

ACC

1000012015474

I.P.O.W. /

10000/120/5474

I.P.O.W. / 1

REPATRIATION OF I.P.O.W.

GENERAL POLICY

300-399

4850
4857

NOV. 1944 - JAN. 1945

COVER 4

ENCL. 305-304-329-329A now in file 36-ENCL. 400 now in file 41
" 357-360-366- now in file 39 ENCL. 349 now in file 1/15
" 397-383-382-372-368-333 now in 1/29
" 320-321-323-340 now in file 49 (Baggage of rep. P.O.W.)
" 385-384-370-355 now in file 1/1
" 309-310-335 now in file 1/1

10000 / 120 / 5474

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM NOV. 44
TO JAN 45
CATALOGUE -

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 29 January 1945

File No. 332 Pol/F.8

To : Allied Commission,
ROME

SUBJECT : Recovery and repatriation of Italian POWs in
European territories that have been freed by
the Allied Armies.

See 453, 455, 456.

I have called to the attention of this Commission, repeatedly in the last few months, of the situation in existence (and which in the immediate future will become more acute), of the Italian PWs in ~~Germany~~ and European territories, up to now occupied by the Germans, that have been liberated and are now in the process of liberation by the Allied Armies.

These compatriots of ours will not only need cloths, food, and medicines of the most elementary type, due to the hard conditions that they have been exposed to for such a long time, but they will have to be recovered, reordered and restored to Italian discipline, so that the organization of their repatriation may be facilitated up to its maximum efficiency.

encl. 86
We are sure that the Allied Authorities will take to heart this situation, filled with fundamental human exigencies, that the Italian Government can do nothing to alleviate. The High Commission retains that in any case it will not be an easy job but could be aided by Italian collaboration, (as we wrote in our letter 176/Pol. for Germany dated the 16th of May 1944) in the sending into the liberated territories, Italian Commissions composed of officers who could organize the recovery and help to repatriate our POWs who are freed and disbanded.

EACH These Commissions who would be ruled by Art. 75 of the Geneva Convention, would most certainly be of great help to the Allied Authorities, as they could divide the work of security, control of ~~lack~~, separate individual, and as Italy is in accord with the common war against the Germans, would offer a guarantee of security.

As soon as this Commission will have obtained an adherence to this proposal by the Allied Authorities, we will propose the necessary Commissions for the Western Front, the Eastern Front and the Balkan front.

We await your courteous and prompt answer.

4957

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
s/ Gen. Pietro Gazzera

(398)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/398

29 January 1945

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Enlistment of Italian Prisoners of War in Allied Forces.

See 396, 389, 387, 331, 330, 328, 406.

1. Further to your letter 2268/G-6 dated 16 December 1944, a reply has now been received from Higher authority which states:

- a) The proforma attached to the letter from the Italian High Commissioner has nothing whatsoever to do with any Italians who are termed "Co-operators" in the Middle East.
- b) As you know the Italian and German Armies have been diluted with nationals who are neither Italian nor German. Many such individuals are now held in Allied PW Camps throughout the world and from time to time they make application to join the Forces of their own country.
- c) Where applications are received we issue each applicant with a proforma before screening to establish correct nationality. In the cases where correct nationality is proved, the men involved are handed over to a Military Representative of the Force concerned, or transferred to the United Kingdom.
- d) This procedure has been operative in the Middle East for some time.

clp.
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

4956

SUBJECT:- Italian PW.

WMD + POW 1/2

8821
396

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

CR/3860/G1(Br).25 Jan 45.Headquarters,
Allied Commission.
(for IPW Sub-Commission).

1. Reference your IPW/1/331 of 19 Dec 44.

2. The enclosed copy of GHQ, MEF letter 75029/1/AG5 dated 14 Jan 45,
explaining the purpose of the pro-forma attached to the Italian High
Commissioner for PW letter N.2268/G-6 of 16 Dec 44, is forwarded for
your information.

see 387, 389, 331, 330, 328.

~~see 398~~ see 398.

4955

TRC/ER.
Encl.IPW
1HEADQUARTERS
27 JAN 1945T.R. CONDRON, Captain,
Staff Captain,
for Major General,
DAG, G.I(Br).

C O P Y

(396) a

MICROGRAM SERVICE

CN/48 / 2

REGISTRY, G.H.Q. M.E.F.

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War.

Ref & Date 75029/1/AG5 14 Jan 45

From: GHQ, MEF.

To: AFHQ G-1(Br)

CONFIDENTIAL.

1. Ref CR/3860/G1(Br) of 1 Jan 45, together with copy letter addressed to the Allied Commission by the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

The proforma attached to the letter from the Italian High Commissioner has nothing whatsoever to do with any Italians who are termed "Co-operators" in the Middle East.

2. As you know, the Italian and German Armies have been diluted with nationals who are neither Italian nor German. Many such individuals are now held in Allied PW Camps throughout the world and from time to time they make application to join the Forces of their own country.

3. Where applications are received we issue each applicant with a proforma before screening to establish correct nationality, In the cases where correct nationality is proved, the men involved are handed over to a Military Representative of the Force concerned, or transferred to the United Kingdom.

4. This procedure has been operative here for some time and TROOPERS signal ref 64718 PW1 of 1 Aug 44 addressed to you is relevant.

4951

Sgd. ? ? ? ? ?

General,
C-in-C,
M.E.F.Copy to:- AG(Allies)
GHQ, MEF.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

29 January 1945

IPW/1/395

SUBJECT: Correspondence forwarded.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for POW.

Reference my IPW/1/352 dated 2 January 1945.

1. I shall be pleased to have a reply to above quoted letter as higher authority are pressing for action in this matter.

Cld.
J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

*Referred Maj. P.
on 25/2/45
gc.*

*BIF 14/3/45
gc.
by Mr. Francis
Planned H.C.
on 6/2/45
gc. 8/4953
6/2/45*

(394)

WMD & IPOM Sub-Com.

Co-ordination with Land Forces 9-0.

IPW/1/394

29 January

5

Civil Affairs Section.
(Att: Major Reakes.)

380

Reference your 6/138/OA dated 18 January 1945.

For your information attached is copy of Chief of Staff's
Memo. 212/008 dated 18 January 1945 in relation to above subject.

376

cl

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPOM Sub-Com.

4952

Copy to:
Dis. Per. & Rep. Sub-Com.FILE

Ref. 392.

Spoke to Gen. Gazzera and Gen. Mannerini on this question and pointed out that I understand there are some hospitals in the South which could be used by T.B. patients. The Italian Red Cross have also been spoken to, and I understand that Gen. Gazzera, Gen. Mannerini and the Red Cross are all getting together on the question. No further action meantime.

27 Jan. 45.

J.A.C.

4951

Ref. 392.

393

Spoke to Gen. Gazzera and Gen. Mannerini on this question and pointed out that I understand there are some hospitals in the South which could be used by T.B. patients. The Italian Red Cross have also been spoken to, and I understand that Gen. Gazzera, Gen. Mannerini and the Red Cross are all getting together on the question. No further action meantime.

27 Jan. 45.

J.A.C.

4951

Rome, 31st. December 1944

392

To the Allied Commission

Rome

High Commissioner for Italian PW

n. 2393 Pol. C-21

Subject: Repatriation of PsW ill with (T.B.C.)

Amongst the PsW repatriated from the Balkans and France, there is a large number who are with T.B.C.

As the Hospital specialized in the care and treatment, as these invalids are very limited we beg this Commission to suspend temporarily the repatriation of all those PsW affected with T.B.C.

It will be the duty of the High Commission to inform you when these conditions are changed and the repatriation of above mentioned invalids may be taken up again.

signed.

High Commissioner,

General Pietro Gazzera

IPW

1.

22 +

*Big Perkinson will speak with
Red Cross.*

4950

SECRET

391

COPY

FROM : Bern
DATE : 19 Jan 45

SUBJECT: Ital Military Refugees
in Switzerland.

No. 65: Among the partisans refuged in Switzerland there are more than 500 of the "Garibaldi" Division. The Swiss Government had refused to recognize them as military refugees, because it believed that they were exponents of the communist movement, and had interned them in a concentration camp in the mountain, keeping them under strict vigilance.

Many petitions were sent to the Swiss Government in their favor by the Lugano Committee of National Liberation and by many other parties.

Since the very beginning of my mission here I tried to establish direct contacts with all the Italians interned in Switzerland and in particular with the "Garibaldini", giving them all the support I could.

Now the Swiss Government has decided to recognize the "Garibaldini" as military internees and new arrangements are under way.

This has been received with great satisfaction by the "Garibaldini" and has had a wide repercussion in all the Italian circles in Switzerland. The Lugano Delegation has expressed its appreciation.

BERTO

IPW
1.

4949

War Material Disposal and
Italian Prisoner of War Sub-Commission
HQ AF AGO 324
Received 27 Jan. 45.
Log No 2429

(390)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

IPW/1/39025 January 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian POW on humanitarian grounds.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

See 372.

In response to your request, enclosed are two copies of my letter IPW/1/372 dated 16 January 1945 which sets out the numbers of aged Italian Prisoners of War held in various countries.

JAC

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

49:8

encl:
2 copies of IPW/1/372
dated 16 Jan. 45.

(F)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

IPW/1/389

25 January 1945

SUBJECT: Enlistment of Italian POW in the Allied Forces.
TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

See 387, 330, 331, 328

Reference your letter No. 2268/0-6 dated 18 December 1944.

1. This matter was referred to higher authority for action, and it will, of necessity, take some time before a report is received from the Middle East.
2. I have again requested higher authority for a reply.

CB

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

49:7

B/F 1/2/45

q/c

CONFIDENTIALALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

WD-W/ala

G-5: 383.6

21 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Release of Italian P.W.s

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference is made to letter RPS/383.6 of 10 July 1944 (believed to have originated in Sicily Region) requesting release of certain Prisoners of War.

2. Instructions for release of the undermentioned were issued in the appropriate quarters in respect of the under mentioned:

PALMERI, Salvatore	Lt.	81-I-48184
TRISTANO, Giuseppe	Capt.	81-I-50157
ALBERTI, Domenico	Lt.	81-I-341828
MANISCALCO, Carlo	Lt.	81-I-47536
BONGIARDINA, Vincenzo	Capt.	81-I-50376
BONANZINGA, Bartolomeo	2nd Lt.	81-I-48262
CINNIRELLA, Oscar	2nd Lt.	81-I-48334
DUCA, Carmelo	Pvt.	81-I-54168
PATRICOLO, Cesare	Lt.	81-I-50687
GIOFALO, Saverio	Lt.	81-I-14502

It is understood that these subjects have already arrived in Italy.

3. It is notified for information that personnel assigned to Italian P.W. service units in France are necessary for the operation of these units in ETOUSA and cannot be released except for medical reasons.

4. The possibility of exchanging officers in service units in order to meet special requirements of the Italian Government is being explored.

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

Original in file 1/11.

IPW
1

Copy to: G-1.

W. DRUFFIELD-WHITE,
Major.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

IPW/1/387

23 January 1945

SUBJECT: Enlistment of Italian POW in the Allied Forces.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.
(Att: G-1 (B))

See 328, 330/331, 389, 396

1. I shall be pleased if a reply can now be given to my IPW/1/331 dated 19 December 1944, as the Italian High Commissioner for POW is pressing for information on this subject.

For the Chief Commissioner :

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

49:5

1. Maj. P. also phoned AFHQ, - 25/1/45.

*B/F
11/2/45
C/O*

MO/gn

(386)

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FORPW

N.222/E/6/Pol/di prot.

Rome, January 19th 1945

SUBJECT: Enroling It. P.O.W.'s in the Allied Armed Forces.

TO: THE ALLIED COMMISSION. IPW SUB-COMMISSION. ROME.

See 328, 330, 331, 389.

We desire urgently and would be very gratefull if, the Allied Commission would gives an answer to the request of the High Commissioner forwarded to you in a letter N.2268/Pol/G-6 dated the 16th of December 1944.

Thanking you

Signed:

The High Commissioner
General Pietro Gazzera.

IPW
#1

JAN 20 1945

4944

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 524

WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IWW/L/361

21 January 1945

Re: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
Attention G-3 Section

Subject: Treatment of Italian POW under French custody in North Africa.

See 373 See 418 ... See 420, 444.

1. The Italian High Commissioner for POW again requests the intervention of the Allied Commission on behalf of the Italian POW held in French custody.
2. The High Commissioner states that a Military Dr. attached to the Italian Army reported on the treatment of Italian POW in certain French camps in Tunisia, and the following extract from the High Commissioner's letter is given:

"We judge it necessary to inform you that at Bona some hundreds of our prisoners are working as farmers and under very bad conditions, in the past and in the present. They have no clothes or shoes and since the beginning of the winter they have been coming to the Italian hospital to ask for shirts and shoes, as they have received no distribution of these articles.

We have been able to clothe a very few in English uniforms that in some cases were in surplus numbers.

They live in stables, for the greater part, sleeping on straw and have no blankets. They are fed on dry beans, very rarely meat, and no cigarettes. No sanitary or medical assistance except what they receive from Italian doctors of nearby groups. Only the very ill are transported to the French Military Hospitals, and with the Arabs, left alone, and hardly any attention or cure is given them. No disinfection, no quinine against malaria is given them. Against the regulations of the Directors of their working centers, we obtained from the English, the permission to bring them to our hospital saved hundreds of these unfortunates from Pernicious Malaria.

It is requested that the proper authorities be informed of these facts, not only to ascertain who is responsible, but to above all, find out if this state of affairs is still in existence and if so, to take urgent measures to correct it that we may assure our Compatriots, of living conditions to which they have a right as co-belligerents (of those who are holding them prisoners) in the common war against the Germans."

4943

3. I shall be pleased if you will advise me of any action taken in this matter.

For the Chief Commissioner:

(381)

- See 373 See 418 .. See 420, 444.
1. The Italian High Commissioner for POW again requests the intervention of the Allied Commission on behalf of the Italian POW held in French custody.
 2. The High Commissioner states that a Military Dr. assigned to the Italian Navy reported on the treatment of Italian POW in certain French camps in Tunisia, and the following extract from the High Commissioner's letter is given:

"We judge it necessary to inform you that at Bonn some hundreds of our prisoners are working as farmers and under very bad conditions, in the past and in the present. They have no clothes or shoes and since the beginning of the winter they have been coming to the Italian hospital to ask for shirts and shoes, as they have received no distribution of these articles. We have been able to clothe a very few in English uniforms that in some cases were in surplus numbers.

They live in stables, for the greater part, sleeping on straw and have no blankets. They are fed on dry beans, very rarely meat, and no cigarettes. No sanitary or medical assistance except what they receive from Italian doctors of nearby groups. Only the very ill are transported to the French Military Hospitals, and with the Arabs, left alone, and hardly any attention or cure is given them. No disinfection, no quinine against malaria is given them. Against the regulations of the Directors of their working centers, we obtained from the English, the permission to bring them to our hospital saved hundreds of these unfortunate from Pernicious Malaria.

It is requested that the proper authorities be informed of these facts, not only to ascertain who is responsible, but to above all, find out if this state of affairs is still in existence and if so, to take urgent measures to correct it that we may assure our Compatriots, of living conditions to which they have a right as co-belligerents (of those who are holding them prisoners) in the common war against the Germans."

