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

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I.P.O.W / 1.

REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN PRISONERS
OF WAR - GENERAL POLICY

4425
4560

MAY - SEPT. 1944

COVER 2

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

22 September 1944

File No. 6973/M/I/O/2/B

To: A.C.C.

R O M E

Subject: 2nd Lt. Roberto CARDANO.

2nd Lt. Roberto CARDANO, Italian officer and PW, was assigned to a group of Italian PW workers, which travelled through Naples in July or in the first days of August 1944. The above was given permission to visit his family, and, after leaving his unit, escaped and did not return to it.

A few days later the unit embarked.

The Allied Police, having been entrusted with this case, arrested CARDANO and handed him over to the Military Command of Campania, which released him and intends to clarify his situation and to assign him to one of its units.

The A.C.C. knows, that the provisions of the Geneva Convention recognize not only the right of the PW to escape for the purpose of joining his own national armed forces, but also assert that he is not to be called to task after a successful escape and after having already joined the above mentioned forces. This means that, because of his reentrance into the ranks, the PW ceases immediately to be considered as such and, therefore, is no longer subjected to the authority of the Detaining Power nor is he any longer limited in his actions by the provisions of the Geneva Convention; he also can neither be considered still under the rule of the first, nor dependent upon the second, provided that he has not been captured again in battle.

It seems, therefore, to the Italian Authorities, that 2nd Lt. CARDANO, having returned to the jurisdiction of Italian Authorities (Military Command of Campania), which has disposed of his case as it has seen fit, could not be arrested again by the Allied Police, which has assigned him to these Authorities. Because of this very fact, 2nd Lt. CARDANO ceased to be a PW and, therefore, could not become such again as a result of his second arrest.

I beg to point out the fact that the second arrest of the above and his transfer to an internment camp, so that he may be sent to Algeria, is certainly prejudicial from a moral and material standpoint.

The Italian Authorities, therefore, will be grateful to the A.C.C. if it will kindly investigate to which internment camp Lt. CARDANO has been sent. If possible, an order may be given that he be released and put at the disposal of the Military Command of Campania even though unfortunately he be sent to Algeria.

The High Commissioner
s/ General Pietro Gazzera

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

1/199
IPW/199

30 September 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 612.

Subject: Italian General Officers PW in India.

- Encl- 181*
- 1/. The attached copy of letter No. 894/Pol/C.2 dated 3 September 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.
 - 2/. May the subject matter of the letter have your attention please?

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

Jac

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Encl.
Ltr. No. 894/Pol/C.2.

4559

A/CC 383.6

30 September 1944

SUBJECT: Apprehension of escaped Italian Ps.W. (Co-operators)

TO : Chief of Staff,
Allied Force Headquarters

The attached translation of letter No. 6973/U/I/C/2/B dated 22 September 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

1. The case referred to brings up the question of what is the policy with regard to Italian Prisoners of War from co-operator units who proceed on leave, or absent themselves from the unit to which they are attached and do not return.
2. It is pointed out that the question of the Italian Government handing over; or helping in any way in the arrest of an Italian Prisoner of War who has absented himself and who claims he has escaped, opens up all sorts of political questions, and of course leaves the Italian Government open to attacks in the Press and elsewhere.
3. The question of the import into Italy of considerable numbers of Italian Prisoners of War was referred to this Headquarters by Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy in their letter No. AAI/3072/A(O) dated 4 July 1944, to which I replied by letters ABC/1/101 dated 16 July 1944 and A/CC 383.6 dated 18 July 1944 - (copies of correspondence attached.)
4. Since writing the letters above referred to, I have received no instructions which set out the policy to be adopted, or any information which I could pass to the Italian Government showing the action contemplated with regard to the reclaiming of Italian Prisoners of War who absented themselves or refused to return to the units with which they had been working.
5. A clear statement or directive on this question is requested.

Drafted by

WMD&IPW Sub-Com.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

4558

*Orig. dispatched &
2 copies given to Secy Staff.**File 1*

C O P Y

A/CC 383.6

RWS/hjp

(198)

18 July 1944

SUBJECT: Apprehension of escaped Italian POW (Co-operators)
TO: Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy.

- 1/. This in reply to your letter of 4 July, AAI/3072/A (o) on the above subject.
- 2/. This subject and the copies of letters forwarded with your letter were discussed with the Supreme Allied Commander at AFHQ Adv on July 11th.
- 3/. I recommended that the 10,000 POW should not be sent to Italy because of the grave political questions which it would raise. The subject was discussed on July 12th by the Supreme Allied Commander and the Head of MMIA.
- 4/. It is my understanding that as a result of these discussions it is now planned to bring these 10,000 POW to Italy.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

S E C R E T

4557

ASC/1/101

16 July 1944

TO: Allied Armies in Italy.SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW (Co-operators)

Reference your AAI/3072/A(O) of 4 July 1944.

- 1/. It is understood that when this question was discussed with General Sir Maitland Wilson and Captain STONE a few days ago, it was decided that new instructions would be issued in regard to this matter.
- 2/. No action will now be taken until further instructions are received.

For the Chief Commissioner:

(Sgd) J.A.CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Army Sub-Commission

4556

COPYSECRET

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped
Italian POW (Co-operators). HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
AAI/3072/A(O).

4 July 44HQ, 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.

4555

COPY

SECRET

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

Army Sub Commission , A.C.C.
Main Hq (MMIA)
LEQUILE (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 do 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 155.

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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 do advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

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(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 ¹⁵⁰⁰ 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 A.C.C. I know General MAE FARLANE made many efforts to achieve a solution which failed due to factors outside his control.

tvslb

(Sgd) L. BROTNING
Major General
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

C O P Y

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped
Italian P.W. (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 and other authorities that the Italian Government can maintain the Italian Army and, therefore, the Italian Forces in ITALY.

- equivalent units of the Italian Army. On this basis, our policy must be to keep these PW units intact.
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 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.

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

TW/JD

Copy to G(SD)

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

1/197
IPW/197

30 September 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War in Egypt - Camp No. 310.

Encl- 176

- 1/. The attached translation of letter 979/Pol/C.3 dated 11 September 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.
- 2/. It is recommended that any medical personnel that can be spared should be repatriated owing to the shortage of medical officials in this country.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Encl. Ltr. 979/Pol/C.3.

4552

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/196

30 September 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Invalid Prisoners of War awaiting repatriation.

With reference to your letter No. 992/ASS dated 23 June, 1944 the following reply has now been received from General Headquarters, India.

"The reference to the camps is not understood. Camp 26 is a part of the Yol Group of Prisoners of War Camps which consists of Camps 25, 26, 27 and 28.

Perhaps the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is referring to the move of certain officers passed by the Mixed Medical Commission for repatriation from Yol to Camp 24 of the Clement Town Group of Prisoners of War Camps in December last.

The Clement Town Group has now been closed and those officers recommended for repatriation and who were fit enough to travel have either been transferred to Yol or to Camp 10 of the Bhopal Group of Prisoners of War Camps. There is not sufficient accommodation in Yol to hold them all. Those unfit to travel are still in the hospital in Clement Town where they will probably remain until repatriated.

Bhopal is not as salubrious as Yol, or Clement Town, but only those officers were selected for transfer to Bhopal whose health would not be affected by being sent there. The organisation and accommodation in Bhopal is satisfactory".

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm. 551

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6

24 September 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War - General Policy.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.
(Attention: Acting Chief Commissioner).

1. Reference is made to your letter of 28 July 1944 together with the enclosure from General GAZZERA, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, dated 22 July 1944 (File 588/POL/14/2).

2. All Italian PW's under the control of U.S. authorities, who have volunteered for and are employed in Italian Service Units are paid at the rate of 80 cents a day for each day of work (40 cents a day while hospitalized in line of duty), plus 10 cents a day gratuitous allowance to enlisted men. From this total there is deducted the amount of post exchange items issued. The resulting net monthly total is deposited to the individual's credit in the U.S. Treasury Trust Fund and entered on the individual's service record. Against this credit, a monthly cash advance is actually paid during the period of internment, on the following scale:

Major & above	2600 Lire
Captain	2400 Lire
1st Lieutenant	2200 Lire
2nd Lieutenant	2000 Lire
Sgt & NCO's above Sgt	800 Lire
Pfc and NCO's below Sgt	600 Lire
Pvt.	500 Lire

Upon the release or repatriation of a prisoner of war, a certificate is given him outlining the total amount of credit due to him. This certificate reads as follows:

'This is to certify that _____
Surname First Name Rank ISN
is a prisoner of war in custody of the United States Government from _____
to _____ has a credit
Date of capture Date of release or closing of account
balance of \$ _____

Amount in figures for the period stated, which has been deposited to his account in United States Treasury "Trust Fund 218915-Deposits, funds of civilian internees and prisoners of war", supported by approved payroll vouchers.'

In accordance with G.P.W., Art. 24, 28, 34, and 77, each liberated PW is thus furnished with the above certificate of credit. Actual deposits are being made in the United States Treasury Trust Fund. This Trust

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Fund cannot be expended for any other purpose than for which it was established. The credits and actual cash payments made as above are believed greater than corresponding ranks are paid in the Italian Army.

Since no wage scale has been fixed by agreement as noted in GPW, Art. 34, the wage scale of \$.60 daily for voluntary labor, (for supervisory labor by officers only), is considered a fair wage, compared to the wages of the Italian Army and the ratio of pay of civilian employees on the same or similar projects.

In accordance with G.P.W., Art. 23, and in addition to the pay scale outlined above, officers are paid the same amount as the Italian Government would pay them as officers in the Italian Army. All payments made on these conditions must be reimbursed at the end of hostilities by the Italian Government. Accordingly the accounts of Italian officers are credited in addition, as follows:

Major and above	\$40.00 per month
Captains	\$30.00 per month
Lieutenants	\$20.00 per month

Credits given to Italian PW's as wages for work are not reimbursable by the Italian Government and are not considered in the same light as "pay" as construed in this article. The monthly allowance of \$3.00 (10¢ per day) to each enlisted man is gratuitous and is, therefore, not reimbursable by the Italian Government.

3. The conditions of employment of PW's under the control of the U.S. authorities who have volunteered for and are employed in Italian Service Units are equal in all respects to the conditions of employment of American Service Troops. Italian PW's work six days a week, not more than 10 hours a day, on the same projects as our service troops, and their conditions of living are also exactly the same. Where facilities in the area are available, pyramidal tents and improvised cots are given to the Italian Service Unit personnel. A modified United States ration, more palatable to Italians (increased ration of starches), is furnished. Even with the shortage of critical items for recreation and athletics, it has been possible to issue sizeable quantities to Italian Service Units. Wherever possible and practicable passes have been issued.

4. Italian PW's under the control of the British authorities are paid as follows:

Credit Accounts are maintained for all PW's who receive the privilege of drawing a proportion of these credits in cash. There are facilities for the remittance of sums from credits to their dependants.

The following are the rates of pay in force for Combatant PW's

SECRETCOMBATANT OFFICERS

RANK	Monthly rate of pay to be credited			Maximum amount which may be ex- pended from pay or issued in cash for any one month.		
(1)	(2)			(3)		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Colonel	22	4	6	7	5	0
Lt. Colonel	19	8	11	6	15	0
Major	18	1	2	6	10	0
Captain	15	5	7	6	0	0
Lieutenant	13	3	11	5	10	0
2nd Lieut.	10	8	4	5	0	0

EQUIVALENT

Francs	Lire
1,450	2,900
1,350	2,700
1,300	2,600
1,200	2,400
1,100	2,200
1,000	2,000

OTHER RANKS (Weekly)

RANK	According to skill and proficiency		Proportion allowed in cash.
Warrant Officers	14/-	12/6	<u>EQUIVALENT</u> 250 Lire
NCO's Sjt & above	12/- to 13/6	11/3	225 "
NCO's below rank of Sjt.	10/6 to 9/-	8/9	175 "
Privates	10/- to 7/6	7/6	150 "

Rates of pay for protected officers are somewhat higher.

On release each PW is given a certificate of credit outstanding to his account. Under a War Office Instruction the payment of these credit balances will be the responsibility of the Italian Government. The Italian Government has agreed to immediate payment of some or all of these credits to dependents nominated by co-operators themselves (instead of to PW on release) and many have already taken advantage of this scheme.

5. Where Italian PW's are held by the British authorities their treatment is similar to that afforded British Troops, as far as possible, and in no case do working hours exceed those of British Troops. They are clothed in British uniforms and fed on a special ration scale. (The scale of the latter is not quite the same as the British Army Field Service Ration Scale, but compares more than favourably with that of the Italian Army). A free issue of cigarettes is included. Passes are granted permitting co-operators to leave quarters unescorted for recreational purposes, but in NORTH AFRICA this is subject to the concurrence of the Local French Authorities. All co-operators on Italian soil are allowed up to one sleeping pass out per week, and in addition leave periods up to seven days are granted (on full pay and rations).

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SECRET

during which men are allowed to go to their home addresses in Allied occupied ITALY. Facilities exist for recreation and for them to purchase Canteen supplies, e.g. chocolate, cigarettes, etc., in the same manner as for British Troops.

6. The Italian Government has been aware of the fact that Italian PW's have been organized in units under both U.S. and British authorities. General CASTELIANO, representing the Italian Military Mission, recently visited each of the base sections in North Africa and inspected living and working conditions of Italian Service Units and reported to Lt. General DEVERS that he was pleased with the work and accommodations given Italian PW's. The Assistant President of the Italian Red Cross recently has written, "I never thought I would find our prisoners of war in such good morale and physical condition."

C. E. / in / in / in
6-19
for CHARLES M. SPOFFORD,
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

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H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

194
IPW/1/194

30 September 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, G-1 (B).

Subject: Apprehension of escaped Italian PW Co-operator.

Reference attached correspondence.

- 1/. I have to-day written on this subject (my A/CC 383.6 dated 30 September addressed to Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters refers) and have asked for a ruling on this question.
- 2/. Meantime if you have any instructions regarding the Italian PW Caporale VERDIROSI I shall be pleased if you will let me know what they are so that I may explain the position to the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
- 192/193
✓ Re 200(a)

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

JAC
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Copy to: A.F.H.Q. (G-6).

Encls:- 1/193
and C.C.R.R. letter

See 189. 4548

also 184 + 185
ENTERED ON CARDS.
RECEIVED
2 - 1944
JAN 2 1945

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/194

30 September 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
Subject: Caporale VERDIROSI Alberto.

The attached copies of letters in connection with
the case of Caporale VERDIROSI are forwarded for your
information.

JAC

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Encls. 2.

1. Comando Del Territorio di Roma, No. 2391 dated 27 Sept.
2. IPW/1/193 dated 29 Sept. to Commanding Officer, 759
Italian G.T.Coy.

ENTERED ON CARDS

INDEXED

4547

193a

HQ. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/193

29 September 1944

Subject: Caporale VERDIROSI Alberto.

To : Commanding Officer, 759 Ital. G.T. Coy.

Reference attached letter 2391/ dated 27 September, from Ufficio Personale, Comando del Territorio di Roma, subject as above.

1. The question of what action should be taken with regard to Caporale Verdrossi was referred to AFHQ (Telephone conversation, Campbell, AGC, with GI (B)) when it was agreed that the collection of VERDIROSI should be left in abeyance for the present.
2. When I spoke with General GAZZERA on the 26th Sept., I agreed that VERDIROSI should remain in Rome for the time being and should be attached to an Italian Unit.
3. The question of the ultimate disposition of this Corporal will again be referred to AFHQ.

JAC

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Director WMD & IPW Sub-Comm.

Action 194

4546

ENTERED ON CARDS.

DATE 2-6-45

RECEIVED

192a

COMANDO DEL TERRITORIO DI ROMA
Via Po, 32
N.2391/ di prot.

P.M.151, 27 September 1944.

Subject: Caporale VERDIROSI Alberto.

- 1/. This Command has taken notice of the request to turn over to Sergeant Beaves of 159th Transit Camp, Caporal VERDIROSI Alberto, classe 1909.
- 2/. It is not yet possible to turn over said Caporal because in date 12th of September, the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War (Italian) Pietro GAZZERA, with the letter No.997/Pol.D-4 of protocoll, has interested Col. J.A.CAMPBELL, WMD and IPW of the Allied Control Commission.
- 3/. Therefore we have to await the answer of Col.Campbell, to whom the situation has been explained.
- 4/. Today the 27th, at 4.30, another request on this matter, was made to Col. CAMPBELL by telephone, the answer from Col.CAMPBELL was the following, that the Corporal is to remain in Rome for the present.

/s/ Il Colonnello Capo di S.M.
(R.Fiore Vernazza)

action 193

4545

ENTERED ON CARD.

2. Gen. 45

[Signature]

RESTRICTED

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

WDW/jjjr

1900

G-5: 383.7-15

24 September 1944

SUBJECT: Civilian Internees.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,
APO 394 (Attn: DP & R.S.C.)

1. Reference is made to letter IDP/1591/55 of 18 September and AFHQ letter AG 383/7/057/GB1-0 of 28 August. It has been assumed that the references in paras 4 and 5 of the former letter to para 4c of the latter were intended to refer to para 2(c)(4) and that "37 PW Camp" should have read "371 PW Camp."

2. The directive is designed primarily to insure a standard method by which internees resident in Italy maybe returned from N. Africa.

3. The number of internees now held in N. Africa is small. Actual numbers will be notified as soon as possible. It is necessary that internees shall arrive in Italy as internees.

4. Preliminary screening will insure that persons who cannot be safely interned in Italy will not leave N. Africa. Review of cases in Italy will determine which persons can be released in Italy.

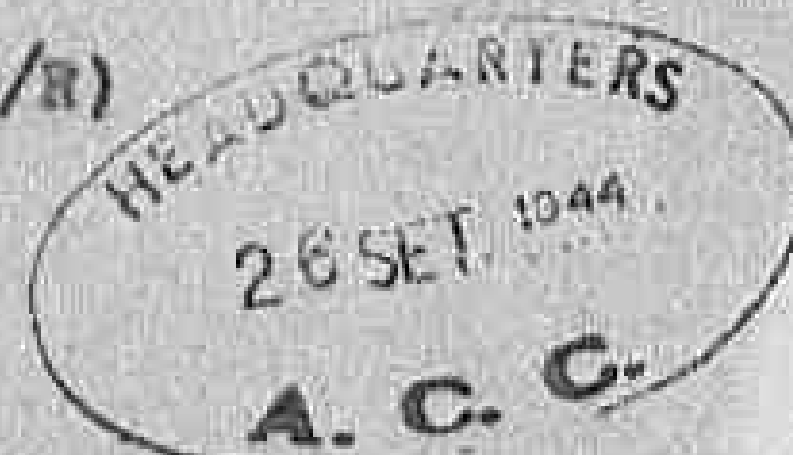
5. It is considered that the reviewing officer at 371 PW Camp will be able to handle the cases.

