

10437

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

785020

Acc

100000/120/5470

I P O W /

785020

10000/120/5470

I P.O.W./1

REPARATION OF ITALIAN PRISONERS
OF WAR - GENERAL POLICY

Feb. - July 1944

1st Cover

4341
4424

C O P Y

SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped
Italian PW. (Co-operators).

S E C R E T

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main Hq (MMIA)
LEQUILÉ (LECCE)
AQ/11/1.
29 June 44.

H.Q. AAI.

Your AAI/3072/A(O) dated 25 June -

1. I agree in general with your letter as above.

2. The position of P of W is anomalous and no solution has been come to by the Allied Governments. I understand that the Italian Government will NOT "play" and so no "formula" is likely to be produced. But this is a matter for ACC to advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

3. The following are some ideas on this subject:-

(a) P of W have for long past been used for work for the Allies in organized units with better privileges than the ordinary Italian soldier. They are thus unlikely to desert permanently.

(b) We need this manpower, particularly if the Italian Army ceiling is reduced to 447,300 as proposed by AFHQ.

(c) Therefore we must take these 10,000 P of W and do the best we can with them. If they slip off to see their families and do not come back under a fortnight, we tell CC.RR. If they come back we say and do nothing.

If CC.RR. picks them up, those of non-military age are demobilised, those of military age are enrolled in the Army - without punishment for deserting, except to demand back their P of W uniforms. We must hope they will not desert, but if they do, we can do nothing about it, except as above.

(d) We must treat them as they have been treated in NORTH AFRICA, but try and keep them separate from other Italian troops.

(e) Presumably they would only be used for labour and not (armed) Guard duties.

4. The above are only my personal ideas. I think it is really a political matter which should be advised on by ACC. I know General MACFARLANE made many efforts to achieve a solution which failed due to factors outside his control.

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tvslB.

(Sgd) L. Browning.

Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

(1006)

C O P YS E C R E T

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped
Italian POW (Co-operators).

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/3072/A(O).

4 Jul 44.HQ, A.C.C.

1. Copy of this HQ letter of even number dated 25 Jun 44, addressed to Army Sub-Commission ACC, is forwarded, together with a copy of General Browning's reply.
2. Will you please consider the question and approach the Italian Government in accordance with para 6 of the first quoted letter.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Col.
for Brigadier,
D.A.G.

TW/IY.

4423

C O P Y

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped
Italian PW. (Co-operators).

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
CMF
25 Jun 44
AAI/3072/A(O)

Army Sub-Commission,
ACC.

Reference AG 383.6 dated 30 May 44 from CG PBS.

1. AFHQ intend shortly to import into ITALY 10,000 Italian PW who can play a vital part in the maintenance of this Force. As carefully organized and equipped units they are of far greater value to us than equivalent units of the Italian Army. On this basis, our policy must be to keep these PW units intact.
2. When the 10,000 PW are imported there will be a natural tendency for personnel to desert in order to visit their families and for other reasons. The only deterrent which the system of the PBS applies is the fact that on apprehension the absconder rejoins the Italian Army with its lower standard of living. This penalty is not sufficiently hard to prevent desertion.
3. Presumably deserters within the demobilization categories would not be returned to the Italian Army and would be demobilized on apprehension.
4. In view of the foregoing, the arrangements in force as described in PBS letter quoted above are not acceptable.
5. The status of Italian PW employed in formed units by the Allied Forces is now officially described as "Co-operator". They are employed in the same manner as other units of the Italian Army and, therefore, cannot be regarded in a true sense as PW. That being so, the argument by CG Italian Forces in CAMPANIA that the international military code obliges an officer to assist in the escape of PW of his own nationality must be interpreted in a broader sense, in view of the abnormal state of affairs in ITALY and the employment of these units in conjunction with the Italian Army as stated above.
6. It is considered that the matter should be taken up with the Italian Government, in order that they may produce a formula by which the scruples of their officers are satisfied and the deserters returned to the units in which they are employed, as it is only by the co-operation of the Police, Military Authorities and Carabinieri that deserters can be apprehended.
7. Will you please consider the matter and let us have your views.

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7. Will you please consider the matter and let us have your views.

TW/JD

Copy to G(SD)

(Sgd) T. Welch. Col.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

RESTRICTED

COPYALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of Chief of Staff

Closed (93)
 :::::::::::::::
 :: HQ ACC APO 394 ::
 :: Secy' Gen ::
 :: Rec'd 11 Jun 1945 ::
 :: By H.F.D. ::
 :::::::::::::::

7 June 1944

Dear MacFarlane,

Reference your letter CC 383.6 dated 29 May 1944.

As this matter refers primarily to camps in Middle East, General Gazzera's complaint has been forwarded to GHQ MEF with a request that a reply shall be forwarded to this Headquarters as soon as possible.

No complaints have been received in respect of camps in North Africa, but enquiries are being made with a view to ensuring that adequate stores are available for Italian officers.

Yours ever,

(sgd) JAMES GAMMELL

J. A. H. GAMMELL
 Lieutenant General
 Chief of Staff

Chief Commissioner
 Headquarters, Allied Control Commission

REPRODUCED HQ ACC Secy Gen/hd

RESTRICTED

This matter is closed.
AFHQ 25 June to CC
stores of Mideast provided -
PW officers authorized to have
uniforms supplied - North Africa,
no complaints - regular
inspections, Protecting Powers,
everywhere.
A/CC, 383.6, 28 June - To Gazzera
report rendered.
J. F. M.

(92)

NF Ad

CG 383.6

29 May 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief of Staff,
Allied Force Headquarters.

1. The attached translation of a letter from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.
2. I shall be pleased to have your reply regarding this matter.

1 Incl;
Cy ltr fr Gen Gazzera,
293/ASS of 17 May 1944.

NOEL MASON MACARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

HQ AGC APO 3M

Out — 30 May 11:15
BY — [Signature]

4420

Cy St 30 May

77

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR P.O.W.

GVA 17 MAY.

File No. 293/MB

TO: A.G.C.

SUBJECT: - SHORTAGE OF ITEMS IN ARMY STORE NO. 30, OF CAMP
CAMP IN WEST.

We are informed that in some PW camps, and particularly those in Egypt (for example, Camp No. 30,) the stores are deprived of items of every day use which some Italian officers need very badly, but have not been able to obtain, together with any uniform or material to have a uniform made.

I wish to ask the Commission to kindly look into this matter so that the stores of the camps, in accordance with the precise provisions of Article 2 of the Geneva Convention, will be equipped with the necessary material so that the POW can obtain indispensable clothing.

The High Commissioner
(Gen. Pietro Geronzi)

4419

77

ARMY SUB COMMISSION,
H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

(89)

SUBJECT: Italian Air Force Prisoners of War.

ASG/1

TO : Air Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission,
BARI.

4 July 1944.

1. Ref your letter AFEC/S.901/14 dated 23 June 1944.
2. A new Executive Memorandum on P.W. is at present in course of completion which will set out the channels through which correspondence on PW questions should pass.
3. It is undesirable to upset good co-operation you have with A.F.H.Q. and until the new directive is issued it is suggested that you continue the practice of dealing direct with A.F.H.Q.
4. It is requested that in future copies of all correspondence to A.F.H.Q. dealing with P.W. should be forwarded to this office so as to prevent overlapping, and to keep us in the picture.

Not to See Gen

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission

FROM : Air Force Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission,
RARI.

TO : Headquarters, Army Sub-Commission,
LEQUIS, Lecco. (For Attention Lt. Col. J.A. Campbell)

DATE : 23rd June 1944.

REF. : AFRC/S.901/PA.

(88)

Italian Air Force Prisoners of War

Advice has been received from the Naples Section of this Sub-Commission, that in future all questions pertaining to Italian Air Force prisoners of war are to be addressed to Army Sub-Commission and not to Headquarters of the Allied Force Headquarters for the attention of Lt. Col. J.S. Parsons.

2. It is desired to point out that no directive to this effect has ever been received from A.P.H.Q. where the utmost co-operation and assistance has always been shown in the past.

3. High authorities of the authority for this change of policy be referred to this Sub-Commission please.

4. It is assumed that current matters which are the subject of direct communication between A.P.H.Q. and this Sub-Commission, should be continued until concluded and that further cases should be submitted through the Army Sub-Commission.

J. H. H. S. /
J. H. H. S., SIGNATURE LEADER,
AIR FORCE - GENERAL,
AIR OFFICE COMBAT

Copy to : A.P.H.Q. for attention Lt. Col. A.S. PARSONS.

4417

26 June 44.
File 1.

(87)

ARMY SUB COMMISSION
NEAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSIONSUBJECT: Italian Military Personnel in German hands.

ASG/1/87.

TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(ATTENTION G-1)

29 JUNE 1944.

I shall be pleased if I can now have your reply on the points raised in the Memorandum of the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, forwarded to you under cover of my CG/C/303 dated 20 May 1944.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

Jal
J. A. G. G. G.,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission

Copy to: Secretary General, H.Q.A.C.C. (for information)

Interim Answer

(124)

4416

TRANSLATION

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE PRISONERS OF WAR

Cava dei Tirreni
16 May 1944

No. 176/Pol.

TO: GENERAL NOEL MACFARLANE
Chief of the Allied Control Commission
Naples

My dear General;

H.E. Marshal Messe has informed me in regard to the requests which you have made to him concerning Italian military personnel whom Germany detains as military internees.

A first study of the question has been made in accordance with the directives of the R. Government, and I have prepared the enclosed Memorandum which endeavours to expound the procedures which appear suitable to adopt to attain the ends which you had indicated. I submit it for your consideration and will appreciate if you will arrange a meeting with me to examine the matter and to possibly arrive at the adoption of a line of procedure more suitable to the occasion. With me would come the General attached to Excellency Messe.

Very cordially and sincerely,

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro Gazzera)

/s/ P. Gazzera

1 Incl.

4415

TRANSLATION

C. del Tizzeni, 15 May 1944 (85)

MEMORANDUM

1. The advance of the Allied troops into Germany and the disorderly conditions which it will bring with it to that country make it necessary to study the method by which the Italian prisoners of war (or military internees, as the Germans wish to consider them) will not only unimpede the Allied operations, but instead bring to bear every possible assistance, pending arrangements for military use within the co-belligerency effort, or eventually for repatriation.