49:3

3. I shall be pleased if you will advise me of any action taken in this matter.

For the Chief Commissioner:

DeL

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WD & LICA Sub-Com.

FILE ✓

See 418
13/12/45
D

Ref File 6/138/CA Minute Sheet

3

(380)

TO: Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission

Your attention is drawn to Folio 17a. *See 394*

1. Requests for Repatriation are being forwarded to AFHQ by Sub-Commissions other than Displaced Persons or WND and PW Sub-Commissions. This has resulted in duplicate Applications being forwarded to AFHQ.
2. It is considered that requests for repatriation must be channelled through either your Sub-Commission or WND and PW Sub-Commission and that applications cannot be co-ordinated by one Sub-Commission alone for onward transmission to AFHQ.
3. It might be considered, whether a Ex Memo on the lines of Ex Memo No 31 (now cancelled) should not be prepared briefly setting out the functions of your own Sub-Commission and WND and PW Sub-Commission in connection with repatriation and stating to which Sub-Commission enquiries should be channelled for onward transmission to AFHQ (G-5).

Please forward your views and comments.

18 Jan 45

See 377/378

John A. Reaney Maj
C.A. Section

Copy to WND and PW Sub-Commission ✓

With copy letter from AFHQ (C-5.014.33) dated 11 Jan 45. For your views and comments, please, after liaison with Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission. *4942*

IPW
1

18 Jan 45

John A. Reaney Maj
C.A. Section

(40)

File
Cofrow 6/30/04

ARMED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-3 Section
APO 512

DDI/WH

380a

9-51-014.33

11 January 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italians.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 390.

1. The number of requests for repatriation of various categories of Italian subjects is greatly increasing. Many of the requests are initiated by the Italian Government in an attempt to build up the administration.

2. These requests cover various types of expatriates, viz:

a. Prisoners of war held in U.S. custody in

- (1) U.S.A.
- (2) North Africa
- (3) Italy (in work units)

b. Prisoners of war held in British custody in

- (1) Great Britain
- (2) North Africa
- (3) India
- (4) East Africa Command
- (5) Italy (in work units)
- (6) South Africa
- (7) Australia

c. Civilian internees in various localities.

d. Civilian employees and ex-employees in various localities.

e. Displaced Persons e.g. Italian ex P.O.W. in Greece and other Balkan countries.

3. Cases have occurred in which applications on behalf of the same individuals have been made by two sub commissions to two different staff sections of this H.Q.

49.1

(380)h

4. It is requested that all applications shall be co-ordinated at your H.Q. before forwarding to I.F.R.C., and that all applications shall be forwarded in duplicate accompanied by relevant documents, also in duplicate, to G-5 Section I.F.R.C. Copies should not be sent to other staff sections as better co-ordination at this H.Q. can be effected if all communications regarding repatriation come to this section.

5. As far as possible separate applications should be made in respect of individuals or groups falling in the categories enumerated in paragraph 2 above. In respect of categories g., h., and i. separate applications should be made for the various localities.

6. Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged and an indication be given, where possible, of the time that must elapse before a definite reply regarding the result of the application can be expected.

7. Telephone inquiries on the subject of repatriation should be addressed to Displaced Persons Division (Freedom 236).

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

W. BRIDGEMAN-WHITE,
Major.

Copy to: G-1 (A)
G-1 (B)
G-2 (CI)
AG (Message Center)

4940

(379)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 478800

18 January, 1945

AD/14029/3/PS

SUBJECT : Repatriation of Remigio TRINCHIERI

TO : Political Section

See 268/269.

1. With reference to the letter dated 13 November, 1944, addressed by the Italian Foreign Office to Political Section in which a request is made for the repatriation of civil internee Remigio TRINCHIERI from the Italian Evacuee Camp No 3, Kenya.

2. East Africa Command has no security objections to the repatriation of the above named, but before taking action they require to know :-

(a) by what means is his transportation desired, i.e., surface or air.

(b) who will meet the cost of his transportation.

3. Before considering the question of subjects entry into Italy, AFHQ will require to know :

(a) Date and place of birth
(required for identification purposes)

(b) Estimate of his value to the war effort

(c) Recommendation of Allied Commission.

4. May this Sub-Commission be furnished with the information asked for in paragraphs 2 and 3, please.

Wm. C. Hallam may

JOHN B. CHAPMAN
Colonel, J/333
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

Copy to: WND and IP# 2/C
(your IP# 1, dated
24 Nov. refers).

1/269

WCB/

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Chief of Staff

(348)

Ext: 300.

Ref: 212/COS

18 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Coordination with Land Forces Sub-Commission (MIA)

TO : WMD & IPOW Sub-Commission.
(Attention: Lt.Col. Campbell).

See 380 & 377.

See 394

1. Reference this Office memorandum 212/COS dated 17 January 1945 on the above subject.

2. Following our conversation, it is clearly understood that you can correspond directly with AFHQ on matters concerning POW. You will, of course, continue as in the past to coordinate with Land Forces Sub-Commission when such coordination is required.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff. 4938IPW
1.

Copy to S. S. AFHQ.

(377) (276)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Chief of Staff

Ref: 222/-/003.

Inter Office Memo.

17 January 1945.

Subject: Coordination with Land Forces
Sub Commission (MFA).

To: Civil Affairs Section (A)
Land Forces Sub Commission (MFA)

see 380 & 378

1. All communications to AFHQ and 15 Army Group relating to patriots, Carabinieri and Italian prisoners of war will be coordinated with Land Forces Sub Commission (MFA) before dispatch, and will issue from HQ Allied Commission.
2. Such communications will not issue from Land Forces Sub Commission (MFA), nor from any other Sub Commission or Branch.
3. Civil Affairs Section will be responsible for coordinating all patriot and Carabinieri matters between Land Forces Sub Commission (MFA), Patriots Branch, Public Safety Sub Commission and any other interested Sub Commission.
4. In the event of failure to reach agreement the matter will be referred to the Chief of Staff.

[Signature]
Lieutenant,
Chief of Staff.

(Drafted by Chief
of Staff)

Copies to: G-5 Section AFHQ
Political Section
Logistics Section
War Materials Disposal and Italian PW Sub Commission

IPW

1.

4937

(376)

C IPW/1/376 2nd Ind. /mmB
HQ. Allied Commission, C.M.F., Office of WMD & IFOW Sub-Com.,
17 January 1946.

TO: ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, G-5 SECTION, APO 512.

Attached correspondence returned. See para. 4 1st Ind.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Encl. NSC/1491

CLP
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IFOW Sub-Com.

see 353

4935

COPY

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394NSC/1491
12 January 1945

FIRST INDORSEMENT on
AFHQ (G-5 Sect) ltr.
G-5; 383.6 dated
1 January 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : War Material Disposal and Prisoners of War Sub-Com. Hq. AC.
Subject: Rolando Giacomelli - Italian, formerly PW in US custody.

1. Returned.
2. The Navy Sub-Commission, A.C. has no record of having received previous information regarding subject Italian.
3. The "Italian Naval Mission" mentioned in paragraph 2 of G-5 Section, AFHQ letter 3836 of 1 January 1945, evidently is intended to be the Italian Navy liaison organization at Allied Force Headquarters. It appears from paragraph 2 of the Provost Marshal General's letter of 23 December that GIACOMELLI was released to that organization in July 1944.
4. It is recommended that prior to informing the Italian Government regarding GIACOMELLI, all correspondence be returned to G-5 Section, AFHQ so that comments can be obtained from Italian Naval Mission, AFHQ. The Italian Naval Mission, AFHQ, may be reached through the office of the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, AFHQ.

/s/ H.W. ZIROLI,
/t/ H.W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, A.C.

COPY

23 Dec 44

SUBJECT: Rolando Giacomelli - Italian, formerly PW in U.S. Custody.

1. From To 23 Dec 1. Reference is made to message from Secretary of State from Lerch Provost Marshal General, no reference number, dated 21 December 1944, cite SPMGA/43 (MC IN 17151, 21 Dec).

2. Rolando Giacomelli was not paroled. He was released from prisoner of war status to the Italian Naval Mission, AFHQ, for active service with the Italian Navy on 13 July 1944. The basis of release was to enable his assignment in an administrative capacity aboard an Italian merchant ship carrying a Naval gun crew.

3. While no previous case has arisen with respect to a released prisoner of war, it has been the practice here to return personnel who jump ship to Italian control by return to same or next available Italian ship, or when none is expected to be available within a reasonable time by return to Italy for delivery to Italian authorities.

4. Unless there are other circumstances which would require his detention in United States, it is recommended that Giacomelli be returned to jurisdiction of Italian Naval authorities.

5. Reply to the particular question raised in cable is: "Rolando Giacomelli was not paroled. He was released to Italian authorities from prisoner of war status for return to active duty with Italian Navy." However, it is believed that procedure in effect here may be of assistance in disposition of subject and it is therefore recommended that reply include data stated in preceding paragraphs. It is further recommended that Italian Naval Mission be asked for comment concerning the foregoing thru Liaison Section.

/s/ ?

for WALTER A. HARDIE,
Colonel, C.M.P.,
Provost Marshal General.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

11 January 1945

N. 124 Pol/D-8

To: The Allied Commission

R O M E

Subject: Transformation of Italian P.W. Units in Italy.

1. Sequel and complement to the pre-memoirs of 15/XII/1944 (enclosure to N. 2217 of 16 December 1944) ^{rehabilitate} ~~about~~ the liberation of the P.W. incorporated in Cooperator Units in Italy.

2. Lt. Colonel Campbell has put forward the following two necessities, asking us to inform him how we intend to provide ^{for} them:

- a) that the number of the soldiers attached to those units should not diminish;
- b) that the men, who already are experienced in the work they are doing, should not be demobilized, although some of them may ^{belong to} ~~belong to~~ the classes, which the Italian Army demobilizes.

3. We intend to provide ^{for} ~~to~~ these 2 necessities in the following way:

- a) the number of the Unit can be kept up to the mark if we create for that purpose an R.T.D., appointing to it PW soldiers of the younger classes:

- From Balcania.
- The repatriated ones from North-Africa, especially those in French hands (which latter, as is known, are ill-treated).
- The repatriated ones from Egypt, Kenya, India and S. Africa (where no labour-units have been formed, in spite of the requests of the Italian Soldiers, wanting to collaborate.)

- b) It is probable that to the actual labour-units in Italy, formed with P.W. belong many soldiers of those classes, which the Italian Army has already demobilized.

4. It would, any way, be opportune to demobilize the oldest ones (the ones over 40 years old) and to encourage the others to remain as volunteers after having signed an engaging declaration to the Italian Government. The declaration should engage the soldier for a certain number of months and should be renewable. But it is necessary to inform the soldiers of their new conditions of life. And to convince them to enlist in that way as volunteers, it seems necessary to establish that their treatment even when liberated, will be the same ^{as} ~~than~~ the actual one ~~in what~~ regards billets, clothes, rations, pay and salary, well intended to the charge of the Allies.

Regarding the salary, it ^{will} ~~shall~~ be necessary to establish the same one for all, for the Units who are with the American Army, as well as those who are with the British, the daily pay should be the one paid now by the American Army, 5 Dollars a month and 80 cents a day.

Informing thus the soldiers of their new conditions, it is most probable that, except for the ones whose families live in very compassionate conditions, the others will remain voluntarily at their jobs and with good results.

4931

/s/ HIGH COMMISSIONER
General PIETRO GAZZERA.

IPW
I

See IPW/36
for action
taken

374

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for War
Veterans and Repatriated
POW N. 401586

Rome 12th January 1945

To the Sub-Commission for War Materials Disposal
and IPW

Attention: Col. Campbell

Subject: Organization by Lodging Centers for War Veterans and repatriated POW.
See 104 in file 22

As you are aware this Ministry, during the period of waiting for the definite policy on the receiving of veterans and POW to be decided upon, on the basis of ideas contained in the note sent to this Sub Commission, is now preoccupied to provide for the reception of those already repatriated and in process of repatriation. To this end we have given course to the forming of lodging Centers near the Territorial Commands at Bari, Naples and Palermo, some of which are actually in full activity others that have still to be organized.

For the latter, it is necessary above all to arrange for the furnishing and general organization, in more we have forwarded a request to this Commission requesting for building materials and for general services necessary for the functions of these Centers, Materials that must be taken from the R.Army States.

Particularly for Sicily where it has been decided to organize a Lodging Center for 2,000 men in houses already closed and prepared for this use, a request has been sent from the General Direction of the Commissary department of the Ministry of War in letter N. 6676/C dated 28th December 1944 to the M.M.I.A. the assignment of the following building materials to be taken from the depots of the Commissary Department of the Territorial Command at Palermo:

- N. 6000 small boards
- 4000 trusses
- 2000 linings for mattress
- 4000 blankets
- 5000 hair mattress.

To this request the M.M.I.A. answered with letter AG/12/1 dated 29 December 1944 that they could not authorize the releasing of these building materials and that clothes could only be issued to POW who are on duty on the Italian Army.

Although understanding the reasons that induced the M.M.I.A. to refuse the request I wish to insist again on a solution of this problem, that for its moral and social aspects, is urgently necessary to resolve.

More so in Sicily, as in other Centers, where the Military Personnel repatriate, who though not having need of Hospitals, have need of care while waiting for their designations, whether to auxiliary formations with the Italian Army.

I turn to you in hopes that with your benevolent attention you will be able to obtain the authority to give the minimum aid as without it, it will be impossible to organize anything owing to the complete lack of these materials.

4333

IPW
I

Action in
in file 22
in conjunction
with encl. 22/104
yc

/s/ The General
Head of the Autonomous Office
A. MANIERI

Corrected Translation

373

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR POW
No.143/Pol/G-3 di pro+.

Rome, 12 January 1945

Subject : Treatment of Italian POW under French custody in North Africa.

To : The Allied Commission.

See 381 definit translation

In as much as we believe that the intervention of this Commission and of the competent Allied Authorities has brought about better conditions in the treatment of Italian POW under French custody; and to bring these conditions more or less up to the standard of the Geneva Convention, we judge it our duty to call the attention of this Commission, to a report made to us from a Military Dr. of our Navy - Lieut.Colon. GUZZI Manlio, on the treatment of our POW on or about a year ago, in certain French Camps in Tunisia.

"We judge it necessary to inform you that at Bona some hundreds of our prisoners are working as farmers and under very bad conditions, both in the past and in the present.

They have no clothes or shoes, and since the beginning of the winter they have been coming to the Italian Hospital to ask for shirts and shoes, as they have received no distribution of these articles.

We have been able to clothe a very few in English uniforms that in some cases, were in surplus numbers.

They live in stables, for the greater part, sleeping on straw and have no blankets. They are fed on dry beans, very rarely meat, and are issued with no cigarettes.

No sanitary or medical assistance except what they receive from It. Doctors of nearby groups. Only the very ill are transported to the

French Military Hospitals, and with the Arabs, are left alone and and hardly any attention or cure is given them. No disinfection, no quinine against malaria is given them. Against the regulations of the Directors of their working centers, we obtained permission from the English to bring them to our hospital, and so saved hundreds of these unfortunates from Pernicious Malaria.

I also have heard that in the French Concentration Camps the POW's are treated brutally, but on this subject I have no definite proof."