6. Nominal Rolls will include the details enumerated. Persons whose homes are in the operations zones or north thereof would not normally be released even if otherwise eligible unless they could be satisfactorily accommodated in a southern area.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5: 4544

W. DRIFFIELD-WHITE
Major.Copy to: G-2(C.I.) Section AFHQ. (Ref B389-450/R)
Copies (3) for distribution in ACC.

RESTRICTED



COPY TO: ACC

Restricted

HEADQUARTERS
INTERNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS SUB-COMMISSION
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

CFF/bw

IDP/1591/55 Tel. 489081 Ext. 392

16 September 1944

SUBJECT: Civilian Internees.TO: A.F.H.Q. (G-5 Section)

- 1/. Reference recent policy letter issued by A.A.G. A.F.H.Q. ref. AG 383/7/057/GB1-0 dated 28 August 1944.
- 2/. A meeting has been held at this HQ with the Sub-Commission and Branches interested and certain points have been raised which require clarification.
- 3/. What are the numbers of civilian internees who will be returned to this country. What could be the average number in each shipment.
- 4/. Under para 4c it appears that the civilian internees will arrive in this country as internees and will have to be placed in camps with a military guard both at the port of arrival and at the camps to which they are sent. Such guards would require to be furnished by the Army.
- 5/. Para 4c also indicates that after arrival in Italy or Sicily the cases will be again reviewed and decision taken as to whether they should be released or not. At present there is no board or other reviewing authority set up in this country apart from a reviewing officer at 57 P.W. Camp. It is presumed that an entirely separate body will be set up for this purpose.
- 6/. It is essential that the nominal roll should show ages, sex and relationship of individuals sent. It should also include address to where individual wishes to proceed. This will enable a check to be made if the place of residence of individual is standing or available for his/her return.
- 7/. These points have no doubt been settled but it will be appreciated if this HQ could be advised thereon and on any further points which are not covered in A.A.G.'s letter and with which this HQ is concerned.

4543

For the Director:

C.F. Fothergill
Lt. Colonel
Deputy Director

Copy to: R.C. & M.G. Section
Security Branch
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

C O P YR E S T R I C T E D

JC/wp

1960

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

AG 383.7/057 GBI-O

28 August 1944

SUBJECT: Civilian Internees.TO : All Concerned.

1. It has been called to the attention of this headquarters that, in some instances, civilian internees are being released prior to security screening by G-2 (CI), this headquarters.
2. Effective this date the following policy will govern the disposition of civilian internees in this theater:
 - a. General: In compliance with existing directives governing the subject of civilian internees it is desirable that civilians, resident in NORTH AFRICA who were captured during the TUNISIAN Campaign be released from Allied custody and that ITALIAN civilians interned in NORTH AFRICA should be returned to ITALY, or the adjacent islands that are Italian territory, for repatriation when consistent with security policy.
 - b. Internees resident in NORTH AFRICA: The provisions of NATOUSA cable, reference number 8939, dated 18 October 1943, are rescinded and the following substituted therefor:
 - (1) Civilians whose homes are in NORTH AFRICA who were captured during the TUNISIAN Campaign will be released from Allied custody and repatriated to their homes unless security objections make this impossible. When civilian internees cannot be released for repatriation because of security objections they will be retained in custody at prisoner of war camps.
 - (2) Attention is invited to the fact that cases involving the contemplated release of civilian internees will be considered individually based on a careful review of the facts involved and subject to a careful security screening.
 - (3) Clearance of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, of the Base Section or District involved will be secured before any civilian is considered for release. In all cases Base Section or District clearance will include a careful check with local FRENCH officials. The French will be notified when residents of NORTH AFRICA are to be released so that they may pick them up for internment if desired.

(4) When Base Section clearance has been obtained requests for release of civilian internees will be forwarded by Base Section to Districts through command channels to this headquarters, where security check will be made by Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

(5) When clearance is given by this headquarters through command channels, internees will be returned to the Base Section or District area wherein their homes are located and release effected there.

(6) The procedure outlined in paragraph 2b also will apply to the release of civilians originally interned by the French and later transferred to Allied Control.

c. ITALIAN civilian internees resident in ITALY or adjacent ITALIAN Islands:

(1) Unless cogent security grounds to the contrary exist it is desirable that all ITALIAN civilian internees whose homes are in ITALY or adjacent ITALIAN Islands should be returned to these territories for release, transfer to ITALIAN control, or further internment in accordance with existing directives dealing with the subject.

(2) Attention is invited to the fact that civilian internees will not be returned to ITALY or adjacent ITALIAN Islands prior to the completion of security screening. Base Sections or Districts will initiate requests to this headquarters through command channels for the transfer of internees so that security records may be checked.

(3) Upon receipt of security clearances from this headquarters and prior to movement of such persons, all personal details available will be forwarded to the Allied Control Commission together with a complete nominal roll. In conformity with the policy of returning internees to camps as near their homes as possible, the Commission should be requested to indicate when arrangements can be made to receive them and to which port they should be transported.

(4) After arrival in ITALY or SICILY the cases against all such persons will be reviewed and decision made as to whether the individual should be released, transferred to ITALIAN authorities for detention, or retained under Allied control.

(5) Lists of these internees who are released or transferred to ITALIAN control will be furnished to G-2 (CI) Section, this headquarters, by AAI or by such authority as the latter may direct.

(6) If security reasons make the release of civilians to ITALY or SICILY may be released under the Review Board procedure, 4561 the provisions of 4 above, without prior security clearance by this headquarters. Security checks in such instances will be made through AAI and other interested intelligence organizations in ITALY. This headquarters

will be advised of disposition of all internees.

(8) Requests for the repatriation of civilian internees may be initiated by Headquarters AAI and ACC based from the Italian authorities or by Base Sections or Districts when it is found that security reasons no longer require internment.

(9) Civilians interned in Italy whose homes are in NORTH AFRICA MAY NOT be returned to NORTH AFRICA except by initiation of appropriate action by ACC, through proper channels, and subject to security clearances through interested organizations including this headquarters.

d. Attention is invited to the fact that civilians may not be sent to the UNITED STATES for internment without prior approval of the United States Department of Justice.

c. When it is deemed advisable for security reasons, to intern civilians outside the theatre, request will be made, through command channels, to this headquarters, from where appropriate request to the Department of Justice through the War Department will be made.

By command of General WILSON

R.H. CHRISTIE,
Colonel, AGD,
Acting Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

5 - CinC AAI
5 - CG, SOS NATODSA
5 - Ea Base Section
5 - Ea District
5 - ACC
1 - G-1 (A)
1 - G-1 (B)
1 - G-2
1 - G-5
2 - AG Records

189a

High Commissioner for PW.
File N. 1125/Pol/D.4

25 September 1944
to: A.C.C. = R o m e

SUBJECT: The case of Corp. VERDIROSI Alberto.

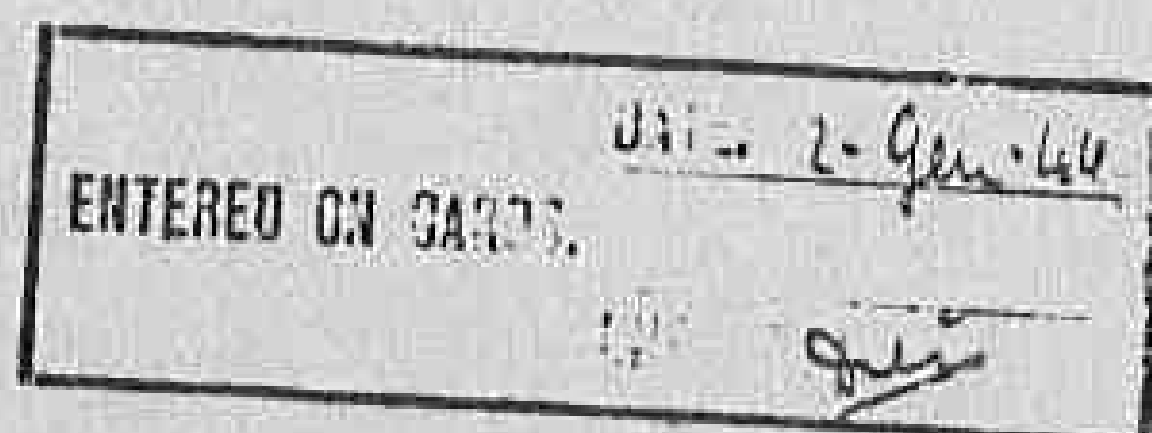
Encl-185 Sec 184

- 1/. In answer to letter IPW/1/185 dated 17 August 1944 re. the same subject.
- 2/. We inform you that VERDIROSI was not released on parole and belonged, as PW, to the 759 Italian General Trasport Coy at Catania (Sicily)

High Commissioner
General Pietro GAZZERA

V.P.

Acta 194



4539

O/ma



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 25 Settembre 1944

N° 1125/Pol/D.4 di prot.

OGGETTO : Caso del caporale VERDIROSI Alberto.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

R o m a

-
1. Risposta #oglio pari oggetto n. 1 PW/1/185 del 17 c.m.
 2. Si comunica che il caporale VERDIROSI non era libero su parola ed apparteneva quale prigioniero di guerra alla 759 Italian General Transport Coy in Catania (Sicilia).

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

4538

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

6 September

File No 911/Pol/C- 11

SUBJECT: Injunction Against Application of the Geneva Convention to Italian PsW assigned to Work-Units.

TO : A.C.C.
and for information to
The President of the Council of Ministers
The Minister of Foreign Affairs, and
His Excellency, Chief of the High Command.

The Royal Government has been informed that the American authorities prevent the representatives of the Swiss Government from exercising their protective function towards our Prisoners of War assigned, by the above Authorities themselves, to Work-Units.

Such treatment inflicted upon our countrymen vitally affects the Italian Government.

As is known, the Italian Government has not been able to subscribe to the terms and conditions for the employment of the Italian PsW in fulfillment of the co-belligerency, those plans which were proposed and, which later, it seems, have been placed in operation in America and in British and French territories.

It has been the express desire of the Royal Italian Government from the very first moment of its inception that the Italian PsW should cooperate with the Allied Nations in the struggle against the common enemy. But they cannot do so if they remain in their actual status and, even less, if they are assigned to military formations not under the command of Italian officers. It is the contention of the Italian Government that these PsW should be released and that their employment should be organized upon full accord with the Italian Government; that it should be obligatory, not of a voluntary character, subject to the election of the individual.

To pretend that these PsW, so irregularly assigned to Work-Units, practically and juridically retain that status (though they are willing to renounce some of the privileges of that status), and to deprive them, at the same time, of the legal protection accorded by the Geneva Convention, is tantamount, in our opinion, to heaping illegality upon illegality; and, further, this fact is

not only a contradiction, logically and legally speaking, but also a grave restraint on their personality, especially compared to prisoners of other nationalities, who, making no renunciation in favor of the Detaining Power, preserve unaltered the greatest asset of that status; the protection of the Protecting Power.

There are unfortunately obvious reactions on the part of PsW, which show that this course of treatment of our countrymen awakens in their souls a deep sense of dissatisfaction toward the Detaining Authorities, due also to the fact that some of the advantages promised in order to encourage them to join these Work-Units, have not always been readily granted.

Surely also this fact provokes a feeling of distrust, if not of actual hostility, towards the Italian Government, taking for indifference towards their destiny that which, unfortunately, is actually the distasteful impotency to protect and regulate that destiny.

It is therefore hoped the Allied Governments would do justice to the status of cobelligerency and to the enthusiasm with which the Italian people and Government have served, and continue to serve, the cause of cobelligerency. If they do not intend to do that now, they should at least ensure to those Italian PsW, who they continue to retain as such, wherever and however employed, the protection of the Protecting Power.

If for any reason whatsoever, they do not intend to afford this protection, they should allow the Italian Government an opportunity to investigate at first hand the living conditions of its nationals, PsW, in like manner and condition as is accorded by the Geneva Convention to the Protecting Power, naturally employing its own personnel for this purpose.

The Italian Authorities wish to make it quite clear that the reasons which occasion the above request, are not essentially of a practical nature, but rather arise from the very fundamental basis of the existence and the prestige of the Italian State, which is inseparable from the protection of the right and the political problems mentioned above.

They insist upon it because they fortunately know that the Italian PsW, however employed, have been given up to now in America such necessities of life as are consistent with their conditions and prescribed by the Geneva Convention.

The Italian Authorities would like to request ~~that~~ ⁴⁵⁸⁶ the task of legally protecting our PsW, in the capacity of their direct

representative, be entrusted to H.E. General of the Army Claudio TREZZANI, who while in America already does the little he can for the Italian units formed there, according unto him the necessary privileges and powers for that position, as heretofore mentioned.

We will not let this opportunity pass to reiterate how, from every standpoint, it is so desirable and urgent to convoke a meeting between representatives of the Allied Governments and the Italian one, with sufficient powers in the premises, in order to establish one and for all the status of Italian PsW in Allied hands.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
General Pietro Gazzera

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/I/183

21 September 1944

TO: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

SUBJECT: Injunction Against Application of the Geneva
Convention to Italian PsW assigned to Work-Units.

Reference your No. 911/PoI/C-11 of Sept 6, 1944.

- 1/. When I discussed the contents of this letter with you I explained that the question raised has already been put up to Higher Authority for consideration.
- 2/. I shall get in touch with you immediately I am in receipt of any information.

J.A.C.
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW S/C

See 174 for original H.C.P.W.

Letter

FILE NO. 174
DATE 10/1/44
BY J.A.C.
RECEIVED
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army

4534

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

188a
IPW/1/188A
20 September 1944

To: Croce Rossa Italiana, Comitato Centrale.
(Attn. Prof. Zanotti-Bianco).

Subject: Establishment of Radio Programme.

- Encl- 18b
- 1/. Reference your letter of 18 September.
 - 2/. It is with a sense of great pleasure that we inform you that the radio programme, as suggested and outlined in your communication, has been approved.
 - 3/. You are to be commended for your devotion to humanitarian interests and it is a satisfaction to us to be in a position to cooperate in any way, towards alleviating the distress of the Italian people.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

4533

187

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

Return to Col. Campbell:

IPW/

19 September 1944

(see A/C's minute below)
JAG.

see 186

Subject: Broadcast to the Italian people in Italy giving names of Italian Prisoners of War repatriated and of those on there way home for repatriation.

To: Acting Chief Commissioner.

Reference attached.

I had a conference with General Gazzera, - the President, and the Secretary General of the Italian Red Cross and Lt. Col. Monroe of PWB who are all very much in favour of the suggestion contained in Signor Zanotti-Bianco's letter.

The Political Section see no objection to making the broadcasts.

After discussing certain pros and cons with General Gazzera I feel that it would be an act of grace to the Italian Government for us to agree and as all programmes will be submitted to this Headquarters for approval, I can see no reason against the proposal.

J.A. Campbell

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Director WMD & IPW Sub. Com.

Encl. Bianco's letter.

4532

J. Conner

Em

File
1

(186)

ITALIAN RED CROSS
THE PRESIDENT GENERAL

Rome, 18 September 1944

To: Captain ELLERY W. STONE
The Acting Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission

R O M E

The Italian Red Cross sure of the resulting morale benefit to the Italian people, asks the A.C.C. for its authorization to broadcast by radio the names of Pw who are enroute to Italy, these names being in the possession of the A.C.C.

The most famous Italian artists, amongst others Caniglia, Tassinari, Tagliavini, all have offered their artistic services so that such broadcasts may be made more attractive.

The proposal has already been submitted to the P.W.B., where it was approved or with great enthusiasm, based on a program of a half hour twice a week, to be directed to the public in Italy.

The High Commissioner for Italian Prisoners of War has warmly received the proposal and looks forward to its inception.

Requested is the approval of the A.C.C., to whom the program will be submitted weekly for supervisory control.

The proposal and auspices being of the Red Cross, it is hoped that there will be no difficulty regarding your approval.

s/ Umberto Zanotti-Bianco

4531
action 187

V.P.

(185)

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/185

17 September 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Case of Corporal VERDIROSI Alberto.

- ENCL 184
- 1/. I have to acknowledge your letter No. 997/Pol/D4 dated 12 September, 1944.
 - 2/. I shall be pleased to know before taking the matter up with Allied Force Headquarters if Corporal VERDIROSI was on parole or not.
 - 3/. Immediately you let me have this information I shall know what action I can take.

JAC
J. A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

ack 189a

Action 194

ENTERED ON CARDS.	DATE. 2-4-44
	INITIALS. JAC

4530

184

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

File No 997/Pol/D.4

12 September 1944

To: Lt. Colonel J.A. CAMPBELL
WMD & IFW S.C.
A.C.C. - Rome

Dear Colonel,

the Corporal VERDIROSI Alberto, class 1909, was captured in Sicily by the British Forces. When he heard the news of the liberation of Rome, he escaped from Catania, moved by the desire to join his family (he has a 10 years old daughter), and arrived in Rome using haphazard means of transportation.

It seems that the British Military Command of Catania, having noted Verdirosi's absence, ordered his arrest by the British and Italian Police and placed him at the disposal of the Central Allied Command, in order to be sent back to Catania for resuming the duties he was assigned to, as PW.

I consider it unnecessary to draw your attention to the fact that VERDIROSI, being an escaped PW, cannot, in any way, be turned over to Allied Authorities as a PW. If they consider it as necessary, he may be tried for not having reported, immediately after his arrival to Rome in the month of June, to the Italian Military Authorities, but, nevertheless, he has now to be considered an Italian soldier, free from the ties of PW status, and to be employed as such only on the order of the Italian Military Authority.

It seems, therefore, to me that it would be an act of justice to assign the above to duty in Rome near his family, who needs his help very much, instead of transferring him to another place as seems to have been decided from a statement, that he has made at Personnel Bureau of the Command of the territory of Rome.

I will be very much obliged to you, Colonel, if you could arrange that this young man, who has already found in the love of his family a due consolation for the sadness of his life in captivity, be liberated from his previous duties so as to permit him and his family, to look

ENTERED ON CARDS.

INITIALS. *get*

ack. 185

2)

with more serene hope to their future.

I thank you, Colonel, and I am looking
in advance for your kind reply

Yours PIETRO GAZZERA

V/ Pheobrajenski

4528

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

183

IPW/1/183

17 September 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
Subject: Wireless messages to the Prisoners of War.

ENCL 175

Reference your letter No. 964/Pel/O-1 di prot dated
9 September, 1944.

- 1/. The question of permission to broadcast has been
again referred to London and a reply is awaited.
- 2/. Immediately a decision is given I shall let you
know.

JAC

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub.Comm.

See 182 also
175.

4 finished

4527

182

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

15 September 1944

File No. 1055/Pol/O - 15.

To: A.O.C.

R.D.H.R.

Subject: Broadcast concerning PW.

The "Radio Roma" transmitted, on September 12th 1944, a conversation regarding the internees in Germany, which depicted their circumstances in very dark colours.

Those who were listening to that broadcast, or who have heard about it, and those particularly, who have relatives detained in Germany, felt very much alarmed.

We have also been informed that many disloyal (mala fede) persons had taken this opportunity to accuse, for no apparent reason, the R. Government and, in general, the authorities of having done nothing to help these unfortunate Italians.

With reference to the above, I beg the A.O.C. to kindly inform the Allied Censorship Authorities of Offices, about the above facts, so as to provide that the broadcasts dealing with Italian PW be previously submitted to the approval of the High Commissioner.

I take this opportunity to remind you that I have not yet received the necessary instructions regarding the proposed broadcasts, by members of Italian Government, which they should deliver in order to lift the morale of the Italian PW, and I also ask you to give us, as soon as possible, all the necessary information in this regard.

I thank you in advance

The High Commissioner
General Pietro Gazzera

*The matter was discussed at the conference
this office re broadcasting names of I PW represented
I.P. and it was agreed that no broadcast on I PW would
be made from Rome without first submitting to this
office. Gen. Gazzera was present. The last para was covered
premises to Gen. Gazzera
2526
28/9/44*

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 3 September 1944

File No. 894/Pel/3.2

To: A.C.G.

R O M E

Subject: Italian Generals Officers PoW in India.

The Italian Government was informed that in the internment camp for Italian Generals Officers PoW at Dehra-Dun (India) morale has been affected amongst the Generals Officers belonging to the traditional Italian Armed Forces (Army-Navy-Air Force), due to the fact that the Consoli Generali and the Luogotenenti Generali of the dissolved Volunteer Fascist Militia for National Security, founded by the Fascism, continue to wear on their collar, instead of the regulation stars, the Littorial Fascio, and refuse to obey the Italian trustee, who is the highest ranking officer amongst the PoW in the Camp (Gen. Div. Italian Air Force PARONATO Luigi).