2. Above all, it is necessary to find a way to resume command over the mass of them. The following observations appear in order:

a. According to the data, certainly hardly approximate, in the hands of the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, there are no less than 400,000, of whom it may be assumed there are about 15 to 20 thousand officers of all grades (there appear to be 200 generals). It appears that they are interned in camps situated mainly in the East, and in Poland, Galicia and Austria.

b. It results that the soldiers, being principally employed in agricultural industries and work, live a better life than the officers, who instead are detained in camps with a great lack of food and clothing and subject to strong pressure to go over to the Fascist Republic.

c. Packages of food are being sent from republican fascist Italy to prisoners of war in Germany; from liberated Italy, unfortunately--up to now--nothing. It would be extremely helpful if at the earliest moment, the Allies could send food and clothing to the Italian prisoners of war in Germany as is being done with prisoners of war whom America and the British nation have in Germany.

d. The state of mind of war prisoners, of any country, in any country, must be taken into consideration. Their constant desire is, to be free, to get out of camps, away from barbed wire, even if it is worse outside. As soon as there is some unrest in the country in which they find themselves, they agitate to free themselves. To keep them in camps when it appears possible for them to get out is a difficult task which cannot succeed without firm and persuasive command action. This occurred at the end of the First World War; this has happened with American and British prisoners of war in Italy at the time of the Armistice. The war prisoners would adjust themselves to remain in camp, even if there were a possibility of leaving, if assurance would be given them formally and authoritatively that henceforth they are free soldiers, that their status of war prisoners has come to an end and they must restrain their impatience while awaiting orders for employment or repatriation. It is also necessary that they receive food to compensate for the torturing shortages, and clothing to get back to some semblance of order; their discipline has strong roots in these two factors. If not, they take to looting and rush towards Italy.

3. In view of this, it is necessary to send at the earliest moment with the Allied Forces in Germany, an Italian General;

- 2 -

--of High Rank, so that he might without hierarchic difficulties command all the Italian military personnel in Germany;

--who has not been connected in any way with the Germans either before or especially during the present war.

General des. d'Armata Claudio Trezzani answers to these two requirements. He is still held as a prisoner of war in the camp of Monticello (Arkansas) in America, prisoner since May, 1941 (Ambo Alagi-Italian West Africa).

He should be promptly released and brought to England with a nucleus of Italian officers whom he, himself, could group together from the American camps, where there are so many brave, deserving and most loyal officers, of higher and lower rank. The nucleus should comprise:

--a very small number of officers as adjutants of the General;

--some tens of officers for the first cadre of military personnel of the first liberated camps. The additional personnel will then be taken on the spot from the camps as and when liberated.

4. The assignment which the Government would give to the above Italian General might be:

in connection with the operations and according to the aims desired by the higher Allied Command, to organize and discipline the Italian military personnel, now war prisoners in Germany, but who would now have to be considered completely free, into controlled units, to prepare for eventual further use at the front or in rear-guard services under orders of Italian officers and non-commissioned officers, or to be repatriated.

It appears that the detailed organizational forms, etc., should be left up to the Italian General, who will act in agreement with the Allied Command according to the numerical and qualitative composition of the camps which will be freed, the hierarchal organization which possibly is already existing therein and the tasks to be accomplished.

5. In Germany, there are also many Italian workers (estimated at 400,000) some of whom went voluntarily, others were compelled. They are distributed a little all over the industrial and agricultural areas and up to the present time subjected to fascist organization.

It will be difficult to take them into hand immediately. Upon hearing of the German catastrophe, they will rush towards the Italian borders.

The effective military organization as outlined above can be applied at least partially to them according to regulations to be made on the spot gradually according to the circumstances.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro Gazzera)

/s/ P. Gazzera

- 2 -

FROM/rj

(83)

Ref. Cc/G/308

20th May 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(ATTENTION: G-1)

1. Reference your Gl/B/2277/A2 of May 5th and in continuation of my CC/G/278 of 12th May.
2. I enclose herewith a copy of memorandum received from General GAZZERA, Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
3. In speaking to Marshal MESSE in the sense of Para. 4 of your above quoted memorandum I told him that in the meantime I wished only to know whether the Italian Government agreed in principle to (a) and (b). I made it clear that no further action was required in the meantime.
4. As, however, General GAZZERA has now come forward with various concrete proposals I forward them to you herewith.

NOEL MASON MACRARLANE,
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner.

4412

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

FNMM/rj

(83a)

Ref. CC/G/278

12th May, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
(ATTENTION: G.I.)

1. Reference your No. G1/B/2277/A2 of 5th May.
2. I raised this question with Marshal Messe yesterday.
3. He gave me a definite assurance that the Italian authorities would agree to comply with our requirements in Para 4 (a) and (b).
4. I would point out that Marshal Messe was greatly surprised at our figure of 60,000. He maintained that a minimum of 400,000 would be nearer the mark.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General.
Chief Commissioner

Copy taken 20/7/44
J.L.M.

4411

TOP SECRET

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian PW
held by Germans after
cessation of hostilities
with GERMANY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

GI/B/2277/A2

5 May 1944

HQ. ACC

1. A plan is being prepared by SHAEF dealing with the evacuation and repatriation of all United Nations PW held by the Germans.
2. It is part of the plan that all PW shall be ordered to stay put on the cessation of hostilities with GERMANY until repatriation is carried out under the direction of SHAEF and the Russian Military Commander.
3. Included among these PW are alleged to be some 60,000 Italians who are reported as being held as PW in PW Camps in GERMANY.
4. It has been suggested by SHAEF that the Italian authorities should be approached with a view to obtaining their agreement to carry out the following duties:-
 - (a) The issue of the necessary orders to all Italian PW to "stay ~~put~~ put" in their PW Camps until arrangements have been completed for their repatriation.
 - (b) The provision of Italian personnel to proceed to camps in GERMANY to assume control of Italian PW under the direction of the British and US officers appointed to each Wehrkreis HQ and PW Camp.
5. Beyond signifying their agreement in principle to the above, no action would be taken by the Italian authorities pending receipt of further instructions from AFHQ.
6. If you consider this is an appropriate time to approach the Italian authorities, will you please do so; if not, please inform this HQ accordingly.

C. D. MOORHEAD,
Major-General,
DAG (G-; (B)).

4410

Copy taken 21/7/44
J.H.M.

TOP SECRET TOP SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

(82)

From: Secretary General

SUBJECT:

FILE No.

TO: Lt. Col. Campbell, Army Sub-Commission 25 June 1944

With reference to your letter QS 441 of 16 June, the Chief Commissioner dealt with General Gazzera's 107/Pol. on 20th May 1944. The reference of the letter is CC/G/308. I think you will find that Captain Slaughter has a copy of this letter filed, probably in file 383.6. If you are unable to find this letter at Salerno, please let me know and I will have a copy made and sent on to you.

A. J. Collins
A. J. COLLINS
Captain, RE
Asst Secy Gen

4409

26 June 44.
File 18,

Adv. H.Q. Army Sub-Comm.
A.C.C., Salerno
D/O GS441
16 June 1944

(81)

Dear *Doc*

I wonder if you can tell me if the Chief Commissioner took any action on a letter from the High Commissioner for PW. The letter I refer to was numbered 176/Pol dated 16 May. General GAZZERA has raised the question a couple of times. Sorry to trouble you.

Yours, *amirly**Jab.*

TO: Major ROBERT E. DOE,
Secretary General,
Advanced H.Q., ACC, NAPLES.

B/F.

4408

COPIA

Copia in fu

ALTO COMMISSARIO PER I PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

(80)

N. 176/Pol.

Cava dei Tirreni, 16 maggio 1944

AL SIG. GENERALE NOEL MACPARKANE
Capo Commissione Alleata di Controllo

N a p o l i

Caro Generale,

S. E. il Maresciallo Messe mi ha messo al corrente delle domande che Ella gli ha rivolto nei riguardi dei militari italiani che la Germania detiene quali internati militari.

Si è compiuto un primo esame della questione secondo le direttive del R. Governo, ed ho preparato l'annesso promemoria che cerca d'esporre le modalità che sembrerebbero opportuno adottare per conseguire lo scopo che Ella aveva indicato. Lo sottopongo alla Sua attenzione, e Le sarò grato se ordinerà di fissarmi un colloquio per esaminare l'appunto e per venire possibilmente all'adozione della linea di condotta meglio idonea all'intento. Verrebbe con me anche il Generale sdetto all'Eccellenza Messe.

Molto cordialmente e sinceramente.

4407

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

Questions of action to be taken re Italians in
Germany as we advance

Translation No. 762 17 June 1944

Romano

(Noting)
new

(75)

High Commissioner for PW Cava dei Tirreni 16 June 1944
File No. 808/MIL/B TO: A.C.C.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of sick or wounded PW.

With reference to your letter ASC/1/47 dated 14th instance.

I wish to confirm our pleasure in the repatriation of all sick and wounded PW with 10 days notice. We would be glad to have in advance the lists of names of those being repatriated, if possible with indications of each one's infirmity, especially for those who must be taken to hospitals.

The High Commissioner
/s/ P. Gazzera

(F)

y- rec/1.
file

4406

DA/ma



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

N. 808/Mil/B. di prot.

OGGETTO : Rimpatrio di prigionieri di guerra malati o feriti.

Cava dei Tirreni, 16 giugno 1955

Alla

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
Salerno

Translation # 76v

74 Army S/c

Riferimento vostro foglio ASC/1/47 in data 14 corrente.

Confermo che è gradito il rimpatrio di tutti i prigionieri di guerra malati e feriti previo preavviso di dieci giorni. Si gradirebbe di poter ricevere in anticipo le liste nominative dei rimpatriandi possibilmente con l'indicazione dell'infermità da cui sono affetti, specialmente per coloro che debbono essere ospedalizzati.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

4405

ARMY SUB-COMMISSION
REAR U.S. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

(73)

ASG/1/37.
14 June 1944.

To: High Commissioner for P.C.W., CAVA.

Subject: Repatriation of Sick and Wounded PW.

- 1/. Reference our conversation. I shall be pleased if you will confirm to me that you can accept the repatriation of ALL sick and wounded PW provided (a) you receive at least 10 days notice (b) that Nominal Rolls showing physical classification and numbers requiring full hospitalization are forwarded.

J.A.C.
J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission.

4404

TRANSLATION - Letter, GAZZERA to A.C.C., No. 364/pol/C15 - 7 June

SUBJECT:- Italian POW in Germany freed by Polish.

(72)

Reference Memorandum of date 1 current;

Thank you for kind information and interest shown for our Prisoners in Poland.

I await any other information that the Commission may be able to obtain in regards to this matter.

The High Commissioner
(General Pietro Gazzera)
/s/ P Gazzera.

4403

14 June 44. ASC/1.

PA/fe



Cava dei Tirreni, li 7 giugno 1944

(11)

L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra
n° 354/pol/C15 di prot.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
SALERNO

O G G E T T O : Prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania
liberati dai Polacchi.

Italian POW in Germany freed by Polish

Riferimento memorandum in data 1° corrente.

Referendum 1 June

Ringrazio della cortese comunicazione e dell'interessamento dimostrato per i nostri prigionieri in Polonia.

Thank you for

Resto in attesa delle informazioni che cotesta Commissione riuscirà ad ottenere al riguardo.

kind info of interest

shown for our PW in Poland

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

I await any other info

that the Comm. may be

able to obtain in regards to

this matter.

P. Gazzera

4402

Subject:- Landing of Former Prisoners of War in NAPLES.

