

ACC

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IPW/

10000112015476

IPW/1

REPATRIATION OF I.P.W.-

GENERAL POLICY

MAY 1946 - JAN. 1947

5087
5162

COVER 7

IPW
 ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
 G-5 Section
 APO 512

MMIA

G-5: 900.43

25 January 1947

SUBJECT: Transfer of Responsibility of IPW
 Division AICOM.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
 Allied Commission,
 APO 794.

Reference your IPW/1/Pol/6/1 of 25 January 1947.

1. Will you please make all necessary enquiries and then forward the recommendations requested by paragraph 3 of this Headquarters' letter, G-5: 900.43 dated 21 January 1947.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MORGAN: 1643

W. J. Brown
 A.C. 1. INT

For A.L. HAMLEN
 Colonel, G.S.C.
 Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Spoke Col Fols + Col Pidsley 1/Feb.
 " Br. Embassy 3/Feb.

*When for Embassy 3 Feb. ...
 ...
 ...*

1887

1/ Pol
 Lt. Col. CHILTON AAG (A2) CMFGH
 visited Spoke Col Pidsley. Will take
 up question of "liquidation" with the now responsible
 body - 9 SD at GHQ
 10 Feb 47

RE/sb

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.L.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1/POL/645

28 January 1947

SUBJECT : Transmission of Files
concerning Italian POW's
in U.S. Custody.

TO : Archives Division
HQ Allied Commission

1. Reference your 15/AB/1811A dated 5 Dec 46 and further to this
Office letter IPW/1/POL/641 dated January 4.

2. Appendix "A" to this letter showing all files transferred to
PBS is forwarded for your retention (in triplicate)

INCL.

Copy to: File IPW 1/3A
File IPW/1/13/GER.

2
W.E.R. PHILLIPS
Major
Chief
IPW Division.

file

5161

APPENDIX "A" TO LETTER IPW 1/POL/643

<u>FILE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>N. OF PAGES AND PAPERS TRANSFERRED</u>	
IPW/1/4	Finance Ital. repatriated PWs.	Extracts from original Parts 1 to 59 for a total of 1867 documents, forwarded divided into 59 parts.	
IPW/1/4/A	Remittances from Italian Prisoners of War.	Extracts from original Parts 1 to 19, for a total of 40 documents, forwarded all in one file.	
IPW/1/5	Finance Italian Prisoners of War.	Extracts from Original Parts 1 to 12 for a total of 39 documents forwarded all in one file.	
IPW/1/5A	Finance - Italian Prisoners of War General Policy.	Extracts from original parts 1 to 5 for a total of 153 documents forwarded divided into 3 parts.	
IPW/1/13/Ger	Release and Repatriations of Germans in Italy	3 complete parts } for	
IPW/1/13/Fasc	Release of Fascists.	1 complete file } a total	
			of
			396 documents
IPW/36/C.	Nominal rolls of Credit Balance in respect of ex-PW's and co-operators in U.S. custody, released by groups or units.	Complete file (23 documents)	

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

IPW/1/Pol/644

25 January 1947

SUBJECT : Transfer of Responsibility of IPW
Division ALCOM.

TO : A.F.H.Q. (for G-5)

Reference is made to your G-5:900.43, dated
21 Jan'47.

1. The proposal that the MPWA take over the work of the IPW Division would be feasible eventually, but agreement would first have to be obtained for the Italian Ministry of War and the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance (CIVILIAN) to deal direct with the following British Army Commands:

GHQ Middle East
GHQ India
GHQ CMF
East Africa Command
South Africa Command
Army HQ Australia
War Office London
Various Red Cross units abroad.

2. In addition, GHQ CMF would have to be instructed to deal with the direct requests which are received from the Pope, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior; the latter body deals in particular with release of Germans in Italy.

3. It would therefore seem advisable, before proceeding further, to obtain the views of the British Embassy and the Italian Government.

For the Chief Commissioner;

E. H. G. G. G.

5158

1. The proposal that the MPWA take over the work of the IPW Division would be feasible eventually, but agreement would first have to be obtained for the Italian Ministry of War and the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance (CIVILIAN) to deal direct with the following British Army Commands:

GHQ Middle East
GHQ India
GHQ CMF
East Africa Command
South Africa Command
Army HQ Australia
War Office London
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3. It would therefore seem advisable, before proceeding further, to obtain the views of the British Embassy and the Italian Government.

For the Chief Commissioner:

5158

E. H. Goulburn

(E. H. GOULBURN)
Major General,
Comd. Land Forces, Sub Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

Copy to: GHQ., CMF

RECEIVED 23 JAN 1947
965ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512MMIA
5069

G-5: 900.43

21 January 1947

SUBJECT: Transfer of Responsibility for IPW
Division of ALCOM.TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.Reference this Headquarters letter G-5: 900.43 of
10 December 1946, addressed GHQ, CMF, copy to you.

1. A reply has been received from GHQ, CMF, emphasizing the undesirability of transferring responsibility for the IPW Division to them, when only a few weeks remain before a British Military Attaché Office will be set up, one of whose functions will be the handling of residual IPW matters.

2. It is now understood, as a result of an informal discussion between Colonel Pidsley (A&Q), Land Forces Sub-Commission and DACOS, G-5, that it is feasible for the work of the IPW Division to be transferred to the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance. It is understood that this transfer could be made as soon as the British and Commonwealth Governments, with whom the IPW Division have been in the habit of corresponding, have been notified and arrangements have been set up for the channelling of correspondence.

3. Before a reply to GHQ, CMF's proposal, referred to in paragraph 1 is made, your views on the matter raised in paragraph 2 are requested.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MORGAN:

A. L. HAMELEN
Colonel, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, 5159Copy to:
GHQ, CMF

643

23 JAN 1947
1808

WRRP/Is

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1/Pol/642

20 Jan '47

SUBJECT : Files concerning Italian PW ex - U.S. Custody.

TO : C.G.
H.Q. PBS

1. Further to this Division letter 1/Pol/641, dated 15 Jan. '47, forwarded files concerning Italian PW ex - U.S. Custody.
2. The only remaining files are the "policy files" which deal with repatriation of IPW from all countries.
3. It is not known if you require any information from these Allied Commission files, but if desired, they can be made available at this HQ should you require to make copies of letters, or arrange for micro-filming.


Major General
Comd. Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

Copy to:- AFHQ (for G-5 Section)

5157

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

/sss.

LFW 1/POL/541

15 January 1947.

SUBJECT : Transmission of files concerning
Italian PW ex-US Custody.

TO : Commanding General,
HQ Peninsular Base Section, APO 782, US Army.

1. Under authority of AFHQ letter 8-5:980.43 dated 30 November 46 and AFHQ General Order HQOGG P 73660 of DEC 091924A, packages have been forwarded to you under separate cover consisting of the following:-
a) Sixty five (65) Files of documents concerning finance of Italian PW ex US custody, which have been extracted from the corresponding files of Allied Commission records.
b) Five (5) files relating to fascists and release of German PW in Italy.

2. The total number of letters forwarded is:

Finance 2081
Fascists and Germans..... 396

A list of the correspondence in each file will be found on its fly-cover.

3. Please acknowledge receipt.

INCL.

Major General,
Comd. Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.
(5156.)

Copy to:- A.P.H.A. for C-5 Section.
- Archives A.C. (Your 15/AB/AMIA of 5 Dec. 46 refers.
List of files transferred will be forwarded shortly).
- File 183 1/5A.
- File 183 1/13/CMB.

1. Under authority of AFHQ letter G-5:900.43 dated 30 November 46 and AFHQ Signal CITE RACEG Z 73660 of DEC 09/1924A, packages have been forwarded to you under separate cover consisting of the following:-
a) Sixty five (65) files of documents concerning finance of Italian PW ex US custody, which have been extracted from the corresponding files of Allied Commission records.
b) Five (5) files relating to Fascists and release of German PW in Italy.

2. The total number of letter forwarded is:

Finance 2082

Fascists and Germans 396

A list of the correspondence in each file will be found on its fly-cover.

3. Please acknowledge receipt.

Handwritten signature

1204L.

Major General,
Comd. Land Forces Sub-Commission AG.
(5156.)

Copy to: A. F. M. G. for G-5 Section.

- Archives A. G. (Your 15/AB/MHIA of 3 Dec. 46 refers.

List of files transferred will be forwarded shortly).

- File 1204 1/54.

- File 1204 1/13/62A.

File

6589 Cards

COPY

ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 900.43

9 December 1946

SUBJECT: Transfer of responsibility for IPW
Division of ALCON.

TO : CHQ, CHQ.

Reference your 3821/A2 of November addressed to British Political Advisor and Allied Commission letter 9013/82/EC of 3 December 1946, copy attached.

1. As stated in paragraph 6 of the Allied Commission's letter, responsibility for all American IPW matters is being transferred from NMIA to FAS, leaving the IPW Division as a purely British organization, engaged on purely British business. In these circumstances, we do not think that it is proper for the IPW Division, now minus its US element, to remain an integral part of NMIA which is responsible to the Chief Commissioner, who is an American officer.
2. It is therefore proposed that the IPW Division should be made responsible to CHQ CHQ and not to the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission. There is however no apparent objection to the Division remaining attached to NMIA for all administrative purposes. You are requested to consider the above proposal and to furnish your comments as soon as possible. If you concur in the proposal, you are requested to notify this Headquarters at the same time of any points which you wish to be included in the AFHQ Directive notifying the transfer of responsibility.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEE:

/s/ Illegible for

A.L. HANSEN
Colonel, G.S.C.

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Spec Exec Com.
16/Dec
" Dep. Comd NMIA
16/Dec

Copy to:

ALCON
British Political Advisor
G-5 (AFHQ)

Wait.