The behaviour of the officers of the Fascist Militia is actually against regulations:

- 1/. Because according to the legislative measure, which abolished the Fascist Militia, and the provision of the Ministry incorporating pro tempore into the Army the members of the said Militia PoW at their actual rank, these must only wear the stars which are the insigna of the regular Army. They cannot be allowed to wear instead the Littorial Fascio, as a similar act is considered a misdemeanor according to the Italian Penal Law.
- 2/. Being as discipline established by the Geneva Convention for the PW Camps is compulsory for PoW in all its provisions and, therefore, also in regard to those concerning the appointment of the trustee and the relations between the PoW themselves.

It seems to me that the local British Authorities have not taken any measure to prevent the irregular behaviour of the few officers of the Fascist Militia interned in the Camp, either because they do not know the provisions of the Italian Law or because they ignore the above facts.

The orders given in this regard by the Italian Government have been transmitted in my letters No. 7/P of 21/3/1944 and No. 287/P of 14/6/1944.

In any event the R. Government desires that the attention of the A.C.G. be drawn to the fact, and that, through the channel of competent authorities concerned, the Commander of the Camp be given instructions to abate this nuisance which may have very evil effects.

17 SEP 1944

file

Translated by Valentina Froobrajenski

The HIGH COMMISSIONER
General Pietro Gazzera4525
Action 199.

180

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL & ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

14 September 1944

To: Croce Rossa Italiana - Comitato Centrale
Attention: Prof. ZANOTTI BIANCO

Subject: Acknowledgement of correspondence

- see 23*
- 1/. Reference your 43662/14 of 2 September 1944
 - 2/. We thank you for your timely suggestion and propose to present it at the earliest opportunity, along with the approval of the High Commissioner for Italian PW, to Allied Forces Headquarters for their consideration.

J.A.C.
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt. Colonel
Director WMD & IPW S.C.

4524

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. ARMY
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB-COMMISSION

IPW/1/179

14 September 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Italian Red Cross Representative on repatriation
Hospital Ship.

- 1/. I wish to acknowledge your letter of September 10,
file No. 5332/Mil/11/A, subject: Assistance to Italian
Prisoners of War during repatriation.
- 2/. The question brought up in your letter is being for-
warded for decision to Allied Force Headquarters.

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

AFHQ advised
and A.C. for PW informed

4523

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 10 September 178

File No 5332/Mil/11/A

To: A.C.C. R O M E

Subject: Assistance to Italian PW during repatriation

The General Presidency of the Italian Red Cross has asked the ACC to be allowed to send nurses of the I.R.C. to go aboard ships with repatriating PSW at the last harbour preceding the disembarkation port, which could be Palermo, Taranto, Naples etc.

I answered that, assuming opportunity and practical possibility exists for the above proposition, the Allied Authorities should provide for the transportation of the nurses to the prestablished localities.

s/ General Pietro Gazzera

ack - 179

4521

Translated by V.Preobrajenski

1/178

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

File No 979/Pol/C.3

176
Rome 11 September 1944

To: A.C.C.

R O M E

Subject: Italian PW in Egypt - Camp No 310

This High Commissioner has been informed that the dispensary of Camp 310 (Suez) in Egypt, in which about a hundred mild cases of disease are treated, employs a medical personnel composed of 134 persons, of which 14 are physicians.

It is obvious that the medical personnel of the above dispensary is far too numerous, and I beg, therefore, the ACC to ask the Authorities concerned to provide for the repatriation of medical personnel.

The choice of the medical personnel to be repatriated should be made possibly after consultation with the ranking physician and should be chosen according to age, length of detention and family circumstances.

s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Action 197.

See 251

Translated by V. Preobrajenski

4521

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR FW
File n. 9 64/Pol./O-1 di prot.

September 9th 1944

TO: A.C.C. ROME

SUBJECT: Wireless messages to the PW.

I would be really most grateful to the ACC if they would kindly urge the competent Superior Authorities to give permission for High Italian Personalities to broadcast messages to PW.

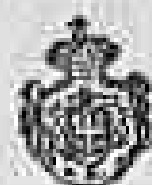
I thank you sincerely beforehand.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro GAZZERA)

Action 175
Y. unsked.

4529

o/de



Roma, settembre 1944

*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

R O M A

N. 964/Pol./O-1 di prot.

OGGETTO : Radiotrasmissioni ai prigionieri di guerra.

Sarei veramente grato a codesta Commissione se volesse cortesemente sollecitare dalle competenti Superiori Autorità, la nota autorizzazione per le trasmissioni di messaggi radio di Alte Personalità Italiane ai prigionieri di guerra.

Ringrazio sin d'ora molto sentitamente.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

P. Gazzera

4519

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

6 September

File No 911/Pol/C- 11

SUBJECT: Injunction Against Application of the Geneva Convention
to Italian PsW assigned to Work-Units.

TO : A.C.C.
and for information to
The President of the Council of Ministers
The Minister of Foreign Affairs, and
His Excellency, Chief of the High Command.

The Royal Government has been informed that the American authorities prevent the representatives of the Swiss Government from exercising their protective function towards our Prisoners of War assigned, by the above Authorities themselves, to Work-Units.

Such treatment inflicted upon our countrymen vitally affects the Italian Government.

As is known, the Italian Government has not been able to subscribe to the terms and conditions for the employment of the Italian PsW in fulfillment of the co-belligerency, those plans which were proposed and, which later, it seems, have been placed in operation in America and in British and French territories.

It has been the express desire of the Royal Italian Government from the very first moment of its inception that the Italian PsW should cooperate with the Allied Nations in the struggle against the common enemy. But they cannot do so if they remain in their actual status and, even less, if they are assigned to military formations not under the command of Italian officers. It is the contention of the Italian Government that these PsW should be released and that their employment should be organized upon full accord with the Italian Government; that it should be obligatory, not of a voluntary character, subject to the election of the individual.

To pretend that these PsW, so irregularly assigned to Work-Units, practically and juridically retain that status (though they are willing to renounce some of the privileges of that status), and to deprive them, at the same time, of the legal protection accorded by the Geneva Convention, is tantamount, in our opinion, to heaping illegality upon illegality; and, further, this fact is

File

See 188 for action

not only a contradiction, logically and legally speaking, but also a grave restraint on their personality, especially compared to prisoners of other nationalities, who, making no renunciation in favor of the Detaining Power, preserve unaltered the greatest asset of that status; the protection of the Protecting Power.

There are unfortunately obvious reactions on the part of PsW, which show that this course of treatment of our countrymen awakens in their souls a deep sense of dissatisfaction toward the Detaining Authorities, due also to the fact that some of the advantages promised in order to encourage them to join these Work-Units, have not always been readily granted.

Surely also this fact provokes a feeling of distrust, if not of actual hostility, towards the Italian Government, taking for indifference towards their destiny that which, unfortunately, is actually the distasteful impotency to protect and regulate that destiny.

It is therefore hoped the Allied Governments would do justice to the status of cobelligerency and to the enthusiasm with which the Italian people and Government have served, and continue to serve, the cause of cobelligerency. If they do not intend to do that now, they should at least ensure to those Italian PsW, who they continue to retain as such, wherever and however employed, the protection of the Protecting Power.

If for any reason whatsoever, they do not intend to afford this protection, they should allow the Italian Government an opportunity to investigate at first hand the living conditions of its nationals, PsW, in like manner and condition as is accorded by the Geneva Convention to the Protecting Power, naturally employing its own personnel for this purpose.

The Italian Authorities wish to make it quite clear that the reasons which occasion the above request, are not essentially of a practical nature, but rather arise from the very fundamental basis of the existence and the prestige of the Italian State, which is inseparable from the protection of the right and the political problems mentioned above.

They insist upon it because they fortunately know that the Italian PsW, however employed, have been given up to now in America such necessities of life as are consistent with their conditions and prescribed by the Geneva Convention.

The Italian Authorities would like to request that the task of legally protecting our PsW, in the capacity of their direct

representative, be entrusted to H.E. General of the Army Claudio TREZZANI, who while in America already does the little he can for the Italian units formed there, according unto him the necessary privileges and powers for that position, as heretofore mentioned.

We will not let this opportunity pass to reiterate how, from every standpoint, it is so desirable and urgent to convoke a meeting between representatives of the Allied Governments and the Italian one, with sufficient powers in the premises, in order to establish one and for all the status of Italian POW in Allied hands.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
General Pietro Gazzera

(1230)

HIGH COMMISSIONER PW
File n. 5228/M11/I/C.3

ROME, 7/September 1944

TO: A.C.C. ROME,

SUBJECT: Request for repatriation on compassionate grounds.

According to your letter ASC/I/II4 dated 22/7/1944 and to verbal agreements concluded, the High Commissioner has lately forwarded to the ACC some requests for repatriation of Ps.W. for particularly compassionate family reasons.

As it has been nearly always replied that the submitted cases could not be taken into consideration, I beg the ACC to indicate, as definitely as possible, which are the indispensable conditions for a request for repatriation on compassionate grounds to be accepted.

I thank you in advance.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro GAZZERA)

*N/A full details given to
p. ACC for PW*

4516

Translated by Valentina PREOBRAJENSKI

*File
1*

→ OMD & JPW S/C

1/17

SAC/USA

A/C 303.6

8 September 1944

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In acknowledging your letter H.10010 of 2 September 1944, let me add that I have forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters the names of those officers you referred.

The visit to Allied Force Headquarters and those localities where prisoners of war are stationed in Italy should take place very shortly.

As soon as this Headquarters receives the itinerary from Allied Force Headquarters, General Dupino Vincenzo and Lieutenant Colonel Vittorio will be notified.

Yours very truly,

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USA
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency (Vasco Bonomi),
the President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

Prepared by

Lieut.-Colonel,
OMD & JPW sub-Commissioner. ✓

Finished

34134515

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen
DISPATCHED

Date Time 9 Sept 1030

via

BY

D.R.R.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Chief of Staff

APO 512

MEMORANDUM TO: The Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission,
 Subject: Administrative Procedure Affecting Civilian Internees.

1. I have been informed that civilian internees at the Central Internment Camp, PADULA, POTENZA PROVINCE, Italy are not accorded the same treatment and privileges as prisoners of war, including the issue of canteen rations.

2. Both the United States Government and H.M. Government have agreed with the German and the former Italian Government to consider the Prisoners of War Convention of July 25th, 1929, as applicable to civilian internees so far as its provisions can be applied to civilians. Accordingly, the following pronouncement of policy is forwarded for your guidance in treatment of civilian internees at the Central Internment Camp.

a. All civilians temporarily interned at the Central Internment Camp will be accorded the same treatment accorded prisoners of war, including issuance of canteen rations, except with respect to the following:

- (1) They will not be processed as prisoners of War.
- (2) No notification of capture or internment will be given to the Protecting Power or any recognized agency.
- (3) They will not be permitted to send capture cards or be accorded any other correspondence privileges.
- (4) Prisoner of war allowances will not be applicable to them. Accounting for canteen supplies issued will be made in the same manner as now employed in the case of friendly nationals (Bles, etc) temporarily detained for screening.
- (5) They will not be employed unless they request employment in writing.

b. Civilians to be interned other than temporarily will be processed as prisoners of war and will be accorded the same treatment, including notifications of capture to the Protecting Power and recognized agencies, and all correspondence privileges accorded to prisoners of war. They will not be employed unless they request employment in writing.

of canteen rations.

2. Both the United States Government and H.M. Government have agreed with the German and the former Italian Government to consider the Prisoners of War Convention of July 25th, 1929, as applicable to civilian internees so far as its provisions can be applied to civilians. Accordingly, the following pronouncement of policy is forwarded for your guidance in treatment of civilian internees at the Central Internment Camp.

a. All civilians temporarily interned at the Central Internment Camp will be accorded the same treatment accorded prisoners of war, including issuance of canteen rations, except with respect to the following:

- (1) They will not be processed as prisoners of war.
- (2) No notification of capture or internment will be given to the Protecting Power or any recognized agency.
- (3) They will not be permitted to send capture cards or be accorded any other correspondence privileges.
- (4) Prisoner of war allowances will not be applicable to them. Accounting for canteen supplies issued will be made in the same manner as now employed in the case of friendly nationals (Bles, etc) temporarily detained for screening.
- (5) They will not be employed unless they request employment in writing.

b. Civilians to be interned other than temporarily will be processed as prisoners of war and will be accorded the same treatment, including notifications of capture to the Protecting Power and records of war. They will not be employed unless they request employment in writing.

3. Similar instructions are issued to American authorities to insure identical treatment of internees at PW Camp 326.

By command of General Wilson:

(sgd) LOWELL W. ROCK, FOR
J. A. H. GAMMELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

SEP 1944

(170)

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/170

8 September 1944

TO: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.
Attn: G-I (B)

SUBJECT: Visit by Representatives of Italian Government to
Sites of Employment of Italian PW in Italy.

Encl- 153 See 116-117-167

- 1/. In accepting the invitation (extended through our Headquarters in your letter CR/3101/GI (Br) subject, Employment of Italian PW in Italy, dated 17 August, Minister Bonomi has appointed the following officers to represent his Government: Brigadier Generale DAFINO Vincenzo, the Secretary General of the Alto Commissario of Prisoners of War, and Lieutenant MASSA Vittorio, interpreter.
- 2/. Captain Roger B. DERBY, 0318071, AGD of this Sub-Commission has been selected as the representative of the Allied Control Commission.
- 3/. Would you please let us know the itinerary planned, and the places in Italy besides AFHQ where these officers will go. Three or four days' notice of departure is asked for by the Italians.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner.

JAC
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW S/C 4513

FILE
1*Transcribed**See 172*

(169)

U.S. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. ARMY
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB-COMMISSION

War Materials Disposal and

Italian Prisoners of War

APO 394

Established

Log No.

SEP 1944

TO : The Italian High Commissioner for
Prisoners of War.

EW/1/162

SUBJECT : Individual applications for repatriation
of Italian PW.

8 Sept. 1944.

- 1/. Inclosed are five applications for repatriation of Italian PW.
As these have been forwarded through H.Q., NATOUSA, without
action up to the present, having been taken, they should be
dealt with as you determine.
- 2/. If you need any further information on any of these applications
for repatriation, we suggest you contact the individuals concerned
directly, rather than through H.Q., NATOUSA or ourselves.

J. A. Campbell
J. A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director,
WAR MATERIALS SUB-COMMISSION.

5 Incls:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - | Request for repatriation of | Migaudie, Raffaele. |
| 2 - | " " " | " DiNunzio, Ciro. |
| 3 - | " " " | " Bicaari, Giovanni. |
| 4 - | " " " | " Longobardi, Vincenzo. |
| 5 - | " " " | " Trimarco, Carmine. |

ENTERED ON CARD.

DATE 2 Jan 45

INITIALS. *Quig**Finished*

4512

File 1

E. le Copies
1/164
SUMMARY OF TRANSLATION

Language Written: Italian

Subject: Request for Repatriation re Migaudio Raffaele
To : Allied Military CommissionSUBSTANCE

Migaudio Giuseppe requests the repatriation of his son Migaudio Raffaele 8I-I-246216 for the purpose of cultivating his holding. His other son is reported missing in the Aegean Sea and there is no other one in the family to care for the lands. Raffaele is the same effect as in the letter. Added is a certificate of family membership.

/s/ Migaudio Giuseppe
San Severo 28 July 44

Translation by Sgt Caeme
25 August 44

4511

Incl 1

✓

CONFIDENTIAL

168A

HEADQUARTERS SERVICES OF SUPPLY

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

UNITED STATES ARMY

ARMY POST OFFICE 780

383.6-D

3 September 1944

SUBJECT: Release of Italian Prisoners of War in United States Custody.

TO : Deputy President, Allied Control Commission, APO 512, U.S. Army.

1. Attached requests for the release of Italian prisoners of war in United States custody have been forwarded to this Headquarters.
2. Present policy prevents favorable consideration of requests for release of prisoners of war initiated by individuals. Only requests for release initiated by the Italian government through the Allied Control Commission or by the Allied Control Commission may be favorably considered.
3. Request inquirers be given appropriate notification.

For the Commanding General:

VERNON W. RICE,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

5 Incls:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Request for repatriation of Migaudio, Raffaele. |
| 2 - | " " " " DiMunzio, Ciro. |
| 3 - | " " " " Riccari, Giovanni. |
| 4 - | " " " " Longobardi, Vincenzo. |
| 5 - | " " " " Trimarco, Carmine. |

Action 1/169

ENTERED ON CARD

CONFIDENTIAL

*Confidential**1/168*

IPW/1/168 1st Ind JAG/ltt
HQ ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, APO 394, U.S. Army, 7 September 1944.
To: The Commanding General, HQ SOS, NATOUSA, APO 750, U.S. Army.

1. Reference your 383.6-D subject, "Release of Italian Prisoners of War in United States Custody", dated 3 Sep 44, we have forwarded to the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War for consideration the five applications. The High Commissioner is General Gazzera, address # 6 Piazza di Indipendenza.

2. To eliminate correspondence we have asked the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War to acknowledge these letters and to carry on any future correspondence with these people directly.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

5th Ind Withdrawn

JAG
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director W.M.D. & IPW S.G.

4509

*Action 1/169**Confidential*

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

EJM/hd

From: Secretary General

SUBJECT: Visits to POW Camps

FILE No. SG 383.6

3 September 1944

TO: War Materials Disposal & Italian PW
Sub-Commission

The attached letter, No. 1001, from Prime Minister Bonomi, is referred to you for action. Letter referred to by Bonomi is our A/CC 383.6 dated 28 August 1944, of which you have already received a copy.

RET
ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.G.D.
Secretary General

action lt 45/072
acknowledgment 1/171

1 Incl:
Bonomi's ltr 1001 of 2 Sept 44

*ALL 1701
1721*

TRANSLATION

167 (B)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Rome, 2 September 1944

n. 1001

HQ ACC, APO 394
7th Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 3 Sept 1944
By _____

Dear Captain,

Thank you very much for the initiative that you had.

The visit of the places where the Italian Prisoners of war are employed in Italy, and that of their working and living conditions will help better to enlighten the Government about the importance of the questions related with the prisoners of war which are now to be dealt with.

Brigadier General Dapino Vincenzo, Secretary General of the Alto Commissariato of Prisoners of war, and Lieutenant Massa Vittorio, interpreter, have been delegated for the visit.

The Sub-Commission in charge of the organization of the visit will be able to communicate directly to these two officers the itinerary which will be settled and the modalities of the journey.

Sincerely Yours,

/s/ Ivanoe Bonomi

Captain U.S.N.R.
Ellery W. Stone
Acting Chief Commissioner
Allied Control CommissionR o m e

Action Ltr 1/170

Acknowledgment Lt 456/71

165

H.Q., ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394 U.S. ARMY
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

TO : High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

LPW/1/165

SUBJECT : Italian Prisoners in French Control in
North Africa.

8 Sept. 1944.

Enc 1 161

Reference your letter No. 751/ML/C-2 dated 22 August 1944.

1/. Receipt of the above is hereby acknowledged.

2/. || This matter is under consideration and the results will be
communicated to you in due course.

J. A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director,
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

4506

file 1

162

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 324 U.S. ARMY
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB-COMMISSION

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, C-5 Section. *EW/1/162*
SUBJECT : Mistreatment of the Italian PW. *ACE C-5A 20-2 Sept. 1944.*

Encl 154

1. Refer to your C-5/583.6 dated 17 August, 1944.
2. Attached hereto is correct clear copy of translation of Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War letter No. 526/Pol/C.2 dated 19 July, 1944, as requested.