We are sure that this Sub Commission will take note of the above facts and inform the proper authorities not only to ascertain who is responsible, but to above all, find out, if this state of affairs is still existence and if so, to take urgent measures to correct it so that we may assure our Compatriots, of living under conditions to which they have a right as Co-belligerents (of those who are holding them prisoners) in the common War against the Germans.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. Pietro Gazzera

*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

N. 143/Pol/C-3 di prot.

Roma, 12 gennaio 1945

O C C E T T O : Trattamento dei prigionieri di guerra italiani in
mani francesi nel Nord-Africa. -

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

= R. O. B. A.

Per quanto possa ritenersi che in seguito special-
mente agli interventi di codesta Commissione e delle Autori-
tà Alleate competenti, le condizioni di vite dei nostri pri-
gionieri di guerra in mani francesi nell'Africa del Nord sia-
no migliorate e stiano adeguandosi alle prescrizioni della
Convenzione di Ginevra, giurico tuttavia che sia dovuto per
me portare a conoscenza di codesta Commissione quanto un au-
torvole ufficiale amico della nostra R. Marina ten. col. GUZZI
Mandio, ha segnalato alle Autorità Italiane circa il tratta-
mento che or fa un anno molti nostri prigionieri di guerra vi-
cevevano in alcuni campi francesi di Tunisia.

".....Omissis.....Ritengo necessario segnalare che nel-
la zona di Sona lavoravano presso fattorie francesi alcune
centinaia di nostri soldati prigionieri dei francesi stessi.
Le condizioni di vite di questi nostri soldati sono state e
sono tuttora quanto mai penose.

Absolutamente privi di vestiario e di scarpe essi al-
lontanati dall'inverno scorso affluivano all'Ospedale italiano

4931



(343) a

Per quanto possa ritenersi che in seguito special-
mente agli interventi di codesta Commissione e delle autori-
tà Alleate competenti, le condizioni di vita dei nostri pri-
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me portare a conoscenza di codesta Commissione quanto un au-
toritativo ufficiale medico della nostra A. Marina ten.col. GUZZI
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cevevano in alcuni campi francesi di Tunisia.

".....omissis....."itengo necessario segnalare che nel-
la zona di Bone lavoravano presso fattorie francesi alcune
centinaia di nostri soldati prigionieri dei francesi stessi.
Le condizioni di vita di questi nostri soldati sono state e
sono tuttora quante mai pence.

4931

Absolutamente privi di vestiario e di scarpe essi al
principio dell'inverno scorso affluivano all'Ospedale Italiano
per richiedere lenzuola, matie e scarpe non essendo mai stato
ad essi distribuito nulla.

Abbiamo potuto vestire alcune diecina con divise in-
glese che potevamo avere talvolta in soprannumero.

././

alloggiavano ed alloggiavano in stalle, sulla paglia, senza coperte o quasi.

Hanno alimentazione a base di ceci, priva di condimento, e raramente hanno carne; non hanno sigarette.

Nessuna assistenza sanitaria all'interno di quella che possono prestare medici italiani di reparti vicini. Solo gli ammalati gravissimi vengono portati ad un Ospedale militare francese dove insieme agli arabi sono abbandonati a loro stessi quasi privi di cure. Nessuna profilassi, né chinina, né neocina è fatta contro la malaria. Poiché contro il divieto dei padroni, i malati venivano al nostro Ospedale ottenni dagli inglesi di poter ricoverare questi infelici ed in tal modo ne sono stati salvati moltissimi da morte sicura per malaria maligna.

Sono a conoscenza che nei campi di concentramento francesi i nostri siano stati sottoposti a castighi crudeli, a maltrattamenti in genere, ma su questi fatti non ho dati sicuri."

Sono certo che codesta Commissione vorrà prendere in considerazione l'esposto e farlo pervenire a cognizione delle autorità interessate non solo perché siano accertate le responsabilità correlative all'ingiungimento, innanzi tutto subito dai nostri soldati ma anche e soprattutto perché, se per caso esso fosse ancora tutto ed in parte in atto, si provveda con ogni urgenza a diminuirlo, assicurando a quei nostri connazionali le condizioni di vita umana e legali alle quali essi hanno diritto come tutti i prigionieri di guerra, soprattutto ora che la ragione alla quale appartengono è cobelligerante nella guerra contro i tedeschi.

Si ringrazia sin d'ora

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO

(Generale Pietro Cassero)

493

493

...e francese
dove insieme agli arabi sono abbandonati a loro stessi quasi privi di cure. Nessuna profilassi, né clinica, né meccanica è fatta contro la malaria. Poiché contro il divieto dei padroni, i malati venivano al nostro Ospedale ottenuti dagli inglesi di poter ricevere questi infelici ed in tal modo ne sono stati salvati moltissimi da morte sicura per malaria maligna.

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Si ringrazia sin d'ora —

L'AUTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gassera)

P. Gassera

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief of Staff

Tel: 478733

IPW/1/371

16 January 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of POW under special conditions.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

364 ——— 442

Reference your letter No. 16531/Mil. dated 4 January 1945.

1. It is regretted that the suggestions contained in para. 4 of your above-quoted letter with regard to repatriations of Italian Prisoners of War cannot be considered at the present time.

2. It is felt that the present repatriation policies are as liberal as is possible under present conditions, without effecting mass repatriation. As you understand and agree, it is not possible to have a mass repatriation at this moment as many Italian Prisoners of War are performing important functions in Service Units, thus releasing Allied troops for Combat duties.

3. Your numerous requests for the repatriation of necessary specialists to fill specific appointments in Italy are being met as quickly as possible, as and when shipping space, which can be spared from the very urgent requirements of war materials, is available.

4. The question of repatriations of Italian Prisoners of War is ever before the Commission, and you may be assured whenever the opportunity arises to increase repatriations of Italian Prisoners of War from the humanitarian standpoint, or the moral and material advantages of Italy, that the Commission will be ready to help in every way possible.

(Sgd) M.S. LUSH.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

*Copies of 362
& 364 were
attached to
c.r.s. copy.
y/c.*

FILE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

370

IPW/1/37016 January 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War sick and wounded
in Australia.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

370a, 355, 297, 293, 292. 385 403, 405

Reference your letters No. 2035/Pol.O-10 dated 27 November and
No. 2262/Pol.O-10 dated 29 December 1944, and further to my IPW/1/293
dated 4 December 1944.

1. I have been informed that the Australian Government reports
that the final figures of Italian Prisoners of War for repatriation
will not be available until the end of this month. B/F.

2. At present, 256 POW have been passed for repatriation. Ship-
ping is unlikely to be available at an early date except for small num-
bers at a time.

3. With particular reference to your letter No. 2262/Pol.O.10
dated 29 December 1944, the names of the 4 POW TERRITO, RADICE, SIRRIANI,
and AMELIO, requested for repatriation by you have been forwarded to
Allied Force Headquarters, and I shall inform you further in due course.

355 —
For the Chief Commissioner :

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

4928

FILE

B/F 20/1/45
C/K

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

WMD & IPW

(369)

Originator's Reference: F 82408

Date/Time of Origin: JAN 10 1200A

Message Centre No: 6/7486

Date Time Rec'd: JAN 12 0830

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED CG MPOUSA CITE NAPMG

TO : ALCOM

SECRET

ACTION

SECRET.

363

/see file IPW/36

Per telephone request this date from War Material Disposal and Italian P W Sub
Commission 8280 is number of P W in service units in ITALY now

DIST

ACTION WMD & IPW SC
INFO A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FILE

has been received & processed
by the War Material Disposal
Commission of War Sub-Commission
AS: 321
24 JAN 1945

Log No
Received
A CH

HEADQUARTERS
21 JAN 1945
4927

SECRET

365

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

TBJ/JJJr

G-5: 383.6

8 January 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Navy Personnel.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

1. Reference is made to your IPW/1/338 of 23 December.

2. G-1(A) and G-1(B) advise that the personnel in question are treated in the same manner as German PW and are therefore held in custody in normal British and American PW Camps. It is further stated that notifications of all such captures are sent to the Italian Red Cross in Rome who would accordingly be in a position to supply the information required.

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

HEADQUARTERS

T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel.

10 JAN 1945

Co

4040

EB/anc.

(364)

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome 4th January 1945

No. 16531/Mil.

TO: The ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M ESUBJECT: Repatriation of PsW in special conditions.

371 + 442

This Commission knows the echo of contentment we have received by the repatriation of those PsW, who have been repatriated for invalidity, age, etc. etc. from the Italian Public, who await with anxiety, due to necessity and sentimental reasons, the return of their men.

Also in the Camps, due to the prolongation of the war, the anxiety is intense and in some cases causes moral sufferings that produce psychic disturbances amongs the PsW when if these psychic disturbances do not become really pathological.

It seems therefore to the Italian Authorities, that the Allied Authorities must if possible increase the number of repatriated P.O.W.

Therefore added to the decisions for repatriation that exist at present the repatriation of all these of 60 years of age and over 50 who have had two years imprisonment, and those who enter in the classes for compassionate reasons, permitted by the Allied Authorities and lastly those who have military or civil obligations to the nation, we propose the repatriation to be enlarged as follows.

- a) All Italian PsW who have 4 or more children. — See 442
- b) All Italian PsW who are 40 years of age and have been in prison three years.
- c) All Italian PsW who 30 years of age have had 4 years imprisonment.

It is evident that this category of PsW enter into the class for repatriation mentioned in Art. 72 of the Geneva Convention Art. that is inspired by humanity reasons.

It is not possible for the High Commissioner to give information as to the precise number of men in these Groups, having lost under the German occupation of Rome, documents and statistics made up by the fascists pertaining to above mentioned subject, but it is presumed that roughly the number of PsW in the 1st category are about 40,000 and in the category 2 & 3 about 30,000 each.

The fact that these numbers may seem ~~say~~ high, will certainly not be considered by the Allied Authorities, too numerous, to refuse the consent for these repatriations.

4923

See has taken copy of this to C. of S.

- 1 -

along with 363 -
memo. for President.

IPW
1. 10/1/45
etc.

BTF

The moral and material advantages that will result in the co-belligerence of the Italian people, will be greatly furthered by those measures.

These measures do not only correspond with humanitarian reasons but also for utility reasons, for the national reconstruction.

~~Here~~ In fact it is to note, that amongst these repatriated PW they will be a high number of peasants (perhaps a 40 or 50 %) and also a good number of workers according to the desires expressed by a petition of the Italian women forwarded to this Allied Commission.

Naturally in the cases of requested specialists, the requests will be forwarded as in the past, apart:to wit (CC.RR. Customs officials, Navy, Air-men and magistrates etc.etc.).

In the meantime we submit this question to the favorable consideration of this Commission to forward this request to the competent Allied Authorities.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. Pietro Gazzera

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

9 January 1945

MEMORANDUM REGARDING STATUS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

1. The present status of Italian co-operators working in Italy remains that of Prisoner of War.
2. Since the early days of the Badoglio Government representation has continually been made to the Allied Commission by the Italian Government to remove from Prisoner of War status all Italian soldiers held as such by the Allies.
3. These requests have been forwarded to higher authority by this Headquarters and a ruling asked for. In June the question became more involved as it was then suggested that a number of Italian Prisoners of War co-operators from North Africa should be brought to Italy to work with the British Forces. The Commission advised against this action but to-day in Italy there are 15,000 Italian co-operators employed with British Forces and 3,000 with American Forces. On the arrival of their prisoners in Italy the Italian Government again made representation that these Italians should not be given the stigma of Prisoner of War in their own country.
4. Considerable correspondence passed between Allied Force Headquarters and this Headquarters not only regarding Italian co-operators in Italy but also regarding 30,000 which were transferred from North Africa to France.
5. The question of the status of Italian Prisoners of War in Italy obviously involved their status in other countries and in the middle of November the Chief Commissioner wrote to Allied Force Headquarters forwarding a translation of a letter from Prime Minister Bonomi suggesting that a meeting be called to consider the matter with Anglo American and Italian Representatives only.
6. The question was considered at the meetings of the Political Committee, Allied Force Headquarters and in a letter dated 23 November from the Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, the Commission was requested to ask the Italian Government to present their suggestions as to how the status of Prisoner of War could be removed from prisoners held in this theatre.

2. Since the early days of the Badoglio Government representation has continually been made to the Allied Commission by the Italian Government to remove from Prisoner of War status all Italian soldiers held as such by the Allies.
3. These requests have been forwarded to higher authority by this Headquarters and a ruling asked for. In June the question became more involved as it was then suggested that a number of Italian Prisoner of War co-operators from North Africa should be brought to Italy to work with the British Forces. The Commission advised against this action but to-day in Italy there are 15,000 Italian co-operators employed with British Forces and 5,000 with American Forces. On the arrival of their prisoners in Italy the Italian Government again made representation that these Italians should not be given the stigma of Prisoner of War in their own country.
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6. The question was considered at the meetings of the Political Committee, Allied Force Headquarters and in a letter dated 23 November from the Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, the Commission was requested to ask the Italian Government to present their suggestions as to how the status of Prisoner of War could be removed from prisoners held in this theatre.
7. The question was put to the Italian Government, and a conference was held with the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and representatives of the Italian War Ministry and the Italian Government's suggestions are awaited.
8. The position as understood by this Sub-Commission is:
 - a) The Italian Government want the status of Prisoner of War removed from all Italians held by the Allies as Prisoners of War but more especially those in Italy. A scheme by the Italian Government as to how this can be achieved without upsetting the war effort is in course of preparation. The Italian press continually refer to the question and blame the Italian Government.

1841
see file 184/35 enc. 3 & 3a.

b) The American Government is not unsympathetic to the Italian wishes and would appear to be prepared to consider the matter.

c) The British Government do not see how the status of Prisoner of War can be removed without upsetting a machine which is at present working satisfactorily and are against any change of status.

9. Italian Prisoners of War in British hands, with the exception of those in India, are nearly all working for the war effort.

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

4923

(362)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION

TBJ/ahs

APO 512

G-5: 014.33

*Repr to file 1/4 for all
previous correspondence*

7 January 1945

SUBJECT: Petition from the League of Italian Women.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

see file 1/4 encl. 453/452

1. Reference is made to your 1/7/45 of 14 December, enclosing a translation of a petition dated 7 December from the League of Italian Women urging increased repatriation of Italian POW.

2. The petition was referred to G-1 this Headquarters, whose comments, concurred by G-1(B) and the Political Advisor, were as follows:

"1. It is felt that the present repatriation policies are as liberal as they can be made at the present time, without effecting mass repatriation. Mass repatriation cannot be made since Italian Prisoners of War organized in Service Units are performing a very important function, and are making it possible to utilize many thousands of Allied Troops for combat who would otherwise be required for service troops in the rear areas. While the desires of the Italian Women's league are respected, retention of Italian P/Ws in Service Units speeds the time when all troops may be returned to their homes.

"2. In connection with this appeal, it should be noted that many Italians in Service units are being brought to this country from North Africa, and a liberal leave and pass policy for them has been adopted.

"3. Italians held as POW in the United States must await, as recognized in the petition, shipping space not needed for more urgent war materials."