639

E.C. Dist. 13/12/46

RECEIVED 18 Dec 46

332

OFFICE OF THE PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION

RECEIVED

18 DEC 1946

RECEIVED

Log No

1438

E.C.

M.M.I.A.

EX.O. (A)

Polad 'A'

Polad 'B'

5155

1/Pol

IPW

Lund Force S/C

Ref: 9013/32/43

3 December 1946.

SUBJECT: Future of IPW Division

TO : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Attention G-5 Section.

Reference is made to your letter G-5: 900.45 dated 1 September 1946.

1. A meeting was held recently in order to determine the extent to which the Ambassadors would be prepared to take over the residual functions of the IPW Division after 31 December 1946 as directed in para 3 of your letter under reference. This meeting was attended by the Political Advisers and representatives of AUSA. A paper produced by the IPW Division showing the present position of repatriation and other activities, together with a forecast of future work, was considered at the meeting. A copy is forwarded for your information.

2. As a result of this meeting it was ascertained from the Political Advisers that the Ambassadors were not willing to take over the residual functions of the IPW Division with effect from 1 January 1947 for the following main reasons common to both Ambassadors:-

- (a) that the functions of the IPW Division were largely a military commitment and should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so.
- (b) that the outstanding commitments were likely to be greater at the end of 1946 than was at any one time thought. After the stage of actual repatriation there remained considerable work in regard to settlement of claims in respect of remittances not received, property impounded and not returned etc.
- (c) that the breaking up of an integrated staff and the separation of records into American and British elements would be most uneconomical at this stage.

3. As far as the British Embassy was concerned the following points in particular were raised:-

RECEIVED 4 DEC 1946
622

5154

- 2 -

- (a) There was no military attack to carry out this work nor was there any indication from the British Government as to when a military attack might be appointed.
- (b) The proposal contained in the Allied Commission's letter 9043/33/41 dated 6 August 1946 that the British Embassy should take over at the end of 1946 was based on a forecast that all prisoners of war still remaining in the British Empire would be repatriated before the end of this year. It was not known that repatriation would not be completed until February 1947 at the earliest.

4. So far as the American Embassy was concerned it was pointed out at the meeting that although there was a Military Attache at the Embassy his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian prisoners of war.

5. The American and British Ambassadors therefore recommended that the existing arrangements should continue for the present and that the position should, with a view to planning a turnover, be reviewed on March 31, 1947 or upon ratification of the Peace Treaty, whichever is the earlier.

6. Since the holding of the meeting to consider this matter which resulted in the recommendations contained in this letter, notification has been received under your letter C-5: 270.31-1 dated 23 November 1946 that the files of the IPR Division affecting claims against the United States are to be transferred to Peninsular Base Section. This would appear to dispose of the U.S. commitment and relieve the U.S. Embassy of any obligation to take over any residual functions of the IPR Division.

ELMER V. STONE

ELMER V. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Chief Commissioner.
Polad (A)
Polad (B)
Land Forces S/O.

5153

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

Allied Command

Total outstanding as of 2 November 1946

1. SUMMARY:

- a) The present state of repatriation of IWO in British hands is as follows:-

British Held	Field originally	Repatriated	No. in Repatriated
England & Scotland	95,000	156,600	110, (remainder released in U.K.)
E. Africa	60,152	43,152	13,000
E. Africa	12,000	25,000	16,744
E. Africa	40,200	50,000	10,000
Mid-East	50,000	50,000	0
India	23,502	23,502	0
Australia	17,607	17,607	0
Albania	2,000	2,000	0
Panama	2,000	2,000	0
TOTAL	356,307	356,307	11,982

Although requests have been received through various Italian authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan, no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Ministry of War. In fact the only outstanding notification held is a notice of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that as of 20 Nov. 45,000 IWO in British hands will await repatriation and for times no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 IWO who are "voluntarily deferred" by the IWO (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in Palestine.

(See appx. 'A' for latest information regarding repatriation)

b)

1750 requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of IWO, are outstanding; answers are still awaited from the various PW Accounts Office. In addition to this, some 2,500 similar requests are expected; this information has been received from the Italian authorities who are preparing the claims at the moment. It should be noted that each claim takes an average of 30/60 days to settle.

Requests for return of abandoned property not returned on repatriation:-

Claims processed and not yet settled:.....25%

Claims which will be received in the near future:..... 6,000

Claims for non receipt of mailboxes, tracing of same etc:-

Requests to be settled:..... 250

Requests that will be received later:.....1000

13,182	13,034
29,226	14,744
33,344	15,722
59,442	15,722
33,035	15,722
3,923	15
525	15
2,000	15
36,347	15,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian Authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan, no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Consulate of New Zealand in New Zealand. The only outstanding repatriation held is a number of 600 Italian who will arrive from Australia on 27th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. 1946, 45,000 Italian in British hands will need repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 Italian who are "voluntarily deferred" by the New Zealand (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in Italy.

b) REMARKS (See appx. 'A' for latest information regarding repatriation)

173) requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of £2, are outstanding. These are still awaited from the various expected. This information has been received from the Italian Authorities who are preparing the claims at the present. It should be noted that each claim takes an average of 30/60 days to settle.

Requests for return of impounded properties not returned on 1st July 1946.

Claims processed and not yet settled..... 250
Claims which will be received in the near future..... 3,000
Claims for non receipt of reimbursements, totaling of sum etc.:-
Requests to be settled..... 250
Requests that will be received later..... 1000

c) CONSIDERATION OF OTHER CASES

Approximately 300 compensation cases are pending (some since 1945). This entails investigation of families of PW to ascertain whether they are in any of the categories laid down which warrant priority in settlement of the prisoners on compensation grounds, correspondence with the GPO and, in some cases, the removal of claims. Selfless cases require the handling of fifteen letters per day in connection with the thousands of PW, some, various certification, sent from the forwarding of mail to PW and messages from PW to their families.

c) 2. EXCHANGE & REPARATION OF BELLINI & PAVONI

The majority of 3. Tyrolens have been released, but some are still interned in camps in Italy, either as 0.2. suspects, or, as German-Italians; in this question correspondence is maintained with the Italian Authorities.

Out of 70 cases for early release of specialists from Austria, E. 0. 0. Africa, only 2 per cent have been repatriated. Many applications for the release of specialists on compassionate grounds are still received and have to be investigated.

2. UNDER SPAIN

a) All U.S. held Italian PW have been repatriated. (123,500, with the exception of a few hospital cases in the U.S.A.)

b) REPARATION

1) Requests for original certificates of credit and claims for readjustment not received:-

Already received and not settled.....3,200
To be received in the near future.....2,000/3,000

11) There are 40,000 PW who have had only 50% of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of 100 or 10 per /, and who have yet to receive the other 50% from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. / 12,000,000.

12) Requests for incurred properties not returned on repatriation:-

Already received and not settled.....1,500
To be received in the near future.....2,500

c) THE REPARATION & RELEASE OF GERMAN PW IN ITALY

About 100 cases of German PW who claim Italian nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification. This would take from 6 to 8 months to complete, as every single case has to be confirmed by the prefect and the police authorities of the addresses given by the applicants.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves examining reports of every individual, verification of their best interests, enquiries have to be filed with every address of applicants shown on his request.

3. GERMAN (Allied Government).

Reparations

Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000 PW were held. 7,487 of this number have still to be repatriated. Furthermore, no information can be obtained regarding the amounts of the Italian Repatriation Fund, originally 121,000 sterling.

4) Requests for original certificates of arrest and release for detainees not received.

Already received and not settled.....3,200

To be received in the near future.....2,000/3,000

11) There are 40,000 PW who have had only 50% of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of 100 or 10 per \$, and who have yet to receive the other 50% from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. \$ 42,000,000.

111) Requests for ingored properties not returned on repatriation.

Already received and not settled.....1,500

To be received in the near future.....2,500

c) THE ITALIAN CASE

About 100 names of German PW who claim Italian nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification. This would take from 6 to 8 months to complete, as every single case has to be examined by the present and the police authorities of the addresses given by the applicant.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves searching records of every individual, verification of photo besides enquiries have to be filed with every address of applicant about on his request.

5151

3. OTHER (Allied Commitment).

Russia

Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000 PW were held. 7,487 of this number have still to be repatriated. Furthermore, no information can be obtained regarding the number of the Italian Repatriation Force, originally 120,000 strong.

Balkans

Out of a total of 100,000 PW, (first estimate), 10,000 await repatriation. Since they are unaccounted for, it is believed that they are still in Yugoslavia.

France

Over 4,000 Italian PW in France have not returned to Italy. These are remnants of the 4th Army who were discharged in France with civil contracts for six months. This period has long expired....

~~Summary~~ There are still 9,000 IPW in Germany (in the various Zones)

b) Other work in connection with Italian PW, not held by the United States or Great Britain, includes the tracing of those missing and the procuring of death and other certificates.

4. No further forecast of outstanding work as at 31 Dec '46 can yet be given, but since no definite plans have been received for repatriation it is expected that there will be little change in the work to be done; apart from this, the welfare and finance work will still be outstanding.

J.E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

9 nov. '46

5150

Appendix "A" Showing latest position regarding Repatriation.