J. A. C.
J. A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director,
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB-COMMISSION.

See 139.

See Remarks at (212)

4505

1 Incl. - Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War letter No 526/Pol/C.2 dated 19 July, 1944, subject "Italian PW camp held by French and English authorities in Tunis".

File 1

AN/de



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 22 agosto 1944

N. 751/Pol./C-2 di prot.

OGGETTO : Prigionieri di guerra italiani in mano francese nel Nord Africa-Algeria.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

R O M A

Mi è stato riferito da fonte sicura che circa 200 prigionieri di guerra italiani sono adibiti dalle Autorità francesi a lavori presso la Compagnia delle Ferrovie Algerina in Algeri.

Questi prigionieri si lamentano di essere sottoposti, essi dicono, senza alcun compenso a lavori che operai arabici si rifiutano di fare per la paga di cento franchi al giorno più un pasto in natura.

Le calzature sarebbero in istato pietoso, il vestiario quasi inesistente, il sapone verrebbe distribuito raramente ed in quantità trascurabile.

Le baracche per l'alloggio sarebbero piene d'insetti. Il vitto, se non totalmente scarso, sarebbe immangiabile.

Alle rimostranze dei prigionieri per tale trattamento disumano gli ufficiali francesi preposti alla sorveglianza non darebbero alcuna soddisfazione e pertanto gli animi continuano ad esasperarsi.

Prego codesta Commissione Alleata di Controllo di compiacersi intervenire presso le competenti Autorità francesi affinché lo stato di cose, se realmente è quale viene descritto, venga a cessare, e si vogliano osservare le umane disposizioni della Convenzione di Ginevra.

Sarò grato di un cortese cenno di riscontro.

4504

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

P. Gazzera

HHS/ajp

A/CC 383.6

28 August 1944

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

See Encl 153

I am of opinion that until the status of Italian prisoners of war is decided it might be of interest to the Italian Government to send representatives to visit Allied Force Headquarters and localities where Italian prisoners of war are employed in Italy, so that you can inspect and see for yourself the conditions under which Italian prisoners of war are utilized.

In this connection, I extend to you an invitation to send such representatives as you wish to Allied Force Headquarters and the localities where prisoners of war are stationed in Italy.

On receipt of your reply, which if you accept should include the names of those you wish to send, an itinerary will be drawn up at Allied Force Headquarters which I shall forward to you in due course. It is anticipated that the visit should not last longer than four or five days.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

See 167

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

c.c. WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

General Gaggera (thru)

38984

Hq A.C.C. Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date Time 28 Aug 1700
VIA
RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512TBJ/seb
23 August 1944

G-5: 383.6

SUBJECT: Invalid POW awaiting repatriation.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
APO 394.

MM A	WMD POW S.C.
FILED	
Dec 25	8/44

1. Reference is made to ASC/11/5 of 29 June.

2. The matter has been referred to GHQ., India whose reply is as follows:

"The reference to the camps is not understood. Camp 26 is a part of the Yol Group of Prisoners of War Camps which consists of Camps 25, 26, 27 and 28.

Perhaps the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is referring to the move of certain officers passed by the Mixed Medical Commission for repatriation from Yol to Camp 24 of the Clement Town Group of Prisoners of War Camps in December last.

The Clement Town Group has now been closed and those officers recommended for repatriation and who were fit enough to travel have either been transferred to Yol or to Camp 10 of the Bhopal Group of Prisoners of War Camps. There is not sufficient accommodation in Yol to hold them all. Those unfit to travel are still in the hospital in Clement Town where they will probably remain until repatriated.

Bhopal is not as salubrious as Yol, or Clement Town, but only those officers were selected for transfer to Bhopal whose health would not be affected by being sent there. The organization and accommodation in Bhopal is satisfactory".

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel

4502

CONFIDENTIAL

Action 196.
HCPW informed.

W.M. = POW (159)
7776

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6

TBJ/BMR/eeb
30 August 1944

SUBJECT: PW for repatriation.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
APO 394.

Reference to telephone conversation to-day:
Lt. Colonel JACKMAN - Pte. McCORMICK, and this
Headquarter's letter G-5: 383.6 dated 23 August.

Attached are copies of the letters which you
are missing.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

B. Raylin
T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel.

Incl:
as above.



4501

ARMY SUB COMMISSION
REAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Invalid POW awaiting repatriation ASC/11/5

TO : Allied Force Headquarters

29 June 1944

1. The attached translation of letter no. 992/Asc dated 23 June 44 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

2/ I shall be pleased to hear of any action taken in the matter so that I may be in a position to reply to the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

For the Acting Chief Commission:

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

See 159a

4500

COPY

Translation 875

File n. 992/Ass

SUBJECT: Invalid POW awaiting repatriation.

C dei Tirreni, 23 Jun 1944

TO ACC Salerno

This High Commisariate has been informed that several officers POW interned in India, who had been proposed for repatriation by the Mixed Medical Commission since April 1943, have been transferred from the Camp of Yol to Camp n. 26, where in December 1943 they were still awaiting for repatriation

The invalids complain of this new camp for its lower height its dampness the accommodation in cabins, and the general organisation which are far less favourable than those of the Camp of Yol for soldiers who are not in good conditions of health.

The state of their health has therefore become worse.

I ask this Commission to consider this situation and to make the necessary steps in order to hasten the repatriation of these invalid POW. Everything will be fixed for them to be received.

The High Commissioner
(General Pietro Gazzera)

4499

H.Q. Allied Control Commission,
War Material Disposal and Italian
Prisoners of War Sub-Commission,
D/O, IPW/1/158
26 August 1944

(158)

Dear

G.G.

129 and 129 (jimmie's father also)
With reference to your letters Nos. 565/G/158/Pol dated
23 July and 594/Pol.-C.15.a dated 28 July regarding Italian
soldiers interned in Germany freed by the Red Army.

After speaking with you, I investigated the position
through different channels and after careful consideration am
sure it will be better if the Italian Government take the
question up direct with the USSR Representatives.

Yours, sincerely

R.G.

See 141

TO: General P. Gazzera,
High Commissioner for PW

4498

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
File No. 594/Pol-C.15.

ROME JULY 28, 1944
TO: A.G.C., ROME

SUBJECT: Italian soldiers interned in Germany freed by the Red Army.

Referring to my letter No. 565/C.15.a. in date July 23 and to the new article written on the newspaper of Rome "IL UNITA" about the Italian prisoners freed by the Red Army in date July 27 of which is attached a copy.

I pray this Commission to give me others information aside of those requested before, of the intentions of the Allied Nations respect those prisoners. It would be our desire that those prisoners would be repatriated.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

ARTICLE WRITTEN ON ROME NEWSPAPER "IL UNITA" JULY 27, 1944.

Moscow 26. The Red Army has released more than 4000 Italians from Lithuania. Those men are sent toward East on the road Vilna-Minsk. They are in excellent moral condition. They ask to the Russians to let them fight the Germans.

Many of those Italians had fought against the Germans in the Greek Islands others were taken prisoners when fighting with the Army of Marshal Tito.

*100,000 only 3,000 repatriated
these are the Italian soldiers who*

MO/de



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 28 luglio 1944.

N. 594/Pol.-C.15.a di prot.

OGGETTO : Militari italiani internati in Germania liberati
dall'Esercito Rosso.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

R O M A

Mi riferisco al mio foglio, pari oggetto, numero
565/C-15-a in data 23 c.m. ed al nuovo articolo sui prigio-
nieri italiani liberati dall'Esercito Rosso apparso sul
giornale romano "Unità", del 27 c.m. di cui allego copia.

Sarei veramente grato a cotesta Commissione di
Controllo se, oltre ai ragguagli già richiesti, vorrà an-
che darmi qualche notizia circa quello che le Nazioni Al-
leate intendono fare dei prigionieri di cui tratto. *Sarebbe
desiderato il v. inf. a. s.*

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

4496

ALLEGATO al f° 594/Pol./C-15.a del 28.7.44

COPIA ARTICOLO APPARSO SUL GIORNALE ROMANO "U n i t à" del giorno 27.7.44

"PRIGIONIERI ITALIANI LIBERATI DALL'ESERCITO ROSSO.

Mosca, 26. - L'Esercito Rosso ha liberato più di 4000 italiani dai campi di prigionia tedeschi in Lituania. Questi uomini si dirigono ora verso est lungo la strada Vilna-Minsk, in eccellenti condizioni di spirito. Essi chiedono continuamente ai russi che sia loro accordata la possibilità di combattere contro i tedeschi.

Alcuni di questi italiani hanno combattuto contro i tedeschi nelle isole greche, altri sono stati presi prigionieri mentre combattevano a fianco degli uomini del Maresciallo Tito."

r/de



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 23 luglio 1944

N. 565/0/15/a/PL

OGGETTO : Militari italiani internati in Germania liberati
dall'Esercito Russo.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

R O M A

Un dispaccio da Londra in data 21 corrente, e
riportato sul giornale romano l'"Unità", del 22 stesso
mese, informa che, secondo notizie provenienti da Mosca,
l'Esercito rosso, durante le recenti avanzate ha libera-
to soldati di diverse nazionalità, fra cui anche italia-
ni, internati nei campi di concentramento dai tedeschi.

Si sarà grati a cotesta Commissione di Control-
lo se vorrà interessarsi per avere la conferma e maggio-
ri ragguagli circa tale notizia. In particolare : numero
e specie dei militari italiani, loro condizioni, dove so-
no stati avviati ecc.

Si ringrazia fin d'ora sentitamente.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera) *h. 3*

P. Gazzera

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

UNITED STATES ARMY

APO 534

In reply

refer to

AG 383.6/192 A-0

19 August 1944

SUBJECT: Communication with Prisoners of War.

TO : Commanding General, Allied Control Commission,

1. Attached is a communication addressed by General Castellano of the Italian Mission to a prisoner of war in United States custody in Mediterranean Base Section.

2. It is desired that official channels of communication be used for forwarding this and similar communications.

By command of Lieutenant General SEVERS:

Jack Carter
Captain, AGC,
First Adjutant General.

1 Incl
Ltr to General Castellano,
Chief of Italian Mission.



Action 163

*21/8/44
file 1*

CONFIDENTIAL

449

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

ROME AUGUST 18, 1944

FILE NO. 709/Pol/C.2

TO: A.C.C., ROME.

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PW CAMPS IN AMERICAN HANDS IN FRENCH NORTH AFRICA -
CORRESPONDENCE - REMITTANCES OF MONEY - STORES (CANTEENS).

I point out to your Commission the following: relating to PW camps in American hands in region of Oran (Algiers). These observations result from official reports of the Protecting Power.

1. CORRESPONDENCE DIRECTED TO ITALIAN PW. *All Encl. Gilev/3*
- Very little correspondence that reached PW in North Africa after great delay. The situation is adjudged grave, also by the COGs of the American camps. Better delivery is noted since correspondence sent to PWs is routed directly to Lisbon and Casa Blanca instead of via the censor in Washington, D.C., as it seems to me, has unfortunately been done until now.

I beg the A.C.C. to do everything it possibly can in dealing with the situation so delicate and important in order to facilitate and expedite this mail delivery.

2. Remittance of money from Italian PW to their families in liberated zones.

The problems of remittances of money on the part of PWs by American authorities is still of looming importance in Italy between the Allies and the Royal Government.

I renew my plea the the A.C.C. act as interpreter of the situation and to instigate proper action by the American authorities in regard to the necessary provisions so that the Italian PW in American hands may come under Art. 24 of the Convention of Geneva and that the same agreement maybe extended to them as stipulated in 1941 by the British authorities which has now been renewed (note my folio 79/pol, 21/4/44).

3. STORES (CANTEENS). *Encl 93*

In the camps of the above named zone the canteen has not yet been established.

I beg the A.C.C. to intercede with the proper authority so that special camps be furnished with necessary and sorely needed canteen (Art. 12 Geneva Convention).

4. In all the camps "one does not understand, naturally, that the Italian soldiers are in the status of PW while their companions in arms are fighting in Italy."

This expresses the sentiment of the far away prisoners and of their families in Italy as I have brought to your attention more than once. Will the A.C.C. please take action in this regard so that this situation so painful to all Italians, so politically damning, and moreover, an element impeding the PW, and not only the PW in the expression of their desire for collaboration with the common victory.

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Encl 93

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THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

25/8/44
File 1

Rome, 22 August 1944

No. 785/Pol./ C-2 of File

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War interned in the various camps of French North Africa and India afflicted with Psychosis.

TO : Allied Control Commission, Rome

1. It appears that the number of psychotic cases which have been verified and are to be verified has increased in the various prisoner-of-war camps especially in North Africa and in India. This has been brought out by an examination of the invalid cases which up to the present time have given rise to the repatriation of Italian military personnel still detained as prisoners of war and also by various indications.

In India, for example, it appears that in the camp group No. 2 alone, 71 prisoners of war out of 15125 were under cure for mental illness toward the latter part of April, 1944.

2. The Royal Italian Government cannot be unconcerned with this serious phenomenon. Undoubtedly, the torrid climate, the crowded conditions, the discomforts, etc., have a great effect on the prisoner and provoke and increase the cases of this illness.

It is also certain that the indefiniteness of the status of imprisonment influences, above all, the minds of the Italian Military personnel, even after the state of co-belligerency has been proclaimed. They know that the fatherland is making every effort to oust the German; they know that their comrades, their brothers are giving their lives on the Italian front; they, themselves, have given and are giving proof of the highest spirit of collaboration.

The fact that they are still being detained with the status of prisoners of war lowers their spirit and brings them to a state of exasperation. For those who are not strong or who have been weakened by the long captivity, psychosis is inevitable.

3. Therefore, I have the honor once more to propose that an attempt, through necessary negotiations with the Italian Government, be made to arrive at a complete solution of the problem of the Italian prisoners of war in relation to the state of co-belligerency.

4. At any rate, in order to prevent the great increase of psychosis, I beg of you to adopt all the appropriate measures to make life easier in the camps, granting to the Italian military personnel greater liberty and removing all those restrictions which, without giving any greater security of custody (which by now seems useless) bring about a constraint of the spirit and body of the unhappy prisoners of war.

5. Insofar as concerns India particularly, taking into consideration the already limited number of prisoners remaining after the transfers which seem to have been effected without the knowledge of the Italian Government to other parts of the world, I appeal to you to the extreme the possibility of clearing all the prisoners

1550

In India, for example, it appears that in the camp group No. 2 alone, 71 prisoners of war out of 15125 were under cure for mental illness toward the latter part of April, 1944.

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5. Insofar as concerns India particularly, taking into consideration the already limited number of prisoners remaining after the transfers which seem to have been effected without the knowledge of the Italian Government to other parts of the world, I appeal to you to the examine the possibility of placing all the prisoners of war still in that region to areas which have more healthful climates.

6. I trust that this Allied Control Commission will not fail to give its entire benevolent attention to the matter and to bring it before the superior competent Allied authorities.

I thank you.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ Generale Pietro Gazzera

25/4/44 I have spoken with Gen. Gazzera and no
file! action is necessary - at present Gen. 9/4/44

Prison of war s/c
1015
(15)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6

BMR/seb
17 August 1944

SUBJECT: Mistreatment of Italian PW.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
(MED. & IPW Sub-Commission)
APO 394

1. Reference your IPW/1/139 of 8 August.
2. The original letter under reference from the Italian High Commissioner for PW, or an officially certified true translation, is required by this Headquarters. Please send to this Section as soon as possible.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

B. M. Denton
B. M. DENTON
Jr. Comdr.



449J

SUBJECT:- Employment of Italian PW in Italy.

WMD 153
1310 82

MM-A	
FILE REF	
Des Locd	8/47

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

CR/3101/G1(Br).

17 Aug 44.

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission (Army Sub Commission).

Encl. (118 & 117)

1. Reference your letter of 28 July 44 enclosing memo 558/Pol/14/2 of 22 July 44 from the Italian High Commissioner and previous correspondence. It is felt that there is some misunderstanding regarding the employment of Italian PW in Italy.
2. In order that the Allied policy may be fully understood an invitation is extended through you to the appropriate Italian Military authorities to visit this Headquarters and localities where Italian PW are employed.
3. It is hoped that a representative from the Allied Control Commission will accompany the Italian authorities on their visit, the purpose of which is to enable all concerned to see for themselves the conditions under which Italian PW are utilized under British command in Italy.
4. On receipt of your reply, which should include the names of the visitors an itinerary will be drawn up and forwarded to you. It is anticipated that the visit should not last longer than four or five days.
5. For your information it is not at present intended to reopen negotiations with the Italian Government on the status of prisoners of war. The purpose of the invitation to the Italian representatives is simply to study and report to the Italian Government on the prevailing conditions of Italian prisoners of war employed in Italy.

M.W.M. Macleod

M.W.M. MACLEOD, Brigadier, A.D.A.G.(O).
for Major General,
DAG, G.1(Br).

4189

Action 160

Action 170/
172

21/8/44
File 1

See 167.

WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN
RELOADED ON AIR BUS CARRIAGES
HARDWARE, A.C.C.
AND 324.

Subject: Repatriation for compassionate reasons.

To : Allied Force Headquarters, G-5 Section.

13/1/152

12 August 1944

1.

The Italian Government has requested that the following enclosed
from 14. General Council's 2/6 letter to Lt. General Mason Macfarlane
dated 13 July 1944, be brought to the notice of all Italian PW in
Anglo-American PW Camps.

Encl 150

"Subject to the availability of shipping, Italian prisoners of
war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY should be re-
patriated, if found eligible on medical grounds by the competent
authority of the detaining power either for direct repatriation
under the provisions of Article 66 of the Geneva Convention on
Prisoners of War, or for hospitalization in a neutral country
under the provisions of the Model Agreement annexed to the Conven-
tion.

Subject to the availability of shipping and security considerations,
Italian prisoners of war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY:

(a) should be repatriated if they are 60 years of age or over,
or are between 50 and 60 years of age and have completed 2
years of internment.

(b) may be repatriated if it is determined by the competent
authority of the detaining power that they are entitled
thereto on compassionate grounds.

It is emphasized that release on compassionate grounds will
be granted sparingly, with each case being considered on its merits
and with approval granted only when the grounds are such that an
Allied soldier under similar circumstances would be repatriated to
his own country."

2.

I shall be pleased to hear if you are in agreement with this
request, and of any action taken.

4-88

JAL

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director, War Materials Disposal
and Italian PW Camps.

repatriated, if found eligible on medical grounds by the competent authority of the detaining power either for direct repatriation under the provisions of Article 65 of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War, or for hospitalization in a neutral country under the provisions of the final agreement annexed to the Convention.

Subject to the availability of shipping and security considerations, Italian prisoners of war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY:

(a) should be repatriated if they are 60 years of age or over, or are between 50 and 60 years of age and have completed 2 years of imprisonment.

(b) may be repatriated if it is determined by the competent authority of the detaining power that they are entitled thereto on compassionate grounds.

It is emphasized that release on compassionate grounds will be granted sparingly, with each case being considered on its merits and with approval granted only when the grounds are such that an Allied soldier under similar circumstances would be repatriated to his own country."

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I shall be pleased to hear if you are in agreement with this request, and of any action taken.

4788

JAL

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director, War Materials Disposal
and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-C.

Copies (2) to Secretary General.

WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN
PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION
HEADQUARTERS, A.C.C.
APO 394.

151

Subject: Repatriation for compassionate reasons.