3. In the circumstances it is felt that action should be limited to acknowledgment of the petition.

For the Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel*Original in
file 1/4.**Copy shown to
Chief 1. by
Col. C.**see file 1/4 encl. 592
for original.*

(361)

TBJ/JJJr

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6

*Report file 1/3 for all
previous copies furnished.*

8 January 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Officers in Camp 126 (Oran).

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

1. Reference is made to your IPW/1/3/267C of 27
December.

*See file 1/3 encl. 267c,
267d,
267.*

2. G-1(A) state that the possibility of extension of the present pass policy in North Africa will be investigated but, in view of the danger of incidents occurring between the Prisoners and the French (which has been increased by reason of the reduction of U.S. troops in North Africa), it is doubted whether it can be liberalized a great deal. It is stated that the P.M.G. will investigate this matter personally when he visits Oran shortly.

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

T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel.

*See file 1/3 encl. 307.
for original.*

IPW

I

Original in
file 1/3.

4920

8/2/45

B/F

c/c

Ref. 244.

Gen. Gazzera phoned and explained that the Italian Government were not in entire agreement with the scheme as put forward to them.

The matter was being discussed at a meeting to-night, and Gen. Gazzera hoped to be able to give me more information to-morrow or at a very early date.

8 Jan. 45.

J.A.C.

See file 36.

(359)

~~B/F 16/1/45
e/c~~

Ref: IPW/1/358

9 January 1946

Dear Mr. Taylor,

With reference to the questions in the list attached to the Secretary of State to the Vatican letter No. 87034/8 dated 27 November 1944.

With regard to the availability of hospitals etc. for use by repatriated Italian Prisoners of War, it is pointed out that certain hospitals have already been made available and a number of beds are now being made available in military hospitals to meet future requirements. It is understood that for the present sufficient hospital accommodation is available.

Regarding the supply of uniforms, clothes, blankets etc. these were made available at a special camp at Taranto which was prepared for the repatriation of Italian soldiers and Prisoners of War returning from the Balkans. Out of the first 10,000 Italian soldiers and Prisoners of War passing through this camp it has only been necessary to issue clothing to approximately 1,000 and out of the 10,000 who passed through the camp 5,336 had one or more blankets and in certain cases two and three surplus blankets were brought back by some of the men who were repatriated. Sufficient blankets have been made available for all transit requirements.

On the question of transportation, as you know this is one of the most difficult problems in Italy to-day. The present arrangement with regard to the transportation of repatriated Prisoners of War to their homes is that the men are despatched to a central railhead in the district in which their homes are and while the men have to find their way on from the railhead, I understand that this method of movement is working satisfactorily and so far there have been no complaints.

With reference to the question of rations:- at the transit camp at Taranto, the ration scale is type 30 which is a high scale of ration practically the same and in certain items better than the Italian Army ration. There are two or three small transit camps which are not yet on the higher scale ration but representation has been made to put these camps on the same type of rations as that issued at the Taranto camp.

All these questions in connection with repatriation of Italian soldiers and Prisoners of War to Italy are being studied daily at this Headquarters, and I shall be pleased if you will inform the Secretary of State to the Holy See that everything possible is being done to take care of any hardships that may crop up from time to time in connection with Italian Prisoners of War who have been repatriated.

Sincerely,

Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Honorable Myron C. Taylor
The Personal Representative of the
President of the United States of America
To His Holiness the Pope
2 Via Bon Compagni
Rome.

Prepared by:

J. A. CAMPBELL

Lt. Col.

Copies to CofS(2)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Chief of Staff

(358a)

Ext: 388.

Ref: 9002/COS23 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Director, IPW Sub-Commission.

358 b+c

1. The attached notes from the Secretary of State to His Holiness The Pope were forwarded to the Chief Commissioner by Mr. Myron Taylor.
2. The Chief Commissioner has sent an interim reply to Mr. Taylor to the effect that the matters contained in the notes will receive urgent attention and, after due consideration, replies will be forwarded.
3. The note which deals with the supply of clothing equipment in hospitals and billets at the ports of disembarkation is a matter for Land Forces Sub-Commission to handle, but I am forwarding it to you in the first instance so that you can be kept in the picture.
4. The note which states the approach of Christmas is a fitting time for accelerating the repatriation programme is a little naive, and I leave it to your ingenuity to provide a good answer.

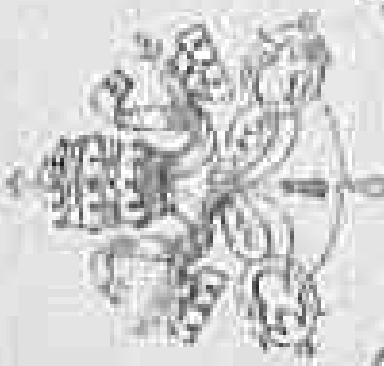
See 358

L. S. Smith
Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Encls.

Copy to: SO to CO.

4916



SEGRETERIA DI STATO

DI SUA SANTITÀ

N.º 87034/S

DA CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

From the Vatican, November 27, 1944

The Holy See has been asked to explain its interest in behalf of the Italian Prisoners of War who have been granted the faculty of repatriation.

It seems that in the implementation of this repatriation various difficulties, such as those named in the enclosed list, have been encountered.

4915

The Holy See has been asked to explain its interest in behalf of the Italian Prisoners of War who have been granted the faculty of repatriation.

It seems that in the implementation of this repatriation various difficulties, such as those named in the enclosed list, have been encountered.

4915

(with enclosure)

(358) C

The principal facilitations which it would be necessary to obtain from the Allied Authorities in order to obviate the difficulties which are encountered at the present time in the repatriation of prisoners.

1. To make available-especially in the ports of disembarkation-additional hospitals besides those now in use and additional billets in order to increase the now insufficient number of transient camps.

The need is therefore for the Allied Authorities to release some of the hospitals and housing facilities now being used by themselves.

2. To make available the supplies of clothing and equipment (uniforms, shoes, mess tins, etc.) which are now blocked by the Allies and which are indispensable for the clothing of the repatriated prisoners and the soldiers returning from the Balkans. These men often arrive almost without any clothing. To make available also barrack equipment (especially blankets) for the transient housing of these men.

3. To make available means of transportation for the distribution of prisoners following their arrival at ports of disembarkation. Specifically this would mean:

a) Vehicles for the transfer of these men to zones whereto no rail service reaches.

b) An increase in the daily number of places open on the trains to Italian Military Personnel and the granting of permission

Page 2.

(358) d

for the repatriated prisoners also to use these places. (At the present time on the train from Naples to Rome, there are only 30 places available for the use of Italian Military Military Personnel, in active service. It is not permissible for the repatriates to make use of these places.

4. In order to provide for the feeding of the repatriates it is necessary:

a) If possible, to grant the facility of drawing military food rations also to the prisoners in the transient camps.

b) Much less that the Allies would not interfere with the present provisioning with the civil rationing which is regularly distributed in accordance with the special agreements come to with the provincial sections for alimentation. (Se.pra. al.).

/de



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 30 dicembre 1944

N. 16359 *Mn.*

OGGETTO : Rimpatrio di ufficiali e specializzati prigionieri di guerra per necessità del R. Esercito.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

R O M A

1. Lo Stato Maggiore del R. Esercito Italiano incontra attualmente notevoli difficoltà per l'inquadramento ed il completamento, sia delle unità dei Gruppi di combattimento, sia delle altre unità varie per la massima parte a disposizione delle Autorità Militari Alleate.

Tali difficoltà sono dovute principalmente alla scarsa disponibilità di ufficiali specie inferiori in servizio permanente effettivo (S.P.E.) e di militari specializzati delle specializzazioni più richieste e di più difficile e lunga formazione.

2. Dopo attento esame della questione da parte dello Stato Maggiore è stato accertato che le difficoltà suaccennate non potrebbero essere superate che col rimpatrio di ufficiali in S.P.E. e di complemento e di specializzati attualmente prigionieri di guerra degli Alleati.

Questo provvedimento permetterebbe di migliorare l'inquadramento e la compagine delle unità dell'Esercito in genere ed in particolare dei Gruppi di combattimento e di tutti quei reparti che validamente concorrono allo sforzo bellico per la vittoria partecipando direttamente alla lotta o svolgendo importanti lavori nelle retrovie.

Il provvedimento darebbe modo anche allo Stato Maggiore R. Esercito di :

- avere a disposizione, presso il deposito complementi, una aliquota di personale per il ripianamento delle perdite che indubbiamente i Gruppi avranno in combattimento
- restituire alle attività civili od utilizzare meglio personale di età più avanzate o, comunque, poco idoneo alle fatiche di guerra, ora in servizio presso le unità italiane.

3. Così stando le cose questo Alto Commissariato ha avuto l'incarico di rappresentare la importante questione a codesta Commissione.

4. Nello specchio allegato 1 è riportato un primo fabbisogno di personale, ripartito per gradi e specializzazioni, di cui si chiede il rimpatrio per le ragioni suddette, da parte dello Stato Maggiore.

Trattasi complessivamente :

- 3.400 ufficiali di cui, se possibile, 1.200 in S.P.E., il resto di complemento;
- 28.000 specializzati, sottufficiali e militari di truppa.

5. Sarebbe vivo desiderio delle Autorità Italiane che detto personale venisse anzitutto attinto da quello delle divisioni "Cuneo" e "Regina" attualmente nel Medio Oriente; successivamente dai militari italiani tuttora trattenuti negli prigionieri di guerra in Egitto, Kenya, India, Sud Africa, Australia, America, Inghilterra e Nord Africa fino a coprire l'intero fabbisogno.

6. Le Autorità Militari Italiane non sono in possesso di elementi sufficienti per potere avanzare richieste nominative. Sarebbe pertanto necessario che la scelta del detto personale venisse affidata all'ufficiale italiano più elevato in grado che già si interessa dei prigionieri italiani in ogni singolo territorio, naturalmente in pieno accordo con le Autorità Alleate. Egli ritirerà e farà avere alle Autorità Militari Italiane le dichiarazioni indicate al successivo paragrafo 7 comma b) e c).

7. La scelta stessa del personale dovrebbe effettuarsi sulla base dei seguenti criteri :

- a) per i sottufficiali e truppa : rimpatrio obbligatorio per combattere degli appartenenti delle classi dal 1915 al 1923 e più giovani, dando la precedenza ai più giovani, cioè utilizzando anzitutto i più giovani;
- b) per gli ufficiali in S.P.E. : rimpatrio obbligatorio dando la precedenza, a parità di grado, ai più giovani. E' impegno per essi, di potere essere assegnati alle unità combattenti al fronte, risulta già dalla loro qualità di ufficiali del S.P.E. - Questa precisazione dovrà essere

il resto di complemento;

- 28.000 specializzati, sottufficiali e militari di truppa.

5. Sarebbe vivo desiderio delle Autorità Italiane che detto personale venisse anzitutto attinto da quello delle divisioni "Cuneo" e "Regina" attualmente nel Medio Oriente; successivamente dai militari italiani tuttora trattenuti negli prigionieri di guerra in Egitto, Kenya, India, Sud Africa, Australia, America, Inghilterra e Nord Africa fino a coprire l'intero fabbisogno.

6. Le Autorità Militari Italiane non sono in possesso di elementi sufficienti per potere avanzare richieste nominative. Sarebbe pertanto necessario che la scelta del detto personale venisse affidata all'ufficiale italiano più elevato in grado che già si interessa dei prigionieri italiani in ogni singolo territorio, naturalmente in pieno accordo con le Autorità Alleate. Egli ritirerà e farà avere alle Autorità Militari Italiane le dichiarazioni indicate al successivo paragrafo 7 comma b) e c).

7. La scelta stessa del personale dovrebbe effettuarsi sulla base dei seguenti criteri :

a) per i sottufficiali e truppa : rimpatrio obbligatorio per combattere degli appartenenti delle classi dal 1915 al 1923 e più giovani, dando la precedenza ai più giovani, cioè utilizzando anzitutto i più giovani;

b) per gli ufficiali in S.P.E. : rimpatrio obbligatorio dando la precedenza, a parità di grado, ai più giovani. E' in tempo per essi, di potere essere assegnati alle unità combattenti al fronte, risulta già dalla loro qualità di ufficiali del S.P.E. - Questa precisazione dovrà essere a conoscenza, per iscritto, da ciascuno degli ufficiali del S.P.E. che rimpatrieranno in seguito a questa richiesta, i quali dovranno firmare al riguardo apposita dichiarazione per presa conoscenza.

./.

- 3 -

c) per gli ufficiali di complemento : rimpatrio volontario a domanda scritta. Nella domanda l'ufficiale dovrà impegnarsi a tornare in Italia per essere assegnato ad unità combattenti al fronte. Si dovrà dare la precedenza, a parità di grado, ai più giovani. Nell'allegato 2 è riportata la formula di domanda che dovrà essere fatta firmare a ciascun ufficiale.

8. Il rimpatrio dovrebbe effettuarsi a scaglioni della forza non superiore a 1.500 ufficiali e 10.000 uomini di truppa al mese.

9. Questo Alto Commissariato sarà veramente grato se questa Commissione si compiacerà sottoporre l'importante questione, con l'urgenza del caso, alle Superiori Autorità Alleate, per il suo più favorevole esame e se non appena possibile vorrà dare cortese comunicazione delle decisioni prese.

Si ringrazia fin d'ora molto sentitamente.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

P. Gazzera

4310

Allegato al foglio n. 16.359...MIL.
in data 30.12.1944 dell'Alto
Comando prigionieri di guerra.

ELENCO NUMERICO DEGLI UFFICIALI E MILITARI SPECIALIZZATI DI CUI SI
RICHIEDE IL RIMPATRIO DALLA PRIGIONIERIA PER NECESSITA' DEL R. ESERCITO

UFFICIALI

Tenenti Colonnelli e Maggiori:

- Fanteria.....	101
- Artiglieria.....	50
- Genio.....	20(1)
- Automobilisti.....	10
- Medici.....	40
- Farmacisti.....	2
- di Comm/to e Sussistenza.....	2
Totale	225

tutti in s.p.e.

Capitani:

- Fanteria.....	343	di cui almeno	143	in s.p.e.
- Artiglieria.....	117	"	50	"
- Genio.....	70(2)	"	25	"
- Automobilisti.....	60	"	20	"
- Medici.....	50	"	20	"
- Farmacisti.....	5	"	2	"
- di commissariato e sussistenza.....	20	"	10	"
- di amministrazione.....	10	"	5	"
Totale	675		275	

Tenenti e Sottotenenti:

- Fanteria.....	1007	di cui almeno	280	in s.p.e.
- Artiglieria.....	367	"	110	"
- Cavalleria.....	28	"	7	"
- Genio.....	495(3)	"	143	"
- Automobilisti.....	367	"	103	"
- Medici.....	129	"	30	"
- Farmacisti.....	5	"	2	"
- Commissariato e Sussistenza.....	74	"	18	"
- Amministrazione.....	28	"	7	"
Totale	2500		700	

MILITARI DI TRUPPA SPECIALIZZATI

- Motociclisti.....	3.200
- Autieri, autieri meccanici e carristi.....	12.000
- Marconisti.....	5.000
- Centralinisti ed operatori telegrafisti.....	500
- Radiomontatori.....	600

4909

=====

Capitani:

- Fanteria.....	343	di cui almeno	143 in s.p.e.
- Artiglieria.....	117	" "	50 " "
- Genio.....	70(2)	" "	25 " "
- Automobilisti.....	60	" "	20 " "
- Medici.....	50	" "	20 " "
- Farmacisti.....	5	" "	2 " "
- commissariato e sussistenza ..	20	" "	10 " "
- di amministrazione.....	10	" "	5 " "
Totale	675		275

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- Genio.....	495(3)	" "	143 " "
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- Farmacisti.....	5	" "	2 " "
- Commissariato e Sussistenza...	74	" "	18 " "
- Amministrazione.....	28	" "	7 " "
Totale	2500		700

=====

MILITARI DI TRUPPA SPECIALIZZATI

- motociclisti.....	3.200
- Autieri, autieri meccanici e carristi.....	12.000
- Marconisti.....	5.000
- Centralinisti ed operatori telegrafisti.....	600
- Radiomontatori.....	600
- Apparecchiatori telefonici.....	400

4900

NOTE:

- (1) - dei quali 2 ferrovieri
 (2) - " 4
 (3) - " 25

././..