RESTRICTED.

HQ 441,
C.M.F.

2068/1/22.

4 June 44.

(70)

Adv HQ Army Sub Commission,
Rear HQ ACC.

Reference your QS 428 dated 13 May, 44.

1. Repatriated PW should be landed at one of the Recl Ports, preferably TARANTO.
2. The requirements of security will be met by the handling of a nominal roll of the PW to the Port Security Officer at the port of disembarkation.
3. As soon as a physical check of the number of PW landing has been made they can be handed over to the Italian authorities for disposal.
4. The Port Security Officer will note the names of all officers of the rank of Colonel or higher, and forward them to District HQ for checking against the records of the Italian Ministry of War, but such officers need not be retained in custody pending this check.

2 District
Army Sub Commission ACC LECCE

Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to:- QS(1b)
A
Q(Mov)

4401

6 June 44.
File

ASyl.

HEAD HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Q3428

.....

554

13 May 1944

SUBJECT: Landings of former prisoners of war in NAPLES.
TO : Allied Armies in Italy (Administrative Echelon).

1. Reference attached translation of a letter received from Marshal MESSI, Chief of the Supreme General Staff of Comando Supremo.

2. In view of the present congestion in accommodation at NAPLES and the fact that the Flag Officer, TARANTO have agreed that TARANTO Harbour would be the most suitable Port, it is recommended that a decision be given to use this Port so that the Italian Government may proceed with the necessary organisation for the reception of prisoners both normal and those requiring hospitalisation.

In addition to over 2,000 already arrived it is understood that North African Theatre of Operation, U.S. Army are repatriating a further 800 (some of whom, whose homes are in Northern Italy will require camp accommodation) it is therefore essential that the Port of disembarkation be decided; and it would appear that a Port in the Heel of Italy would be most acceptable both to the Royal Navy and the Italian Government.

3. In the case of previous arrival of PW for repatriation, it is assumed that Intelligence authorities had already interviewed and approved the men concerned. However, the Commission can trace no definite instruction as to whether arriving PW, active or invalid, are to be handed over to Italian authority at the Ports without further investigation by Allied authorities. Your remarks in regard to this would be appreciated.

4. Please state that answer should be transmitted to Comando Supremo in regard to the general principle they raise.

For the Chief Commissioner:

4400

Lt. Col.

(G. W. QUINSMITH)
Army Sub-Commission
Advanced Headquarters

1 Encl. as above.

Q3/mm

NAVAL MESSAGE

TO: Army Sub-Commission

FROM: Naval Sub-Commission

Your AS/MMS of the 19/5. This matter was referred to F.O.T.A.L.I. who in conjunction with the local Military Authorities 52 Sub Area have agreed that Taranto Harbour would be the most suitable port of disembarkation. Request you inform AAI accordingly.

W. Stamer
10/2/44

4399

03311

24 April 1944

(61)

SUBJECT: Landing of PW in ITALY.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission.

427

Reference attached. I agree to your contacting FOTALI direct although AAI informed me that there is little doubt that no ADRIATIC Port will be possible as NAPLES is, I think, out of the question, this leaves the matter to TARANTO. If I put the matter up to AAI, their organisation will pass it to A.F.R.Q. and FOTALI in the normal way so that we may get the same result more quickly on a part of the matter, at least, by contacting FOTALI directly. We can then embody his answer in the letter to AAI which may avoid their having to contact him.

It is important to note that it is on the question of particular ships but of the principle of returning PW in any ship to a place where they may be easily received and administered.

I suggest therefore, your signal to FOTALI is framed on principle only. It might enquire, if, as NAPLES is not suitable, TARANTO is recommended as the only port of entry for returning PW, particularly those who are disabled.

U

Lt. Col.

Incls. as above.

"attached" is Navy's proposed signal
to Fotali & 2 Dist.

4398

COPY

TRANSLATION

SUPREME COMMAND

April 15, 1944

OFFICE OF OPERATION

TO: A.C.C.

SUBJECT: Landings of former prisoners of War in Naples.

File No. 12431/OP

The Army's General Staff had intended to establish in Naples a reception and isolation camp for soldiers, formerly prisoners of war who return from overseas, in order to take the necessary sanitary and quarantine measures; and also to regulate their standing and discharge the administrative, medical legal and welfare tasks in connection to these soldiers.

Despite the thorough searches made by the Command of the F.F. A.A. Company, it has not been possible to establish this camp in Naples, due to a lack of quarters, beds, and kitchen facilities.

Hence it is not possible to quarter, except in hospitals, former prisoners of war, who might land in Naples. And sometimes it is not feasible to quarter them in hospitals, for it would disturb the efficiency of the organisation of local hospitals.

Since it is possible to provide adequately for these soldiers in the Puglie, I wish to ask the Allied Commission to urge the proper Allied agencies to enable all returning prisoners of war to be directed to the Puglie, and specifically to Bari, rather than to Naples.

I have already informed the Commission with letter file No. 11643/OP of March 7, 1944 regarding prisoners who are wounded or sick.

THE MARSHALL OF ITALY
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF
GIOVANNI MESSE.

4397

COPY

(64)

Q9/ame

In reply refer to:
DCC 333.6

19 April 1944

SUBJECT: Landings of former prisoners of War in Naples.

TO : Allied Armies in Italy (Administrative Echelon).

1. Reference attached translation of a letter received from Marshal Messe, Chief of the Supreme General Staff of Comando Supremo.

2. In view of the present congestion in accommodation at Naples, you may agree that if shipping and other consideration admit, it would be better if all POW were returned to another port. It is understood that while Bari is impracticable for vessels other than store ships, Taranto is used on occasions. It is possible that Monopoli might be used for this traffic, then a suitable reception depot could be organized in the vicinity. In any case, a comprehensive scheme for reception and routing under Italian authority would appear to be generally beneficial.

3. In the case of previous arrival of POW for repatriation, it is assumed that Intelligence authorities have already interviewed and approved the men concerned. However, the Commission can trace no definite instruction as to whether arriving POW, active or invalid, are to be handed over to Italian authority at the Ports without further investigation by Allied authorities. Your remarks in regard to this would be appreciated.

4. Please state what answer should be transmitted to Comando Supremo in regard to the general principle they raise.

For the Chief Commissioner:

4396

Lt. Col.

(G. W. QUINSMITH)
Army Sub-Commission
Advanced Headquarters

1 Incl. as above.

(2)

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

FJ3/sjp

21 April 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Lt. Col. G. W. Guin-Smith

It is the desire of the Deputy Chief Commissioner that you sign the attached letter, but it should be coordinated with the Navy Sub-Commission, who is interested in the transportation and ports.

Frank J. Slaughter
FRANK J. SLAUGHTER,
Captain, AUD
Deputy Secretary General

3 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Landings of POW in Naples, ltr
- 2 - Translation of ltr fr Messe
- 3 - Ltr fr Messe dtd 15 April.

4395

(60)

FROM
FOTALI

3 MAY 1944

RESTRICTED
ROUTINEACTION
ACC SALERNOINFO
52 AREA

(4875)

3/MAY

TOR---1450
HG

031056

YOUR 261850 THESE CAN BE ACCEPTED AT TARANTO X

REF: 261850 NOT HELD X

DIST:

ATC

CO

EXX ACC ✓

430

031056

S. 132

(GV211) WL 22313 / D7997

10/42 H. & S.

46-287

NAVAL MESSAGE.

For use in
Signal
Department
onlyOriginators Instructions
(Indication of Priority,
Intercept Group, etc.)

Codress/Plaindress

No. of
GroupsTO: *Deputy Commissioner. C-15-790*
*② Army Sub Commissioner.*FROM: *Naval Sub Com.*

A C C R O S S	<i>Ref</i>	<i>attacked</i>	<i>031056</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>P.O.T.A.L.S.</i>	
		<i>Presume</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>will</i>	<i>take</i>	10
	<i>all</i>	<i>future</i>	<i>action</i>			15
						20
						25
W R I T E						30
						35
						40
						45
						50

439

System

P/L Code or Cypher

Time of
Receipt of
Despatch

Operator

P.O.O.W.

Date

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE /msr

SVC/RELAY NO.

I/C NO :

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL

REF NO : NIL

PREC : ROUTINE

FILED : APR 272029B

FROM : FOTALI

REC'D : APR 280845B

TO : ACC SALERNO



27 APR. 4874

This reencyphers Fotali's 271602.

"Your 261050 request approximate number expected"

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - AG
- 1 - DSG Info
- 1 - DCC "
- 1 - Navy Action

most uncertain depending on
policy of release - Accused
first 4000 a brief

439:

X 180/44

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

OUTGOING

NAVY SUBCOM
INF / INF

2/26

2672

APR

4871

28 APR

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

FATIMA BEAR

TOTALI 1075 52 AREA TARANTO

PLEASE REPORT IF PORT FACILITIES OF TARANTO CAN BE ATTENDED FOR
RETURNING REINTEGRATED ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR INCLUDING GUY GASPES PD
TO TOTALI 1075 FIFTY SECOND AREA TARANTO FROM FATIMA BEAR FROM NAVY SUBCOM
SIGNED MORGAN LAY PD NAPLES IMPROVISED CABLE PD ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ADVISORY
TO ARRANGE RECEPTION PD OT

AUTHENTICATED:

J. Chocca
W. J. CHOCOA
CWO USA
Asst Adj

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - Adj File
- 1 - ISG
- 1 - ISG
- 1 - Navy Sub-Com

4391

165/44

OUTGOING

NAVY SUBCOM
INT / MEF

2/26

2672

APR

4871

26 APR

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

PATINA BEAR

TOTALY 10-11 52 AREA TAKEN TO

PLEASE REPORT IF PORT FACILITIES OF TARANTO CAN BE AFFORDED FOR
RETURNING REINTERGRADED ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR INCLUDING ONE CASE NO
TO TOTALY 10-11 FIFTY SECOND AREA TARANTO FROM PATINA BEAR FROM NAVY SUBCOM
SIGNED BASEBALL AND NO NAPLES INMATECABLE TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ANDIBLE
TO ARRANGE RECEPTION INFO

AUTHENTICATED:

F. J. Chocca
F. J. CHOCOA
CWO USA
Asst Adj

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - Adj File
- 1 - ISC
- 1 - ISC
- 1 - Navy Sub-Com

4391

115/44

Q5011

24 April 1944

(57)

SUBJECT: Landing of PW in ITALY.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission.

Reference attached. I agree ^{with} ~~to~~ your contacting FOTALI direct although AAI informed me that there is little doubt that no ADRIATIC Port will be possible. As NAPLES is, I think, out of the question, this leaves the matter to TARANTO. If I put the matter up to AAI, their organisation will pass it to A.F.H.Q. and FOTALI in the normal way so that we may get the same result more quickly on a part of the matter, at least, by contacting FOTALI directly. We can then embody his answer in the letter to AAI which may avoid their having to contact him.