Country	Ship	No. Men	Remarks
India	Tamara	1634	RED 6 Dec. (3 Officers, 26 Cpl. left in India. To be repatriated as soon as space available in hosp. ship.)
Australia	Strathmore	1900	RED early Dec.
"	Meriton Bay	809	RED late Dec.
"	Russellville	400	RED 8 Nov.
"	Demond	2340	RED mid Dec. (covering all available medical cases).
"	Alouster	3523	RED late Dec.
"	Atrato	3710	RED late Dec.
"	Orenten	1200	RED late Jan.
E. Africa	Orenten	500	RED late Nov.
"	Kaloja	3500	RED mid Dec.
"	Katarca	1500	RED late Dec.
"	Tusculum Victory	1190	RED late Dec.
"	Medina Victory	1281	RED early Jan.
"	Orizabal	3100	RED mid Jan.
"	Taco Victory	1420	RED mid Jan.
E. Africa	Stanford Victory	1424	RED 27 Nov.
"	Sea Pouch	1966	RED 16 Dec.
"	India Victory	1501	RED mid Dec.
"	Carthage	2250	RED late Dec.
"	Strathmore	2600	RED late Dec.
		<u>43,326</u>	

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION ON 18 NOVEMBER 1946
TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION I.M.I.A.

PRESENT:

Brigadier Carr	Executive Commissioner, A.C.
Lt. Col. Hind-Smith	Chief Staff Officer to Ex. Com.
Colonel Fiske	D/Comdr. M.I.A.
Lt. Col. Regis	Director, I.P.W. Division M.I.A.
Major Phillips	D/Director I.P.W. Division, M.I.A.
Colonel Williams	U.S. Military Attache.
Mr. Greene	U.S. Political Adviser.
Mr. Hankey	British Political Adviser.

Executive Commissioner opened the meeting by stating that in September 1946 AFHQ had proposed that all American personnel should be withdrawn from the I.P.W. Division and the American commitment handed over to some other agency. Allied Commission had previously reverted to AFHQ that the American commitment had virtually ceased but it was later found that there was a considerable commitment in respect of claims. Allied Commission had then proposed to AFHQ that the I.P.W. commitments, both American and British, should be handed over to the Embassies at the end of 1946. The meeting had been called to find out to what extent the Embassies were prepared to take over these commitments at the end of 1946, and to discuss a paper put forward by I.P.W. Division on the matter.

Mr. Hankey stated that the British Embassy's view was that as this was largely a military commitment and as the British Government had not expressed their views on the provision of a Military Attache, under whose department this commitment would come if it was taken over by the Embassy, they felt that until such time as they obtained the opinion of the Foreign Office and the War Office on the provision of a Military Attache they could not take over this commitment. Mr. Hankey said that it was his understanding that the actual repatriation of Italian P.W. would be completed from British Dominions and colonies by the end of 1946. However, the shipping situation was very serious and had held up the repatriation programme and at the present time no information was available as to the future shipping availability.

Lt. Colonel Regis said that the British Government had stated that all British held I.P.W. would be repatriated from the Dominions by the end of January 1947 or mid February.

Mr. Hankey then said that he was of the opinion that repatriation of P.W. was only one of the functions of the I.P.W. Division. He referred to the many claims which the Division stated had to be handled, such

Executive Commissioner opened the meeting by stating that in September 1946 AMHQ had proposed that all American personnel should be withdrawn from the IAW Division and the American commitment be turned over to some other agency. Allied Commission had previously reported to AMHQ that the American commitment had virtually ceased and it was later found that there was a considerable commitment in respect of claims. Allied Commission had then proposed to AMHQ that the IAW commitments, both American and British, should be handed over to the Embassies at the end of 1946. The meeting had been called to find out to what extent the Embassies were prepared to take over these commitments at the end of 1946, and to discuss a paper put forward by IAW Division on the matter.

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Lt. Colonel Regis said that the British Government had stated that all British held PW would be repatriated from the Dominions by the end of January 1947 or mid February.

5148

Mr. Hankey then said that he was of the opinion that repatriation of PW was only one of the functions of the IAW Division. He referred to the many claims which the Division stated had to be handled, such as claims for back pay for returned PW, assistance in finding employment etc., and that if this was so it would mean that after the repatriation programme had been completed almost the entire staff would still be needed to carry out the other functions of the Division. If the American commitment continued after the end of 1946.

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1/PAC

LOG No	1152
OFFICE OF WAR DIVISION	

- 2 -

he suggested that it might be possible for the work to be carried out by an integrated staff, for a further period of three months, after which the whole question could once again be reviewed.

Executive Commissioner stated that in his opinion he could not see any advantage in breaking up the present organization and that he agreed with the proposal made by Mr. Hankey that the Division should continue for a further three months upon which date the entire position could be reviewed.

Colonel Fiske said he fully agreed with the proposal made by the British Political Adviser that it would be sound economy in carrying on with the Division as at present rather than hand over to the Ambassies at this stage.

Mr. Greaves said that in general his views followed closely on those given by Mr. Hankey. He stated that as this was mainly a military commitment the American Embassy were of the opinion that it should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so. The difficulty was in knowing how long the military would remain in the Theatre. In his personal opinion there was still sufficient time for a draft to be set when the matter should be reviewed, and he suggested that the draft should be set when the matter should be reviewed. He said that due to staff shortages and difficulties similar to those which had already been put forward by Mr. Hankey the American Embassy was most reluctant to take over the commitment on 1 January 1947. Although a Military Attache was present at the Embassy, his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian affairs. He fully supported the proposal that AMHQ should be requested to advance the date of handing over to the Ambassies.

Colonel Fiske then pointed out that when these commitments were handed over to the Ambassies some arrangements would have to be made for the repatriation of Italian PW from other countries such as Russia and Yugoslavia. He in reply said that when the Allied commitments of PW Division were handed over to the Ambassies it would presumably be the responsibility of the Italian Government to deal with the repatriation of these PW using normal diplomatic channels.

After further discussion it was agreed that it should be recommended to AMHQ that the proposal, falling over date should be either 31st March 1947 or the date of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, and that the matter should be reviewed again prior to these dates whichever was the earlier.

Executive Commissioner stated that a draft letter to AMHQ would be prepared setting out these proposals and enclosing a copy of the paper by PW Division under consideration. This draft would be circulated to those at the meeting for comments before dispatch.

H. H. H. H. H.
Lt. Colonel.
Chief Staff Officer...

DISTRIBUTION:

given by Mr. Kenney. He stated that as this was mainly a military commitment the American Embassy were of the opinion that it should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so. The difficulty was in knowing how long the military would remain in the Theatre. In his personal opinion there was still sufficient time for a draft to be set when the matter should be reviewed, and he suggested that the draft should be set on which the Force Treaty was ratified. He said that due to staff shortages and difficulties similar to those which had already been put forward by Mr. Kenney the American Embassy was most reluctant to take over the commitment on 1 January 1947. Although a military attitude was present at the Embassy, his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian PMs. He fully supported the proposal that AMHQ should be requested to advance the date of handing over to the Embassies.

Colonel Pisko then pointed out that when these commitments were handed over to the Embassies some arrangements would have to be made for the repatriation of Italian PM from other countries such as Russia and Yugoslavia. EC in reply said that when the Allied commitments of IIV Division were handed over to the Embassies it would presumably be the responsibility of the Italian Government to deal with the repatriation of these PM using normal diplomatic channels.

After further discussion it was agreed that it should be recommended to AMHQ that the proposal, handing over date should be either 31st March 1947 or the date of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, and that the matter should be reviewed again prior to these dates whichever was the earlier.

Executive Commissioner stated that a draft letter to AMHQ would be prepared setting out these proposals and enclosing a copy of the paper by IIV Division under consideration. This draft would be circulated to those at the meeting for comments before dispatch.

A. W. Hunt
Lt. Colonel.
Chief Staff Officer...

DISTRIBUTION:

1 to each representative.
Chief Commissioner.
Land Forces S/C.
File (6)
Spares (2)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 9013/73/EC

14 November, 1946.

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Polad A
Polad B

This Commission has been directed by A.F.H.Q. to prepare an estimate of the work of the I.P.W. Division which, it is anticipated will be outstanding after 31st December 1946, and to ascertain whether the Embassies would be prepared to take over the residual functions of the I.P.W. Division with effect from 1st January 1947.

Enclosed is a copy of a paper which shows the present situation of the work of the I.P.W. Division and a forecast of its outstanding duties.

It is proposed to hold a Conference on this matter at a very early date. Land Forces Sub-Commission representative will bring to the Conference an estimate of the staff required by each Embassy to deal with residual functions of the I.P.W. Division after 31st December 1946.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

MS
Brigadier.
Executive Commissioner.

Copy : Land Forces Sub-Commission.
(I.P.W. Division).

enclosure mentioned is that forwarded under cover of your letter 12/11/46 ref 9013/73/EC of 9/11/46
AMS

RECEIVED	14 NOV 1946
Log. No.	

*meeting held on 18/11/46
by Comd, Records (13) (A) Directorate
to continue on 22 Feb, March
31-47. Letter to AFHQ forwarded
by Ex-Comd, Commissioning Officer*

*Done
TOTAL 15 (2 off 17)
against 30/11/46 15 as at present!*

1/Pol.

636

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A. C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

Rdp

IPW/1761/635

9 November 1946

SUBJECT : IPW Division - Present position
and outstanding work.

TO : Executive Commissioner, A.C. -

Hind-Smith - Regis spoke 7 November.

1. Herewith three copies of report on present position of repatriation of Italian PW and other activities, together with forecast of future work as requested.