- 2 -

- Elettricisti.....	1.000
- falegnami e carpentieri.....	1.000
- Meccanici ed affini.....	2.000
- Operai di artiglieria ed armaioli.....	1.200
- Verniciatori.....	200
- Infermieri ed aiutanti di sanità.....	800

Totale	28.000
--------	--------

4908

Allegato 2 al foglio n° 16359 Ma
in data 30.12.1944 dell'Alto
Commissariato p. di G.

FORMULA DI DOMANDA CHE DOVRÀ FIRMARE CIASCUN UFFICIALE DI
COMPLETAMENTO.

=====

Il sottoscritto (Grado=Arma=Casato e nome= classe-distretto)
.....
chiede di essere rimpatriato per partecipare alla guerra contro i
tedeschi in unità combattente italiana al fronte od in qualsiasi
altro modo sarà ritenuto opportuno dalle Autorità Militari Italiane.
Si impegna sul suo onore a tener fede all'impegno che con la
presente domanda si assume.

Data

Firma

.....1907

33.

To: C. of S.

Ref. Minute 32.

(C. of S. file)

1. The many sides to the question of Italian PW cannot be picked up in a day, and it is, in my opinion, only by study and after experience, that anyone can hope to do justice to a subject which is a heartbreak from all angles.
2. I cannot see how by passing the handling of Italian PW to the Land Forces Sub-Commission helps. If it is necessary that every approach to the Italian War Ministry goes through MILA, then let a liaison officer from MILA be attached to the Sub-Commission for that purpose. I can assure you that not even 10% of the work on Italian PW from the AG angle concerns the Ministry of War, who only handle the question at the stage when PW status ceases.
3. It is extremely difficult to paint the picture in a few words. I would state that, in my opinion, the work falls under the following headings:

50% - Italian High Commissioner for PW. (Separate office entirely from the War Ministry.)
 20% - Civilians. (Have no connection with Land Forces Sub-Com.)
 10% - Political. do.
 10% - Italian War Ministry. (MILA.)
 10% - AMHQ and other Commands. (No necessity to go through MILA.)

4. Considering the amount of work and the number of hours that have been put into the study and organizing the PW side of the Sub-Commission, now that it has just got under way on more or less oiled wheels, with a civilian team of 18 helping in the work, I consider to pass it to Land Forces who have asked for 5 Allied officers and 6 Service clerks plus civilians? to do what I am doing with 3 Allied officers and share of 4 Service clerks, is hardly constructive.
5. Proceeding to the WMD side of the Sub-Commission.
 I consider that to pass disposal of War Material to the Economic Section is not economic. I understand that Industry Sub-Com. would be responsible, and would have to set up a special division to handle the matter. I put my suggestion on the disposal of War Material up to Economic Section a few days ago, and believe they are inclined to agree. It made the WMD Sub-Com. the sole AG agency to deal with the disposal of all War Material collected (this involves the handling of 1000 to 1500 Italian Service personnel) or offered to the AG through Allied Army channels. The disposal to be done through a Disposal and Priorities Committee set up within the AG, - the WMD Sub-Com. to apportion the material according to bids, - any controversial questions to be decided by C. of S. or C.C.
 I trust that before any decision is made with regards to abolishing the Sub-Commission, that the C. of S. and the C.C. will satisfy themselves that the suggestion and concurrence to abolish the Sub-Com. comes from a source which has knowledge and is conversant with the work which has and is being done by the Sub-Commission. I do not think that this is the case.

30 Nov. 44.

Lieut.-Colonel.
 WMD & IAW Sub-Com.

4908

356

file

(354)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
O.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

OSP/tb

IPW 1/354

4 January 1945

To : Headquarters Commandant

Subject : Enquiries re IPOW

May the following instructions please be issued to all receptionists in the Main Hall:

- 1/. "All persons calling at H.Q., Allied Commission wishing to make enquiries about Prisoners of War, will be asked if they have been sent here by General Gazzera, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War. If they have, they must hold a document to that effect and requesting that an interview be given. Any persons sent by General Gazzera, but not holding such a letter will be referred back to General Gazzera, whose office is situated at Piazza Indipendenza 6.
- 2/. Other enquiries will be sent to Room 46, 4th floor Annex to make their enquiries."

*H.Q. Bonnet.
improved & new
address. c/c*

24/1/45

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

4905

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1945
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

FJS/wsw

(353)

G-5: 393.6

1 January 1945

SUBJECT: Rolando Giacomelli - Italian, formerly PW in U.S. Custody. *for comments
a return -*

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394. *Passed to
Naval S.C.
3/1/45.*

See 376
The attached copy of memorandum from PMG Branch is forwarded that it may be brought to the attention of the Italian Government and Italian Naval Mission.

Comments from the Italian Naval Mission are requested.

For the Acting Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5: 4901

Incl:
Cy memo fr PMG, subj above,
dtd 23 Dec 44.

F. J. SLAUGHTER,
Captain, A.G.D.

*B/F
12/1/45
c/c*

(352)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/352

2 January 1945

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Correspondence forwarded.

Reference the attached correspondence.

I shall be pleased to have your comments with regards
to the statements which are made.

gal
J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

Encls.
DCCAO/1/1.2 of 15 Dec 44.
Translation.

see 337. / 336

see 351

FILE.

23/1/45
4903
4/1/45
4/1/45

IPW

(351)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

FJS/ahs

G-5: 383.6

30 December 1944

SUBJECT: Prisoners of War in Kenya.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission.

337

See 352 + 448

1. Reference is made to your IPW/1/337 of 21 December 1944.

2. No action can be taken unless information can be furnished
as to names, etc., of the Prisoners of War concerned. 4502

For the Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

IPW
1

F.J. Slaughter
F.J. SLAUGHTER
Captain AGD

See 352

350
ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE COMBATTE

ERETTA IN ENTE MORALE CON R. D. 24 GIUGNO 1923 - N. 1371

CONSIGLIO DIRETTIVO CENTRALE

PALAZZO DORIA * PIAZZA GRAZIOLI, 5

N. 1975
UFFICIO CENTRALE
COOPERAZIONE
E LAVORORoma, 29 th Decemb
TELEF. 63-799 63-162

THE ALLIED COMMISSION

ROME

Sir,

We have the honour to inform you that
Liet.GIGLI PIERO component of this organisation and Ge-
neral Secretary of National Committee for P.O.W.s, is by
us delegated to maintain contacts between our Organisa-
tion (Official Institution of the Italian State) and the
Allied Authorities.

Yours respectfully.

Hon.ETTORE VIOLA
Nation.commissioner

4931

(348)

(F)

IFN/1/348

22 December 1944

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Further to my letter of 21 December 1944.

*in c.c. files
purely administrative
acknowledgement
of attached.*

In relation to Secretary of State to the Vatican letter 27031/5 dated 27 November 1944, the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War is proceeding in accordance with the availability of shipping.

In certain cases of repatriation on Compassionate Grounds and of specialists asked for to fill specific appointments in Italy, delay occurs owing to screening and the location of the Prisoners of War concerned.

Lists are at present being compiled in all British and American Prisoners of War Camps of those Italian Prisoners of War who are over 55 years of age and those over 50 years of age who have been prisoner for over 2 years; the repatriation of this class has started, and will continue automatically.

*See
372*

It is hoped that during the month of January 1945, the number of Italian Prisoners of War to be repatriated to Italy will increase, but it must always be borne in mind that the availability of shipping controls nearly all repatriation of Prisoners of War.

The present number of Italian Prisoners of War whose repatriation has been agreed to is 7062, excluding those in the age group referred to above.

In relation to Secretary of State to the Vatican letter 27035/5 dated 27 November 1944, the question has been up for consideration from time to time, and recently the Italian Government were asked to put forward a scheme showing how best the transfer from Prisoner of War status could take place without upsetting the war effort.

*IPW
1*

*4941
B/F
7/1/45
c/c.
25/1/45
c/c.*

The scheme submitted was not sufficiently complete, and the matter was discussed by the Director of the Italian Prisoner of War Sub-Commission, General Cassera the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, and also General Mannerini of the Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated Prisoners of War on the 23rd of this month, and the new plan on which a further study of the question can be made is awaited from the Italian Government.

|| Immediately upon receipt of this plan from the Italian Government, the matter shall again have attention.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edberg W. Stone
EDMUND W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

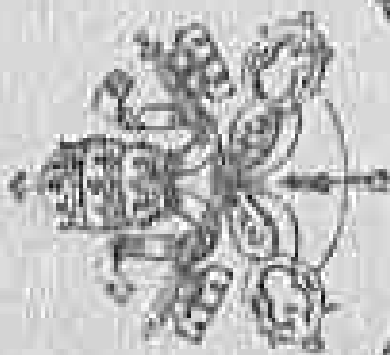
The Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
The Personal Representative of the
President of the United States
To His Holiness The Pope,
2 Via Sanconspatri,
Rome.

cc: G of S (2)
C/C
File ✓
Float

Prepared by:

Lt. Col.
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

4899



SECRETARIA DI STATO

DI SUA SANTITÀ

N^o 87033/S^u

DA CITARSI NELLA RISPOSTA

From the Vatican, November 27, 1944

It has been reported that there are at the present time about 10,000 Italian Prisoners of War who are rendering service to various units of the Allied Armed Forces.

The special interest of the Holy See has been requested on behalf of these prisoners in view of the fact that they are in the position of being prisoners within the confines of their own national territory which has, moreover, now been declared free and subject to Italian national authority.

It would be an act of real generosity if a free status were to be given to these prisoners who could then still continue to render service even after they had been granted this

It has been reported that there are at the present time about 10,000 Italian Prisoners of War who are rendering service to various units of the Allied Armed Forces.

The special interest of the Holy See has been requested on behalf of these prisoners in view of the fact that they are in the position of being prisoners within the confines of their own national territory which has, moreover, now been declared free and subject to Italian national authority.

It would be an act of real generosity if a free status were to be given to these prisoners who could then still continue to render service even after they had been granted this freedom.

439B



DI SUA SANTITÀ

N. 87031/S

DA CITARSI NELLA RISPOSTA

From the Vatican, November 27, 1944

It has been noted that the repatriation program which has been established by the Allied Authorities is proceeding rather slowly.

The approach of Christmas would seem to present a fitting occasion for accelerating this repatriation program and also perhaps for extending this favor to other persons besides those to whom it has already been granted by the Allied Authorities.

(347)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/347

29 December 1944

To: Headquarters Rome Allied Area Command.
(Att: Major A.L. Loudon).

Subject: Absentees. POW Co-Operator Corporal VERDIROSI.

Reference your letter No. 32A5 dated 27 November 1944.

- 1/. A report on this matter has now been received from General Gazzera, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.
- 2/. It appears that VERDIROSI is now in hospital and will shortly be proceeding on sick leave. Upon termination of such leave he will be assigned to the Italian G.H.Q. of Lazio, Umbria and Abruzzo.

296)
318 } super
339 }

(346)

clp
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

4396

DATE. 3. Jan. 45
ENTERED ON CARDS.
INITIALS. <i>gr</i>

346

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 27 December 1944

No. 2346/Pol/L.10

To : A.C. ROME

Subject : Corporal VERDIROSI Alberto.

Reference your letter IP#1/518 dated 14 December 1944.

The Army Headquarters of the Lazio, Umbria and Abruzzo, has
given the following information concerning Corporal Verdrosi:

"Corporal Verdrosi, who is at present at the Piazza
M. Grappa Military Hospital -Surgery Ward - will leave
in a few days and then proceed on convalescent leave".

Upon the termination of such leave he will be assigned to the
General Headquarters of this district.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

s/ Gen. Pietro Gazzera

239, 296 refer

Action 347

489

DATE. 3- Jan-45
ENTERED ON CARDS.
INITIALS. <i>gms</i>

(345)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

IPW/22/83

27 December 1944

To: Land Forces Sub-Commission.
(Att: DA & SSG).

Subject: Italian soldiers and Prisoners of War in Central Europe.

Reference conversation with Col. Hoakes this morning.

- 1/. It is understood that all questions in connection with Italian soldiers or Prisoners of War in Central Europe will be handled by you.
- 2/. I attach translations of certain letters recently received from the Italian War Ministry, which require a certain amount of action, and unless I hear from you I shall presume that whatever action is necessary will be taken by you.

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
SAD & IPW Sub-Com.

Encl:

400898RPGR of 18 Dec.
400801/RPGR of 17 Dec.
40086/RPGR of 13 Dec.
400572/RPGR of 18 Dec.
40044/RPGR of 5 Dec.

N/A in this file 489

Copy to File IPW/1. ✓

(see file 22 incl 88)

Ref. 329.

26 December 1944

344

At a meeting with Gen. Gazzera, Italian High Commissioner for POW and Gen. Mannerini of Autonomous Office for Veteran Soldiers and repatriated POW. It was explained that while the suggestions regarding the type of unit to be formed appeared satisfactory there was a proposal as to how POW taken from POW status could be definitely held in their present jobs if under Italian Army Reg. they were due for demobilization etc. After discussing the matter at some length Gen. Gazzera and Gen. Mannerini agreed to study the question again and put forward a further scheme which would make it possible to arrange so that Italian Army Regulations would so far as possible confirm to the terms and conditions under which co-operators work at present. It was requested that the memorandum putting forward the Italian Government scheme be delivered prior to 30 Dec.

✓ B/F 21/12/44
?? — B/F 31/12/44

See 359 & file 36

PgW3/6349
(343)ALLIED FORGE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
AFC 512

TEJ/DMR/mls

22 December 1944

G-5: 383.6

SUBJECT: Italian PW Camps in U.S.A.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, AFC 394.
317. / 416, 421, 429.

Reference is made to your IP#1/317 of 14 December.

(P-1 of this Headquarters state that your communication is
 being indorsed to the Provost Marshal General, A.S.P., for information
 and such action as may be deemed necessary.

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

see 416

 B. B. JACKMAN, Jr.
 Lt. Colonel.

 B/F 7/2/45
 22/1/45
 B/F 17/1/45
 4/1/45

RESTRICTED

WMD 5/c
DCK/er

342

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 60)

14 December 1944

DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS OF WAR OF NON-GERMAN NATIONALITY

1. General - This instruction deals with the disposal of prisoners of war of non-German nationality who, immediately prior to their capture by, or desertion to, the Allied Forces, were serving in the German Armed Forces.

2. Interrogation - All prisoners of war referred to below will be interrogated by Allied Intelligence staff concerned in the normal way. Should any particular prisoner of war be required by the Intelligence staff for special purposes he will be routed to CSDIC and will not come within the scope of this instruction.