It is important to note that it is not the question of particular ships but of the principle of returning PW in any ship to a place where they may be easily received and administered.

I suggest therefore, your signal to FOTALI is framed on principle only. It might enquire, if, as NAPLES is not suitable, TARANTO is recommended as the only port of entry for returning PW, particularly those who are disabled.

J. A. Smith
Lt. Col.

Incls. as above.

4390

S. 1320

(NAVJ20) WT. 15/39 / DTB10, 500M / P. 10, 7 (2), 11, 2, 8, 11, 11, 31-5005.

NAVAL MESSAGE.

For use in
Signal
Department
onlyOriginators Instructions
(Indication of Priority,
Intercept Group, etc.)

Codress/Plaintress

No. of
Groups

TO:

Military Sec.

FROM:

Naval Sec.

A C C R O S S	Yours	AS/pms	19 Apr	J.O.T.A.L.I	and	5
	Dist 2	appear	the	principals	concerned	10
		J.O.T.A.L.I.	to	organise	with	15
A C C R O S S	them	the	most	suitable	harbour	20
	as	regards	depth	water	and	25
W R I T E	Nothing					30
		He	will	therefore	want	35
	to	know	size	of	ship.	40
	Suggest	attached	unless	you	438 per	45
	to	make	it	in one signal		

System

P/L Code or Cypher

Receipt

Time of
Despatch

Operator

P.O.O.W.

Date

S. 1320

(OV180) Wt. 16539/197918, 50021 Pads. 7/42. B. & S. Ltd. 51-5805.

NAVAL MESSAGE.

For use in
Signal
Department
onlyOriginators Instructions
(Indication of Priority,
Intercept Group, etc.)

Codress/Plandress

No. of
Groups

To: F.O.T.A.L.I. (R) Ditt 2.

FROM:
Jaluria R.
New. Sec.

ACROSS	at suitable port is required	5
	for reception of returning P.F.W.	10
ACROSS	has not available.	15
	Please report whether Bari. Monopoli	20
WRITE	or mola suitable from Naryaknal	25
	Print of view	30
WRITE	Size of ship command	35
	etc etc etc.	40
WRITE	length draught Tonnage.	45
		50

System

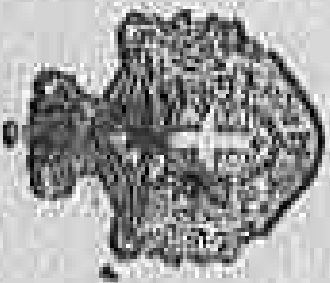
P/L Code or Cypher

Time of
Receipt Despatch

Operator

P.O.O.W.

Date



P.M. 151, 15 aprile 1944

(52)

COMANDO SUPREMO

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

Ufficio Operazioni

O G G E T T O : Sbarchi a Napoli di ex-prigionieri di guerra.--

12431/OP

Era intenzione dello Stato Maggiore R.Esercito di impiantare a Napoli un campo di sosta e di contumacia per i militari ex-prigionieri di guerra che rientrano da oltremare, col compito di attuare a loro vantaggio le necessarie misure igienico-contumaciali, nonché le pratiche matricolari, amministrative, medico-legali, assistenziali, loro relative.

Malgrado le più accurate ricerche, effettuate dal Comando MM. AA. Campania, non è stato possibile, per mancanza di locali e di materiali lettereschi e di cucina, costituire a Napoli tale campo sosta e contumacia.

Pertanto non si è in condizione di sistemare a Napoli, se non in ospedale, gli ex-prigionieri di guerra che sbarcassero in tale città; ma tale soluzione è un ripiego che può anche essere talvolta non attuabile e comunque pregiudica l'efficienza della organizzazione ospedaliera locale.

4387

Poichè è invece possibile nelle Puglie provvedere adeguatamente all'assistenza dei militari in oggetto, prego codesta Commissione di voler interessare i competenti organi alleati nel senso che, possibilmente, tutti i prigionieri di guerra che rimpatriano siano avviati nelle Puglie, ed in particolare a Bari, anzichè a Napoli.

12431/OP

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5287

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Per i prigionieri ammalati e feriti ho già interessato al riguardo codesta Commissione con fo 11643/Op. del 7 marzo u.s.-

IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe)

P. Messe

TRANSLATION

March 7, 1944

3929

(51)

Commando Supremo

Office of Operations

TO: Allied Control Commission

No. 11643

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian War Prisoners Who Are Sick or Wounded.

The hospital ships transporting repatriated W/P often anchor in the Port of Naples.

This causes many serious difficulties due to the scarce hospital facilities afforded by Naples, and also due to the necessity of later transporting these prisoners to Puglia where the agencies that receive and re-orient them are.

It would therefore be wiser if these hospital ships would proceed directly to the ports in Puglia, and particularly to Bari as I have already requested through letter No. 10942/Op of Feb. 4.

I should be very grateful if the Commission would bring this matter to the attention of the proper Allied authorities.

The Mars hall of Italy
Chief of Staff
Giovanni Messe.

S. Can you trace? (1)

109

Copy of ref in DCC file

DCC to Messe - 6 Feb. (383.6) - ack. & matter referred for action to proper authorities.

att is copy of this letter & translation to go to D.S.G.

(160) BS to DCC

pan 383.6



COMANDO SUPREMO

Ufficio Operazioni

N° 11643 /Op.O G G E T T O : Rimpatrio p.g. italiani ammalati e feriti.

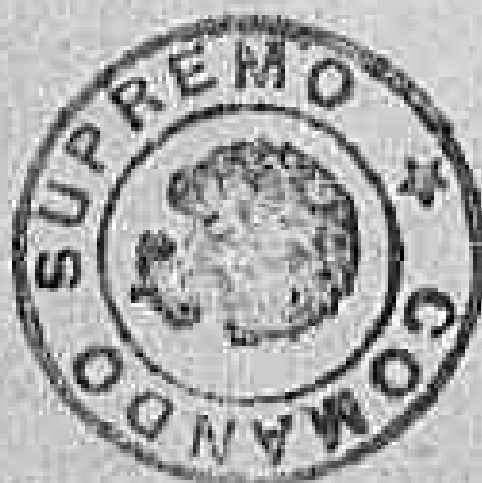
P.M. 151, 7 marzo 1944

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
e, per conoscenza:
AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

Attualmente le navi ospedale che trasportano p.g. italiani rimpatriati fanno spesso scalo a Napoli.

Ciò comporta una serie di gravi inconvenienti date le scarse possibilità di ricovero che offre Napoli e la necessità di successivo trasporto in Puglia ove si trovano gli organi destinati a raccogliere e riordinare il personale rimpatriato.

Sarebbe perciò molto opportuno che le navi ospedale fossero direttamente avviate nei porti della Puglia - ed in particolare a Bari come ho già richiesto con foglio 10942/Op. del 4 febbraio - e sarei grato a codesta Commissione se volesse interessare in tal senso i competenti organi Alleati.

IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe) 385P. C. C.
IL GENERALE CAPO REPARTO
(Silvio Rossi)

Non

NEAR HEAD-QUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
NAVAL SUB-COMMISSION

(49)

Ref. X 167/44

27th April 1944.

To. F.O.T.A.L.I.

(4877)

Subject... REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.Reference Commander Butler's telephone message of
this morning.

27 APR

2. Copies of letters regarding this matter are enclosed.
3. The Army Sub-Commission is of the opinion that there is little doubt that no Adriatic Port will be possible and suggest that perhaps facilities could be afforded at TARANTO. This suggestion was communicated to you by signal 2672 of April 26.'44.

COMMODORE.

Encl.

4383

4384

SUPREME COMMAND
Operations Office.

File No. 10942/OP

C O P Y.

P.M. 141, 4 February 1944 (48)

To: Allied Control Commission.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Sick or wounded Italian Prisoners of War.

The landing of sick or wounded Italian P.O.W. at Taranto has given rise to great difficulties in hospitalization, because of the deficiency of local hospital facilities, which impose the necessity of further travel to Bari.

In consideration of the above, and also because of better sanitary facilities for unloading hospital ships, and greater hospital space available for prompt aid (much better established in Bari than at Taranto), it would be more suitable to use Bari as a landing port for hospital ships, rather than Taranto.

I will be grateful for any action you may take in this matter.

Sgd. THE MARSHAL OF ITALY
Chief of General Staff.
Giovanni Messe.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

Ref. 383.6

6 February 1944.

SUBJECT. - Repatriation of sick or wounded Italian P.O.W.

To..... F.O.T.A.L.I., Taranto.

1. There is forwarded herewith a letter from Marshal Messe on the above subject.
2. The Commission would be grateful if you will inform us whether or not it is possible to comply with the Marshal's request.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission.

Sgd. ELLERY W. STONE.
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief of Staff. 4383

SIGNAL FROM NAVY SUB-COMMISSION to FOTALI. 30 March 1944.

"REQUEST REPLY ACC LETTER SIX FEBRUARY No. XXXX 383.6 SUBJECT
REPATRIATION OF SICK OR WOUNDED ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR."

COPY.

March 7 1944

Comando Supremo
Operations Office

So. 11643

To Allied Control Commission.

SUBJECT.- Repatriation of Italian War Prisoners who are sick or wounded.
The hospital ships transporting repatriated W/P often anchor in the Port of Naples.

This causes many serious difficulties due to the scarce hospital facilities afforded by Naples, and also due to the necessity of later transporting these prisoners to PUGLIA where the agencies that receive and re-orient them are.

It would therefore be wiser if these hospital ships would proceed directly to the ports in PUGLIA, and particularly to BARI as I have already requested through letter No. 10942/OP of Feb. 4.

I should be very grateful if the commission would bring this matter to the attention of the proper Allied authorities.

Sgd. The Marshal of Italy
Giovanni MESSE.

Comando Supremo.
Operations Office.

15 April 1944.

No. 12431/OP

To Allied Control Commission.

RMZ

SUBJECT.- Landing of former Prisoners of War in NAPLES.

The Army's General Staff had intended to establish in Naples a reception and isolation camp for soldiers, formerly prisoners of war who return from overseas, in order to take the necessary sanitary and quarantine measures; and also to regulate their standing and discharge the administrative, medical, legal and welfare tasks in connection with these soldiers.

Despite the thorough searches made by the Command of the Armed Forces in CAMPANIA, it has not been possible to establish this camp in NAPLES, due to lack of quarters, beds and kitchen facilities.

Hence it is not possible to quarter, except in hospitals, former prisoners of war, who might land in Naples. And sometimes it is not feasible to quarter them in hospitals, for it would

10 5 3 4

It would therefore be wiser if these hospital ships would proceed directly to the ports in PUGLIA, and particularly to BARI as I have already requested through letter No. 10942/OP of Feb. 4.

I should be very grateful if the commission would bring this matter to the attention of the proper Allied authorities.

Sgd. The Marshal of Italy
Giovanni MESSE.

Com/ando Supremo.
Operations Office.