James E. Regis
JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Division

File

RECEIVED	12 NOV 1946
Log. No. _____	

RECEIVED	5146
12 NOV 1946	6578
Log. No. _____	

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISIONAllied CommitteeWork outstanding as of 9 November 19461. SUMMARY:

a) The present state of repatriation of IPW in British hands is as follows:-

<u>British Held</u>	<u>Held originally</u>	<u>Repatriated</u>	<u>To be Repatriated</u>
England & Scotland	156,029	156,608	All (remainder released in U.K.)
E. Africa	45,152	45,152	All
S. Africa	42,857	29,826	13,031
G. Africa	40,285	25,741	14,741
Middle East	58,484	52,484	All
India	33,302	29,835	3,467
Australia	17,657	3,929	13,728
Other	541	526	15
Various	2,000	2,000	All
TOTAL:-	396,307	550,904	14,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian Authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan., no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Prisoners of War Division in fact the only outstanding notification held in a matter of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. 146, 45,000 IPW in British hands will await repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 IPW who were involuntarily "detained" by the War (in units of the Italian War Industry's protest) and who are now understood to be in PALESTINE.

b) FINANCE

1750 requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of IPW, are outstanding; answers are still awaited from the various PW Accounts Office. In addition to this, some 2,500 smaller requests are expected; this information has been received from the Italian Authorities who are preparing the claims at the moment. It should be noted that each claim takes an average of 30/60 days to settle.

Requests for return of impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-

Claims processed and not yet settled:-.....950.

Claims which will be received in the near future:-..... 3,000

Claims for non receipt of remittances, tracing of home etc:-

Requests to be settled:-250

Requests that will be received later:-.....2,000

5145

S. Africa	42,657	29,825	13,031
Madagascar	40,285	35,544	14,747
India	58,484	59,484	311
Australia	32,302	29,835	3,467
Gibraltar	17,557	3,999	13,728
Parole	541	526	15
	2,000	2,000	11
TOTAL:-	396,307	350,904	44,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in December, no plans have yet been formulated to the Italian Prisoners of War Division; in fact the only outstanding notification held in a matter of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. 146, 45,000 PW in British hands will await repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 Italian PW who have voluntarily departed by QED REP (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in Palestine.

b) Italy

1750 requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of IPW, are outstanding; answers are still awaited from the various PW Accounts Offices. In addition to this, some 2,500 dollar requests are expected; this information has been received from the Italian Authorities, who are processing the claims at the moment. It should be noted that each claim taken an average of 30/60 days to settle.

Requests for return of impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-
Claims processed and not yet settled:-.....950.
Claims which will be received in the near future:-.....3,000

Claims for loss receipt of remittances, tracing of same etc:-
Requests to be settled:-250
Requests that will be received later:-.....200

c) COMPARISON OF ITALIAN AND ALLIED CASES

Approximately 300 comparative cases are pending (as of Nov 1945). This entails investigation of families of PW to ascertain whether they are in any of the categories laid down which warrant priority in repatriation of the prisoner on compassionate grounds, correspondence with the UNO and, in some cases, the Government concerned.

Medical cases require the handling of X-ray letters per day in connection with the whereabouts of PW, news, various notifications, reports from the forwarding of mail to PW and messages from PW to their families.

5145

-2-

2) REPRESENTATIVES & REPRESENTATIONS OF SPECIALISTS & FAMILIES

The majority of S. Tyrolers have been released, but some are still interned in camps in Italy, either as C.I. suspects, or, War-Time-Witnesses; in this question correspondence is maintained with the Italian Authorities.

Out of 70 cases for early release of specialists from Austria, S. & E. Austria, only 2 per cent have been repatriated. Many applications for the release of families on compassionate grounds are still received and have to be investigated.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT

a) All U.S. held Italian PW have been repatriated (125,500, with the exception of a few hospital cases in the U.S.A.).

b) REPARATIONS

i) Requests for original certification of credit and claims for reparations not received:-

Already received and not settled..... 3,000

To be received in the near future..... 3,000/5,000

ii) There are 40,000 PW who have had only 50% of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of lire 100 or 18 per \$, and who have yet to receive the other 50% from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. \$12,000,000.

iii) Requests for impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-

Already received and not settled..... 1,500.

To be received in the near future..... 2,500.

c) LEW HALL CASE & RELEASE OF GERMAN PW IN ITALY

About 100 names of German PW who claim Italian nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification. This would take from 6 to 8 months to complete, as every single case has to be examined by the Prefect and the Police authorities of the addresses given by the applicant.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves examining reports of every individual, verification of facts besides application have to be filed with every address of applicant shown on his request.

15144

3. OTHER (Allied Commitment)

Notes

Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000 PW were held. 7,467 of this number have still to be repatriated.

a) All U.S. held Italian PW have been repatriated (125,300, with the exception of a few hospital cases in the U.S.A.)

b) FINANCE

i) Requests for original certified or credit and claims for remittances not received.
Already received and not settled..... 3,200
To be received in the near future..... 3,000/3,400

ii) There are 40,000 PW who have had only 50% of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of lire 100 or 18 per \$, and who have yet to receive the other 50% from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. \$12,000,000.

iii) Requests for impounded properties not returned on repatriation:
Already received and not settled..... 1,500.
To be received in the near future..... 2,500.

c) ITALIAN MILITARY & RELEASE OF GERMAN PW IN ITALY.

About 100 names of German PW who claim Italian nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification. This would take from 4 to 6 months to complete, as every single case has to be examined by the Prefect and the Police authorities of the addresses given by the applicant.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves screening records of every individual, verification of false badges, verification have to be filed with every address of applicant shown on his request.

5144

3. OTHERS (Allies' Commitment).

Russia

Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000 PW were held. 7,487 of this number have still to be repatriated. Furthermore, no information can be obtained regarding the remnants of the Italian Expeditionary Force, originally 120,000 strong.

Balkans

Out of a total of 166,000 PW, (MRS's estimate), 10,000 await repatriation. Since they are unaccounted for, it is believed that they are still in Yugoslavia.

France

Some 4,000 Italian PW in France have not returned to Italy. These are remnants of the 4th Army who were discharged in France with civil contracts for 48 months. This period has long expired....

-3-

Germany

There are still 9,000 IPW in Germany (in the various zones)

- b) Other work in connection with Italian PW, not held by the United States or Great Britain, includes the tracing of those missing and the procuring of death and other certifications.

J. H. Lewis
J. H. LEWIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

9 nov. 1946

6113

fs

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1Pol/634

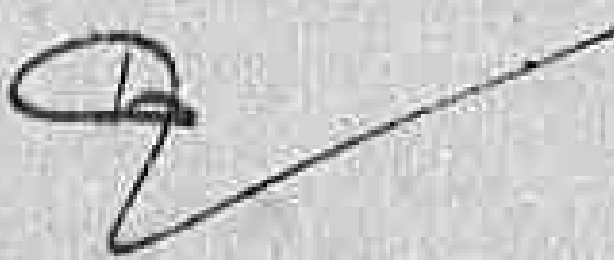
26/Sep/46

SUBJECT : Priority in repatriation of IPW ex Venezia Giulia

TO : Ministry of Post War Assistance, PW Bureau

Ref your 1767/Pol/C-1, dtd 18 Jul/46

1. The following information has now been received from the War Office, London:-
It is not considered necessary to give priority repatriation on grounds stated.
2. Repatriation of Italian PW from India will be completed in the near future.



J.E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div

5142

SUBJECT :- IPW in Camp 356 Kenya

1912
IPW

CHQ GIP

3821/A2

22 Sept 46

General Officer Commanding in Chief,
East Africa Command.

The attached report forwarded by Land Forces Sub Commission, Allied Commission from the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance - regarding IPW in Camp 356 Kenya is forwarded for your information and any action you may think necessary. It would be appreciated if this CHQ could be informed of any action taken, in order that a reply can be made to Land Forces Sub Commission.

[Signature]

[Signature]
D. D. MORGAN, M.A.
Lt Gen.
G in C.

Copy to :- Land Forces Sub Commission,
your IPW/1 POL/631 of 9 Sept 46 refers.

Encls.
AGW/eah

2632

26 SEP 1946

633

51/1

1/POL

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
INFORMED C.	
Received	12/6 SEP 1946
Reg. No.	217

1915

SUBJECT :- Priority in repatriation of IPW to Venezia Giulia.

GHQ 3MT

3855/A2

28 Sept 46

Land Forces Sub Commission,
Allied Commission,
MMA,
IPW Division.

Reference your IPW/1POL/621 dated 26 July 46.

The following information has been received from the War Office.

It is not considered necessary to give priority repatriation on the grounds stated.

Repatriation of Italian PW for India will be completed in the near future.

AGW/ash

Brig.
DAG.

1915
Sept 26 20 mne please
634

632

2625 26 SEP 1946

5140

1/POL

RECEIVED PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
26 SEP 1946	
Log. No.	204

WERP/ame

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1 POL/631

9 Sep. 46

SUBJECT : IPW in Camp 356 - KENYA

TO : GHQ CMF

Forwarded herewith is a translation copy of a report received from the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance, regarding IPW in Camp 356 - KENYA, for your information and any action that may be possible.


JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief,
IPZ Division

5139

631

Ministero della Guerra

Roma, 1 9 Settembre 1946

UFFICIO AUTONOMO REDUCI PRIGIONIA
DI GUERRA E RIMPATRIATIITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTIONSDivisione *Leg.*
Prot. N. 1590/1215 *Allegati*

R O M A

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. *Leg.* N. 2

OGGETTO Ufficiale italiano in missione in Australia.

In relazione alla partenza del Capitano di corvetta italiano MORONI dall'Italia a Londra si comunica che la partenza di detto Ufficiale per l'Australia, è stata concordata tra l'Ambasciata Italiana a Londra ed il War Office, e il Foreign Office.

Il comandante MORONI deve quindi raggiungere prima Londra e di là partire per l'Australia dopo aver ricevuto le necessarie istruzioni dalle Autorità che hanno disposto il suo viaggio.

