR/29 (a)

(1)

SUBJECT : Official Army Film.

TO : Major A.A. Holmes,
G-3 (Org 4),
G.H.Q.

Further to our telephone conversation of even date.

1. An official ten-minute film, entitled "Reconstruction of Italy", is being prepared by the Army Film and Photo Service in conjunction with the Press Section of the British Embassy. This film will be for local showing and is intended to publicise the effort of the British Army in the reconstruction of Italy.

2. The AFPS being part of Public Relations CMF, I have been requested to obtain an answer to the following question :-

"What military equipment and what military training has been provided by the British Army for the Italian troops? Request statistics."

3. The fullest information it is possible to give would be greatly appreciated as much of it will be used in the commentary on the film.

4. Mrs Johnson of the Press Section, British Embassy, will be in Caserta on Saturday 19th January, and I would be greatly obliged if the information required could be made available to me by Saturday noon.

SGD. H. S. HEATON,
Captain,
P.R.L.O.(Sr).

5041

8061