3. Segregation - Immediately on establishment of nationality all prisoners of war referred to below will be segregated from, and where practicable be kept out of the sight of other prisoners.

4. Poles a. PW of Polish nationality will be evacuated to 368 PW Camp if arriving from the north of Italy or to 209 PW Camp if accepted from American custody in the Naples area.

b. Those accepted by representatives of Polish Corps for enlistment into the Polish Forces will be dispatched to Polish Reception Camp. If Polish representatives desire any individuals dispatched to the UK for the Polish Navy or Air Force, reference will be made to Allied Force Headquarters.

5. Russians a. PW of Russian nationality will be evacuated to "Q" (St Andrews PW) Camp, if arriving from the north of Italy or to 209 PW Camp if accepted from American custody in the Naples area.

b. Headquarters, No. 3 District will arrange with Russian Military Mission for a Russian representative to interrogate all such PW to confirm Russian nationality and ascertain their suitability for enlistment with Russian Forces.

6. French a. Prisoners of war of French nationality (including prisoners of war of Alsace-Lorraine origin) will be evacuated:

- (1) In the case of British-owned prisoners of war, to No. 209 Prisoner of War Camp (MR N2657).
- (2) In the case of United States-owned prisoners of war, to No. 326 Prisoner of War enclosure, (MR N1763).

RESTRICTED

IPW
1.

R E S T R I C T E D

AFHQ Adm Memo #60 (cont'd)

b. Headquarters, No. 3 District or PBS, as the case may be, will then arrange with the French Military Base for such prisoners of war to be interrogated by the French Military Authorities.

c. Prisoners of war selected by the French Military Authorities will then be transferred on demand to those authorities.

7. Jugoslavs a. Prisoners of war of Yugoslav nationality will be evacuated to No. 207 Prisoner of War Camp (NR P2871). Headquarters No. 3 District will arrange with "Z" Military Mission for a representative of JANL to interview such PW and those selected as suitable for enlistment into JANL will be transferred to JANL Base.

b. Yugoslav PW declining to join JANL will be referred to AFHQ for disposal instructions.

8. Dutch, Belgians, Luxembourgers and Czechoslovaks - Prisoners of war of the above nationalities will be evacuated to No. 209 Prisoner of War Camp (NR N2657). Those selected by their national representatives for service in their own armies will be dispatched to the UK in their PW status.

9. Greeks - Prisoners of war of Greek nationality will be evacuated to No. 207 Prisoner of War Camp (NR P2871). Headquarters No. 3 District will forward their names and details of their past history to AFHQ for disposal instructions.

10. Danes - PW of Danish nationality will be evacuated to No. 209 PW Camp. Headquarters No. 3 District will forward their names and details of their past history to AFHQ for disposal instructions.

X 11. Italians - Prisoners of war of Italian nationality captured by the British Forces while serving in the Italian Republican Army will be evacuated to No. 209 Prisoner of War Camp (NR N2657). Headquarters No. 3 District will arrange for their evacuation in the status of prisoners of war to NORTH AFRICA, prior sanction being obtained from Allied Force Headquarters (G-1 (Br) A.2.). They will be treated similarly to German prisoners of war.

12. Austrians - Prisoners of war of Austrian nationality captured by the British Forces will be evacuated to No. 209 Prisoner of War Camp (NR N2657), where they will be held pending receipt of disposal instructions from Allied Force Headquarters, (G-1 (Br) A.2.).

13. Neutrals - Prisoners of war of neutral nationality will be treated as ordinary German prisoners of war.

14. Rejected PW - Allied PW rejected by their national representatives will cease to be segregated and will be treated in all respects as German PW.

R E S T R I C T E D

AFHQ Adm Memo #60 (cont'd)

15. Documentation a. Normal documentation/processing will be carried out in the case of all the above prisoners of war.

b. In the case of such prisoners of war admitted to British Base Camps, the following details will be observed:

- (1) The prisoners of war will be registered on AF W3000 as soon as possible and in priority to German prisoners of war.
- (2) The actual nationality claimed by the prisoners of war will be clearly stated on AF W3000 in every case.
- (3) All movements of such prisoners of war will be reported to GHQ, 2d Echelon promptly on AF W3002 by dispatching and receiving Base Camps.
- (4) All releases will be reported by Camps on AF W3002 stating in each case the authority for the release.

By command of Field Marshal ALEXANDER:

G. W. Christenberry
G. W. CHRISTENBERRY,
Colonel, AGP,
Acting Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

"C"

4890

- 3 -

R E S T R I C T E D

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 20 December 1944

File No. 2282/Pol/I-2-A di prot.

To : A.C., ROME

Subject : Italian officers in the IPW Camps for Privates.

Reference IPW 1/325 of December 16th

Really the British mostly don't keep Italian officers - except for the doctors and chaplains - in the camps with the Privates. This is implicitly admitted - not prescribed - by the Geneva Convention.

It results to us that in some British camps in India and other countries, the soldiers have been embodied with a few Italian officers. This fact in the beginning was accepted a little doubtfully, but the soldiers, who had been for so long abandoned to themselves, but after a bit showed great improvements with regards to discipline to the advantage of the general service and also from the spiritual point of view. For those reasons - also by the experience made in America - in letter No. 1979/Pol.G-5 of 24 November 44 we proposed to assign Italian officers to the camps for Privates.

After all they are now "Co-operators" and it is important to put them in the right frame of mind in order to make their work improve and this frame of mind our soldiers can get it only through commandants of their own nationality, who will give back to them their dignity of soldiers.

For that reason I beg you to examine once more benevolently the question and the proposals, which only aim is to improve the general service and to prepare the readmission of the PW to the normal life and their country, when they repatriate.

I thank you beforehand.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER 4889
General Pietro Gazzera.

1
Spoke to Gen G.
and explained that it
was not an Italian
closed
G.P.

(339)

HQ ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO 794 US ARMY

Ref: 32A5

19 Dec 44

Subject: Absentees: PW Co-operator -
Corporal VERDIROSIWMD & IPW Sub-Commission,
HQ Allied Commission

see 346/347

(296)

Please state if report referred to in your IPW/1/296
dated 4 Dec 44 is now complete.*Specify to PW
is forwarding this report
as per / cell*

2.

BVM/ag	DATE. 2-6-65
ENTERED ON CARDS.	INITIALS. <i>ag</i>

[Signature]
A.L. LOUDEN
Major
For Brigadier
Commander British Troops Romesee 348
3464888
[Signature]

(334)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/387

21 December 1944

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

Subject: Correspondence forwarded.

336 - see 448

1/. Enclosed are copies of correspondence received from Civil Affairs Section, HQ. AAI.

2/. If any action is taken please notify this office.

For the Chief Commissioner:

(Sgd) J.A. Campbell

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut-Colonel
Director
WD & IPO? Sub-Com.

2 Encls.
1. Translation.
2. Ltr. No. DODAO/1/1.2

FILE -

see 351/352

4837
(B/F)

8/1/44 ✓
C/o none.

DCCA0/1/1.2

Civil Affairs Section,
HQ Allied Armies in Italy
TEL: FILPOT 132

15 December 1944

Dear

*Campbell,**See 448**copy of this*

The MA to Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander has forwarded to me three letters for my attention, one of which concerns Italian Prisoners of War and their families.

This letter with its English translation is attached and it is not possible to acknowledge it as there is no address given of the senders who describe themselves as a civilian prisoners' families.

The only suggestion I can make for your consideration is that repatriation of any Prisoner of War on compassionate grounds should be expedited and that the problem of stipend should be examined, though it well may be that both these matters have been ~~examined~~ ^{considered} and are equitable at the present time.

Yours

Sincerely
Arthur James

Lt. Col. J. A. Campbell,
W.M.D. and I.P.W.
HQ Allied Commission

1.

(336)a

TRANSLATION

Most Gracious General,

Many families of civilians prisoners at Kenia and elsewhere finding themselves in grave financial straits make spirited appeal to your generosity and great benevolence so that their relatives may be repatriated in the shortest time possible and before the advent of complete ruin. The authorities upon whom their relatives (transferred for duty reasons) depend, deny them every assistance. The stipends which these wretched families receive are the same as those of four years ago, whereas today the cost of living has reached a fabulous sum. Why do they abandon this category of family which, in order to live, will be forced to beg or to follow a dishonest life?

For Heaven's sake, Egregious General, while they are waiting to return to their dear ones, make such a disposition that will force the authorities to give an increase of at least 70% even if the stipend is given by delegation.

The proposal is more than humane if the complete state of abandon of morale as well financial status is ~~concerned~~ CONSIDERED.

All the families sure of your valid aid await confidently and gratefully. We thank and honor you.

A group of civilian
prisoners' families

Subject: Passes to Repatriated Italian
Prisoners of War

To: GHI(b)

Civil Affairs Section,
HQ Allied Forces in Italy
TEL: FIBUT 55 - 1

DDAG/1/5.1
16 Dec 44

1. It is expected that several hundred, perhaps thousands, of Italian Prisoners of War will shortly be repatriated to Italy.

2. On arrival at the port of debarkation they will be sorted out under the auspices of IMIA. Some will doubtless be absorbed into the Italian Army, but most will be released from military service and sent to their homes.

3. Many of them will doubtless have homes within the Army Areas and it is suggested that the passes which will be issued to them to travel to their homes by the nearest route, and expiring upon arrival, will be issued by IMIA instead of Army AMIs. The pass will be a normal yellow Allied Military Government pass and the suggestion that such pass be issued by IMIA is merely to eliminate a lot of unnecessary work for Army AMIs, thus getting the ex-Prisoners of War moving quickly.

4. I have discussed this matter with Brigadier General Hume, SCAG 5th Army AMI, who agrees. Will you please advise me if you also are in agreement.

Nelson W. Mumford

NELSON W. MUMFORD,
Colonel, A. U. S.,
DDAG

Copies to:
SCAG 5th Army AMI
POW Sub-Comm., HQ AG

see file 11/5

488

10W 1

332

114

(331)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/331

19 December 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, G-1 (B) Section, APO 512.
(Attention Major Thorpe).

Subject: Enlistment of Italian Prisoners of War in the
Allied Forces.

See 327.

- 1/. Confirming telephone conversation Major Thorpe - Major Partridge to-day, I herewith enclose copies of the letter and pro forma received from General Gazzera.
- 2/. Would you please take the matter up with MG. and inform me of any information received.

For the Chief Commissioner:

CLP

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

2 Encls.

1. Copy of ltr No. 2269/G-6.
2. Copy of pro forma.

*See 328 & 330**FILE*

488:

B/F
(enc. 330)
26/1/45
26/1/45

(330)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/330

19 December 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Enlistment of Italian Prisoners of War in the
Allied Forces.

- (328) 327
- 1/. With reference to your letter No. 2268/G-6 dated
16 December 1944.
 - 2/. I have spoken today with Major Thorpe at Allied Force
Headquarters on this matter, which he is taking up with
the authorities in the Middle East.
 - 3/. I will inform you immediately a reply is received.

J.A.C.
J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

See 328
+ 331

five

488

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR P.W.

16 December 1944

N.2217/Fol G-5 di prot.

Subject: Situation of Italian PW.

To: The A.C. Sub-Comm. of PW. ROME

Referring to letter IPW/1/305 of December 10th 1944 to this High Commissioner and letter IPW/1/287 of November 30th addressed to H.E. BONOMY, I transmit the requested scheme for the transformation of the Italian P.W. Units in Italy into free Italian Soldier-Units at disposition of the Allies.

The scheme is by force generic, because this High Comm. ignores details about the strength and the location of the Units and the work they are actually doing.

All the same the scheme is sufficiently elastic to be adapted to the various cases.

The scheme has been approved by the various competent Governmental Authorities.

/s/ High Commissioner
Gen. P. GAZZERA

4381

ALLEGED

15 December 1944

SCHEME FOR TRANSFORMATION OF ITALIAN PW. IN ITALY INTO FREE ITALIAN SOLDIER UNITS AT DISPOSITION OF ALLIES.I) Organisation of Units.

Should be studied in base of the strength, the location and the actual employ of the soldiers.

On general lines the same arrangement as has been established by the A.A.I. Command for the Engineer Corps Labour Units which depend on the British Forces could be adapted:

1- Squadrons

4 squads with 5 Officers (of which 1 Capt. and about 200 non Com-Off. and soldiers)

2- Battaglioni of 6 squadrons

Command of Battaglioni: 4 Officers (one Senior Officer, one Aide-de-Camp Officer for the administration, 1 Medical Officer) Non-Com-Off. and Soldiers.

3- Regiments formed with 2 Battaglioni

Command of the Regiment: 1 Colonel and 8 Officers for various jobs; 27 non-Com-Off. and soldiers. Total: 77 officers, 2557 non Com-off. and Soldiers.

Eventually the possibility of having lighter battaglioni (4 squadrons) & augmenting the number to 3 battaglioni in a Regiment could be studied.

The officers necessary for these new units, besides those who are already with the Units, should get the same treatment as those who are still in PW. Camps and without a job.

II) Dependency

As for all the other auxiliary Units:

- For employment: on the Allied Commands for which those Units are working
- For discipline and Administration: on the Commands of the Divisions (which have already been formed in order to embody the Auxiliary Units) which have jurisdiction on the territory where the Units are employed.

The Squadron, Battaglioni and Regimental Commanders have limited competency on discipline, administration and assistance matters.

The battaglioni have, like most auxiliary forces, administrative autonomy.

III) Where necessary, every battaglioni could have an Allied officer acting as Liaison with the Command from whom the Italian Unit depends.

IV) The smaller nucleus could be organized into squads or ⁴⁸⁰squadrons and be assigned to one of the near by battaglioni.

V) In order not to surpass the ceiling fixed for the rations of the Italian Troops, these new Auxiliary Units could get their rations through the Allies.

(328)

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE PRISONERS OF WAR

File N. 2268/G-6

Rome, 16 december 1944

To : ALLIED COMMISSIONROMESubject : Enlistement of IPW in the Allied Forces

see 347

We have been informed that in the concentration Camps for IPW in Middle East, the British Authorities have issued the enclosed pro- forma.

We would be grateful if the Allied Commission would read it and inform us if this is only a co-operation between the IPW and the Allied Forces or if it is a real enlistement of the IPW in the Allied Forces.

Your prompt reply would be appreciated because the Italian Government would like to know the exact position.

The High Commissioner
General Pietro Gazzera

see 330/331

4879

1.

Subject - Transfer of PW to allied forces

Ref. No. 571

Copy to file 407

clm

ALL COYS UNDER COMMAND.

1. Attached is the pro-forma which should be completed when Italian PW make application to join the allied forces.
2. Three copies of the pro-forma are required with each application and they should be sent to this H.Q.

FORM OF PARTICULARS

(PW wishing to enlist in allied forces)

- 1 surname
- 2 Christian name
- 3 Nationality at birth
- 4 present nationality
- 5 details of education
- 6 religion
- 7 occupation prior to enlistment
- 8 address prior to enlistment
- 9 membership of political parties
- 10 father: Name and nationality
- 11 last known address
- 12 mother: Name and nationality
- 13 last known address
- 14 wife: Name and nationality
- 15 last known address
- 16 circumstances of calling up
- 17 particulars of military history
- 18 place and date of capture
- 19 Unit when captured
- 20 reason for enlistment in allied forces
- 21 names of persons in allied territory who can corroborate any of above statements.