IL GENERALE

CAPO DELL'UFFICIO AUTONOMO

5138

(A. Mannerini)

A. Mannerini

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
CIVIL A. C.
Issued *18 SEP 1946*
Log. No. *9850*

*1906**File N. 1590/1215*
Have arranged with Embassy
24/9

27 August 1946

MINISTRY OF POST WAR ASSISTANCE
Pow Bureau

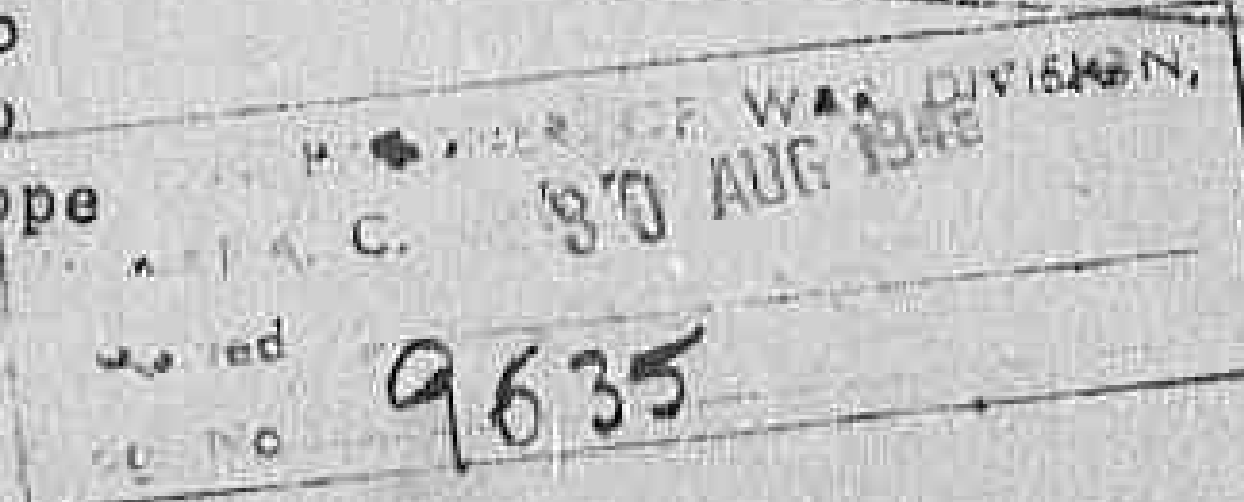
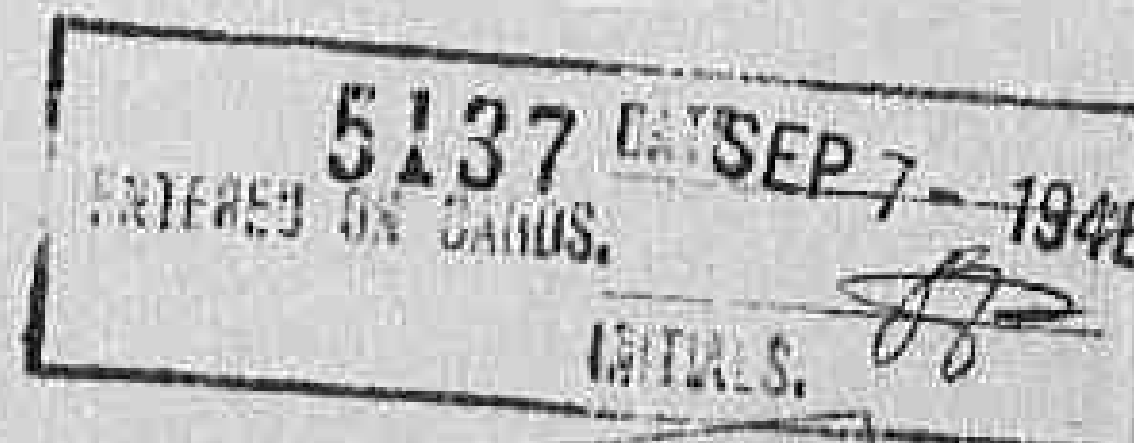
Prot.n.1991/POL/C.3.

TO : Allied Commission
S/C for It.Pow.ROMESUBJECT : It.POW in Camp 356 - Kenya

Repatriates from Kenya have reported that in Camp 356 (Eldoret) the following POW have been imprisoned and isolated since Jan.1946 for disciplinary motives.

1. Capt. GRAZZINI
2. Capt. CIMINO Domenico
3. Lt. CAVALLI Mario
4. Lt. BRUNA Paolo
5. Lt. FORMENTO Ettore
6. Lt. BRUGNOLO Antonio
7. Lt. MONTALTO Giovanni
8. Lt. FORLIVESI Mario
9. Lt. BASSI Paolo
10. S.Lt. DOLETTI Franco
11. S.Lt. ROFFI Mario
12. S.Lt. MATTIA Ettore
13. S.Lt. RICCARDI Riccardo
14. S.Lt. CAIER Pino
15. S.Lt. GABRINI Raoul
16. S.Lt. CALIERI Federico
17. Marsh. MARRADI Guglielmo
18. Sr.Mj. ALMERINI Franco
19. Sr.Mj. BREGA Dante
20. Sr.Mj. D'ARPINO Edmondo
21. Sr.Mj. MOLANI Primo
22. Sr.Mj. BALDASSARRI Ermelino
23. Sold. DE SIMONI Marco
24. Sold. LIBRANDI Giovanni
25. Sold. POCOBELLI Carlo
26. Civ. BENASSI Alberto
27. Sold. ARCHETTI Giuseppe
28. Sold. ALBASINI Igino

680



1/POL.

#3

These measures were adopted by the Authorities in Kenya following a strike of the prisoners in the Camp at Nairobi on the 12.1.1946, who protested against the delay in repatriation.

Those prisoners who were presumed to be responsible for the strike were deprived of their status as co/operators and transferred and isolated in a case in Camp 356.

As this state of affairs has lasted for over six months and has had a very bad effect on the morale of the prisoners we beg your division to take the matter up with the authorities in Kenya and if possible have these measures revoked and furthermore, we beg you not to have the repatriation of those individuals, who are considered responsible for the strike, delayed who will be repatriated according to their respective categories.

*Why should we
in Kenya?*
Q2

signed.D.F.NITTI

5136

copy:-

Subject : Repatriation IPW

GHQ, CMF
3841/A2
17/Aug/46

MMIA- IPW -

Further to your IPW/1/11Mef/2693 and our 3841/A2 of 27 Jul

1. Please see attached copy of GHQ MELF letter L.9694/15 AG5(a) of 6 Aug.
2. In view of para 2 thereof it is requested that no further enquiries requests for priority release etc in respect of IPW in MELF be addressed to this HHQ.

(by sept.46 it is estimated that ALL IPW will be repatriated)

(signed) JB ROBERTSON, Brig
DAG

5135

22 1/11/2733

629

Extract from translation of Min of W. letter 05862/BS d/d 27 July 46.
from file A/224.

(E) There is, among ex POWs from British camps, serious discontent on the question of exchange concerning Officers. Despite application made through the press, or the various ex-servicemens associations, in order to obtain the payment of sterling "remittances" and "left over credit" the exchange of 400 lire for personnel repatriated during 1945 and 900 lire for those repatriated after this date, as practiced for NCOs and men, nothing has been decided yet. Officers are paid at the rate of exchange of 72 lire, whilst NCOs and men are paid at the exchange rate of 400 and 900 lire. It is to be noted that ex POWs from the United States (Officers, NCOs and men) have settled the Dollar "remittances" and "left over credit" at an exchange rate of 225 lire for all ranks.

5131

628

Yde 1 Pol

COPY.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

ROME.

IPW/1/5A/563

14 Aug 1946.

To : Executive Commission,
A.C.

1. Reports on welfare of the Italian Army indicate some discontent among officer ex POW from British Camps, on account of the rate of exchange of their accumulated pay credits. It appears that the remittances of other ranks are exchanged at either the 400 or the 900 rate and those of all POW from US Camps at the Dollar 225 rate, as a result of some arrangements made between the US and the Italian authorities. The attached statement shows the position of the ex British held Italian Officers and how it is believed to have come about, as in addition to causing some genuine grievances within the Italian Army itself, it also appears to bring British Administration into some disrepute.
2. It is recommended that the matter should be looked into with a view to discovering some possible remedy. It is realised that this remedy probably lies with the Italian authorities themselves, but it is felt that either some pressure might be brought to bear on them or that some announcement of policy might be made in order to remove cases of discontent.
3. May we have your advice in this matter.

COLONEL A/q
M.M.I.A.

5133

Ref: 9013/40/EC.

8. August 1946.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In the absence of the Chief Commissioner I am writing to acknowledge your letter No. 19/25366/60 dated 31 July 1946 regarding the rumored handover of the Italian Prisoner of War Division to USRA.

There has been some correspondence on this subject between this Commission and AFHQ, but the Allied Commission have firmly recommended the retention of this important Division of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. In any case I do not foresee that USRA would be asked to handle the problem.

Yours very truly,

M. S. LUSH
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Dr. Alcide de Gasperi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
Land Forces (IPW Sec) with copy of
letter under
reference.

1/POL

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
(M.A.A.) A. C.	18 AUG 1946
Numbered	901
Log No	

5132

TRANSLATION

19/25366/60

Rome, 31 July 1946.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Dear Admiral,

In the last days of May 1946 it was rumored that the Italian Prisoners of War Division presently existing at the M.M.I.A. would be suppressed and the office for Italian war prisoners transferred to U.N.R.R.A.

The Italian Ministry of War immediately pointed out to M.M.I.A. all the damages and inconveniences which would be caused by the change of a system or of a policy which had such satisfactory results.