LPH/1/151

To : High Commissioner for Prisoners of War

19 AUGUST, 1944.

Encl 150

1. Reference your letter 663/Pol/I-4 dated 7th August, 1944.
2. Your request that the information contained in the first three paragraphs of my letter ASO/1/114 dated 22nd July 1944, be communicated to all Italian PW in Anglo-American PW Camps, has been forwarded to higher authority recommending that the action you request should be taken.

Copy to: Secretary General (2)

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director, WID-IPOW Sub-Com.

Answer - See 209.
See Action

213

4487

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
FILE NO. 663/Pol/I-4

ROME August 1, 1944
TO: Lt. Col. Campbell, A.C.C., ROME.

SUBJECT: Repatriation for compassionate reasons.

I refer to the letter on the same subject of the A.C.C. No. ASC/1/114 of July 22, 1944.

I would be very grateful if the A.C.C. would provide so that the contents of the three paragraphs 1,2,3, of the letter referred to (of which I allege the traduction in Italian) would be brought to the knowledge to all the Italian PW in Anglo-American PW camps.

I thank you very much beforehand.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

SECRET TRADUCTION /de HQ. A.C.C. APO 394 ASC/1/114 July 22, 44
TO: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
SUBJECT: Repatriation for compassionate reasons.

With reference to your Memo 123/Pol of May 2, 1944, it has been decided that:

- 1/. Subordinate to the possibility of transport by sea the PW who have their residence in the liberated part of Italy can be repatriated if by the competent authorities of the Allied forces they are put in the category of invalids or in one of the categories provided by Art. 63 of the Convention of Geneva, or they can be recovered in the hospital of a neutral country as has been contemplated in the Model of the agreement alleged to the Convention.
- 2/. Always subordinate to the possibility of transport by sea and to the "security" reasons the PW with residence in the liberated part of Italy:
 - (a) can be repatriated if they are 60 years old or more, if they are between 50 and 60 and have finished their second year of captivity.
 - (b) can be repatriated if the competent authorities of the Detaining Powers decide them to be considered "compassionate" cases.
- 3/. It is understood that the releasing for "compassionate" reasons shall be conceded with parsimony, that every case shall be studied most accurately and that the approbation shall be given only if the conditions ~~are~~ are such that they would put an Allied soldier in condition to be repatriated to his own country.

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel.

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/147
18 August 1944

SUBJECT: IPW Repatriation of mental cases.

TO: Allied Force Headquarters, G-5 Section

Reference your 383. 6-14 3 August 1944

End 134

- a. The Italian Government assumes the responsibility for a cure of the above mentioned PW due for repatriation.
- b. They will be recovered in an adapted institute.
- c. They will not be consigned to their families until the military operations in Italy have ceased.
- d. In as much as these PW mental cases do not exceed 10 in all, they could be landed either in Taranto or in Palermo.

D.V.C.

For the Director of WMD & PW
Sub-Commission

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

ROME 15 August 1944

FILE NO. 2956/M11/I/C-7

TO: A.C.C., ROME

SUBJECT: Repatriation of PW with mental diseases.

Referring to Letter No. IPW/1/138 dated 8 August 1944.

- Encl 138 see 134*
- The Italian Government assumes the responsibility for a cure of the above mentioned PW due for repatriation.
 - They will be recovered in an adapted institute.
 - They will not be consigned to their families until the military operations in Italy have ceased.
 - I will be grateful if these PW could be landed in the Port of Taranto or Palermo.

It has been noted that they do not number over 10 soldiers.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Action 147

448

17/8/44
File 1

(145)

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/145

18 Aug. 44.

To: Officer Commanding, Allied Screening Commission.

Subject: Repatriation of Italian PW.

Encl 142

- 1/. Reference your letter No. WOS/DDG/GEN/9 dated 9 August.
- 2/. As I explained when I discussed this matter with you the question of making exceptions to the rule with regards to Italian PW is difficult in the extreme.
- 3/. It is appreciated that those Italians who helped our prisoners should have every consideration and while I cannot hold out any great hope of effecting the release of any number, I am prepared to consider any very special cases you may wish to put forward.
- 4/. I am referring the question to higher authority and I shall let you know in due course the action decided on.

Data 17th & 18th Aug.

JAC

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director W.M.D. & IPW S.C.

No DATE!!

See encl. 216.

4403

H.Q. UNITED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR
SUB-COMMISSION

144

IPW/1/144

17 August 44

TO: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

SUBJECT: Employment of Italian Prisoners of War

1/. Reference your letter No *Encl 143* 673/Pol/G-2 dated
7 August on above subject.

2/. The questions referred to in your above quoted
letter have been referred to higher authority
for consideration.

3/. I would again point out that it has been found
necessary to the war effort to transfer PW on
certain occasions from one country to another.

4/. With regard to the question of mail, I would refer
you to my letter ASC/1/3/93 dated 11 August which
explained that all mail was immediately redirected
to the new address when PW were moved from one
Camp or country to another.

JAC
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director W.M.D. & IPW S.C.

443

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
FILE NO. 673/Pol/G-2

ROME August 7, 1944
TO: A.C.C., ROME

(143)

SUBJECT: Employment of Italian PW.

The High Commissioner has learned through various private channels that the Allied Authorities are having transferred numerous groups of Italian PW from N. Africa to England or some other country, from India to Australia etc. This transfer is the cause of grave perturbations among the PW, who cannot see the reason why now with the Armistice and the new relations of cobelligerency, instead of being transferred nearer to their country they are being removed further away from it.

x [It must be noted that this transfer will determine a new considerable delay in the functioning of the mail.

Numberous families, who already have had informations that their relations PW have been or are being transferred somewhere else, apply anxiously to this High Commissioner to know the motive of such removal, the place of destination and the new address for their mail.

It is my duty to be the interpreter of their wishes and their anxiety and for that reason beg the A.C.C. to call the attention of the High Allied Authorities to all this. They will certainly remember the exact dispositions of Art. 10 (last line) about the transfer of PW of Art. 26 about the prenotice to be given to PW in case of transfer and Art. 8 and 36 for what concerns the correspondence of the PW with their families (1st Convention of Geneva).

I would be very grateful for an answer with all the indications possible so as to enable the High Commissioner to follow the fate of their PW and put their relations in condition to correspond with them.

x see Encl (89) and (66) in File 1/3

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Action 144

9/8/44
File 1

4481

ALLIED SCREENING COMMISSION
C.M.F.

9 AUG 44

WCS/DDC/GEN/9

Subject: Repatriation of Italian PSW.

To: Lt. Col. J.E. Campbell,
War Material Disposal,
and Italian PSW Sub-Commission,
A.C.C.

With reference to our conversation of 8th inst., we wish to confirm the following:-

1. That, in the course of our work of screening all claims submitted by Italian civilians who have assisted escaped Allied PSW during the German Occupation, we receive many requests in connection with Italian PSW in Allied hands.
2. That a number of these requests are for repatriation of the PW concerned, who is always a close relative of the claimant.
3. That, although there will be the occasional case when the Italian PW already meets the requirements for qualify for normal repatriation (compassionate grounds, age, etc.), the average request is for the return of a PW who is not officially eligible for repatriation.
4. That some of these claimants, who have sacrificed much, on behalf of our escapers, now ask for no monetary recompense, but only the repatriation of a PW member of the family.
5. That by obtaining, if possible, the repatriation of these special cases, we could save a considerable amount of financial expenditure, apart from satisfying the claimants, to whom money in many cases means very little at this time.

We should be glad to hear if any cases of this nature would receive favourable consideration, it being understood that only really deserving cases would be submitted by us for your attention.

142

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We should be glad to hear if any cases of this nature would receive favourable consideration, it being understood that only really deserving cases would be submitted by us for your attention.

Detention
145
S. I. Derry
(S. I. Derry)
Major

Officer Commanding
Allied Screening Commission
C.M.F.

11/8/44
File 1

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Col. Campbell

141

No. 243.

4th August 1944.

Memorandum to: G-5, Allied Force Headquarters,
British Resident Minister
U. S. Political Adviser.

See Encl 127 & 129

Mr Chincigo, a correspondent of I.N.S., recently filed a message to the effect that the Italian and Russian Governments were negotiating for the release of Italian prisoners of war. Enquires were accordingly made by the Political Section of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs whether there was any truth in this report. Signor Prunas stated that there was not.

2. At the same time Signor Prunas drew attention to the fact that, according to another press report, the Russians had recently released in Lithuania 4,000 Italian prisoners who had previously been held there by the Germans. The Italian Government had asked the Russian mission in Rome to find out whether this report was true, and in doing so had expressed the hope that the Russian Government would take care of any batches of Italian prisoners or workmen who had been held by the Germans and might now be overrun by advancing Russian troops.

H. A. CACCIA
Vice-President
Political SectionCopies to: British High Commissioner
U. S. Representative to Advisory Council.11/8/44
File 1Action ~~158~~

4479

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/139

8 August 1944

To: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters.

Subject: Mistreatment of Italian PW by French and British.

- 1/. Forwarded herewith is translation of letter No. 526/Pol/G.2 dated 19 July from Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, subject as above.
- 2/. Concerning the complaints of mistreatment by the French authorities, your attention is directed to the High Commissioner's letter No. 62/Pol dated 14 April which was forwarded to AFHQ, Chief of Staff, under cover of AGC letter No. CG/G/248 dated 29 April, which was answered by AFHQ letter file AG 383.6-3 GAP-0 dated 12 June, in which it was stated that AFHQ would use its offices to investigate conditions in French Camps for Italian Prisoners of War.
- 3/. Please supply such information as is available so that I may reply to the High Commissioner on this subject and if possible answer the charges made in the letter attached.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Encl.
Ltr No. 526/Pol/G.2
dated 19 July.

JAC
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
W.M.D. & I.P.W. S.C.

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/138

8 August 1944

To: High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Repatriation of Mental Cases.

1/. I understand that a group of Italian Prisoners of War who are mental cases can be repatriated, but for security reasons, the following guarantees are considered necessary.

- (a) That the Italian Government is willing to assume responsibility.
- (b) Place them in a suitable institution.
- (c) Give assurances that they will not be released to their families while military operations are in progress.

2/. I shall be pleased if you will let me have your reply in due course.

See 147

JAC
J. A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
W.M.D. & I.P.W. S.C.

4477

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

EWS/hd

137a

A/CC 321

29 July 1944

Subject: Letter of Instructions

To: Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Campbell, Director,
War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission

1. General Orders No. 26, copy attached, adds "Italian Prisoners of War" to the title and duties of your Sub-Commission.
2. The additional duties of your Sub-Commission will include:
 - a. All questions on Italian PW to be channeled through the Sub-Commission.
 - b. Liaison with High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
 - c. Co-ordinate requests for release of special PW required for Italian Armed Forces or Civil Administration in the Italian Government with High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and forward to higher authority.
 - d. Clarify and co-ordinate all political matters affecting Italian Prisoners of War with Political Section. Action where necessary to be taken by Sub-Commission. (Questions on policy and matters on which instructions and directives are necessary only to be submitted to the Chief Commissioner).
 - e. Prosecute outstanding Italian Prisoners of War questions where necessary until finalized.

Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Incl -
Copy of General Orders No. 26.

4476

File

CONFIDENTIALCONFIDENTIAL

117

HEADQUARTERS
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 534

AP 117

JC/wp

War Material Insp. S.C.

6319 136

AG 336.2/567 A-O

25 July 1944

SUBJECT: Violations of NATOUSA Administrative Instructions.

TO : All Concerned.

1. Repeated instructions concerning the return of prisoners of war to inclosures prior to a unit's change of location have in the past been ignored by certain organizations of this command.

2. Paragraph 10, Administrative Instructions for United States Army Control of Italian Service Units, NATOUSA, file AG 336.2/293 A-O, dated 5 January 1944, is quoted in part:

"No Italian service units will be moved within the base section except on orders of the base section commander and will not be moved from one base section to another base section except as ordered by this headquarters. No Italian service units or individual Italian personnel or prisoner of war will be moved outside of North Africa without authority of this headquarters."

3. To prevent future violations of this nature, it is desired that the above quoted instructions be brought to the attention of all concerned.

By command of Lieutenant General DEVERS:

DISTRIBUTION:

"X"

J. L. TARR,
Colonel, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

ACC-DIST

Army S.C.

Exec. Offs.

Hq. Comdt.

Adj.

4475

7/8/44

File 1

1
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CUMD + POW

SUBJECT:- Status of Co-operators.

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/3074/21/A(0).

6 Aug 44.

HQ ACC



1. It is possible that the accurate status of co-operators i.e. ITALIAN PW on parole employed by the British Forces is not correctly understood by the ITALIAN authorities.

2. The following is an extract from the pamphlet issued by AFHQ entitled "Administration of Italian PW Co-operators in British Hands"-

" All Italian PW who offer to co-operate will normally be accepted as co-operators. No written agreement will be required of them, nor will they be required to sign any parole. The following will NOT be accepted:-

- (a) Prisoners against whom there are objections on security or political grounds.
- (b) Prisoners who are permanently unfit for duty or who persistently report sick.
- (c) Psychotics.
- (d) Men of bad character or bad discipline.

Those whose services are accepted retain the status of PW, but they will be so described only when status is material (e.g., the preparation of a charge sheet, on identity documents). The provisions of "(Regulations for the Maintenance of Discipline among Prisoners of War, 1939)", apply therefore to co-operators, except where otherwise stated in this instruction.

As far as is compatible with their status as defined in para. 3 above and with the exception of any restrictions which may be imposed from time to time, the treatment of co-operators will follow the general lines of that afforded to British personnel in the units in which they work.

4474
/The functions.....7/8/44
File 1

- 2 -

The functions of the Protecting Power, the International Red Cross Committee and the World's Alliance of Y.M.C.As. remain unchanged. (1352)

Article 31 of the Geneva Convention and any other Articles which restrict the nature or location of work will be suspended, but no co-operators will be employed in units engaged in active operations against the enemy.

The priority of employment of co-operators will be:-

- (a) To complete existing British Order of Battle requirements:-
- (b) To replace British units and personnel. "

3. It is recommended that the full interpretation of the status of Italian co-operators should be explained to the Italian authorities.

TW/IX.

Shepherd
Brigadier,
D.A.C.

4473

CONFIDENTIAL

W. M. D. 52

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

BMR/jjr

134

G-5: 383.6-14

3 August 1944

SUBJECT: Italian PWs - Repatriation of Mental Cases.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
APO 394

1. Of a group of Italian PWs certified as repatriable because of mental diseases, eight have been screened "C" insecure and one had previously escaped and been recaptured.

2. As their release into the custody of their families would constitute a threat to security, it is requested that you determine whether the Italian Government is willing to assume responsibility for them, place them in a suitable institution and give assurances that they will not be released to their families while military operations are in progress.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

B. Repton

B. M. REPTON
Jr. Comdr.

action to HCP

130

action 4:147

7/8/44
File 1**CONFIDENTIAL**

Bocconi

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PS
File No. 532/Pol.

ROME ~~JULY~~ August 1, 1944
TO: A.C.C. for Lt. Col.
Campbell, ROME.

Subject: Non-acceptation of the suspension of pay to
Italian ~~Y~~ soldiers kept as PW in British
Camps.

As promised I send you the new wording of the noted
letter No. 532/Pol/H.2 of July 18, 1944 with two
allegations.

I join also for your private use, the traduction
in English of the letter in its previous wording.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

8/8/44 - Col. Campbell takes to
Political.

8/8/44 - orig Italian & translation handed by
Col. Campbell to Mr. Caccia, who will
take action - *John*

3/8/44
file 1

L. T. O. K.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR PW
FILE NO. 532/Pol/H.2 di prot.

ROME

JULY 18, 1944
TO: A.C.C., ROME

1320

SUBJECT: Non-acceptance of suspension of pay of Italian Military held prisoner of war in British hands.

1/. I refer to the office communication made by the Political Section of Allied Control Commission with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs re the eventual suspension of pay of Italian PW. I trust that before an official decision be made, consideration be given observations that can now be made in Rome, where precedents have been established re the PW question.

2/. It would seem, from same office communication, that the Britannic Government intends no longer to apply the agreement it had established with the Italian Government, and would apply to the Italian PW when deemed necessary, suspensions of pay, by holding back sums from their monthly stipend or pay earned by work.

It should be remembered that in 1942 the Government of His Britannic Majesty, through the Protecting Power, protested against the fact that the Royal Italian Government had inflicted pecuniary punishments on British prisoners and with valid reasons claimed that to be "iniquitous and contrary to the spirit of the Geneva Convention". It proposed an agreement embodying the abolition of such pecuniary punishments. Recognizing the fundamental logic of these observations the Royal Government by means of verbal note No. 15600/367 directed to the Swiss Legation, 30 June 1942 acquiescing to the agreement, thus putting it into effect.

Attached are copies of the 2 notes relative to this question.

3/. The reasons presented by the Government of His Britannic Majesty re British PW in Italian hands would seem to apply to Italian PW in British hands.

The Italian authorities could not therefore be expected to adhere to a policy, expressed officiously as recorded above, to apply now to Italian PW an act which the Government of His Britannic Majesty had in 1942 declared "iniquitous".

I'm firmly convinced that the A.C.C. will courteously confirm that said suspensions of pay will continue to not be applied.

Yours very truly.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

4470

3/18/44
JTB

C00282

COPY

BOCCINI

Alleged 1

(1321)

1. The Legation of H.M. presents its compliments to the Division for Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department and has the honour to let it know that the Italian Government has allowed that should be deducted off the pay of British PWs:

- a) the period spent expiating a sentence to imprisonment inflicted as disciplinary punishment as to Art. 54 of the Convention of Geneva.
- b) the period spent expiating a sentence to imprisonment imposed after a judiciary procedure as to Art. 60;
- c) the period during which a PW has been at liberty and absent of the Camp owing to an attempt to flight.

2. The Government of H.M. has up till now abstained from ordering analogous deductions from the pay of the alien PW for one of the motives mentioned above. While the Convention for PW doesn't actually prohibit these deductions from the pay the Government of H.M. considers that these would be contrary to the spirit of the Convention; as far the detaining Power paying the salary to the PW acts as an agent for the Government of the same PW which is obliged to repay. In the case of a deduction of confinement imposed after judiciary proceedings the effect of the deduction is to impose an additional punishment besides the one ordered of the Court of Justice while in case of an attempt to evasion, as it is a duty for the PW to his own Government to try to escape, it is not just and contrary to the spirit of the Convention if he should be economically punished for such an attempt.

3. The Government of the H.M. considers it important that the treatment of PW in that respect should be reciprocal and intends therefore to order deductions of salary of the Italian PW at least if the Italian Government does not modify its policy in that respect.

4. The Swiss Government is begged to interrogate the Italian Government as to obtain through it the assurance that it will not in the future, impose deductions of salary for the reason mentioned above or for other analogous and that it will accredit all the British PWs whatever sum might have been deducted for other motives. In default of sufficient assurances in this sense and a solicitous terms, the Government of H.M. will give orders for deductions of salary, on similar bases from Italian PW in British hands.

5. It is the custom of the Government of H.M. to impose deductions of salary for damages to private property provoked by alien PWs and retaining that the Italian Government should also wish to make those deductions in a general agreement on the question it proposes to continue in this sense.

3 June 1942

4469

P.G.

BOCCINI

leged 2

31/15600/334

172-2

OFFICIAL REPORT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, referring to the official report No. 00282 of June 3, has the honour to pray the Swiss Legation to transmit the following answer to the British Government.

"The Italian Government has received the communication of which the official report 225/2415/42 in date of May, 18, 1942 of the Royal British Legation at Bern contained in the official report No. 00282 of June 3rd of the Swiss Legation in Rome.