4878

Signature

Date

1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

(327)

IPW/1/327.18 December 1944.

To: Italian High Commissioner for POW.

Subject: Officers for Work Centre of Loskop.

Reference your letter No. 2160/Pol/I-2-A dated
6 December 1944.

Your attention is invited to my letter IPW/1/325
dated 16 December 1944.

The policy outlined in that letter as to the main-
tenance of discipline in POW camps applies equally to the
Work Centre of Loskop.

clp
J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

see 326
325.
303 ✓
314.

4877

SUBJECT:- Administration of PW Camps.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

CR/34.55/G1(Br).

15 Dec 44.

(314)

1. Reference your IFW/1/314 dated 12 Dec 44.

2. Attention is drawn to this Headquarters letter of even reference dated 3 Dec 44. The policy outlined in that letter as to the maintenance of discipline in PW camps applies equally to the Work Centre to which reference is now made.

303.

HDE/DDKT.



H.D. Harper Capt.
H.D. HARPER, Captain,
Staff Captain,
for Major General,
DAG. G1(Br).

See 325.
327.

4376

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB-COMMISSION

(325)

IPW/1/325.

16 December 1944.

To: Italian High Commissioner for POW.

Subject: Officers of Italian POW Camps.

303

see 341

Reference your letters Nos. 1984/I/2/A/Pol and
1986/I/2/A.Pol dated 24 November 1944.

It is the general practice for POW officers and Other
Ranks held in British custody to be held in separate camps, as
envisaged by Art. 22 of the Geneva Convention. Art. 27 of the
same convention states that officers shall be employed in labour
camps only if they ask for suitable work, and provided only for
the compulsory use of non-commissioned officers on supervisory
duties.

Discipline in such camps has been in the past, and will
continue to be, maintained by the British staff.

cal
J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

see 303

FILE

see 341

4875

(324)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

324

IPW/1/890

14 December 1944

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

Subject: Italian military club in Asmara.

The attached copy of translation of letter received from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

This Headquarters has no objection to Lt. Col. GARGIOLLI visiting Italy, if it is considered that such a visit would be in the interest of the Allied war effort.

For the Chief Commissioner:

CJP

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

Encl.
Ltr. No. 2010/3 of 25 Nov. 44.

See 315

421

/de

High Commissioner PW

Rome December 12th 1944

322

N. 2210/Pol./G-5.

Subject/: Proposals for precautions relative to the IPW

To/: The Allied Commission. Rome.

Referring to the conference held on December 11th 1944 with L.T.Col. Campbell and Major Partridge, of the A.C.

We know that, for what it concerns, the proposals for precautions relative to the Italian PW advanced from this High Commission with File N. 1979/Pol./G-5 dated November 24th 1944, we have to wait the arrival of the new President of the A.C., Minister Mac Millan, who will probably bring all the necessary elements for the conference between the representatives of the British, American and Italian Governments, so that all the problems about the IPW, detained by the Allies, will be resolved.

The High Commissioner
General Pietro Gazzera.

See 305

4873

COPY

(319)

H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/218D

9 December 1944

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

Subject: Insecure Italians.

Reference your letter Subject: "Insecure Italians" dated 19 October 1944.

- 1/. The information furnished this Headquarters has been forwarded to the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War. Further, a copy of your letter with list of names attached, and addresses of the Italian repatriates, obtained by this Sub-Commission was forwarded to CISDIC.
- 2/. The matter was also discussed with Major Tate and Captain Derby of this Headquarters.
- 3/. This Headquarters has not received information telling final action taken by CISDIC.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

See 301
218.

4872

(318)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/318

14 December 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Absentee Prisoner of War Co-Operator Corp. VERDIROSI.

Since higher authority is pressing for action in the above case, may such information as is available please be forwarded to this office as soon as possible.

CJ

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

See 296.
" 339.
Answer 346

~~(B/E)~~

4871

ENTERED ON CARDS.	DATE. 3-11-45
	INITIALS. [Signature]

(317)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/317

14 December 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.
(Attention G-1 (A)).

Subject: Italian P.O.W. Camps in U.S.A.

See 421 + 429.

- 1/. The Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War has written me suggesting that the undermentioned Italian P.O.W. camps in U.S.A. are lacking Italian Officers to maintain discipline amongst the Italian P.O.W. Privates.

Atterbusy's Camp	Capacity	3000	1817 P.O.W.
Fort Knox Camp	"	3000	684 P.O.W.
De Hampton Roads Camp	"	3000	497 P.O.W.
Fort Benjamin Harrison Camp	"	1500	300 P.O.W.

- 2/. The Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War suggests that the following scales of officers are necessary for maintaining discipline in these camps.

For Troop Camps - 4/5 officers for every 1000 Other Ranks
For Laborers Camps - 1 officer and 4 junior officers for every 200 Other Ranks.

- 3/. Would you please give this matter your careful consideration and advise me of any action taken.

For the Chief Commissioner:

C.S.
4870
J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub.-Com.

Answer 343

289 refers
4271

B/E

0 22/5
C/C

(316)

MC/ma

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW.
Military Office
File N. 20114/p

Rome 8 December 1944

Subject: Repatriation for compassionate cases.

To : Allied Commission ROME

/ see 294.

I thank you for your communication about the repatriation for compassionate cases, of IPW referred to in your letter IPW/1/294, dated November 30th 1944.

When sending you new lists for repatriation we will refer to the above mentioned letter.

/s/ HIGH COMMISSIONER
General Pietro GAZZERA

279 refers

1.

4859

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

(315) a

From: WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

A2

4/12

SUBJECT: Italian Military club in Asmara. FILE No. IPW/1/291

TO: Land Forces Sub-Commission

3 Dec. 1944 194

The attached translation of letter No. 2010/S of
25 Nov. 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners
of War is passed to you for remarks. *plain.*

J.A. Campbell

J.A. CAMPBELL

Lt.-Colonel

Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Encl.

Ltr. no. 2010/S of
25 Nov. 1944.

4868

C O P Y

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 25 November 1944

FILE No. 2010/S

To: A.C., Rome.

Subject: Italian Military club in Asmara

It has been founded on Sept. 43 by Lt. Col. GARGIOLLI of the Italian Staff in Asmara (Eritrea) an Italian Military Club, regularly authorised by the British authorities.

This club has as members the military personnel of all ranks, corps or specialities but they are faithful to the Italian Government and who are ready to come back to Italy to combat against the Germans for the liberation of their country.

To this club the members amount to 230 officers of whom 69 of the regular service of career, 285 non-commissioned officers of whom 200 of career and 597 privates.

The president of the club, Lt. Col. GARGIOLLI, has asked to come to Italy to be able to talk to Italian Government officials so as to present the wishes of the military personnel and their problems.

The British Military Authorities have nothing to the contrary to grant the permit, but the request must to be made out in the name of Lt. Col. GARGIOLLI.

The Lt. Col. GARGIOLLI sees the advisability and importance to inform the Government of the possibilities that the members of this club might bring to, cause, because of their quality and quantity.

We ask the A/C. to please examine the possibility to authorize the trip to Italy of the Italian Staff Lt. Col. GARGIOLLI Adalberto, Italian Government will be very happy to have a chat with the President of this club in Eritrea.

We thank you.

/s/
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
General Pietro Gazzera

4267

(315) b.

(314)

H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/314

12 December 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.
(Attention G-1 (B)).

Subject: Officers for Italian PW labor camp of Loskop,
South African Transvaal.

See 327

- 1/. A request has been received from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War for the posting of some Italian officers to the Work Centre, Loskop Camp, South Africa.
- 2/. There are about 500 Italian soldiers in this camp, and apart from 2 medical officers there are no officers to maintain discipline.
- 3/. The High Commissioner requests that 1 Major, 2 Captains and 1 Lieut. be posted there.
- 4/. Will you please advise me what action can be taken in this matter?

For the Chief Commissioner:

cl

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

*File - See 306
+ 313
+ 327*

48545

(313)

H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/313

12 December 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Officers for Loskop Camp.

Reference your letters No. 1985/Pol/1-2-A dated 24
November 1944 and No. 2160/Pol/1-2-A dated 5 December
1944.

- 1/. Your request has been passed to the proper authorities,
and we will advise you in due course of any action taken.

CB.

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

*Free**Rec 306
327*

4865

(312)

H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

IPW/1/312

12 December 1944

To: Political Section.
(Attention Mr. Hopkinson).

Subject: Communications in relation to Italian PW.

/ 287

- 1/. With reference to your letter dated 28 November 1944.
- 2/. Herewith enclosed a copy of the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War's reply for your information.

CLP

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

Encl. Ltr. No. 2130/Pol/C-1
dated 6 Dec. 44.

See 307, 243, 242

FILE

4854

H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/311

12 December 1944

My Dear General Gazzera,

Below is an extract from the Prisoner of War Censorship Unit's Monthly Report, that I thought you would be interested to see.

"The most noticable change in incoming mail this month is in the attitude of civilians towards the repatriation of PW. The ardour for a general homecoming has been dampened by the Italian Army's calling up of all men between the ages of 25 and 30 and by the realization that PW are living off the fat of the land while civilians have difficulty in making ends meet. Many now prefer that PW remain where they are."

Kind regards,
Yours

Lt. Col.

File
No 308

435

PW

5212

(308)

SUBJECT:- Italian Prisoner of War Mail.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

CR/3009/G1 (Br).

8 Dec 44.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission,
(IPW Sub-Commission).

1. The following extract from the monthly report of the Prisoner of War Censorship Unit is forwarded for your information :-

" The most noticeable change in incoming mail this month is in the attitude of civilians towards the repatriation of PW. The ardour for a general homecoming has been dampened by the Italian Army's calling up of all men between the ages of 25 and 30 and by the realisation that PW are living off the fat of the land while civilians have difficulty in making ends meet. Many now prefer that PW remain where they are. "

HEADQUARTERS

10 DEC 1944

1

G.

PT/wel

P. Thorp.
P. THORP,
Major, D.A.A.G.,
for Major General,
DAG, G.1 (Br).

see 311-

486

1

/as

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW.

Rome, December 6th 1944.

File N. 2430/Fal/C-1

Subject: Communications about IPW

To: Allied Commission IPW Sub Commission R O M E

Reference your letter IPW/4/263, dated November 29th 1944.

- 1- The "Prisoners of War Information Office" is the Italian Red Cross in Via Puglia 6 Rome. The above mentioned Office has frequently received, and still receives, from the "PW Information Bureau" of London, communications about the IPW. This is in addition to the communications ordered by the Geneva Convention, according to which they have to be sent through the Protective Power or the Geneva International Red Cross Committee (Art. 77).

The above mentioned office has never sent the telegram referred to in para 1 of your letter. It might be a communication sent by a Non Italian Liaison Bureau.

- 2- After consulting with the Foreign Office, I inform you that:

- a) It is absolutely necessary that the communications that have been given up to now to the International Red Cross Committee should be given as long as there are documents the Italians in view of the many documents the Italian Government have had lost during the war. It is therefore, absolutely necessary that the International Red Cross Committee should, at least, have them all in order so that it could be possible to refer to them when needed. It would therefore, be wise to carry on in the same way as before.
- b) It would also be necessary that the communications about the PW should be sent through the Protecting Power until our Embassy in London is able to do the necessary work.
- c) We would be grateful if the British "PW Information Bureau" would continue sending to the Italian Red Cross Information Office as well all the communication as in the past, being beneficial to us.

/s/

HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. Pietro Cassara

4831

(306)

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome, 6th December 1944

File 2160/Pol/I-2-A

TO: Allied Commission
R O M E

SUBJECT: Italian PW in labour camp of Loskop
South Africa Transvall.

(283)

Reference letter IPW-1/283 of November 28.

For the Loskop Camp would be necessary.

1. Major and 2 Captains
2. Lt. or 2nd Lt.

The High Commissioner
Generale Pietro Gazzera.

313
4314

4860

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Rome, 24 November 1944

File 1979/POL/C-5

TO: ALLIED COMMISSION R.O.M.E.

SUBJECT: Suggestion of different measures to be taken with regards to Italian PW.

1. With regards to the importance of the question of Italian Military Personnel still held as PW by the Allied Military Authorities, it is necessary to find a just solution to the delicate problems connected with the PW, which are daily increasing. In the same time the interest of the Italian people is increasing because it is a problem very closely attached to the life of the country and will have a profound political, military economic and social repercussion (in and outside of Italy).

The AG already knows how the Italian Government, by means of this High Commission since the days of its constitution (early in the month of March last), worked with the Allied to solve different problems concerning the PW. The H.C. has tried especially to obtain the conclusion of certain agreements destined to settle the employment and the treatment of the Italian soldiers, who are working as "collaborators" in U.S.A. and the British Isles and Dominions; to protect them but at the same time to see that their work as collaborators is accomplished in the interest of the War against our enemy, the Germans.

For this reason the Allies have been repeatedly called upon to have as soon as possible a meeting with the Italian Authorities to solve this important problem.

2. Waiting for this meeting, we like to suggest some measures that would facilitate and augment the number of collaborators among the PW and also prepare them for their repatriation. As there are great number of PW waiting for repatriation it would be advisable to repatriate them in units organized before (labour-units) or in nucleus embodied before (the non-collaborating PW); this is necessary from the moment they leave the camp until their arrival on Italian soil.

a) Better selection of PW still retained in camps

From information we had, also after the constitution of workers units, a certain number of PW remained in the camps. These PW are generally the ones who did not want to collaborate. It has been said previously and specially mentioned in letter N. 790/POL/C-2 of the 26th August that although a lot did not want to collaborate, among them there are a lot of good officers, non-Comm Officers and of Poles, who have decided that way because they do not know the present condition of Italy and they preferred to be alone in this period, also because they did not receive any direct order from their Government.

Others sick and tired of being held as prisoners and with the morale very low, insisted in the same attitude. This being the case, it would be very convenient that a true selection should be made with extreme tact by Italian superior officers and a selection chosen among this so called "personnel not desirable".

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Others sick and tired of being held as prisoners and with the morale very low, insisted in the same attitude. This being the case, it would be very convenient that a true selection should be made with extreme tact by Italian superior officers and a selection chosen among this so called "personnel not desirable". We are sure that plenty of good personnel can still be available for the cooperation and as cobelligerents.

b) Increase number of officers who are assigned to labour-units and assignation of Officers to Camps of Privates

Since the 21st of March by verbal note N. 9 the Allied Commission has been informed how convenient it would be in order to maintain discipline and to increase the morale and spiritual conditions of the PW, to assign Italian Officers to groups of Italian PW.

We have been informed that in the Italian labour units in U.S.A. and British territory (without consulting the Italian Gov.) Italian Officers had been assigned but not in a sufficient number. It is obvious that this number should be selected among those still are in PW camps and without a job. We would advise to assign for each 200 enlisted men, 10pt, and 4 1st Lt, or 2nd Lt. In the camps for Privates who are waiting to collaborate, as well as in those, who won't

collaborate it would be advisable to assign good Italian Officers to embody them in the proportion of at least 4 to 5 for each 1000 Privates. After a little time we think that these officers will be able to take well in hand the discipline and give the enlisted men the right sense of duty and increase their discipline. This way a double advantage would be obtained; the improvement of the collaboration and giving a sense of responsibility to the men and at the same time employ for this work some good officers who now are idle.

c) Effect on morale of PW once PW-status is removed.