These steps obtained on 5 June 1946 the reply that at the moment there was no intention of altering the status of the Italian Prisoners of War Division.

I am now informed that the suppression of the Italian Prisoners of War Division is very likely; and this just at a moment when the most delicate problem of the repatriation of prisoners can really be said to have entered its final stage. In fact, more than 135,000 prisoners have still to be repatriated and at this same moment, there are important questions regarding the use of naval means of transportation to be solved with the British Commands and Governmental authorities in whose hands our prisoners still are (in the Middle East - South Africa - East Africa - India - Australia). Questions which were going to be dealt with by Col Regis who ever since July 1945 when he took over the Italian Prisoners of War Division, carried out his task with such a competence.

The suppression of the Italian Prisoners of War Division, even if mitigated by some other arrangement, and anyhow any change of address could only achieve - according to my opinion - most harmful repercussions at this delicate moment.

I trust that the above will be taken in good consideration so as to assure to the war prisoners service that continuity of policy which to this day has given such a considerable and positive results in the solution of the complicated and important problem of the repatriation of prisoners. 5131

/s/ De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

31 July 1946

G-5: 965.12

SUBJECT: Italian POWs - Request for Release.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
(Attn: MMIA, IPW Div)
APO 794.

1. Attached hereto are typical examples of many petitions received almost daily from civilians requesting the release of not only their next of kin but in many cases friends and even mere acquaintances.

2. In the future, such petitions will be returned to the originator without action, with the suggestion that the application be redirected to the Ministero del Postbellico Assistenza, Roma. No such action has been taken, however, in the case of the petitions transmitted herewith. It is requested you forward these to the above Ministry with that information.

3. It is contemplated that by 31 August 46, all Italian PW/SEP in British custody, less CI suspects, War Crimes Witnesses, and Civil Internees, will have been turned over to the Italian authorities. That being the case, no further letters regarding releases of Italians held in Italy should be forwarded to G.H.Q.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

[Signature]
A. L. HAMBLEN
Colonel, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Incls:

Ltr and Translation, Albina Menocarelli
Ltr and Translation, Filemema Sedda
Ltr and Translation, Filippo Rubino
Ltr and Translation, Giuseppe Deccali

5130

624

624

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
AFO 794

*Land Forces
(IPW)*

Ref. : 9013/33/EC

6 August 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War Division.

TO : G-5,
AFHQ.

Bd/8

1. The question of the future of the Italian Prisoner of War Section of the Land Forces Sub-Commission (LMIA) has been raised by:

(a) A MYOUHA signal FX 68410 dated 27 June requesting the withdrawal of U.S. Personnel from the IPW Section

and

(b) Conversation between the Executive Commissioner, AG and G-5 Section of AFHQ.

2. The position is as follows:

(a) In October 1945 Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held by any of the Allied nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel, to Land Forces Sub-Commission (LMIA).

(b) The functions and composition of the IPW Section and the present position regarding repatriation of IPW are shown at Appendix "A".

3. The repatriation of Prisoners of War in the hands of the USA was practically completed some time ago. The repatriation of Prisoners of War still remaining in the hands of Great Britain and the British Dominions and Colonies, is now in progress and if it continues at the present rate it should be completed before the end of the year.

4. To achieve this result I consider it essential that whoever handles this work should be in Rome, where daily contact with the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Post War Assistance can be made and whence tours and visits by Allied and Italian officers together can be organized quickly.

5. Because IPW are obviously military personnel I consider this commitment is a proper military one of the Land Forces Sub-Commission

COMMITTEE OF WAR DIVISION.

6 AUG 1946

Log No

9019

623

9/702

- 2 -

and not a residual function of the Allied Commission and that, therefore, in spite of MAN 650, it obviously should remain the responsibility of the Land Forces Sub-Commission.

6. I am informed by the Political Advisor (British) that in view of the British Embassy the repatriation of Prisoners of War is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The U.S. Embassy is hardly concerned now that all except a few deferred cases have been repatriated.

7. If you decide that this responsibility should be taken over by the Military authorities, I would urge that the work should be carried out in Rome so that direct contact can be maintained with the Italian authorities concerned. It is for consideration whether, with the U.S. repatriation virtually completed, this should be the responsibility of AFHQ or GHO, C.I.F.

8. Taking everything into consideration I recommend that the responsibility for repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War should remain with the Land Forces Sub-Commission until 31st December 1946 or until 90 days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty whichever is the earlier.

If you agree you may consider it advisable that all concerned should be notified now that any outstanding questions after that date will be dealt with by the Commission concerned direct with the Italian Government.

M. S. LUSH

Knigsdien

REPORT V. STONE
Major General, USMC
Chief Commissioner

(about to leave)

5128

*Copy to: C. Com.**Land Forces (R/L Sec) ✓*

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION OF IAW DIVISION

1. Establishment as at 20th of June 1946:-

(i) <u>Officers</u>			
US	3		1 Lt. Col. 1 Capt. 1 Lieut.
Br.	4		1 Major 2 Captains. 1 Lieut.

(ii) <u>ORs</u>			
Br.	2		1 Cpl. 1 Pte.

(iii) <u>Civilian Staff</u>			
Italian	20		

2. Present Establishment w.e.f. 1st July 1946:-

(i) <u>Officers</u>			
US	1		1 Lt. Col.
Br.	4		1 Major. 2 Captains. 1 Lieut.
(ii) <u>ORs</u>			
Br.	2		1 Cpl. 1 Pte.

(iii) <u>Civilian Staff</u>			
Italian	15		

5127

3. The following is the present situation regarding IPV repatriation:-

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Original number held	Total number so far repatriated	Number awaiting repatriation
England & Scotland	178029	152464	25565
North Africa	43152	40074	-
East Africa	42564	24023	21431
East Africa	40000	1485	-

(ii) ORs

Br. 2

1 Cpl.
1 Pte.(iii) Civilian Staff

Italian 20

2. Present Establishment w.e.f. 1st July 1945:-

(i) Officers

US 1

1 Lt. Col.

Br. 4

1 Major.
2 Captains.
1 Lieut.(ii) ORs

Br. 2

1 Cpl.
1 Pte.(iii) Civilian Staff

Italian 15

5127

3. The following is the present situation regarding IP repatriation:-

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Original number held	Total number so far repatriated	Number awaiting repatriation
England & Scotland	178029	132464	25565
North Africa	43152	40074	-
East Africa	42544	21023	21451
West Africa	10002	1495	-
South Africa	40794	13472	27322
Middle East	70891	39101	30990
India	33302	16789	16513
Australia	17657	633	17024
Gibraltar	541	525	15
Persia	2000	-	2000
USA	51030	51136	?
France (US)	43000	41256	?
Italy (US)	20000	20000	-
North Africa (US)	9751	9751	-
French N. Africa	37300	37336	?
Russia	20000	11626	6374
France	35000	30297	?
Balkans	100000	89704	10296
Germany & Switzerland	560000 x	631158	?
TOTAL	1285171	1188331	159580

x Estimated

4. Details of claims and funds etc.

Apart from facilitating the repatriation of IPW, there are a great many administrative details to be dealt with, with the Italian Ministry of War or Ministry of Post War Assistance on the one hand and the appropriate Allied Military Authorities on the other.

Some of the correspondence and contact with the various AM is purely liaison work, but it should be clear that it is essential work. Since other Governments have no facilities or establishments for dealing direct with the Italian Ministry of War and Ministry of Post War Assistance and the same of correspondence received from these two bodies, there is also liaison with the British and US Ambassadors, the representatives to the Italian and with the Italian itself. The following list of tasks performed by this Division and details dealing with the Italian Ministry of War, MPA, Min. of Foreign Affairs, Min. of Interior, AMB, IP Accounts Offices all over the world, French Representative, Russian Representative, and Naval Authorities, is notified:-

Shipping notes (under alias IPW IPW, has nine sub-c (1) under its control).

Questions re PW baggage.

Registration Medical Cases.

Applications for Mixed Medical Commission for aid: IPW allowed.

Tracking War (Individuals).

Voluntary deferment of repatriation.

Desire of PW to remain in Germany held.

Repatriation of Specialists requested by Italian Government.

Requests for release of Non-Desert PWs.

" " " in Italy of German PWs.

" " " of South Tyrolean PWs.

Repatriation of Unrepatriated cases.

IPW Welfare (news, letters, parcels, enquiries from IPW re families, enquiries from families re IPW.)

Financial considerations

Transmission of Power of Attorney by IPW.

Requirements re Allowance due to IPW and their families by Italian Government.

Transmission of remittances made by IPW in favour of their families or of Banks and Institutions in Italy. Claims for re-remittance of these remittances.

Notification to the Italian Government of Credit/Debit Balances in respect of IPW Pay earned by IPW while in Dr. custody, and claims concerning the Balances in question.

Inquiries re payment of Credit Balances in respect of IPWs released from US custody.

Requests of return of proportion accumulated from IPWs and transmitted to them to the Italian Red Cross.

General Policy regarding Pay, rate of exchange of credits etc. of IPW.

5. It was agreed at AMB before repatriation commenced that IPW held IPW would be repatriated first and then IPW held IPW. US held IPW have now been repatriated and IPW in Dr. hands are being dealt with at the present moment. Many claims for settlement of outstanding Credit Balances for IPW in US hands are still being dealt with. The whole question, therefore, remains as before and is still being dealt with.

Shipping news (inter alia IPW Div. has mine ships (1) under its control).
Questions re PW baggage.
Repatriation Medical Cases.
Applications for Mixed Medical Commission for sick IPW abroad,
Treating War (Prisoners).
Voluntary deferment of repatriation.
Desire of PW to remain in Germany held.
Repatriation of Specialists requested by Italian Government.
Requests for release of Neo-Fascist PWs.
" " " in Italy of German PWs.
" " " of South Byelorussian PWs.
Repatriation of compassionate cases.
PW Welfare (news, letters, parcels, inquiries from IPW re families, enquiries from families re IPW.)