15 April 1944.

No. 12431/OP

To Allied Control Commission.

MM

SUBJECT:- Landing of former Prisoners of War in NAPLES.

The Army's General Staff had intended to establish in Naples a reception and isolation camp for soldiers, formerly prisoners of war who return from overseas, in order to take the necessary sanitary and quarantine measures; and also to regulate their standing and discharge the administrative, medical, legal and welfare tasks in connection with these soldiers.

Despite the thorough searches made by the Command of the Armed Forces in CAMPANIA, it has not been possible to establish this camp in NAPLES, due to lack of quarters, beds and kitchen facilities.

Hence it is not possible to quarter, except in hospitals, former prisoners of war, who might land in Naples. And sometimes it is not feasible to quarter them in hospitals, for it would disturb the efficiency of the organisation of local hospitals.

Since it is possible to provide/adequately for these soldiers in the PUGLIA, I wish to ask the Allied Commission to urge the proper Allied agencies to enable all returning prisoners of war to be directed to the PUGLIA, and specially to BARI, rather than to NAPLES.

I have already informed the Commission with letter file No. 11643/OP of March 7, 1944, regarding prisoners who are wounded or sick.

Sgd. The Marshal of Italy.
Giovanni MESSE.

8 0 MAR 1944

3827

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

OUTGOING

NAVY
HBTJB/sk2/30 B
2555

MAR

30/4/44 30/1415 A

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

FATIMA REAR

TOTALI

REQUEST REPLY ACC LETTER PAREN TO TOTALI FROM FATIMA REAR FROM NAVAL SUBCOM
 SIGNED MACPARK/NE PAREN SIX FEBRUARY NUMBER THREE EIGHT THREE POINT SIX
 SUBJECT REPATRIATION OF SIX OR BOUNDED ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

AUTHENTICATED:

E. J. Chiozza
 E.J. CHIOZZA
 CVO, AUB
 Asst Adj.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - AG
- 1 - ISG
- 1 - ICC
- 1 - Navy Subcom

4381

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSLATION

March 7, 1944

Commando Supremo

Office of Operations

No. 11643

TO: Allied Control Commission

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian War Prisoners Who Are Sick or Wounded.

The hospital ships transporting repatriated W/P often anchor in the Port of Naples.

This causes many serious difficulties due to the scarce hospital facilities afforded by Naples, and also due to the necessity of later transporting these prisoners to Puglia where the agencies that receive and re-orient them are.

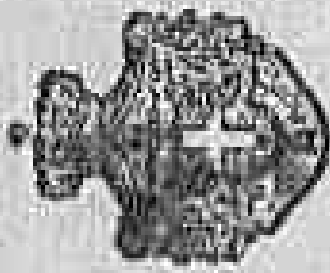
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The Mars hall of Italy
Chief of Staff
Giovanni Messe.

4381

18 MAR 1944



COMANDO SUPREMO

P.M. 151, 7 marzo 1944

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

Ufficio Operazioni

e, per conoscenza:

AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

N° 21043 /Op.

OGGETTO: Rimpatrio p.g. italiani smulati e feriti.

7 March

Attualmente le navi ospedale che trasportano p.g. italiani rimpatriati fanno spesso scalo a Napoli.

Ciò comporta una serie di gravi inconvenienti date le scarse possibilità di ricovero che offre Napoli e la necessità di successivo trasporto in Puglia ove si trovano gli organi destinati a raccogliere e riordinare il personale rimpatriato.

Sarebbe perciò molto opportuno che le navi ospedale fossero direttamente avviate nei porti della Puglia - ed in particolare a Bari come ho già richiesto con foglio 10942/Cg. del 4 febbraio - e sarei grato a codesta Commissione se volesse interessare in tal senso i competenti organi alleati.

IL Maresciallo d'Italia
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE

(Giovanni 10942)

P. C. C.
GENERALE CAPO REPARTO
(Silvio Rossi)



Attualmente le navi ospedale che trasportano p.g. italiani rimpatriati fanno spesso scalo a Napoli.

Ciò comporta una serie di gravi inconvenienti date le scarse possibilità di ricovero che offre Napoli e la necessità di successi-vo trasporto in Puglia ove si trovano gli organi destinati a racco-gliere e riordinare il personale rimpatriato.

Sarebbe perciò molto opportuno che le navi ospedale fossero direttamente avviate nei porti della Puglia - ed in particolare a Bari come ho già richiesto con foglio 10942/Op. del 4 febbraio - e sarei grato a codesta Commissione se volesse interessare in tal senso i competenti organi Allentati.

P. C. C.
UFFICIALE CAPO RUPTATO
(Silvio Rosai)



IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MARESCIALLO GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe) 4379

18 MAR 1944

U.S. SECRET Equals British SECRET

21 FEB 1944

/sk

HHS

693/19

14/20

SECRET

15-5111

ROUTINE

191945A FEB

EXEMPT SIGNED WILSON CG MSG CITE RMPMA

201655A FEB

CG PBS & RPT CG NATUSA, IMIA, FATIMA

Granted authority to repatriate sick and wounded Italians from this base section reference cable 47104 cite NAMED. The following Italian prisoner war personnel was evacuated from Glen 16 February 1944 aboard Hospital Ship Seminole. Italian 30 Officers, 297 enlisted men classified as follows: patients 30 class 1, 7 class 2, 44 class 3, 246 class 4 - total repatriated 327. ETA Duke 21 FEB, 1944. All prisoners of war deloused prior to evacuation. No escort guard accompanying the repatriables. Statements of final balance for each prisoner of war by air courier to provost marshal, PBS being sent.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - AG
- 1 - DSC - info
- 1 - DCC - info
- 1 - Army Sub-Commission - info

4378

U.S. SECRET Equals British SECRET

ms/hjp

(4)

In reply refer to:
383.6

6 February 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency Marshal Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

SUBJECT: Repatriation of sick or wounded Italian prisoners of war

Your letter of 4 February on the above subject has been received and is being referred to the appropriate authorities to see if it is possible to comply with your recommendation.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MILRY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief of Staff

014.33

4377

DSG F-36

FILE

(40)

TRANSLATIONSUPREME COMMAND
Operations Office

File No. 10942/OP

P.M. 141, 4 February 1944

To: Allied Control Commission

SUBJECT: Repatriation of sick or wounded Italian prisoners of war.

The landing of sick or wounded Italian POW at Taranto has given rise to great difficulties in hospitalization, because of the deficiency of local hospital facilities, which impose the necessity of further travel to Bari.

In consideration of the above, and also because of better sanitary facilities for unloading hospital ships, and great hospital space available for prompt aid (much better established in Bari than at Taranto), it would be more suitable to use Bari as a landing port for hospital ships, rather than Taranto.

I will be grateful for any action you may take in this matter.

THE MARSHAL OF ITALY
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

/s/ Giovanni Messe

Sgt Sorisi - Transl.
/hjp

4376

DSG File

EWS/hjp

(39)

In reply refer to:
383.6

6 February 1944

SUBJECT: Repatriation of sick or wounded Italian prisoners of war

TO : POTALI, Taranto

1. There is forwarded herewith a letter from Marshal Messe on the above subject.
2. The Commission would be grateful if you will inform us whether or not it is possible to comply with the Marshal's request.

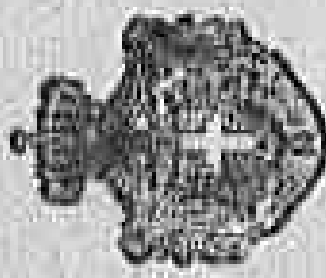
For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

WILFRED W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:
Ltr fr Marshal Messe
No. 10942/CP, 4 Feb 44

383.6-

4375



COMANDO SUPREMO

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

UFFICIO OPERAZIONI

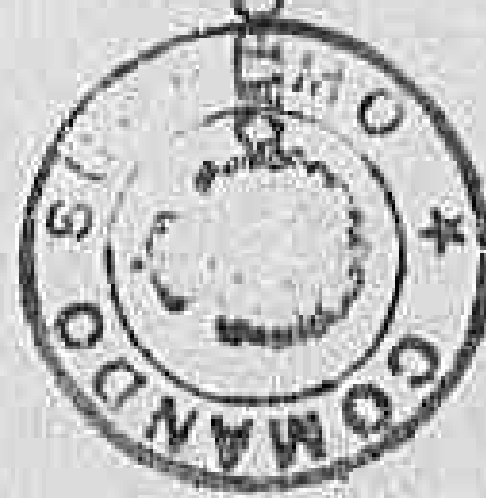
N. 10942 / Cp. di prot.

O G G E T T O : Rimpatrio p.g. italiani ammalati o feriti.

Lo sbarco a Taranto di p.g. italiani ammalati o feriti comporta notevoli difficoltà per la loro ospedalizzazione perchè la scarse risorse ospedaliere locali ne rendono necessario il successivo smistamento a Bari.

In considerazione di quanto sopra, nonché della maggiore attrezzatura sanitaria per lo sgombrò delle navi ospedale e della maggior possibilità di pronta ospedalizzazione di Bari rispetto a Taranto, sarebbe opportuno fissare come porto di sbarco delle navi ospedaliere Bari anzichè Taranto.

Sarà grato se verranno provocate disposizioni in tale senso.



IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe)

P.M. 141, 4 febbraio 1944

Subject:- Italian military personnel from enemy occupied ITALY

Ministry of War

Copy to:- HQ, AMI

S. M. E.

Adv HQ Army Sub Commission, SALERNO

Army Sub Comm. LO, Naples

5 Army

8 Army

Army Sub Commission, ACC

Main HQ (MILA)

Leguile (Lecce)

G/19

3 June 44

HQ, ACC

Army Sub Comm, LO

1 District

2 District

3 District

5 Corps HQ

1. The following categories of Italian military personnel may fall into our hands as a result of successful operations:-

- (a) Men in uniform who are being treated initially as enemy prisoners of war in the ordinary way.
- (b) Men who claim to have been serving soldiers, to have evaded (or even to have actively opposed) German authority, and who wish to rejoin the Italian Army.
- (c) Men of military age, liable to service in the Italian Army but who do not voluntarily come forward.

The numbers in categories (b) and (c) are not likely to be large, especially in the early stages, as most of the able bodied men will probably have been deported by the Germans.

2. Category (b) are being evacuated along normal refugee channels to the refugee camps at present at FOGGIA and AVERSA. The Ministry of War will at once attach representatives to these camps to assist in investigating and checking their statements, and will arrange transfer to appropriate Italian Army Depots those accepted for service in the army.

3. Category (c) will be dealt with in due course by the normal Italian Army administrative organisation. Deserters or absentees will be apprehended and dealt with by Italian Military Courts. Those liable for military service will be called up by classes in the normal way.