The Italian Government agrees with the point of view expressed by the British Government with regards to the salaries to correspond to PW also drawing the periods passed while expiating a judiciary or disciplinary punishment or during attempts to evasion. The Italian Government, which takes note of the fact that the British Government never suspended the payment of the salaries suspended the payment of the salaries on such occasions, assures that instructions have been given so that the sums which have been kept back from the British PWs in analogous cases, will be accredited to them.

The Italian Government agrees also with the British Government on point 5) of the official report mentioned above of the British Legation at Bern, referring to the damages to private property".

The Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanks beforehand the Swiss Legation for the courteous despatch of this communication.

Rome June 30, 1942

To the Swiss Legation, Rome.

4468

*Col. Campbell*ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff*Secy General*
*Room 2C**96**8175*

30 July 1944.

HQ AGC, APO 394
383 Secy Gen.
Rec'd 11 Aug 1944
By *PPK*SUBJECT: Complaints of Unjust Treatment of Italian Prisoners
of War.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum on the above subject
dated 18 July 1944.2. This Headquarters is, of course, very much aware of the concern
which the prisoner of war question is causing the Italian Government,
and complaints such as you have cited are given the most scrupulous
investigation. You will appreciate that such scrupulous investigation
takes time and in consequence entails delay in the transmission of final
replies.3. You may rest assured that questions of this nature have always
been, and will continue to be, considered in this Headquarters as
matters of policy rather than of minor administrative interest.

By command of General WILSON:

In *Lawrence Roberts*
J. A. H. GAMMELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

Copies to:

G-1(A)
G-1(B)
British Resident Minister
U.S. Political Adviser*Copy to War material Dept 4467**11/31**Yoch**Re put in relative file**W.C.**13/10/44**664*

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW Rome, 30 July 1944
FILE NO. 587/Pol/L.7 di prot TO: A.C.C. ROME

130a

SUBJECT: Free Prisoners on parole in Sicily.

Referring to my memorandum in date July 18, regarding the Italian soldiers still kept PW in Italy, I want to disclose some difficulties arising from the release "on parole" of many of the prisoners in Sicily.

Encl 117a NB 112

1/. In many cases, free Italian soldiers on leave in Sicily presented themselves to the Allied authorities, and obtained a document of Prisoners "on parole". In those cases the soldiers discharged their military duty and remained in Sicily thereby avoiding the charge of desertions. It is easy to understand the effects of such proceedings on the discipline of the soldiers and the danger of such a precedent. As you know in Sicily, volunteers will be enlisted for the Army of liberation. Now in Sicily, many such potential volunteers are prisoners "on parole" so that they cannot be enlisted because of this "parole".

Those facts prove the urgency of freeing all PW that are in ~~Sicily~~ Italy.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

31/7/44
file 11

4466

/ma



L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra

Roma, 30 luglio 1944

N° 587/Pol/L.7 di prot.

OGGETTO : Prigionieri liberati "su parola" in Sicilia.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

R o m a

Con riferimento al noto mio promemoria in data 18 c.m. relativo ai militari italiani tuttora detenuti quali prigionieri di guerra in Italia segnalo alcuni altri gravi inconvenienti che si stanno determinando in Sicilia a causa della avvenuta liberazione "su parola" di molti di detti prigionieri :

1. Si è verificato di recente il caso di alcuni militari italiani liberi i quali inviati in licenza in Sicilia, si sono presentati alle Autorità Alleate ed hanno ottenuto un foglio di prigionia "su parola". Così i militari in questione si son sottratti al dovere militare, se ne sono rimasti tranquillamente in Sicilia ed hanno evitato la denuncia per diserzione!

Il fatto è grave per i riflessi disciplinari che ha tra le file italiane, e per la possibilità che si verifichino nuovi casi del genere.

2. Come noto anche in Sicilia verrà effettuato l'arruolamento di volontari per la formazione di specializzati destinati ad operare nella lotta di liberazione del suolo nazionale.

Ora in Sicilia fra gli aspiranti all'arruolamento figurano anche molti ex militari prigionieri di guerra liberi sulla "parola" : i quali, per vincoli di questa "parola", non potrebbero essere da noi arruolati!

I due fatti gravi di cui sopra concorrono a mettere in luce la urgente necessità di addivenire alla liberazione di tutti i militari italiani tuttora tenuti prigionieri in Italia.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

P. Gazzera

H. H. COMMISSIONER FC. PW
File No. 594/Pol-C.15.

ROME JULY 28, 1944
TO: A.C.C., ROME

(129a)

SUBJECT: Italian soldiers interned in Germany freed by the Red Army.

Referring to my letter No. 565/C.15.A. in date July 23 and to the new article written on the newspaper of Rome "IL UNITA" about the Italian prisoners freed by the Red Army in date July 27 of which is attached a copy.

I pray this Commission to give me others information aside of those requested before, of the intentions of the Allied Nations respect those prisoners. It would be our desire that those prisoners would be repatriated.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

ARTICLE WRITTEN ON ROME NEWSPAPER "IL UNITA" JULY 27, 1944.

Moscow 26. The Red Army has released more than 4000 Italians from Lithuania. Those men are sent toward East on the road Vilna-Minsk. They are in excellent moral condition. They ask to the Russians to let them fight the Germans.

Many of those Italians had fought against the Germans in the Greek Islands others were taken prisoners when fighting with the Army of Marshal Tito.

8/8/44 out to Col. With (127) 4464
Talk with Russians

8/8/44 - Orig. Italian + translation handed by Col. Campbell to Mr. Caccia, who will take action - J. d. M.

See 141

action

(158)

31/7/44
File 1

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
No. 569/Pol.1.4 d1 prot.

ROME, JULY 26th 1944
TO: A.C.C., ROME.

SUBJECT: Repatriation for compassionate reasons.

1. I refer to your letter ASC/1/114 of July 22, 1944. The Italian authorities thank you for the fact that the proposals contained in my letter 123/Pol. of 3 May have been fundamentally accepted. The early realization of them will be for the Italian people a tangible proof of the spirit of comprehension of their conditions by the Allies.

2. All the same I must make by observations which I pray you to consider:

a) The Italian authorities are convinced that repatriation for health reasons, supported by the Allied medical authorities, shall be accomplished with the greatest generosity. But they will not subscribe to renunciation of the work of the International Mixed Medical Commissions constituted as to the Conventions of Geneva and the agreements made during the war between the R. Italian Government and the Allies. These Mixed Commissions could integrate the work of the Allied Medical authorities in all those cases where the PWs ask to be visited. For that reason these Commissions must be retained in function. Communications shall be made in this sense to the Protecting Powers and to the International Red Cross.

b) Evidently repatriation cannot be accomplished if there are no means of transport available; but the Italian authorities beg you to see that these means are provided so that repatriations can be effected in a regular manner, even from the most remote countries where our soldiers have been taken. (Australia, India, Kenya, South Africa, North Africa, America, etc).

c) In judging the "compassionate cases", I beg you to be very generous, because the general conditions of Italy and those of the Italian families are very much worse, than those in which the families of the Allied soldiers who come overseas, can possibly find themselves. There may be cases wherein the Allied authorities, for "security" reasons, will not effect repatriation although for humanitarian reasons they would have. The Italian authorities wish you to bear in mind that in Italy they are able to take all the measures eventually necessary to keep those people in check, of whatever rank or character they are. In homage to the principles of freedom, it seems advisable not to create "victims" when nothing serious is to be feared from some of those, who have a chance to be repatriated.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera.

29/7/44

Gile ~~DB~~

8/8/44 - copies out to Col to discuss with

Gazzera

8/8/44 - Col Campbell discussed with Genl Gazzera. - assured him everything possible would be done.

127a
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR. ROME - 23 July 44
No. 565/C/15/a/Pol. TO: A.C.C., ROME.

SUBJECT: Military Italian Internees in Germany liberated
by Russian Army.

A despatch from London in date of the 21st of July and reported on the Roman paper 'L'Unita' of the 22nd informs that as to informations from Moscow, the Russian Army during the recent advances made had liberated PW of different nationalities among which are also Italians, kept in the concentration camps by the Germans.

I would be grateful to the A.C.C. if they would interest themselves to procure confirmation and some more details about this information. Particularly: number and kind of the Italian PWs, their conditions, where they have been sent to etc.

Thanking you beforehand,

High Commissioner
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

8/5/44 - out to Col with 129 for 4462
discussion with Russians

8/5/44 - Italian translation
handed by Col. Campbell
to Mr. Caccia who will act.
J.I.M.

29/7/44
File 1

See also
141

All 129
same
subject
Action 158

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
File No. 526/Pol/C.

ROME 19 July 1940
TO: A.C.C., ROME

(176a)

SUBJECT: Italian PW camp held by French and English authorities in Tunis.

Referring to my letter No. 62/Pol. dated 14 April. I believe it to be my duty to submit to the attention of this Commission, in behalf of my Government, the following facts that I know only now.

in D.S.G. files (mis-treatment by French)

① Regarding the Italian prisoners in the French concentration camps in Tunisia:

ZAGHOUAN DEPOT XVII
SOUSSE
ONDOUÏLE ET D'EL ONDIANE
BIZERTE DEPOT XV
RUMADIA
LAVERIE

As to those camps, there is a complaint because of the lack of equipment and the bad postal service. It seems that the prisoners of war are clothed so badly as to deprive them of their self pride and necessary comfort. In the camp of ONDOUÏLE at D'EL ONDIANE the conditions are absolutely inadequate:

- a) The sanitary conditions are insufficient.
- b) The billets are without light and beds.
- c) The food is scarce.
- d) The equipment poor and soap is lacking.
- e) The straw is wet and odorous.

We have complaints from a small camp of 50 PW in the harbor of Carrières where they are isolated without help and comfort. ~~②~~ PW camp 205 of KASSAR SAID under the British authority. The Italian PW are with German PW and the conditions of life are not according to the regulations of Art. 10 of the Geneva Convention.

I hope that this Commission will call the attention of the proper authorities so paragraph 9, 10, 11, 12 of the Geneva Convention so as to improve thereby conditions of the PW.

I thank your Commission and I pray that you will let me know the steps taken.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

28/7/44
File 1

TO AFHQ

4461

(139)

125a

H.Q., ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ARMY SUB COMMISSION
APO 394.

17 July 1944

To : The Acting Chief Commissioner.

Memorandum - Necessity for forming of Section or Branch to handle all PW questions.

1. It is suggested that the amount of work and the number of questions on PW and repatriation make it essential to form a Branch or Section through which channel ALL correspondence and PW questions must pass before going to the Chief Commissioner or any of the Sections or Sub-Commissions.
2. The Branch could originally commence to function with 2 officers (the head of the Section and one Staff Officer grade III), 2 enlisted men with an English speaking Italian.
3. It is considered that the Branch could best be attached to the Secretary General's Department.
4. Appendix "A" sets out the duties of the Branch and gives suggestions in regard to Staff.

Dac

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

Encl. Appendix "A"

4460

APPENDIX "A"

Suggested strength of PW Section and reasons why Branch should be set up.

I.STRENGTH

Officers (2) - 1 i/c Section.	To be named.
1 S.O. Grade III.	Captain R.B. Derby.
IN/Cs. (2) - 1 Clerk	Pfc J. McCormick
1 Typist	Pfc M.M. Sammarcelli
Civilian	To be selected

II. DUTIES OF SECTION

- (a) All questions on Italian PW to be channeled through Section.
- (b) Liaison with High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
- (c) Co-ordinate requests for release of special PW required for Italian Armed Forces or Civil Administration in the Italian Government with High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and forward to higher authority.
- (d) Clarify and co-ordinate all political matters with Political Section. Action where necessary to be taken by Branch. (Questions on policy and matters on which instructions and directives is necessary only to be submitted to the Chief Commissioner.).
- (e) Prosecute outstanding questions where necessary until finalised.

III. SUBJECTS - Now being handled.

- (a) Policy with regard to PW in Italy and Sicily. Letter to AMHQ. No definite decision yet received.
- (b) Repatriation - Lists of 25 officers. Forwarded to AMHQ. New names being substituted. Matter looks like remaining open for some time.
- (c) Personal effects and monies of PW not returned on repatriation. Large number of cases. Referred to AMHQ for action. This question will continue and remain open for some time.
- (d) PW camps set up in Maloria and non-healthy districts, India and West Africa. Complaints forwarded to AMHQ.

4159

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- (e) Prosecute outstanding questions where necessary until finalised.

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- (a) Policy with regard to PW in Italy and Sicily.
 - (b) Repatriation - Lists of 25 Officers.
 - (c) Personal effects and monies of PW not returned on repatriation. Large number of cases.
 - (d) PW camps set up in Malasia and non-healthy districts, India and East Africa.
 - (e) Release of PW on compassionate grounds.
 - (f) Repatriation of sick, wounded and aged.
- Letter to AFHQ. No definite decision yet received.
- Forwarded to AFHQ. New names being substituted. Matter looks like remaining open for some time.
- Referred to AFHQ for action. This question will continue and remain open for some time.
- Complaints forwarded to AFHQ.
- Release asked for from AFHQ. Many cases at present open.
- Requests from High Commissioner for Prisoners of War forwarded to AFHQ. Requests from War Department and AFHQ forwarded to Italian Government to accept repatriation of groups from India, United Kingdom, etc. This question has a good deal of action still pending.

(g) Questions on non-compliance
of Articles of Geneva
Convention.

Matter referred to AFHQ.

(h) Welfare - Canteen and weekly
payments in cash or token to
PW.

AFHQ are dealing with this
question.

IV.

In addition to the foregoing subjects, the question of "Sick
and wounded of the Garibaldi Division", "position of personnel of
the Cuneo Division", "Repatriation of Italians from Albania and
Greece", etc. etc. are all pending and require action.

It is necessary to confer with the High Commissioner for
Prisoners of War two or three times per week, which takes up a
considerable amount of time.

4458

EMB/AJP

124

A/CG 091.711

26 July 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Military Personnel in German Hands

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 912

+113^u
see also 88 to 87

Reference my memorandum CG/G/308 dated 20 May and ASG/1/87

Encl 83

Encl 87

dated 29 June, above subject, may I now have your comments on the proposed plan of the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of war?

EMERY W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: Army Sub-Commission

(For Colonel J. A. Campbell)

4457

28/7/44

File 1.

C O P Y

EWS/hjp

18 July 1944

A/CC 383.6

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

TO : Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy.

N.B. - Encl (101) see also 100a, confd → Encl 100 b

1. This is in reply to your letter of 4 July, AAI/3072/A(o), on the above subject.
2. This subject and the copies of letters forwarded with your letter were discussed with the Supreme Allied Commander at AFHQ Adv on July 11th.
3. I recommended that the 10,000 POW should not be sent to Italy because of the grave political questions which it would raise. The subject was discussed on July 12th by the Supreme Allied Commander and the Head of MMIA.
4. It is my understanding that as a result of these discussions it is not now planned to bring these 10,000 POW to Italy.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

CC; MMIA

S E C R E TC O P Y

4456

Copy taken 27/7/44

C O P Y

10 July 1944

(122)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

Subject: Italian Military Personnel detailed as Prisoners of War.

1. Under cover of your memorandum A/CC 383.6 dated June 26, you sent a copy of a note from the President of the Italian Council, requesting the views of the Allied authorities on Marshal BADOGLIO's representations of May 10 regarding the Allied policy of utilizing Italian prisoners of war. *Encl (103) see (118) (117)*

2. The Supreme Allied Commander directs that you reply to Signor BONOMI's note on the lines indicated in the following paragraph.

3. It is the policy of the Allied authorities to release from prisoner of war status and return to ITALY individuals with special qualifications, such as judicial or administrative experience, for service in specific positions for the direct furtherance of the war effort in ITALY. The Allied Governments have every desire to meet the wishes of the Italian Government in questions concerning prisoners of war, insofar as their responsibilities in regard to the prosecution of the war permit, as is evidenced by the release of more than 60,000 Italian prisoners of war who were on parole in SICILY. The general question of the utilization of Italian prisoners of ~~the~~ war in Allied custody is under constant study and the views of the Italian Government will be taken into consideration. There is, however, no intention at present of effecting a general release of Italian personnel from prisoner of war status.

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

Copies to:

G-1 (A)
G-5
U.S. Political Adviser
British Resident Minister
IS & PS

Copy taken 27/7/44

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

8/8/44 - orig. returned by
4:55
A/CC, out to Col
speaks to Col

Assess

C O P Y

A/CC 383.6

EWS/ajp

18 July 1944

SUBJECT: Complaints of Unjust Treatment of Italian PW.

TO : Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters Advanced.

1. In letters ACC/383.6 dated 26 June, ACC/383.6 dated 23 June, ASC/1/102 dated 14 July, ASC/1/3 dated 11 July and ASC/1 dated 10 July, and other recent letters from this headquarters a number of complaints on the treatment of Italian PW in different parts of the world have been forwarded. As you are aware, the question of prisoners of war is one of great concern to the Italian Government and if we are unable to meet them on the main question of status, it is most desirable that we should be in a position to rebut such complaints as:

- a) small numbers of PW's being sent to material districts;
- b) PW's not receiving their personal effects and monies prior to leaving PW camps on repatriation;
- c) letters being returned to relatives marked "Repatriated" when the man is still a PW.

2. These and other such complaints may be small matters in themselves, but cumulatively, if left unanswered for any length of time, they must adversely affect our good name and the readiness of the Italian military and other authorities to cooperate wholeheartedly in the war effort. I do not intend to suggest that the Italian Government have as yet reached the point of non-cooperation, but the fact that they are entirely in our hands in these matters and have so few, if any, means of reacting, should of course make us more, rather than less, scrupulous in answering their enquiries and complaints.

3. I should therefore be grateful if those questions could be reviewed as a matter of major policy and not of minor administrative routine.

Answer 131

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR

4454

Acting Chief Commissioner

Copies to:
British Resident Minister
U.S. Political Adviser
Political Section (3 copies)
P.W. Section, Army Sub-Commission

Enc 43 - A/CC/383.6, 28 June, was to
Laguna, reporting AFHQ's report
on store supplies in PW camps.

Copy taken 27/7/44

C O P Y

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ASG/1/120

27 July 1944

To: Comando Supremo.

Subject: Italian troops from the Aegean Islands now
in Egypt.

- 1/. I have to acknowledge your letter No. 14279/OP
dated 21 July and have requested information
with regards to this question. *Encl 1/16*
- 2/. I shall write you further in due course.

JAC
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

4453

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

(119)

ASC/1/119

27 July 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

Subject: Italian troops from the Aegean Islands now
in Egypt.

1/. The attached translation of letter No. 14279/OP
dated 21 July 1944, from the Comando Supremo is
forwarded. Encl (116)

2/. I shall be pleased if you will provide me with
sufficient information to enable me to reply to
Marshal Messe.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J. A. Campbell

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Encl. as above.

4452

(118)

JAC/raa

23 July 1944

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War - General Policy

To : Allied Force Headquarters, G-5 Section, APO 512.

Encl (112)

1. The attached translation of Letter 553/PC/14/2 dated 21 July, from General Cassera, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, is forwarded.

2. In forwarding this letter, I would again point out that the position in regard to Italian PW continues to cause embarrassment to the Italian Government.

3. I do not wish to over stress the point, but I am of opinion that it would be preferable to notify the Italian Government precisely what is being done, rather than leave them to find out for themselves, or have pointed out to them by their repatriated PW as in the case at present.

4. Articles have, within the past few days, appeared in the Italian press on the question of PW, and why they should still be considered as such when their brothers fight alongside the Allies. Further, certain papers have started to attack General Cassera, and, unless a solution of one kind or another to the PW problem can be found at a very early date, Cassera may well resign or be forced into doing so by the attacks made against him and the position in which he finds himself.