Financial commitments:

Transmission of Power of Attorney by IPW.
Inquiries re Allowance due to IPW and their families by Italian Government.
Transmission of remittances made by IPW in favour of their families or of
Banks and Institutions in Italy. Claims for non-receipt of these remittances.
Notification to the Italian Government of Credit/Debit Balances in respect of
PW Pay earned by PW while in Br. custody, and claims concerning the Balances
in question.
Inquiries re payment of Credit Balances in respect of PWs released from
US custody.
Request of return of properties impounded from PWs and transmitted ⁹¹²⁸ them
to the Italian Red Cross.
General Policy regarding Pay, rate of exchange of credits etc. of IPW.

5. It was agreed at APM before repatriation commenced that US held
IPW would be repatriated first and then Br. held IPW. US held IPW have now
been repatriated and IPW in Br. hands are being dealt with at the present
moment. Many claims for settlement of outstanding Credit Balances for ex-
IPW in US hands are still being dealt with. The whole question, therefore,
remains as before an Allied commitment.

MVZ/ang

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/IPOL/622

27 July 1946

SUBJECT : Dispositions of South Tyroleans
TO : Ministry of the Interior

Reference your 27845/23374 dtd 22 July 46.

Copy of a letter No. 627/32/EO dtd 25 Apr. 46,
is herewith forwarded.

Please expedite reply to our IPW/IPOL/600 dtd
1/5/46.

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief,
IPW Division

5125

Room 9 - 7th Floor.

copy

copy

Ref. : 627/32/EC

25 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Disposition of South Tyroleans.

TO : Minister of the Interior.

At the request of Headquarters MFOUSA, I am forwarding the attached correspondence on the a/q subject. It contains lists of South Tyroleans, under the jurisdiction of the Allies, not on any Wanted List.

HQ, MFOUSA have requested an answer as to whether or not your ministry will accept these POWs, and the Allied Commission will be happy to transmit such a reply in full.

/s/ N.W. HIND-SMITH
Maj.

for
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy for on file

5124

621

VERE/fs

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
W.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

FILE

IPW/1P01/621

26/7/46

SUBJECT : Priority in Repatriation of IPW

TO : G.H.Q., GMP

1. Attached herewith are copies of letters received from the International Red Cross Committee, and the Supervisor of 26 PW Camp, India, regarding repatriation of IPW whose families reside in Venezia Giulia, for information and any action that may be possible.

2. In forwarding the attached correspondence to this Division, the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance has represented that priority should be given to all Italian prisoners who are in British custody whose families live in the Venezia Giulia.

For the Chief Commissioner

J. R. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

5123

Encl.

Filed

MINISTRY POST WAR ASSISTANCE
PW BUREAU
1st. DIV.
1st Sect. Pol.
REF. 1767/Pol/G-1

TO: ALLIED COMMISSION
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
IPW DIVISION
R C M E

SUBJECT : IPW in India who come from the territory of the Venezia Giulia.

Herewith attached is a report from the International Red Cross regarding the IPW whose families live in the Venezia Giulia.

It would be greatly appreciated if the A.C. would take into consideration the desires of the prisoners in question, by asking competent Authorities to give them priority in repatriation, given the very precarious situation under which their families are living, by calculating the cases as really compassionate.

It is thought that priority should be given to all Italian prisoners who are in British custody and whose families reside in the Venezia Giulia.

Sgd. Dr. F. NITTI

620

1706

RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION,
23 JUL 1946
8729.

512

Copy

Internatinal Red Cross Committee Delegation of Italy.

Urgent

SUBJECT : Repatriation of IPW of Group 5 YOL India, whose families reside in the Venezia Giulia.

Rference 111/246/LR/IR/4834

We have the honour to inform you that we have received a letter from our delegate in Simla, dated 8/4/46 in which he informs us that during the last visit he made at Yol Group 5 Kangra Valley, at the end of the last March, he was approached by numerous IPW whose families reside in the Venezia Giulia.

They informed our delegate of the tragedy of their situation, many of whom have had no news from their families for years.

Others have been informed that their families live in misery and are waiting for the repatriation of their husband, fathers and brothers as their ones hope.

The POW in question begged our delegate to obtain for them priority in repatriation.

As in the past it has been demonstrated that the Postal Service between the POW in India and their families in the Venezia Giulia is very difficult, and as it is very difficult for the Ital. Government to send aid to the Italian residing in territory occupied by the Yugoslaves, it is thought that the only way out of the question to have this people repatriated?

Their repatriation evidently could not be done individually but would have to be done in mass with priority.

The POW in question are convinced that if they can not be repatriated directly to their houses but repatriated to a free zone they could send to their families easier than they can from a prison camp in India, morally and materialy.

The above mentioned letter announces the arrival of a list of the prisoner whose families reside in the Venezia Giulia which list as soon as received will be forwarded to you.

We take this occasion to forward to you the attached letter that was sent on the 13/5/46 from our man of Camp 26 Yol, to our delegate at Simla, and you are informed that Ginevra wrote directly to the delegation in London begging the British Authorities to take

up the question of these repatriations.

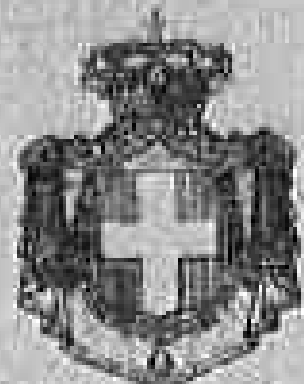
It will be greatly appreciated if after examining what is written above, you will take the matter up with the Competent Allied Authorities in Italy and inform us of any action that will be taken.

Signed by Dr. H?W. DE SALIS

Head of the international Red Cross Delegation in Italy

5120

620

*Ministero dell'Assistenza Post bellica*

- Servizio Prigionieri di Guerra -

Lec. I^a DivisioneUff. I^a Sez. Pol.Int. N. 767/Pol/C-10 *Allegati*

Risposta al Foglio N.°

del

Roma 18 luglio 1946

Alla COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione Prigionieri di
GuerraR O M A

e, per conoscenza:

AL MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

Uff. Aut. Reduci e Rimpatr.

R O M AOGGETTO: P.d.G. italiani in India appartenenti al territorio della
Venezia Giulia.

Si trasmette per conoscenza una comunicazione del Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa relativa ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in India e le cui famiglie si trovano nella Venezia Giulia. Si sarà grati a codesta Commissione Alleata se vorrà prendere in considerazione il desiderio esposto dai prigionieri in oggetto, interessando le competenti Autorità per ottenere la loro precedenza nel rimpatrio, tenuto conto della situazione veramente precaria delle loro famiglie e considerando che la situazione di queste rientra nei casi veramente pietosi.

Si è del parere che un provvedimento di rimpatrio con precedenza potrebbe essere esteso a tutti i prigionieri italiani della Venezia Giulia attualmente in mani britanniche.

IL CAPO SERVIZIO ⁵¹¹⁹
(Dr. Fausto Nitti)

620

Sc/ C o p i a

COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA CROCE ROSSA
Delegazione in Italia

Rif. III/246/IR/lr 4834

Roma, 11/7/46

U R G E N T E

AL MINISTERO ASSISTENZA POST-BELLICA
Corso Vittorio Emanuele 110

R O M A

e, per conoscenza:

ALLA CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
Ufficio Prigionieri
Via Puglie 6

R O M A

OGGETTO: Rimpatrio dei p.d.g. italiani del gruppo 5, Yol, Indie, le cui famiglie abitano nella Venezia Giulia.

Abbiamo l'onore di informarvi di avere ricevuta una lettera del nostro Delegato di Simla, dell'8/4/46 nella quale ci si comunica che, in occasione dell'ultima visita da lui effettuata a fine marzo ai campi del gruppo 5, Yol, Kangra Valley, è stato avvicinato da numerosi p.d.g. italiani le cui famiglie si trovano nella Venezia Giulia.

Essi hanno esposto al nostro Delegato il penoso stato d'animo nel quale si trovano, mancando da lungo tempo - alcuni persino da anni - di notizie dei loro cari. Altri hanno saputo che i loro famigliari vivono in grande miseria e che attendono il rimpatrio dei rispettivi mariti, padri e fratelli come l'unico aiuto possibile.

I p.d.g. suddetti hanno pregato il nostro Delegato di interessarsi affinché venga loro concesso un rimpatrio per priorità.

Poichè le esperienze del passato hanno mostrato, da un lato, le grandi difficoltà che si incontrano nel cercare di migliorare le comunicazioni tra i p.d.g. in India e i loro famigliari abitanti nella Venezia Giulia e d'altra parte, poichè non è facile al Governo Italiano soccorsi alle popolazioni italiane abitanti nelle zone occupate dagli jugoslavi sembra che l'unico modo per assistere tali persone consista nel rimpatrio dei p.d.g. in oggetto.

Esso rimpatrio non potrebbe evidentemente avvenire in base all'esame di ogni singolo caso, troppi ostacoli ostando all'accertamento delle condizioni di famiglia di ogni p.g. ma globalmente per priorità.

I p.g. in oggetto sono convinti qualora il tanto desiderato rimpatrio non potesse avvenire nelle zone occupate dagli jugoslavi ma in territorio libero, di essere comunque in grado di assistere moralmente e materialmente le famiglie molto meglio che non da un campo di p.g. in India.