4. Although the reorganisation of these men, particularly in newly liberated territories, will take some time, their inclusion in the Italian Army may tend temporarily to raise its strength above that which has been authorised unless an adjustment is made by demobilisation of older age groups. The Ministry of War will control this and will make timely recommendations to MILA so as to keep strength within the approved ceiling and ensure that young men of military age do not avoid service while older soldiers are retained.

4373

Asc/1. (36)

(F)

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4373

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5. In fairness to the returning personnel and to give more time for re-adjustment in units, the Ministry of War will authorise leave of absence of from 14 to 28 days duration (depending on travelling time) to men who have relatives or homes in liberated territory as soon as adequate documentation and means to ensure their punctual return have been effected.

6. In giving detailed orders to effect this, the Ministry of War will ensure that men are not amassed at depots to the detriment of working units. As far as possible, numbers for discharge from units concerned should be selected in advance. Replacements should be assigned to these units before being granted leave from refugee camps and ordered to report at to their units at the end of their leave. The corresponding number of men should then be immediately discharged.

6 June 44 File 1

2/.....

-2-

7. A copy of orders issued by Ministry of War to give effect to the above directive will be sent to IMA.

WP/cc

*L. Br...*Maj Gen
Army Sub Comm, AOC

ARMY SUB COMMISSION,
REAR HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED OFFICER COMMISSION.
APO 394.

ASC/1.

(35)

26 May 1944

MINUTES OF A MEETING WITH GENERAL DUPINO, DEPUTY
CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR P.W. AND MAJOR CAMPBELL,
ARMY SUB COMMISSION.

THE MAIN POINTS RAISED WERE:

Letter Refs

Orig BSto DCC 27 May 5/17

39 Ld dated
1 April 44

1.

Could a reply now be given to a letter which requested the assignment of Italian Officers P.W. to Troops P.W. Camps in Egypt. I explained that a decision has not yet been given and General Dupino asked if I could press for an answer.

NOTE:

May I be informed of the action you wish me to take in regard to this question?

69 POL dated
14 April 44

2.

Could any information be given regarding the question raised in letter - Subj: "Italian P.W. in the hands of the French"? I explained that the Chief Commissioner had taken action on this question.

116 POL dated
1 May 44

3.

Could a reply be given regarding records of P.W. asked for from the British and American Governments? The information was urgently required, as their only records were in Rome. What they required was the approximate numbers held in the different countries such as America, India, North Africa, etc.

NOTE:

The original letter was passed to the DCC with a note from this office, on 6 May.

4.

Complaints from the repatriated P.W. (including senior officers) that money held for and due to them at P.W. Camps was not returned or given to them on leaving the camp. General Dupino expressed the opinion that this was a shocking business and created a very bad impression on the released prisoners, and was the cause of great discontent. I requested General Dupino to report on this matter in writing, citing definite cases for investigation.

92 POL dated
Not known

A letter has been sent to the AGO regarding P.W. who have been Colonial Officials and who were not being treated according to their positions. I informed General Dupino that the Political Section was handling his questions.

NOTE:

I have spoken to the Political Section regarding the matter.

Minutes of a meeting with General Dupino, etc. (Contd).

(34)

6. A request was made for any information I could give regarding the repatriation of the 25 P.W. named in the first list. The High Commissioner thought that sufficient time has elapsed for them to have arrived in Italy. I suggested that distance was the cause of the delay.

NOTE: I suggest we ask AFHQ for information and will draft a letter if you agree.

7. Question of P.W. in Sicily. Could the Italian Hqs. in Sicily approach No 1 District direct, re the release of special P.W. in P.W. Camps in Sicily.

NOTE: AAI were asked for a decision and a reply has just been received stating that the Italian Army H.Q., Sicily, could go direct to No 1 District. This information has been passed to the High Commissioner for P.W.

8.
123 P.O. dated
2 May '44

The release of aged, wounded and sick was discussed. I stated that the question was up for consideration. Release of P.W. on compassionate grounds was also discussed. I explained the position on the basis of AFHQ's last letter stating that only cases of an outstanding nature would be considered.

I feel that General Dupino is a little depressed with what is being done re Italian P.W.

I would request that I be given a directive or have the policy re P.W. explained to me. I consider that if I am put more fully in the picture there are many minor questions which I could deal with, without worrying higher authority.

4371

ADJUTANT SUB COMMISSION,
REAR HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.

26 May 1944.

MINUTES OF A MEETING WITH GENERAL DUPINO, DEPUTY
HEAD COMMISSIONER FOR P.W. AND MAJOR CAMPBELL,
ADJUTANT SUB COMMISSION.

THE MAIN POINTS RAISED WERE:

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1. 39 Ld dated
1 Apr. 1944.
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NOTE: May I be informed of the action you wish me to take in regard to this question?
2. 62 POL dated
14 April 1944.
Could any information be given regarding the question raised in letter - Subj: "Italian P.W. in the hands of the French"? I explained that the Chief Commissioner had taken action on this question.
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1 May, 1944.
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NOTE: The original letter was passed to the DCC with a note from this office, on 8 May.
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NOTE: I have spoken to the Political Section regarding the matter.

Minutes of a meeting with General Dupino, etc. (Contd).

(32)

Letter Ref.

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I would request that I be given a directive or have the policy re P.W. explained to me. I consider that if I am put more fully in the picture there are many minor questions which I could deal with, without worrying higher authority.

123 POL dated
2 May, 1944.

43696

OF SUB-COMMISSION,
REAR H.Q., ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

(31)

TO :- High Commissioner for P.O.W., Cava.

ASC/1/11

SUBJECT :- Release of Italian P.O.W.

26 May, 1944.

1. Ref our conversation regarding the method of approach to the District Commander of No 1 District for the release of P.W.'s in SICILY.
2. I have now received a reply from H.Q., A.A.I., stating that requests for services of Italian P.W. can be made direct to Commander, 1 District, by H.Q. Italian Army H.Q., SICILY.

JAC

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Major,
Army Sub-Commission.

File

ASC/1

4368

Subject: Release Italian PW

HQ. THE ARMY IN ITALY

AAI/3072/A(0)

23 May 44

(30)

Adv HQ Army Sub Commission,
Rear HQ Allied Control Commission,
SALERNO

With reference to your ASC/1/8 dated 18 May 44.

It is considered that a request for services of an Italian PW by Italian Army HQ, SICILY, shall be communicated direct to Comd, 1 District, who has the necessary authority to deal with such cases.

Adler
for *Adler* Captain,
4367

GGE/JMH

Copy to: HQ 1 Dist with copy of ASC/1/8 dated 18 May 44.

25 May 44. File 1.

ARMY SUB COMMISSION,
ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS,
RUSAR H.Q., ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

TO :- H.Q., A.A.I.

ASG/1/8

SUBJECT :- Release of Italian P.O.W.

18 MAY, 1944.

1. Reference para 4, your letter AAI/3072/A(0) of 25 April, 1944.
2. Please advise whether the release mechanism may be initiated and predicated upon a request for services of an Italian P.O.W. by Italian Army H.Q., Sicily, communicated directly to Commander 1 District; or must the request to Allied Authorities emanate from the Central Italian Government (e.g. High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, Commando Supremo, or Ministry of War) and be communicated through Allied Control Commission channels to Commander 1 District.

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Major, H.L.I.
O i/o Adv. H.Q.
Army Sub-Commission.

B/E

4366

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

QB436

15 May 1944

SUBJECT: Release of Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : High Commissary for Prisoners of War, Cava dei Tirreni.

Following herewith is the text of the Allied Armies in Italy, Headquarters letter No. AAI/3072/A(c) dated 25 April:

1. Application for release of individual Italian prisoners of war on other than strong medical or compassionate grounds will no longer be considered, except in SICILY (see para 4 below). All prisoners of war will be so informed.
2. The authority to release Italian prisoners of war on strong medical or compassionate grounds is hereby delegated to Commanders of Districts. Applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by strong supporting evidence to justify release. Authority will not be given until G.S.I.'s approval has been obtained.
3. The power to grant release will be exercised in such a way that Italian prisoners of war are not afforded more favourable treatment than British and American soldiers, serving in the theatre, receive under parallel circumstances.
4. The release of Italian prisoners of war in SICILY may be authorised by Commander 1 District where the services of the prisoners of war concerned are specifically asked for by HQ. Allied Control Commission, or the Allied or Italian Military Authorities.
5. In all cases where release is authorised, a copy of the authorisation will be despatched to the 2nd Echelon, BNAF.
6. A nominal return of releases during the previous month will be forwarded to reach this Headquarters by the 4th day of the month following.

7. Prisoners of war on release, revert to the status of Italian soldiers. They must therefore, upon release, be handed over to the Italian Military Authorities. In cases of release on compassionate grounds or on account of ill-health, Italian Military Authorities will take such action as is necessary as regards leave, discharge, etc.

In cases where release is granted at request of HQ. Allied Control Commission or Allied Military Authority, the authority requesting release will be responsible for arranging with Italian Military Authorities for discharge, and will ensure that personnel so discharged are in fact employed on the particular duties for which their release from prisoner of war status was granted."

Sa. G.

Major

(J. A. CAMPBELL)
Army Sub-Commission
Advanced Headquarters

4364

SUBJECT:- Release of PW

HQ, ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

5-2787

CONFIDENTIAL

AAI/1472/1/GSI(b)

17 MAY 44

Army Sub-Commission,
A.C.C. Rear HQ.

1. It is agreed that a security check of Italian ex-PW entering ITALY should be made only in the case of colonels and above.
2. Names should be passed to the Comando Supremo for action taken by S.I.M.

JTF

Shaw Capt
for Brigadier,
B.G.S.(I).



18 May 44.
File

4363

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
.....

Q8419

10 May 1944

SUBJECT: Release of PW.

TO : GSI(b), Allied Armies in Italy.

25 April. Reference A.A.I. letter No. AAI/3072/A(c) of

In view of your AAI/1472/1/GSI(b) of 5 May addressed Security Branch, A.C.C., please state if para 2 (last sentence) of A.A.I. letter should be considered as applying to officers of the rank of Colonel and above.

Please note that matters concerning repatriation of PW are dealt with by this office and not with the Main Hq. Army Sub-Commission (ex-MMIA).

It is assumed that as far as Security check of PW of entry into ITALY is concerned, that nothing beyond the above is required.

From para 2 of your letter above mentioned it is not clear whether names should be passed to your office or to the Comando Supremo. In the latter case it is assumed that S.I.M. is indicated.

Lt. Col.

(G. W. QUINSMITH)
Army Sub-Commission
Advanced Headquarters

QS/mms

4362

CB347

1 May 1944

(23)

SUBJECT: Release of PW.

TO : Administrative Sec., Navy Sub-Commission.

(466)

Reference attached copy letter No. AAI/3072/A(o)
of 26 April.