5. Cassera has stated that his position is becoming untenable, and while he understands there are reasons for all that is being done, he may be left with no alternative but to resign, unless he is put in a position to explain to his Government - so that they in turn may explain to the Italian people - what is happening with their PW and reasons why the Allied manpower situation makes it necessary to proceed as we are doing for the benefit of the war effort.

6. I trust that I may receive instructions on this question, which will enable me to go to the Italian Government with advice which will assist in releasing them from this embarrassment which may easily turn into a political crisis for them.

4451

Original + 1 copy
Given to Col Spafford
28/7/44

ELMER E. STUBBS
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief Commissioner

ROME July 22, 1944
TO: A.C.C., ROME

NIP

their
-Enc 106 see 107
108
his

This same Convention fixes in Art. 34 that the compensations for the work done by the PW should be to the charge of the detaining power. Then therefore the Government of the Nation the PW belongs to, should not have to make any reimbursement ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. Still, presiding entering into the merit of the formation of the labour units, waiting for the Allied authorities to answer the demand of informations asked for by H.E. the President of the Council, neither the above mentioned administrative dispositions nor all the others of the same nature fixed without any agreements with the R. Italian Government, can be recognised as being legal by that same government. Therefore it is my duty to declare this here most explicitly so as to avoid the rising of misunderstandings, now that the service of the remission of money by PW to persons in Italy is slowly rebeginning.

HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

4450

24/7/44
File 1

Supreme Command
Office of Operations.
File No. 14279 OP

P.M. 135
TO: A.C.C.

21 July 1944

(116)

Subject: Italian troops from the Aegean Islands now in Egypt.

According to a report sent by the Swiss Legation of Cairo, some Italian troops who after the 8th of September have fought against the Germans in the Aegean Islands and, escaping capture, have subsequently reached the coast of Palestine and Syria, are detained in PW camps in Egypt. They are considered and treated as PW, while evidently they should not be considered as such. I believe this is a voluntary mistake of the Allied authorities of Egypt.

Therefore I request to this Commission to kindly bring this matter up to the interested authorities with the aim of obtaining that above mentioned troops be repatriated as soon as possible or at least attached to the units of "Cuneo" Div.

Marshal of Italy
Is/ Giovanni Messe

Translation by Lt. Gortali.

Action 119 and 120

23/7/44

4449

File 1.

SECRETH.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ABC/1/114

22 July 1944

To: High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.Subject: Repatriation for humanitarian reasons.

Reference your memorandum 123 Pol. of 2 May 1944, it has now been ruled that:

- 1/. Subject to the availability of shipping, Italian prisoners of war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY should be repatriated, if found eligible on medical grounds by the competent authority of the detaining power either for direct repatriation under the provisions of Article 68 of the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war, or for hospitalization in a neutral country under the provisions of the Model Agreement annexed to the Convention.
- 2/. Subject to the availability of shipping and security considerations, Italian prisoners of war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY:
- (a) should be repatriated if they are 60 years of age or over, or are between 50 and 60 years of age and have completed 2 years of interment.
 - (b) may be repatriated if it is determined by the competent authority of the detaining power that they are entitled thereto on compassionate grounds.
- 3/. It is emphasized that release on compassionate grounds will be granted sparingly, with each case being considered on its merits and with approval granted only when the grounds are such that an Allied soldier under similar circumstances would be repatriated to his own country.

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel*See 105*
SECRET

4448

+ 152

High Commissioner for PW

Rome, 20 July 1944

File No. 543/Pol.C.15. a di prot.

TO: A.C.C., ROME.

SUBJECT: Italian PW and Internees in Germany.

1. I refer again to the question treated in the letter of General MacFarlane No. CC/P/402 of June 19th, 1944.

see note.

2. Seen the quick succeeding of events on the fronts against Germany, I retain it to be urgent to get to a decision with regards to the preventive measures to take with regards to the Italian PW and Internees at the moment in Germany. I retain that the memorial sent by us on May 16th (176/Pol.) to General MacFarlane could also now constitute a starting point for the examination of the question.

3/. I would be very grateful if I could have a soon answer.

*Encl (86)**see Encl 80 to 87 inc.*

The High Commissioner for PW
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Note - CC/P/402 of 12 June was in answer to a letter of Gen'l Gazzera, which pressed for action in this subject - 402 merely suggested that Gazzera sit tight as there is plenty of time - also this is in accord with para 5 AFHQ letter 5 May 44

*Encl. 83 b**J.P.M.**See 124*

*21/7/44
File 1*

4447

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

HQ ACC, APO 394

159 Sec'y Gen.

Rec'd

By

FROM WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL SUB COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Italian Military Personnel still detained
as PW in Italy.

File No. ASC/1/113

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

20 July 44.

Reference attached memo from General Gazzera.

1. He merely sets out his views on the subject without any scheme as to how the PW status can be changed without increasing the Army strength or upsetting the units.
2. I visited Gazzera this morning and explained that some plan or scheme was necessary whereby the units were left complete and would not come into the ceiling figures of the Army. He has promised to go into the question further.

Encls. as above.

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Director, WDSC.

(NB) This was Capt. [unclear]'s action

on 1/12/44
merely returned no
comment - J. J. M.

112K

Rome July 18th, 1944
File No. 533/Pol/D.4

MEMO ON ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL STILL DETAINED AS POW IN ITALY

1. - In Sicily Italian military personnel is still detained or considered as POW (figures not known to Italian Authorities):
 - a) - In POW camps
 - b) - Free on parole
2. - In Sicily and in Mainland are still detained as prisoners (figure not known to Italian Authorities):
 - a) - Italian military personnel distributed in small labour units of various types, employed in works forbidden for POW by the Geneva Convention, administered and ruled by Allied military Authorities.
 - b) - Single Italian soldiers, or small groups of same, employed in various works with various Allied HQs and Agencies, in the same conditions as above.
3. - As we have already pointed out more than once, from the juridical and military point of view:
 - a) - In a territory subject to Italian Government sovereignty, it is observed to keep citizens of the same in state of imprisonment. As such they should be protected, on Italian territory, by the "protecting Power", whereas, on the other hand, cobelligerency eliminates the ~~same~~ reasons according to which enemy troops have to be kept in Allied custody.
 - b) - Release on parole accorded to Italian POW is contrary to the Hague Convention, as it's forbidden by Italian law. It is also contrary to the Geneva Convention, first because tempting the prisoners with proposals opposed to the duties of their status is an offense to their honour and personality, second because all prisoners must be treated in the same way;

- 2 -

- c) - To employ POW in works explicitly forbidden by the Geneva Convention without having first reached an agreement with the Italian Government is a breach to the Convention itself. The fact that the Prisoners ~~would~~ have accepted of their own free will such tasks does not justify the violation. Several have accepted the tempting offer in order to come near their families and then reach them escaping from their units. Besides Italian (as well as the Allied) POW should all try to reach their own army: some of them, when the opportunity presents itself, do so, some do not; the latter are thus guilty of an offense which is specifically punished by the penal code of war.

4. - From the political, social, humanitarian, military points of view: the Italian population cannot get over the fact that some Italians should ~~be~~ still be prisoners of the Allies especially in Italy, while other Italians are fighting side by side with the Allies themselves. Such a state of affairs creates illfeeling both for the families and for the POW; they both consider themselves treated with injustice and cruelty by the Allies and with callous indifference by their own Government.

- b) - It has been said that in the British and American territories the present laws do not allow to keep Italian military personnel except in POW status; and that if they were set free the population would resent it. But here such laws do not exist, and much less would there be any resentment.
- c) Imprisonment is liable to be physically and morally depressing, much more so when the prisoner is kept among his own fellow-citizens in his own country; the influence of this state of affairs on work of whatever kind is a very bad one, and results of work are low. Italian feelings and military dignity are being hurt, thus impairing the spirit of comradeship and collaboration.
- d) Keeping many Italians in such conditions under the very eyes of military and civil authorities is a paradox from which spiritual disorder, material confusions and even political and social troubles may eventually arise.
5. - In order to allow us to give the utmost political & military support to co-belligerency, it is necessary that all Italian military personnel still detained in POW status in Italy should be freed and handed over to Italian military authorities.

- 3 -

Such Authorities will

- a) refrain from taking any disciplinary measure against those who violated Italian military law either by giving their parole, or by volunteering in units employed in forbidden works, without any order from the Italian Govt.
- b) settle all liberated personnel according to existing Italian laws & regulations, on the same basis as they do with free personnel belonging to the same ~~force~~ ^{unit}, having same rank and age, and ~~residing in the~~ ^{originally from} same region;
- c) will take the same measures adopted in the free Italian units for those who might be politically suspect.
- d) will turn all labour units now formed by prisoners into Italian units of free Italian troops, without either any interruption of their work or any change in their employment (of course all corresponding food rations will be supplied by the Allies).

Resuming

The problem of Italian POW is a problem of great political importance. The status of cobelligerency should point out to Allied Authorities the advisability of considering it ^{not only} under a merely technical point of view or only for what concerns food situation. The Allies ought to allow Italian people to produce the maximum war effort, as the Italians wish, having them convinced that they can fully trust the Allies' sense of rightness and humanitarian feelings.

X / Liberation of all prisoners now held in Italian territory would therefore be a considerable step in that sense, with great political effects.

The High Commissioner
(General Pietro Garrea)


*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 18 luglio 1944

N° 533/Pol/D.4

PROMEMORIA RELATIVO AI MILITARI ITALIANI
TUTTORA DETENUTI QUALI PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA IN ITALIA

- - - - -

1. In Sicilia militari italiani sono tuttora detenuti o considerati quali prigionieri di guerra (in numero non noto alle Autorità italiane) :
 - a) - in campi di prigionia di guerra;
 - b) - liberati su dichiarazione che ne vincola la libertà con "parola d'onore".
2. In Sicilia e nella penisola sono tuttora detenuti quali prigionieri (in numero non noto alle Autorità italiane) :
 - a) - militari italiani riuniti in piccole unità di lavoro di tipo vario, impiegate in lavori proibiti ai prigionieri dalla Convenzione di Ginevra, amministrate e disciplinarmente governate dalle Autorità militari alleate;
 - b) - militari italiani isolati od in piccoli gruppi adibiti a lavori vari presso comandi ed enti vari alleati, nelle medesime condizioni ora esposte.
3. Come s'è già molte volte diffusamente rappresentato, dal punto di vista giuridico e militare:
 - a) - è assurdo il tenere in territorio dove il Governo italiano esercita la sua sovranità, suoi cittadini in stato di prigionieri, i quali dovrebbero come tali essere protetti, in territorio italiano, dalla "Potenza protettrice", mentre d'altra parte, con la coesistenza, la ragione di sicurezza per cui combattenti nemici dovevano essere tenuti custoditi dagli alleati cessa.
 - b) - L'aver chiesto la "parola d'onore" a militari italiani fatti prigionieri è contro la Convenzione dell'Aja, poi ~~4449~~ ⁴⁴⁴⁹ la legge italiana lo proibisce; è pure contro la Convenzione di Gine-

./.

- 2 -

vra perchè non rispettare l'onore e la personalità dei prigionieri tentandoli con proposte contrarie ai doveri del loro stato, è contro la stessa Convenzione perchè i prigionieri devono essere trattati tutti nello stesso modo;

- c) - l'impiegare i prigionieri in lavori per essi proibiti tassativamente dalla Convenzione di Ginevra senza avere prima raggiunto un accordo in merito col Governo italiano è violazione della Convenzione stessa. L'aver i prigionieri accettato "volontariamente" tale impegno non giustifica la violazione: parecchi hanno accettato l'offerta tentatrice per avvicinarsi alla famiglia e raggiungerla, fuggendo dal reparto.

D'altra parte i soldati italiani (come quelli alleati) prigionieri dovrebbero tutti cercare di raggiungere il proprio esercito: alcuni, potendolo, lo fanno, altri no; questi ultimi compiono così un reato specificamente punito dal codice penale di guerra.

3. Dal punto di vista politico, sociale, umanitario, militare:

- a) - la popolazione italiana non sa darsi pace che suoi figli siano tuttora prigionieri degli alleati specialmente in Italia, mentre altri combattono con gli alleati stessi.

L'esistenza di questi prigionieri in Italia crea circostanze pietose, irritanti per le famiglie e per i prigionieri stessi: le une e gli altri si ritengono vittime di ingiustizia e di crudeltà da parte degli alleati e di colpevole indifferenza del proprio Governo. Ciò semina germi di avversione, di sfiducia, per gli alleati e per il Governo italiano.

- b) - E' stato accennato durante le trattative per cercare una sistemazione legale ed equa dei prigionieri di guerra italiani che nei territori britannici ed americani le leggi attuali non consentono di tenere militari italiani non prigionieri e che, ove fossero liberati, si ecciterebbe il risentimento della popolazione. Ma quelle leggi qui non esistono, e tanto meno esisterebbe risentimento.

- c) - La prigionia tiene il fisico e l'animo del militare depressi; la mortificazione della costrizione è ancora più sentita per essere subita sotto gli occhi dei propri concittadini; il lavoro, qualunque esso sia, è influenzato da questo stato morale; il rendimento è minimo.

La formazione delle unità o dei nuclei di lavoro di prigionieri non rispetta nè il sentimento nè la dignità militare italiana: è causa di risentimento, e non di spirito di cameratismo.

./.

- 3 -

- d) - La permanenza in Italia, sotto gli occhi delle Autorità militari e civili, di molti italiani, posti nelle condizioni suesposte, crea un paradosso giuridico e pratico, fonte di disordine spirituale, di confusione materiale, e prepara turbamenti politici e sociali nel futuro.
4. Per poter dare il massimo apporto alla cobelligeranza, politicamente e militarmente occorre che tutti i militari italiani tuttora detenuti o considerati quali prigionieri in Italia (Sicilia e penisola) siano liberati dal loro stato di prigionia, e rimessi tutti nelle mani delle Autorità militari italiane. Queste :
- a) - si asterranno dal prendere qualsiasi provvedimento di carattere ~~punitivo~~ per coloro che hanno infranto le leggi italiane, sia col dare la parola d'onore, sia con l'accettare di fare volontariamente parte, senza l'ordine del Governo italiano, di unità adibite a lavori proibiti;
 - b) - sistemeranno ognuno di questi militari liberati secondo le leggi ed i regolamenti italiani in vigore, così come praticano per i militari liberi della stessa arma, stesso grado, stessa età, stessa regione di appartenenza;
 - c) - adotteranno per i militari che potessero politicamente ispirare timore, quei provvedimenti che si usano nei reparti italiani liberi;
 - d) - senza interrompere il lavoro o la dipendenza d'impiego delle unità di lavoro ora costituite con prigionieri, le trasformeranno in unità italiane di militari italiani liberi. (Naturalmente dev'essere fornite dagli alleati le corrispondenti razioni viveri).

C o n c l u s i o n e

Il problema dei prigionieri di guerra italiani è problema di grande rilievo politico. Lo stato di cobelligeranza sembra dovrebbe convincere gli Alleati dell'utilità di considerarlo sotto diverso aspetto da quello tecnico o semplicemente del trattamento alimentare. Gli Alleati dovrebbero consentire al popolo italiano tutto lo sforzo di cobelligeranza che esso desidera compiere, col darli la prova che può avere piena fiducia nel senso di equità, e di comprensione umana degli Alleati. La liberazione, per intanto, di tutti i prigionieri che sono nel territorio italiano, sarebbe un notevole passo in questo senso, di grande efficacia politica.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

P. Gazzera

COPY

EW

A/CC 014.33

5 July 1944

Subject: Repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War.

To: Allied Force Headquarters
(Attention: Chief of Staff)

1. In previous communications the point of view of A.C.C. has been made clear in regard to the status of Italian prisoners of war in liberated Italy.

2. I now enclose a further letter, together with translation, from the Italian High Commissioner for prisoners of war again setting out in detail the views of the Italian Government on the subject of their prisoners of war in Italy.

3. There is little doubt that the position with regards to Italian prisoners of war in Italy is causing embarrassment to the Italian Government, and if the position remains the same may well be the cause of serious discontent among the population, thus weakening the government.

4. I therefore request that I may be issued with a definite instruction on this matter, as it is now becoming extremely difficult to satisfy the Italian Government without a definite statement as to our policy.

5. It is my opinion that a decision one way or the other should be made available to the new government.

ELLERY W. STONE.
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

2 Incls.

- 1 - Ltr fr Gen Gazzera, No. 410/Pol of 18 Jun 44
- 2 - Translation of ltr No. 410/Pol of 18 Jun 44

CC: The Hon. Alexander Kirk
Sir Noel Charles

Copy taken 28/7/44

4439

ARMY SUB COMMISSION
NEAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

110

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War in Italian Territory.

ASG/13

TO : High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

27 Jun 44.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letter ref 410/201 dated 18 June 1944.
2. The matter is having consideration.

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

4438

High Commissioner for
File No 410/Pol

Cava 13 June 44
TO:- A.C.C. Salerno

SUBJECT:- ITALIAN POW IN ITALIAN TERRITORY.

1. As you well know, the Allied Forces are detaining Italian soldiers in Italian territory, considering them, even now, as POW, in one of three principal categories:
- Military units formed and commanded, actually, by Allied officers, as pioneer, signal, port, hospital, services, interior, military police companies, transportation, etc.; and perhaps in other units, not known to Italian Military Authorities, or in isolated service attached to various commands;
 - Soldiers free on parole, (Sicily), who have signed an agreement, giving their word of honor;
 - In POW camps.

I have already at other times pointed out, as was my duty, now, from the point of view of the Royal Government, this is contrary to the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929, and now, in view of our co-belligerence, it is also contrary to military and political convenience. Each time I have set forth concrete proposals whereby the contribution of these POW to the war effort would not only be legalized, suffering no diminution, but rather being increased.

I submit a resume' of views previously expressed on the subject.

2. Undoubtedly, the decision to utilize Italian POW in military units has suggested itself to the Allied Authorities as a result of the establishment of co-belligerence with the Royal Italian Government, which has continuously expressed and actuated its intention to give maximum support to the fight against the Germans.

But the Geneva Convention, in clear and forceful language, forbids the employment of such by the Detaining Power in tasks, which have direct connection with military operations (Article 31).

Therefore, properly to request POW to perform such tasks, forbidden by the Geneva Convention, it should have been necessary that, saving a specific agreement had been effected with the Italian Government, providing consent to such request (Art. 23), which has not been consummated, despite the manifest good-will of the latter. (Such tasks are being performed generally by Italian POW here in Italy).

Further, because of the restrictions imposed by Art 31, it is not sufficient that POW have eventually personally to perform labor that contravenes the Geneva Convention. The more so, because, after months and years of captivity, the POW may be easily influenced by his obsession and desire for greater liberty and, more strongly, that of reaching the soil of his fatherland, possibly to reunite with his relatives, to accept any renunciation. Proof of this is the fact that many of such POW, members of the aforesaid units, have deserted to contact their families and the ranks of the Italian Army.

Please note that when one of these Italian soldiers escapes from a POW unit and delivers himself to Italian authorities, he is only

of our co-belligerence. It is also contrary to military and political convenience. Each time I have set forth concrete proposals whereby the contribution of these POW to the war effort would not only be legalized, suffering no diminution, but rather being increased.

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Please note that when one of these Italian soldiers escapes from a POW unit and delivers himself to Italian authorities, he is only doing his duty; he is free de facto and in law, and he may not return as a POW except when captured in combat (Art 50).

All these facts demonstrate not only the illegality but ⁴¹³⁷ the inexplicability of the position resultant upon these soldiers and the Italian Authorities, not to mention the unfortunate and regrettable reaction of the Italian people.