The morale "status" of the PW will improve as soon as they will know for sure what is done by their Government and the Allies for their welfare. Once the PW standard has been removed and they are able to feel themselves "free" of the depressing bonds of captivity, they are sure to throw themselves on their new work with all the passionate enthusiasm of the Italians. Then it will be the time, in accord with the Allied authorities to establish a plan for morale support. The units might also be visited by officers of a higher rank who incite the workers by their speech and their example to do everything they can for the collaboration-work.

It would be advisable to send from Italy other officers with strong authority when these PW are going to be repatriated, who could explain to them the actual conditions in Italy, the duties and rights of the ex PW and their families etc. all of which would put the repatriating PW in a right frame of mind, so as to assure a quiet and ordinate repatriation.

3. If these measures will be taken, two very important ends will be reached:

- a) The greatest part of those unfortunate soldiers of ours, the best our Nation has, thus give its greatest possible support through its work for the cause of Victory.
- b) That the same PW, will be repatriated to their country in well disciplined units, spiritually well orientated such as to form a strong instrument of revival for the work and the peace of our country.

REMARKS ON THE ABOVE

With all these measures for the embodiment of the PW into informal units arranged there will still remain in PW camps big numbers of excellent officers, who want to help the war effort: there are 8-10,000 in India, 2000 in America and a few thousands in Kenya etc.

We are awaiting some acknowledgement from the AG on the subject so as to be able to prepare other similar proposals.

We beg the AG to let us know the modalities of the future repatriation of our PW, in order that the Italian Government can study the way how to receive and disperse them.


*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, li 24 Novembre 1944

N° 1979/POL./G-5 di prot.

OGGETTO : Proposte di provvedimenti varî relativi ai prigionieri
di guerra italiani.

Alla COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

R O M A

1. L'importanza della questione dei militari italiani tuttora trattenuti come prigionieri di guerra in mani Alleate e la necessità di trovare un'equa soluzione ai numerosi e delicati problemi che alla questione stessa sono connessi, vanno di giorno in giorno aumentando. Parallelamente si acuisce l'interessamento per essa dell'intero popolo italiano, trattandosi, in effetto, di questione che ha profonde ripercussioni nel campo politico (interno ed estero), militare, economico, sociale, ecc.

Codesta Commissione ben sa come il Governo Italiano - a mezzo di questo Alto Commissariato - fin dai primi giorni di sua costituzione (principio dello scorso mese di marzo) si sia adoperato in ogni modo per trovare, con le Autorità Alleate, l'equa soluzione su accennata. Si è, essenzialmente, sforzato di ottenere la conclusione di particolari accordi destinati a regolare l'impiego ed il trattamento dei militari italiani che devono lavorare, per la cobelligeranza, nei territori britannici e degli S.U. d'America, tutelando insieme gli interessi dei Governi Alleati e quelli della dignità nazionale italiana, ma soprattutto le esigenze della cobelligeranza, che sono le esigenze della vittoria nella lotta contro il nemico comune tedesco.

A tal uopo è già stato ripetutamente richiesto che venga convocata con urgenza una riunione dei rappresentanti dei Governi Alleati ed Italiano, muniti di poteri risolutivi, per risolvere finalmente la importante questione.

1. L'importanza della questione dei militari italiani tuttora trattenuti come prigionieri di guerra in mani Alleate e la necessità di trovare un'equa soluzione ai numerosi e delicati problemi che alla questione stessa sono connessi, vanno di giorno in giorno aumentando. Parallelamente si accuisce l'interessamento per essa dell'intero popolo italiano, trattandosi, in effetto, di questione che ha profonde ripercussioni nel campo politico (interno ed estero), militare, economico, sociale, ecc.

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./.

2. In attesa che si addivenga a detta auspicata soluzione si accennano in appresso alcuni provvedimenti che si riterrebbe molto opportuno venissero attuati fin d'ora per migliorare la situazione morale dei nostri prigionieri, ed in conseguenza, incrementare il numero dei collaboratori ed il loro rendimento e bene prepararli per il rimpatrio, quando per questo sarà venuta l'ora. Questo rimpatrio, che assumerà proporzioni cospicue, sarà facilitato molto se effettuato per unità già formate da tempo (unità di lavoro) o da nuclei già inquadrati (campi di non lavoratori); ciò tanto alla partenza, quanto durante il viaggio, quanto ed ancor più all'arrivo in Italia.

a) - Migliore selezione dei prigionieri tuttora rimasti nei campi.

A quanto risulterebbe da fonti varie, anche dopo la costituzione delle accennate unità lavoratori una parte di prigionieri di guerra è rimasta nei campi: si tratterebbe, in genere, di coloro che non hanno espresso il desiderio di collaborare.

E' già stato altre volte chiarito (ad esempio, nel foglio n° 790/Pol./C-2 del 26 Agosto scorso all'oggetto: "Prigionieri di guerra italiani detenuti dagli americani nella zona di Biserta") che la discriminazione fatta fra i militari italiani prigionieri di guerra sulla base della volontà o meno di collaborare, non deve assolutamente indurre a credere che anche fra i non volontari non siano militari utilizzabili sotto ogni riguardo.

Ed infatti è certo che fra questi militari, oltre ad alcuni sicuramente refrattari e che occorre tenere a parte, si trovano distinti ufficiali e bravi sottufficiali e soldati che, non conoscendo bene la situazione d'Italia, si sono attenuti, nel loro operato, all'interpretazione strettamente tradizionale del dovere militare ed hanno ritenuto di non assumere l'impegno senza ordini concreti del proprio Governo.

Altri, fiaccati nel corpo e nello spirito dall'aspra vita fra i reticolati, nel generale disorientamento del primo tempo, non hanno subito saputo trovare la retta via ed ora si sentono quasi impegnati a rimanere nel loro erroneo atteggiamento.

Così stando le cose sarebbe molto conveniente che venisse fatta, con molto tatto, da superiori italiani, una nuo-

do per questo sarà venuta l'ora. Questo impianto, che sarà
sumerà proporzioni cospicue, sarà facilitato molto se effet-
tuato per unità già formate da tempo (unità di lavoro) o da
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mento.

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nisse fatta, con molto tatto, da superiori italiani, una nuo-
va, accurata cernita fra questi cosiddetti "non desiderabili":
si ricupererebbero certo ottimi militari utili ai fini della
cooperazione.

./.

- 3 -

b) - Aumento del numero degli ufficiali che inquadrano le unità lavoratori ed assegnazione ufficiali ai campi truppa.

Fin dal 21 marzo scorso, con nota verbale n° 9, è stata ampiamente illustrata a codesta Commissione la grande convenienza - ai fini del mantenimento della disciplina e del miglioramento delle condizioni spirituali dei prigionieri - dell'assegnazione di ufficiali italiani ai gruppi di prigionieri di guerra.

Alle unità di lavoro costituite in molti dei territori britannici e statunitensi (senza che siano intervenuti precisi accordi col Governo Italiano) risulta che sono stati assegnati ufficiali italiani, ma in numero piuttosto scarso. Per le ragioni già accennate, sarebbe molto opportuno che tale numero fosse aumentato in modo da assicurare alle unità stesse un robusto inquadramento. Gli ufficiali necessari potrebbero essere agevolmente tratti dai molti che tuttora languono inattivi nei campi, provvedendo, ove indispensabile, ai necessari trasferimenti da altri territori. Si ritrebbe necessario per ogni 200 uomini assegnare 1 capitano e 4 subalterni. E nei campi di soldati che attendono di potere collaborare, come pure in quelli di non collaboratori è bene assegnare fin d'ora dei buoni ufficiali italiani d'inquadramento, nella proporzione di almeno 4 a 5 ogni 1000 soldati. Dopo un primo periodo di difficoltà, forse, essi riusciranno a prendere alla mano gli uomini ed a ridare loro il giusto senso disciplinare.

Con questo provvedimento si realizzerebbe un duplice vantaggio: quello di migliorare le condizioni disciplinari e spirituali delle unità e quello di togliere dalla debilitante cattività dei campi numerosi nostri bravi ufficiali.

c) - Azione morale che verrà svolta sui prigionieri dopo risolta la questione dello "status".

Ma un miglioramento veramente deciso nelle condizioni spirituali dei prigionieri stessi - che attribuiscono, sia pure a torto, il perdurare della loro attuale dolorosa situazione morale ad insufficiente azione del nostro Governo - si potrà realizzare non appena sarà stata risolta la questione fondamentale del loro "status".

Allora essi, liberati dal mortificante vincolo della prigionia, trasfonderanno nella volonterosa fatica, tutta la forza della loro passione di italiani.

(304)c

l'assegnazione di ufficiali italiani ai gruppi di prigionieri di guerra.

Alle unità di lavoro costituite in molti dei territori britannici e statunitensi (senza che siano intervenuti precisi accordi col Governo Italiano) risulta che sono stati assegnati ufficiali italiani, ma in numero piuttosto scarso. Per le ragioni già accennate, sarebbe molto opportuno che tale numero fosse aumentato in modo da assicurare alle unità stesse un robusto inquadramento. Gli ufficiali necessari potrebbero essere agevolmente tratti dai molti che tuttora languono inattivi nei campi, provvedendo, ove indispensabile, ai necessari trasferimenti da altri territori. Si riterrebbe necessario per ogni 200 uomini assegnare 1 capitano e 4 subalterni. E nei campi di soldati che attendono di potere collaborare, come pure in quelli di non collaboratori è bene assegnare fin d'ora dei buoni ufficiali italiani d'inquadramento, nella proporzione di almeno 4 a 5 ogni 1000 soldati. Dopo un primo periodo di difficoltà, forse, essi riusciranno a prendere alla mano gli uomini ed a ridare loro il giusto senso disciplinare.

Con questo provvedimento si realizzerebbe un duplice vantaggio: quello di migliorare le condizioni disciplinari e spirituali delle unità e quello di togliere dalla debilitante cattività dei campi numerosi nostri bravi ufficiali.

c) - Azione morale che verrà svolta sui prigionieri dopo risolta la questione dello "status".

Ma un miglioramento veramente deciso nelle condizioni spirituali dei prigionieri stessi - che attribuiscono, sia pure a torto, il perdurare della loro attuale dolorosa situazione morale ad insufficiente azione del nostro Governo - si potrà realizzare non appena sarà stata risolta la questione fondamentale del loro "status".

Allora essi, liberati dal mortificante vincolo della prigionia, trasfonderanno nella volonterosa fatica, tutta la forza della loro passione di italiani.

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304d
Allora sarà possibile predisporre ed attuare - naturalmente in pieno accordo con le Autorità Alleate - un piano completo di intervento morale presso di essi. Si potranno eventualmente fare visitare le unità da ufficiali di grado un po' più elevato che inciteranno i lavoratori, con la parola e con l'esempio, a dare tutti se stessi nell'azione di cooperazione.

Sarà anche possibile, all'atto del rimpatrio, inviare loro incontro dalla Madrepatria altri ufficiali di sicuro ascendente per svolgere sui rimpatriandi quella ulteriore azione di orientamento sulle condizioni in atto della Patria, sui doveri e diritti degli ex prigionieri e delle loro famiglie, ecc. che tanto varrà ad assicurare un rimpatrio ordinato e tranquillo.

3. I provvedimenti su accennati permetteranno di raggiungere due scopi importantissimi :

- a) che la massa di questi sventurati nostri militari, che era il fior fiore della Nazione, apporti il maggior possibile concorso lavorativo per la vittoria;
- b) che la massa stessa rientri poi in Italia bene inquadrata, quindi alla mano, e bene orientata spiritualmente così da costituire non elemento di ulteriore disgrazia, ma potente strumento di rinascita per il lavoro e la pace nella nostra Italia e nel mondo.

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Anche con l'attuazione delle proposte prescritte sopra per l'inquadramento dei prigionieri, resteranno sempre alcuni grossi nuclei di ottimi ufficiali, desiderosi di rendersi utili nello sforzo per la vittoria, che non trovano impiego : così le 8 - 10 migliaia in India, le 2 migliaia in America, le parecchie migliaia nel Kenya, ecc.

Si è già proposto - verbalmente - al Capo della Sottocommissione Alleata per i prigionieri di guerra - di incominciare a fare rientrare a nuclei all'incirca di un migliaio di ufficiali dall'India, che sono colà da tre o quattro anni e le cui invocazioni di essere utilizzati in opere attive non possono essere passate sotto silenzio. Si attende qualche cenno in merito

re loro incontro della Madrepatria altri ufficiali di sicuro ascendente per svolgere sui rimpatriandi quella ulteriore azione di orientamento sulle condizioni in atto della Patria, sui doveri e diritti degli ex prigionieri e delle loro famiglie, ecc. che tanto varrà ad assicurare un rimpatrio ordinato e tranquillo.

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Si prega infine codesta Commissione Alleata di volere comunicare, se possibile, quali intenzioni in linea generale le Autorità Alleate nutrono circa le modalità del futuro rimpatrio dei nostri prigionieri, in modo che sulla base di esse il Governo Italiano possa studiare un programma di accoglimento di essi e di loro sistemazione.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

P. Gazzera

Subject:- Administration of PW Camps.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

OR/3455/G1(Br).

3 Dec 44.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.

(285)

Rec 341.

1. Reference your IPW/1/285 dated 29 Nov 44.
- X 2. It is the general practice for PW officers and O.R's held in British custody to be held in separate camps, as envisaged by Art. 22 of the Geneva Convention. Art. 27 of the same convention states that officers shall be employed in labour camps only if they ask for suitable work, and provides only for the compulsory use of non-commissioned officers on supervisory duties.
3. Discipline in such camps has been in the past, and will continue to be, maintained by the British staff.

M.R. Moore

M.R. MOORE.

Major, D.A.A.G.,
for Major General,
DAG, G.1(Br).

PT/HW.

See 325



485

C O P Y

302

FROM: BERN

DATE 30 Nov. 44

Subject: Status of Italian PW taken by Germans.

No. 611: My - 37 to Association----- dated 9 Nov. International Red Cross Committee confirms that its --- in Berlin --- assurance from German authorities that members of Italian Royal Army --- in combat will benefit in Germany from the statute of P.O.W.'s. On the other hand all our soldiers official participation --- in the Reich after the Armistic have authorized up to now a statute not yet defined and which the Committee is trying to have defined. Also not defined and not opportune as far as the Germans are concerned is the statute of our patriots in Northern Italy. German authorities have insisted to designate as protecting power in regard to these prisoners the Fascist diplomatic representatives. The Geneva Committee hastened the departure pointed out that only neutral power can be in condition of assuring protection and assured me that it would continue to follow with particular attention such delicate problem.

IPW
FILE

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

FJS/wsw

(301)

4 December 1944

SUBJECT: Insecure Italians.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Letter this Headquarters, file number as above, dated 19 Oct. refers.
2. It is requested that this Headquarters be furnished information as to the whereabouts and state of health of the repatriates where known.

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

WAR MATERIALS DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
FEB 1 1945
RECEIVED
FEB 1 1945
FEB 1 1945

F. J. SLAUGHTER,
Captain, A.G.D.

4850

I 220