It is to be noted that policy for PW in ITALY has now been issued by A.A.I. Apart from medical and compassionate cases, it gives GOC No. 1 District power to authorize discharge or leave for PW in SICILY only. It appears therefore that no special case will be necessary to obtain officials who are PW in SICILY beyond a normal application which this office can deal with if it is passed to us. The A.A.I. letter does not appear to legislate for PW other than those in ITALY. Although it is believed that the same proviso is being observed in A.F.H.Q. in regard to release on medical grounds, it follows that the release of PW, ex-ITALY can only be obtained as heretofore have special application by the Chief Commissioner.

Lt. Col.

Copy to:

Army Sub-Comm. A.C.C. Main HQ.
(MIA) LERUILE (LECCE), for info.

4361

1 May 1944

PRECIS

(28)

Release of PW (in ITALY?) issued by AAI in their letter No. AAI/3072/A(o) of 25 April.

1. No application except on strong medical or compassionate grounds to be considered. All concerned to be told incl. PW.

This limitation does not apply SICILY.

2. On medical or compassionate grounds, District Commanders can authorize:

a. Evidence must justify action.

b. GBI must 1st agree.

c. Principle to be observed that Italians don't get better treatment than Allies in similar circumstances.

3. SICILY: Any asked for by Allied (or ACC) or Italian be authorized by 1 District Commander.

a. GHQ 2 Ech. to be told.

b. AAI must be told.

4. Released PW revert to Italian Army. If medical or compassionate cases, Italian Army will act accordingly regarding leave or discharge.

ND Where Allies or ACC ask for release, they will be responsible for arranging discharge by Italian Army and that PW are used as in the application for release.

4360

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Q3/nms

Q3348

1 May 1944

SUBJECT: Release of PW.

TO : Secretary General, Main HQ. A.C.C., NAPLES.

The attached precis of an A.A.I. letter on policy for PW is passed to you for information of the Chief Commissioner. It does not appear to affect PW ex-ITALY and the Islands who presumably will only be released as heretofore as special cases as result of application by Chief Commissioner.

Lt. Col.

(G. W. QUINSMITH)
Army Sub-Commission
Advanced HeadquartersCopy to:
RG & MG Sec., Naples.

1 Incl. as above.

2/5/44 - upon orders of Capt Collins, in name of
Paul MacFarlane, (phone), copy of doc itself was
forwarded - J. L. M.

4359

SUBJECT:- Release of Italian POW.

Headquarters
Allied Armies in ITALY

RESTRICTED

AAI/14/2/1/GI(b)

15 May 44.

Adv HQ, Army Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

Ref your QS 419 dated 10 May 44.

1. Your para 1. Please see attache d letter which answers this query.
2. Your para 2. Noted.
3. Your para 3. Agreed.
4. Your para 4. Names should be passed to S.I.M., Commando Supremo.

W.J. Gibson. Lt-Col

for Brigadier,
B.G.S.(I).

4358

(20)

SUBJECT: Release of Italian POW.Headquarters
Allied Armies in ITALYRESTRICTED

AAI/1472/1/GI(b)

5069

15 May 44.

G.S.I. No. 1 District
G.S.I. No. 2 District
G.S.I. No. 3 District

Ref this HQ instruction AAI/3072/A(c) dated 25 Apr 44.

1. Para 2 of the above instruction lays down that "authority (for release of Italian POW) will not be given until G.S.I.'s approval has been obtained".
2. The following security principles will be followed in this connection:
 - (a) In the case of Colonels and above, their names will be checked with Comando Supremo, unless HQ's Districts have positive information to the detriment of the officers concerned which renders such consultation unnecessary.
 - (b) In the case of O.R.s and officers of junior rank, such a check would be unlikely to prove effective or worth-while; in such cases it is considered adequate that the personnel concerned should be briefly interrogated by FSP at the POW Camp, if circumstances permit.

W. D. Gilman, Lt Col
Brigadier,
B.G.S.(I).

4357

Copy To:- Adv HQ, Army Sub-Commission, A.C.C.
G-2 P.E.S.
A Branch

Adv Army SC (Lead HQ)
U 9231 *(19)*

SUBJECT:- Release of Italian Prisoners of War

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/3072/A(O)

28 MAY 44.

HQ 1 District
 HQ 2 District
 HQ 3 District

Reference AAI/3072/A(O) dated 25 Apr 44.

1. The following supplementary instructions are issued in amplification of the above-quoted letter:-

(a) On the release of a PW AF W 3000 Pt I, and AF W 3488 (in duplicate should be forwarded to GHQ 2nd Echelon. All entries on AF W 3488 must be signed by the PW who should be given a certificate of his state of account.

(b) The release should be reported on AF W 3011A or AF W 3034 in the case of parolemen and on AF W 3002 in the case of non-parolemen. The authority for release should be clearly stated in each case.

(c) If the PW to be released has a claim for impounded personal effects, particulars of the claim should be forwarded to GHQ 2nd Echelon in order that any effects there may be despatched to the releasing unit for the PW. Where there is an application for release any claim for personal effects should be forwarded to GHQ 2nd Echelon at once, so that, if possible, the matter can be settled by the time the application is granted.

AT/RAF.

W.D. Ste, Major
 Major-General,
 Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to:- GI Br, ANHQ
 GHQ 2nd Echelon.
 HQ Allied Control Commission
 Army Sub-Commission/ACC
 G31 (b) HQ AAI
 GI (American)

4356

(F)

RECEIVED ADI SEC

29 APR P.M.

SUBJECT: Release of Italian Prisoners of War.

H.Q. ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
AAI/3072/A(O).HQ 1 District
HQ 2 District
HQ 3 District

28 APR 1944

A. C. C.

25 APR 44

25 APR

3690

4771

1. Application for release of individual Italian Prisoners of War on other than strong medical or compassionate grounds will no longer be considered, except in SICILY (see para A below). All POW will be so informed.

2. The authority to release Italian POW on strong medical or compassionate grounds is hereby delegated to Commanders of Districts. Applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by strong supporting evidence to justify release. Authority will not be given until G.S.I.'s approval has been obtained.

3. The power to grant release will be exercised in such a way that Italian POW are not afforded more favourable treatment than British and American soldiers, serving in the theatre, receive under parallel circumstances.

4. The release of Italian POW in SICILY may be authorised by Commander 1 District where the services of the POW concerned are specifically asked for by HQ Allied Control Commission, or the Allied or Italian Military Authorities.

5. In all cases where release is authorised, a copy of the authorisation will be despatched to GHQ 2nd Echelon, ENAF.

6. A nominal return of releases during the previous month will be forwarded to reach this Headquarters by the 4th day of the month following.

7. POW on release, revert to the status of Italian soldiers. They must therefore, upon release, be handed over to the Italian Military Authorities. In cases of release on compassionate grounds or on account of ill-health, Italian Military Authorities will take such action as is necessary as regards leave, discharge etc.

In cases where release is granted at request of HQ Allied Control Commission or Allied Military Authority, the authority requesting release will be responsible for arranging with Italian Military Authorities for discharge, and will ensure that personnel so discharged are in fact employed on the particular duties for which their release from PW

Adm Group (C) (R) HQ
U-5639

Applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by strong supporting evidence to justify release. Authority will not be given until G.S.I.'s approval has been obtained.

3. The power to grant release will be exercised in such a way that Italian PSW are afforded more favourable treatment than British and American soldiers, serving in the theatre, receive under parallel circumstances.
4. The release of Italian PSW in SICILY may be authorised by Commander 1 District where the services of the PSW concerned are specifically asked for by HQ Allied Control Commission, or the Allied or Italian Military Authorities.
5. In all cases where release is authorised, a copy of the authorisation will be despatched to CHQ 2nd Echelon. ENAF.
6. A nominal return of releases during the previous month will be forwarded to reach this Headquarters by the 4th day of the month following.
7. PSW on release, revert to the status of Italian soldiers. They must therefore, upon release, be handed over to the Italian Military Authorities. In cases of release on compassionate grounds or on account of ill-health, Italian Military Authorities will take such action as is necessary as regards leave, discharge etc. **435**

In cases where release is granted at request of HQ Allied Control Commission or Allied Military Authority, the authority requesting release will be responsible for arranging with Italian Military Authorities for discharge, and will ensure that personnel so discharged are in fact employed on the particular duties for which their release from PW status was granted.

GCE/JLR

Copy to G1 Br, AFHQ.
CHQ 2nd Echelon.
HQ Allied Control Commission.
ARMY Sub-Commission/ACC
GSI (b) HQ AAI.
G1 (American)
C.G., P.B.S.

Green
Major General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Note American

1. Daily will advise release. But H.C. Officer etc. have District & the only 1 in of day has general powers release.
2. who addresses to H.A. Africa etc

Tell Doc

COPY

SUBJECT: Release of Italian POW.Headquarters
Allied Armies in ItalyRESTRICTEDAAI/1472/1/G1(b)15 MAY 1944.C.S.I. No. 1 District.
C.S.I. No. 2 District.
C.S.I. No. 3 District.

Ref this HQ instruction AAI/3072/A(0) dated 25 April 44.

1. Para 2 of the above instruction lays down that "authority (for release of Italian POW) will not be given until C.S.I.'s approval has been obtained."
2. The following security principles will be followed in this connection:

(a) In the case of Colonels and above, their names will be checked with Comando Supremo, unless H.Q.'s Districts have positive information to the detriment of the officers concerned which renders such consultation unnecessary.

(b) In the case of C.Rs and officers of junior rank, such a check would be unlikely to prove effective or worth-while; in such cases it is considered adequate that the personnel concerned should be briefly interrogated by PSP at the POW Camp if circumstances permit.

/s/ W.D. GIBSON
Lt. Colonel,
for Brigadier,
B.G.S.(I).

Copy to:- Adv H.Q., Army Sub-Commission, A.C.C.
G-2 P.H.S.
A Branch.

4354

256-293

18 MAR 1944

EWS/hjp

(13)

DCC 614.33

18 May 1944

Dear General Dapino:

It has just come to my attention that acknowledgement was not made of General Gazzera's letter N. 123 Pol of 2 May 1944, relative to the repatriation of prisoners of war for humanitarian reasons. The delay was due to the fact that the officer representing the Army Sub-Commission at this headquarters has been assigned to another status and a new officer has taken over.

The proposals contained in the letter are receiving consideration.

Yours truly,

MILERY W. STONE
Captain, USMR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

General Vincenzo Dapino
The High Commissioner for PW
Cava Dei Tirreni

4353

cc: Army Sub-Commission ✓

ASC/1.

19 May 44.
File to 1.

TRANSLATION

Supreme Command

P. M. 151, 29 April 1944

The Chief of H. M. Generals

File No. 12732/OP

Dear Commander Stone,

I am most grateful to General MacFarlane and to you for having recommended the next repatriation of prisoners of war contained in the second list submitted by the Supreme Command.

Most cordially yours,

/s/ Messe

Captain Ellery W. Stone,
Deputy Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

Trans/DSG/ajp.

4352

FILE ①

FILE ①.