Aside from that, it is the intention and purpose of the Italian Government that its participation in co-belligerency to manifest in every conceivable manner consistent with national honor and dignity. Accordingly, should all Italian soldiers forming these units be declared completely free and restored to their full status as Italian soldiers, the Government would so establish their military and administrative capacity and maintain their organization under Italian law, discipline and tradition, as not to interfere with the effective use of the operational units in which these units are engaged at this

delicate moment of the war; they would become regular Italian units played by the in the case with Italian units, on the front lines and behind the lines.

In addition to the conformity with International Law, the following concrete advantages would be enjoyed:

- the elimination of the humiliation of the state of imprisonment, under which these Italian soldiers are now living in the presence of free comrades-at-arms, well versed to their contentment of mind and a soldier's spirit;
- by working for the Allied Armed Forces in obedience to orders transmitted through the Italian Government, they would have the confidence of working for the good of their country and would even bring new zest to their labors;
- operating under the orders of their natural and legally constituted commanders, they would be constrained to a more customary and effective discipline in the back itself.

In conclusion, on this point, we propose that Allied Authorities may see fit to effectuate an agreement with the Italian Authorities, whereby these POW units, without delaying their operations or altering their efficacious loyalty, may be transformed into regular Italian units of free Italian soldiers.

3. The binding declaration of freedom on parole, signed by a certain number of soldiers of the Italian Armed Forces in Sicily, appears on the enclosed form.

To solicit its execution by Italian POW and effect its acceptance by them is palpably contrary to the laws of warfare:

- a) Because freedom on parole may be conceded by the Detaining Belligerent to the POW only if the laws of the prisoner's country authorize this liberty (see Art 10 of Regulations added to the 4th Convention of the Hague dated 18-10-07, specifically reenacted and incorporated in Geneva Convention relative to POW of 1929 and Art 89 of the latter);
- b) Because there not only does not exist a norm in Italian law authorizing this type of freeing Italian POW, but there is an existence, instead, the pronounced promulgation of Italian law prohibiting it, it being provided by the Military Law Penal Code that its acceptance by an Italian POW constitutes a crime (Art 217 C.M.P.U.: "The Italian POW who, by giving his word of honor not to participate further in hostilities, obtains from the enemy freedom from war imprisonment, is punished by imprisonment of from three to five years.");
- c) Because, under Art 3 of the Geneva Convention of 1929, belligerents must respect the honor and personality of POW, and it is an infraction of that obligation, in this respect to put POW in this position by so impelling offers, such as this type of freedom, against the will of their government and their duty to their country.

Furthermore, to suppose that soldiers, freed on parole, shall fulfill the obligations imposed by the attached, is no less illegal:

units of free Italian soldiers.

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- b) Because there not only does not exist a norm in Italian law authorizing this type of freeing Italian POW, but there is in existence, instead, the pronounced promulgation of Italian law prohibiting it, it being provided by the Military Law Penal Code that its acceptance by an Italian POW constitutes a crime (Art 217 C.M.F.G.: "The Italian POW who, by giving his word of honor not to participate further in hostilities, obtains from the enemy freedom from war imprisonment, is punished by imprisonment of from three to five years.");
- c) Because, under Art 3 of the Geneva Convention of 1929, belligerents must respect the honor and personality of POW, and it is an infraction of that obligation, in this respect to put POW in this position by so impelling offers, such as this type of freedom, against the will of their government and their duty to their country.

Furthermore, to suppose that soldiers, freed on parole, shall fulfill the obligations imposed by the attached, is no less illegal:

- a) because, once freed, POW are not POW any more, despite the change, release on parole) and therefore, they cease to be subject to the sovereignty of the Detaining Power and pass automatically under that of their native state. Their duties and responsibilities and military responsibility as soldiers, which, during imprisonment, had been paralyzed, but not impaired in their constancy (because during imprisonment, the soldier is still considered as still in service), they reattain in full efficiency and such become factual and operative;
- b) because, by virtue of the condition of as fact and consequence of law, they must immediately present themselves to the Italian military authorities and submit to its orders, without which they would be guilty of another crime, to wit, that, under Art 118 of C.M.F.G.: "The military who, in whatever manner has regained his freedom from war imprisonment, does not present himself without just reason to an Italian military authority within three days

following that on which he entered the state territory or territory occupied by Italian military forces, is punished by military imprisonment up to five years."

c) because, even under this pretext, by obligating freed POW to commit this new crime it would be a violation of their honor and personality, as stated previously, under Art 3 of the Geneva Convention.

The continuation of the rights of the Detaining Power after liberation, manifested by the attached document, are absurd not only on the contemplation of the law of war, but as well with respect to the more fundamental laws of international nature, because it resolves itself into a very grave disregard of the sovereign rights of another state.

We must add that the irregularity of these pretensions is also aggravated by the existence of the state of co-belligerency:

1. - because this, having swept aside (at least *ex de facto*) the state of counter-belligerency, has automatically eliminated (at least *de facto*) also the reason for imprisonment and therefore our POW should be released "a fortiori" from such a state, without any conditions whatsoever;
2. - because, in this manner, the Italian state is prevented from recuperating an appreciable nucleus of its own very good soldiers, who could be usefully employed in the cooperative war effort, which is their desire and which has been pursued with much firmness also in the interest of the Allied Forces.

From a practical point of view, as well, the undesirable consequences arising from this method of liberation practiced by the Allied Authorities, are none the less serious, since, should the Italian authorities, as they must, enforce the Italian law against Italian POW so liberated, they are clearly placed in a position whereby they cannot fulfill the obligations which they have assumed with the liberating Power; and if the law is not enforced, they put in jeopardy, in their own eyes, in those of their comrades-at-arms, even of the Italian populace itself, not only the prestige of the latter but also the efficiency of military discipline; which would be a great deal more harmful for the Italian State.

In conclusion, then, for this point we also propose that the Allied Military Authorities, by leaving free those soldiers who have given their parole (whereas the fact of liberation is juridically irrevocable since the condition of imprisonment is extinct), may annul the obligation which was assumed and put them at the disposition of the Italian Military Authorities, who will take action to organize them in an orderly manner and will provide for their employment according to the military exigencies of co-belligerency.

4. Regarding Italian military yet detained in Italian territory in POW camps, we point out that:

- a) - war imprisonment, according to the spirit of the Geneva Convention, is a security measure to provide against the possibility of captured combatants retaining arms against the detaining belligerent. Now this has no further reason to exist in regard to Italian soldiers - if the legalities are to be respected - since the Italian soldiers, for a period of months, as co-belligerents, serve and fight side-by-side with the Allied Armed Forces against the common enemy.

4-33

any reasons of internal law, as has been advanced in reference to POW in Great Britain and America. Therefore, the liberations of moral and political expediency, in the writer's mind, compel the liberation of these Italian soldiers and placing them at the disposition of the Italian Military Authorities.

e) - Someone has said that among the POW there are soldiers who profess political policies contrary to co-belligerency. Italian Authorities have the means of enforcing obedience by Italian Military of whatever political conviction, and of preserving public order against the stupid wishes of any politically dissenting citizen. This cannot therefore be a serious motive for delaying the liberation of these Italian Military.

5. As a general conclusion, the Royal Government proposes that Allied Authorities consent, for the above-mentioned categories of Italian soldiers, and for all those who, continuing in the status of POW, were in any manner employed by the Allies in Italian territory, to the solution of Justice and humanity which I have the honor of proposing; that is, the cessation of the state of POW.

By being included in the status of co-belligerency and delivered of unrest, these Italian soldiers will impart a more loyal zeal to their task, and the population, at present disheartened because of their sons imprisoned near their own homes, will increase their confidence in the Allies' sense of Justice; the Allied authorities, military and civil, will be more free to exercise their authority to the advantage of military discipline and of internal civilian order.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(GENERAL PIERO GAZZERA)
/s/ P. Gazzera.

108

EWS/lfe
JAB.D53 390
27 JUN 1944.

26 June 1944

A/CC 383.6

Subject: Italian Military Personnel Detailed as Prisoners of War.

To: Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

1. Reference is made to attached translation of letter No. 1090 dated 23 June 1944 from the President of the Council, H.E. Sig. Bonomi.
2. The new government is clearly returning to the attack on this subject.
3. May this matter please receive early attention and information be given as to the lines along which a reply should be made.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissionercc: Army Sub-Commission
Rear Hq ACCAnswered by 122
(Unsatisfactory answer)
(3)

Action 122

443

28 June 44.

(107)

EWS/dfo

J.A.C.

A/CC 383.6

26 June 1944

DSM 287
27 JUN 1944

My dear Prime Minister,

The contents of your letter No. 1390 dated 23 June 1944 has been passed to Allied Force Headquarters, and I hope to be able to give you a reply on this matter in the near future.

Yours very sincerely,

ELBERT W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

H.E. Sig. Ivanoe Bonomi
President of the Council
Salerno

cc: Army Sub-Commission ✓
Rear Hq ACC

4431

CANCELLATION

President of the Council

Cava dei Tirreni, 23 June 1944

File No. 1890

TO: General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane
Chief of the ACC, Maples

Dear General,

Among the many and serious problems with which the Royal Government must deal, there exists, as you well know, the problem of the Italian Military Personnel still detained as prisoners of war in all parts of the world and even in the national territory.

In his letter of May 10th, No. 1405 directed to you, my predecessor, His Excellency Marshal Badoglio, in summarizing the matter, explained again the Italian Government point of view and asked for an official explanation of the new organization, which the Allied Governments, according to press and radio dispatches, would have given to the Italian Military Personnel in their hands.

With your letter No. 304 of May 18th, Your Excellency assured him of having transmitted that letter to the Allied Command at Algiers and you expressed the hope of receiving a prompt reply.

However, up to date no further communication has been received by the Italian Government regarding the matter. I do not hide from you the fact that the prolonging of this situation of uncertainty renders painful and difficult the work of the government, insofar as regards the Italian Military Personnel still detained as prisoners of war who write letters into the country relative to their state of mind; insofar as concerns hundreds of thousands of families impatient to see the situation solved for their distant and still captive relatives in such a way as to conform to the effort which liberated Italy wishes to carry out, shoulder to shoulder, with the Allies against the common enemy.

Therefore, I would be grateful to you, Dear General, for a prompt reply which would smooth the way to effect an agreement--conforming to international law and to Italian national dignity--which until now we have been unable to reach, notwithstanding all the good Italian intentions.

I thank you in advance with cordial greetings.

/s/ Ivanoe Bonomi

ACC Distribution:

- 1 - Captain Stone - ACTION
- 1 - SG File
- 1 - DSG File
- 1 - Adv SG File
- 1 - ARMY S/C - REAR HQ Acc

4430

SECRETALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

HQ ACC, APO 394

60 Sec'y Gen

Rec'd 17 Jul 1957

By *[Signature]*

105b

13 Jul 44

Encl 103a & b

Sir Mason Macfarlane,

With further reference to your GC 014.33 of 22 May, and my reply of 2 Jun, the Combined Chiefs of Staff have ruled that the following policy shall be adopted.

Encl. 104

1. Subject to the availability of shipping, Italian prisoners of war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY should be repatriated, if found eligible on medical grounds by the competent authority of the detaining power either for direct repatriation under the provisions of Article 68 of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War, or for hospitalisation in a neutral country under the provisions of the Model Agreement annexed to the Convention.

2. Subject to the availability of shipping and security considerations, Italian prisoners of war who reside in Allied-occupied portions of ITALY:

- (a) should be repatriated if they are 60 years of age or over, or are between 50 and 60 years of age and have completed 2 years of internment.
- (b) may be repatriated if it is determined by the competent authority of the detaining power that they are entitled thereto on compassionate grounds.

In conveying this information to the Italian Government, it should be emphasised that release on compassionate grounds will be granted sparingly, with each case being considered on its merits and with approval granted only when the grounds are such that an Allied soldier under similar circumstances would be repatriated to his own country.)

For the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre:

[Signature]
J.A.H. GAMMELL
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff

(Lables)

429

19/7/44
File 1*No 114*

Lieutenant General Sir F.N. Mason Macfarlane, CB, DSO, MC,
Chief Commissioner,
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

QUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT
APO 394

1030

CC OF

22 May 1944

1. Enclosed is a translation of a memorandum from the Italian Government making certain proposals, for humanitarian reasons, for the repatriation (a) of all Italian prisoners of war over the age of sixty and (b) of those over the age of fifty as soon as they have completed two years as prisoners of war.
2. This proposal is based upon Article 72 of the Geneva Convention and attention is drawn to an arrangement made in 1918 between the French and German Governments whereby NCO's and soldiers who had been prisoners for eighteen months and were more than forty-eight years old were released.
3. According to the Italian authorities there are only some forty prisoners of more than sixty years of age, and the enclosed memorandum suggests that prisoners over fifty should be repatriated at the rate of 250 a month. This latter proposal has been made in order to place as little a burden as possible upon transport facilities and, subject to this consideration, there is no doubt of the good political effect in Italy should it be possible to meet this Italian request in whole or even in part. As I have previously reported, the existence of a very large body of prisoners of war outside Italy is a matter of pressing concern to the Italian Government and people, and any measure taken to alleviate this situation must have wide repercussions both in the Army itself and in the public at large. At a time when we are proceeding, without the agreement of the Italian Government, to organize Italian prisoners of war for work not authorized by the Geneva Convention it would be particularly helpful if some such measure as the one now proposed by the Italian Government could be carried out.
4. It will be noted that this proposal has nothing to do with the plan whereby lists of 25 officers are forwarded from time to time (see our memoranda CC/P/105 and CC/G/222 of the 25th February and the 22nd of April) for release for employment with the Italian forces.
5. Copies are enclosed for the offices of the British Resident Minister and the American Political Adviser. Copies have been forwarded to Sir Noel Charles and Mr. Alexander Kirk.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

S E C R E T

C O P Y

TO: Lt. Gen. James. A. Gammell
C of S AFHQ APO 512
CC/014.33
22 May 1944

4428

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
PRISONERS OF WAR

CAVA DEI TIRRE. 2 May 1944

No. 123 pol.

SUBJECT: Repatriation for humanitarian reasons.

TO : A.C.C., SALERNO.

1. The Royal Government is receiving requests from families here in ITALY and from the camps of prisoners of war in Allied hands, that for elderly prisoners, prisoners long held in detention, or in particularly serious family conditions, the regulations of Article 72 of the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929, might be applied; which reads as follows: "During the continuance of hostilities, and for humanitarian reasons, belligerents may conclude agreements with a view to the direct repatriation or accommodation in a neutral country of prisoners of war in good health who have been in captivity for a long time."

The Royal Government has also received the "Memorandum addressed to the Governments of the belligerent states" of the 15th of February 1944 from the International Red Cross Committee, which on page 3 states:

"On the other hand on the month of August 1943 the International Committee permitted itself to draw the attention of the belligerent states who are most interested of the means offered by article 72 of the Convention of 1929, to conclude arrangements with the prospect of repatriation or hospitalisation in neutral countries of prisoners of war who had been long in captivity. In this respect a note was taken of the agreement of 15 March 1918 between the German and French Governments stipulating the repatriation of NCOs and soldiers who had been in captivity for 18 months and aged more than 48 years and of the hospitalisation in Switzerland of officers corresponding to the same conditions."

2. The Allied Powers doubtless feel, as does the Royal Italian Government, the full importance of this appeal made by the International Committee, appreciating the strong humanitarian reasons which call us to take heed of the pitiful voices of the families and of the prisoners of war themselves, and understand surely the particular conditions of ITALY, who is making every effort to bring all its help possible to the battle line and behind the line, even far behind, towards the common victory.

The Royal Government therefore earnestly hopes and begs that the Allied Authorities might come to an agreement with it to gradually repatriate the prisoners of war which come under the conditions of Article 72 of the Geneva Convention.

3. Our proposals, offered here below, must take into consideration the following points, if they are to remain practical possibility:

- a. The large number of soldiers at present in British hands.
- b. The fact that about half of them have been prisoners for more than two years.

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3. Our proposals, offered here below, must take into consideration the following points, if they are to remain practical possibility:

- a. The large number of soldiers at present in British hands.
- b. The fact that about half of them have been prisoners for more than two years.
- c. The distant places to where most of them have been taken, and the difficulty of sea or air transport required for repatriation.

It is, of course, needless to consider the solution of sending to neutral countries the soldiers who could enjoy the dispositions of Article 72; the fact of our co-belligerency puts this measure in an absurd light, assuming and not permitting it to be practically feasible.

For the same reason we make no distinction between officers, NCOs and troopers, as was made in 1918, though under entirely different circumstances.

The Italian authorities do not dispose, at present, of the statistical data which was collected at ROME regarding prisoners of war,

and it is not possible to supply more than very approximate figures, useful nevertheless, to carry forward the argument.

Lastly, we wish to point out that we consider the message No. DCC 014.33 sent on 7 March by the AGC (which states that prisoners of war may only be repatriated on presentation of lists of 25, at a time by the Italian authorities as referring to requests occasioned by the needs of the Italian armed forces, and not to other repatriations for humanitarian reasons.

4. This agreed, we calculate the number of soldiers detained in Allied prisoner of war camps who are beyond 60 years of age or reach 66 years during 1944, is not more than 40, dispersed throughout a few camps in U.S.A., India, East Africa, North Africa, Middle East, and perhaps a few in Russia. They are nearly all generals and superior officers; there are very few cases of lower grade.

We propose that they all be repatriated unconditionally, regardless of the length of time they have been prisoners. Most of them, however, are prisoners since the first or second year of war, that is they have been in captivity at least two years.

The fact that they are dispersed in various parts of the world seems to render possible their repatriations and in short time, even with the scarcity of available opportunities.

5. We calculate too that the prisoners of war detained in Allied camps who are older than 50 years or reach 50 years of age during 1944 do not number more than 2500. They are mostly officers; a few are NCOs and privates.

They are dispersed in a greater number of countries than those indicated in No. 4.

It is probably that about half of them, i.e., 1200, will, from the 1st of June, be prisoners since not less than 2 years and that another 500 will complete their two years of imprisonment during 1944.

We suggest that these soldiers who are not less than 50 years of age, be repatriated gradually according as they complete their two years as prisoners of war, at a total monthly rate of 250.

6. In order to take into account the prisoners whose families are in particularly piteous conditions, whom the Commissioner for Prisoners of War would point out one by one, giving the humanitarian reasons for repatriation, we suggest that ~~1700~~ altogether 500 others monthly might be allowed to be repatriated.

7. Thus, resuming beyond the few repatriations suggested in No. 4, other 300 monthly might be permitted to repatriate by sea or by air, coming from many directions, in order to accomplish this highly humanitarian duty. It would have a most favourable effect on the whole Italian population, who would be very grateful to the Allied Powers. The Italian effort of co-belligerency would be greatly increased, especially from the spiritual point of view.

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8. The above conditions should not, of course, influence the repatriations already taking place, of the wounded, sick and invalids following the proposals of the mixed medical commissions established by Article 69 of the Geneva Convention.

9. The proposals given here above, referring only to elderly soldiers or piteous cases, do not interfere with the agreement which it is hoped may be established with the Allied powers regarding total and free employment for all soldiers still stationed as prisoners of war.

However, when the Allied Powers agree to our proposal, which we hope, we would add a few directions to ensure that wherever there are PW there will be a few officers of high grade capable of organising the Prisoners for the fulfillment of the agreement.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(Sgd) General Pietro Gazzera

(101)

ASG/1/101

16 July 1944

To: Allied Armies in Italy.Subject: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW (Co-operators).

Reference your AAI/3072/A(O) of 4 July 1944.

- 1/. It is understood that when this question was discussed with General Sir Maitland Wilson and Captain Stone a few days ago, it was decided that new instructions would be issued in regard to this matter.
- 2/. No action will now be taken until further instructions are received.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

Compare

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complete

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