DCC 014.33

21 April 1944

To: General MacFarlane

While all of the prisoners on the Comando Supremo's first list have not been repatriated due to the fact that many of them are in camps in U.K., U.S., and India, enough progress has been made, I think, to warrant your forwarding the second list at this time which is attached to this memorandum.

1 Incl:
POW List #2

E.W.S.

To: Col. Quin-Smith, Army Sub-Commission

Your QS 269 refers.

folio 2 att.

4351
ELPHRY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Q42

784

19 April 1944

(10)

SUBJECT: Repatriation of PW - Priority Lists.

TO : Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Further to my memo Q8269 dated 18 April 1944.

I have been referring again to A.F.H.Q.'s signal of the 28th January (No. 42781) wherein the previous "liberal policy" in regard to the return of PW was rescinded. This signal inferred that the sole reason for holding Italian PW who had NOT been formed into service units was owing to Allied man-power shortage and the consequent necessity of forming further service units. From this it is difficult to understand how the retention of General officers and full Colonels who are only required to command and staff formation, can be justified. In fact the policy which now seems to have been adopted for a gradual return of certain classes of PW makes it appear that there never was the intention to hold the most senior officers.

Further, by now it seems possible that the Allies have decided on what service units they really require for the prosecution of the war in this theatre and that they therefore are more certain of which officers they require and which they do not.

After a recent talk with General INFANTE, I have suggested to the Adm. Sec. that they put up for consideration a list of PW that Ministries other than the Armed Forces require to be repatriated. It is considered that a fairer distribution of demand according to the civil value of PW, some of whom are comparatively junior rank will thus be obtained.

LT. Col.

4350

QS 269

18 April 1944

SUBJECT: Repatriation of PW - Priority Lists.

TO : Deputy Chief Commissioner.

The matter of priority lists of PW has now been definitely cleared up with the Comando Supremo. List No. 2 attached, therefore, represents the next to be considered by A.C.C.. It is assumed that the C.C. will forward it to A.F.H.Q. under a cover similar to that of his letter of 26th Feb.

It has also been arranged that, owing to the fact that fresh information about PW is constantly coming in to the Comando Supremo, they will compose and forward the 3rd and subsequent lists as and when we require them and not before.

In the past some confusion has arisen owing to the fact that the Ministry of War were the authors of the 1st six lists supplied. Comando Supremo now emphasise that in the future they themselves will do all correlation of Services lists so that in regard to PW required for the Armed Forces, they will be the only authority.

Lt. Col.

1 incl as above.

4349

12/11/44

In reply refer to: MS 383.6

4 February 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of war.

TO : His Excellency Marshal of Italy Messe,
Chief of the Supreme General Staff.

Your Excellency:

The Commission has been investigating the possibility of an early return of certain Italian Prisoners of war.

From the last list forwarded by General Reesi on 25 January, the names in the first category have been examined. It is however, regretted that this list contains too many names for immediate action to be taken. Will you please, therefore, select about 25 names of officers urgently required for duty in Italy, Sicily or Sardinia and forward the list as soon as possible.

In order that further representations may be made, a series of lists of similar length should be prepared covering the remaining officers in the first category. It is considered you might like to take this opportunity of revising the names previously submitted.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

C. C. Hughes
Brig.
(C. C. HUGHES)

4348

DE/G/32.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Office of the Deputy President
APO 394

Brig. Duchesne
Will you pls
handle this with
The Marshal?

31st. January, 1944.

To: Captain Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.,
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,
BRINDISI.

1. Reference the list of Italian P.O.W. Officers in the first category of priority to be returned to Italy, (forwarded to you by Lieut-Colonel Quin Smith and sent on by you to me). This list is altogether too long for me to hope to press with success for the immediate return to Italy of the Officers named in it.
2. I suggest that Brigadier Duchesne should ask Marshal Messe to let him have to start with a list of approximately 25 Officers in order of priority definitely and urgently required by Marshal Messe for duty in Italy, Sicily or Sardinia with the Italian army. I think that with any luck I will be able to get most, if not all, of a short list of this size returned to Italy reasonably quickly. Having succeeded with one short list I would then be prepared to submit another one. If, therefore, Marshal Messe likes to give me three or four similar short lists in every case in order of priority I would automatically set to work to do my best to get them repatriated list by list.
3. Please ask Brigadier Duchesne to get on with this right away.

Not for [Signature]
Lieutenant-General,
Deputy President.

(17)

(2)
Account [unclear] from [unclear]
[unclear]

U. S. SECRET

Equals British SECRET

CONTROL COMMISSION

30 JAN 1944

MESSAGE /msr

XTC/RELAY NO. 814

CLASS: SECRET

PREC: ROUTINE

FROM: PBS (FARGO) CITE FARGO 581

TO: AFHQ FOR ACTION RPTD HQ ACMT, FLAMBO, FATIMA REAR FOR DUCHESNE FOR INFO

M/C NO: 30/29

REF NO: 6663

FILED: Jan 291211A

REC'D: Jan 292215A

With reference your 42781 FHCT. Marshal Messe has again urged very strongly that a limited number of Italian officers PW might be returned to Italy as he requires them very badly to replace certain unsatisfactory commanders and staff officers. In my opinion the provision of a selected few Italian PW officers would undoubtedly help considerably in the reorganization of the Italian Army. I propose shortly to submit a fresh application for a limited number of Italian PW officers by name and hope that it may found possible to release them.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Brig Duchesne INFO

4346

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

15

12

U. S. SECRET

ALLIED

CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING

MESSAGE

/dfe

(5)

SVC/RELAY NO.

M/C NO : 24/4

CLASS: SECRET

REF NO: 47235

PREC : ROUTINE

FILED : FEB 04 1433A

FROM : FREEDOM SIGNED CIND. CITE FREGOT

REC'D : FEB 04 2211A

TO : ACTION PENBASE (FARGO) HPTD AOMF, FLAMBO, FATIMA REAR
FOR DUCHESNE FOR INFORMATION

FEB 4

Ref your PRS 6663 of 29 Jan. Policy stated our 42781 of 25 Jan not
to Penbase (Fargo) remains in effect. Such requests from Italian Government
should be discouraged. (i.e. for return of selected officers POW)

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Brig. Duchesne - INFO

987.6

L. G. Ours Smith

Put up a letter to Gen Herson Mafelone
pointing out that 42781 referred to Italian
POW now in service units. And about
in appendix copies of 42781 581 c 47235

4345

in appendix
attached

6/4
CL

More wants generals & top officers
M. Africa wants big leaders etc
Simply they can't get what
they want?

(18)

U. S. SECRET

Equivalent British SECRET

U. S. SECRET COPY/hd
 Equals British SECRET

25 Jan 1944
 2738

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE /hd (4)

SVC/RELAY NO.

M/C NO : 33/25

CLASS: SECRET

REF NO: 42781

PREC : OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

FILED : JAN 251506A

FROM : FREEDOM SIGNED CINC CITE FHGCT

REC'D : JAN 251713A

TO : ACTION HQ ACMF, REPT FATIMA, FLAMBO FOR INFO

JAN 25

Refer to our 30217 of 17 Jan and paragraph 9 of Letter AG 400-1 (Italy)
 GCT-AMG, subject "Disposal of Italian Army" dated 2 Jan. As a matter of policy
 it is impractical to release any Italian PW, either officers or men, now in
 (7) service units, and such requests from the Italian Government should be discouraged.
 Above letter should be amended accordingly. Instructions have been issued to hold
 all Italian prisoners not formed into service units now in order that their form-
 ation into such units may be considered. The above is due to manpower shortage
 necessitating the utilization of these PW to replace US and British service units
 for the duration of the war in this Theater.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Colonel Fiske - INFO
- 1 - Chief of Staff - INFO
- 1 - Deputy President

*Difficult to find
 for studies - retention
 General*

(1)
 434

(5)

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

INCOMING

/are (3)

SECRET

ROUTINE

FREEDOM SIGNED CG NATOUNA

CG PERHASE HMC AND CG IBL BASE SEC FOR ACTION; TO ACMP AND EXTEMA
 FOR INFO

3/27

43454

Jan 261941A

Jan 270120A

In furtherance policy expressed during 3489 dated 5 October 1943 author-
 ized is release or parole of Italian prisoners war with permanent disease or
 injury not requiring hospitalization or who are old and infirm and of no fur-
 ther value to Allied war effort. This policy includes Italian prisoners war
 interned in Allied occupied Italy whose homes are in Sicily and Italian prisoners
 war who are interned in Sicily whose homes are in Allied occupied Italy, provided
 each are screened secure by G-2 of Base, approval of transfer of each case is
 obtained from Allied Central Mediterranean Force and transportation is avail-
 able. Final payrolls will be prepared and individual records forwarded to HMC
 Natouna with final statement.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Col Fiske - INFO

1 cys

434

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

INCOMING

/mip

(2)

18/10

SECRET

3489

ROUTINE

OCT 051532A

FREEDOM

OCT 101806A

FATIMA

Policy following will be applied with respect to Italian Prisoners of War: Those in Italy and Sicily may be released, paroled, or detained at your discretion depending solely on which status they will be of most value to the war effort. It is most important that the number released be kept small each case being fully justified by essential war requirements. Those who are Fascists or members of the Mafia and non-cooperatives should be segregated, retained as Prisoners of war and eventually evacuated to North Africa. Reference your 381, 28 September. Para. Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa will not, except in special cases, be released from their status as Prisoners of War. The special cases will be volunteers for special missions and will be a very small proportion of the total number of Prisoners; such personnel may be released or paroled. Of the remainder, those who agree to aid the Allied war effort will be employed in activities which further the war effort in units organized under their own officers and non-coms ⁴³⁴ as Prisoners of War laborers and will be accorded liberties in accordance with instructions shortly to be issued. They will, however, be maintained, housed, clothed, and fed in Allied camps and be paid at rates provided under the Geneva Convention for all labor performed. Those who will not agree to aid the Allied war effort will be segregated and retained in Prisoner of War camps under guard with a view to eventual evacuation from the Theater. (To CG 15TH ARMY GROUP action to CG FATIMA, 7ARMY and NO. 1 DISTRICT information cite FHGAB cite FHGBI cite FHGCT signed CINC). No publicity to be given on this matter.

Army *Gen Comm 0*

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394



Ref/154/36/CA

SUBJECT: Release of Prisoners of War.

TO : Distribution below.

10 May 1944

4980

Executive Memorandum No. 31

10 MAY

1. The above memorandum is shortly to be replaced by a memorandum now in draft embodying more recent instructions.
2. It should therefore be regarded as cancelled and any application for release in hand will be held until the publication of the new instructions.
3. Please inform all recipients.

MF - WIP

neither AG nor Admin Sec. has it; yet Maj. White (Admin.) said last week that those lists from Region I were forwarded to various sections for disposition, as per previous standard procedure.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

4341

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" Less Group 3

Also of note is fact that I understand Pub. Safety is deep in PW subject, one of its chief interests at present being a PW (Ital.) Camp. J.L.M.

AXC/1.

(N)

0 5 8 2