- 2 -

La lettera ~~annunziata~~ summenzionata prosegue annunciandosi l'invio delle liste dei p.d.g. originari della Venezia Giulia che sarà nostra cura trasmettervi non appena ricevute.

Cogliamo l'occasione per accludervi copia della lettera indirizzata il 13/5/46 dall'Upmo di fiducia del campo n. 26, Vol, al nostro Delegato a Simla, e vi informiamo che Ginevra ha già, scritto direttamente alla nostra Delegazione di Londra pregandola di interessare le Autorità Britanniche al rimpatrio in questione.

Vi saremmo grati se a vostra volta, dopo avere esaminato quanto suesposto voleste fare i passi necessari presso le Autorità Alleate competenti in Italia, comunicandoci con cortese sollecitudine quanto avrete deciso in merito.

(Dottor H.W.DE SALIS)

Capo delle Delegazioni in Italia
del Comitato Internazionale della C.R.

All. 1 copia di lettera.



5117



Ministero dell'Interno
GABINETTO DEL MINISTRO

Divisione 27845/2337
Int. N. 1 *Allegato*

ipw
Roma 22 luglio 1946

Land Forces Sub Com-
mission A.C.
M.M.I.A.
Italian Prisoners of War
Division ROMA
R. a n. 13,5 u.s.
IPW/1/Pol/603

OGGETTO

Disposizione dei tirolesi del sud.

Con riferimento alla nota sopradistinta,
si prega rimettere copia della lettera del Reg-
gente Capo Commissario 627/32 BC del 25 aprile
u.s., che non risulta pervenuta a questo Mini-
stero.

D'ORDINE DEL MINISTRO
IL CAPO DI GABINETTO

Brwig

5815
6/9

1/Pol

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
C.	26 JUL 1946
Log. No.	8802

WEIP/1a

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1Pel/618

6/7/46

SUBJECT : Italian PW - Meralo -

TO : Ministry of War, Antennae Office for War Veterans
" : Ministry of Post War Assistance, PW Bureau

1 Pol C 11/A
Ref Antennae Office letters 10782/3 dtd 27 May 46,
10976/217/3, dtd 31 May 46, enclosing 423291/RPGR, dtd 30 May 46,
and Min. of Post War Assistance letter 1317/Pel/C-2, dtd 9 May 46.

1. Attached herewith is report received in reply to the above
quoted letters.

Q
J.E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

Encl. 1

Copy to:- File "B"
File 1/18/A

618
5115

RECEIVED 5 JUL 1946

SUBJECT:- Italian PW - Morale.

8893

GHQ CMF

3455/A2

2 JUN 46

July

Land Forces sub commission,
Allied Commission,
MIA,
IPW Division.

Your IPW/1/18A/34 dated 15 May 46, IPW/B/39 dated 30 May 46
and IPW/1POL/611 Dated 6 Jun 46 refers.

1. Attached herewith report received from GHQ MEF in reply to the above quoted letters.

AGW/AP

Encl.

R. C. C. C. C. C.
JIC NAPIER,
Brigadier,
DAG.

WAR DIVISION,
C.
- 5 JUL 1946
Log. No. 8302

617
5114

#18A
1/POL

COPY

Subject; Complaints regarding treatment
of Italian PW.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
MIDDLE EAST FORCE
L.12000 AC5(a)

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

25 Jun '46

Reference your 3455/A2 dated 14 June 46 and enclosures:-

1. 305 PW Camp. (Ref IPW/4/18A/34 dated 15.5.46) (Ref *1317/Poly-2 detaining*)
- (a) This Camp is on the standard ration Scale and there have been no cuts other than those which were imposed throughout all services in Oct 45. This Camp is now running a very successful Market Garden to supplement the vegetables.
- (b) Clothing is issued up to authorised Scale as for all camps in Middle East.
- (c) Within the resources available, every facility is offered to the PW to provide their own entertainment and sports. Considerable advantage is taken of this and during the period May to Nov 1945, the Y.M.C.A. have visited and supplied this camp with recreational material to the value of some £2,100 (Two thousand one hundred *per month*).
- (d) The degree of surveillance is in no way stricter than may be expected in a normal PW Camp, ON more than one occasion, however, attempts have been made to grant very considerable relaxation and freedom of movement. Unfortunately, on each occasion, these attempts have met with a degree of abuse which has necessitated restoring normal routine. In this connection, it should be remembered, that a number of the Italian PW in this camp are non-cooperators in the strictest sense.
- (e) The International Red Cross, who have free access to all camps and who take a considerable interest in the welfare of all PW, would no doubt supply the Italian Government with full details on the points raised, should an impartial opinion be desired.

2. 304 PW Camp. (Ref IPW/4/18A/34 dated 15.5.46. *(Ref on above)*) **5113**

The remarks concerning the officers from this camp are appreciated. Unfortunately we were forced to close down 304 Camp and to find alternative accommodation. A small proportion were sent to 300 PW Camp and the remainder to the only other Italian Camp i.e. 305. They are, however, being repatriated as quickly as possible with the remainder of the cooperators.

- 1317/PW/C-2 20/11/1941
- (a) This Camp is on the standard ration Scale and there have been no cuts other than those which were imposed throughout all services in Oct 45. This Camp is now running a very successful Market Garden to supplement the vegetables.
 - (b) Clothing is issued up to authorised Scale as for all camps in Middle East.
 - (c) Within the resources available, every facility is offered to the PW to provide their own entertainment and sports. Considerable advantage is taken of this and during the period May to Nov 1945, the Y.M.C.A. have visited and supplied this camp with recreational material to the value of some £2,100 (Two thousand one hundred). (Sundby)
 - (d) The degree of surveillance is in no way stricter than may be expected in a normal PW Camp, ON more than one occasion, however, attempts have been made to grant very considerable relaxation and freedom of movement. Unfortunately, on each occasion, these attempts have met with a degree of abuse which has necessitated restoring normal routine. In this connection, it should be remembered, that a number of the Italian PW in this camp are non-cooperators in the strictest sense.
 - (e) The International Red Cross, who have free access to all camps and who take a considerable interest in the welfare of all PW, would no doubt supply the Italian Government with full details on the points raised, should an impartial opinion be desired.

2. 304 PW Camp (Ref IPW/4/484/34 dated 15.5.46. (see above)) 5113

The remarks concerning the officers from this camp are appreciated. Unfortunately we were forced to close down 304 Camp and to find alternative accommodation. A small proportion were sent to 380 PW Camp and the remainder to the only other Italian Camp i.e. 305. They are, however, being repatriated as quickly as possible with the remainder of the cooperators.

3. Ref letter IPW/3/39 dated 30.5.46. (Ref letter 10782/3 dated 23/11/46)
- Over the last 12 months the two factors which have affected the morale and contentment of Italian PW more than anything else, have been repatriation and mail.

A year ago, with very poor mail service and no policy on repatriation, morale was dangerously low. As soon as it became possible to publish a definite statement on repatriation, morale began to rise until at the present time, with the plan in full operation, it is very high indeed. The Italian Authorities may rest assured that any doubts which the PW may have had in the past, have now been completely dispelled. This has been assisted by the circulation of the various memoranda issued subsequently by the Italian Authorities on post war assistance.

- 2 -

4. Reference letter IPW/1POL/ dated 6.6.46. *Min. War letter 10576/217/3 dated 31 May 46 and 123271/RPGR dated 30 Nov 45.*
- (a) The points raised in this letter are answered in the main by para 3 above, particularly when it realised that there is considerable time lag between the actual events and the present complaints.

The translation of this CMQ document is somewhat corrupt and as a result is expressed in harsher terms than the original. It is admitted that two references to the Italian Government in paras 1 and 2 were unfortunate and this matter has already been dealt with through Embassy Channels in March of this year.

- (b) The remainder of the document quoted is substantially correct and was necessary at the time of publication in order to counter many wild rumours which were circulating. Much of this was caused by reports in the press and on the wireless.

Its publication did in fact prove of considerable help at the time, but it bears no relation whatsoever to subsequent conditions and in particular to those at the present time.

(Sgd)) ??? Lt.Col AAG
for General
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

(Sgd) P.G. BULFEN (Lt.Col

5112

617

Rome, 24 June 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for War
Veterans and Repatriated PWs

Prot.n.12424/60

TO LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
ITALIAN P.O.W. DIVISION
Civil Affairs Section

R O M E

SUBJECT : Dependence POW Bureau

1°) Following letter No.10903/60 dated 29-5-1946.

2°) In reference to paragraph (C) of said letter, I wish to stress the point of the necessity of maintaining the present policy regarding POW and that is, that they continue to be considered as military personnel and not as "displaced persons".

3°) Changing their status by putting the POW in the category of "Displaced Persons", would have a very bad effect on their morale, inasmuch that it is their right to be considered "soldiers" until definitely released from military service.

4°) As is known, due to an Allied disposal, the POW are considered Civilian on their arrival in Italy.

5°) However the disposal in question has been greatly attenuated by the fact, that, the existing military organisations have, in the repatriation of over a million prisoners, been able with the aid and comprehension of the It.POW Division to avoid that the prisoners receive the bad impression and the unfortunate reactions that this disposal would produce.

6°) In view of what is written above and given the atmosphere of reciprocal faith and comprehension in which, we have worked with the It.POW Division, I beg you to kindly examine the opportunity of making no charges relative to the question in discussion.

signed/ A.MANNERINI

AdM/gm.



Ministero della Guerra
 Uff. Auton. Reduci Prigionia
 di Guerra e Rimpatriati

Divisione
Prot. N. 12424/60 Allegati

Roma, *24* giugno 1946

11w
24
 1^a LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
 A.O. (M M I A)
 ITALIAN P.O.W. DIVISION
 Civil Affairs Section
 R O M A

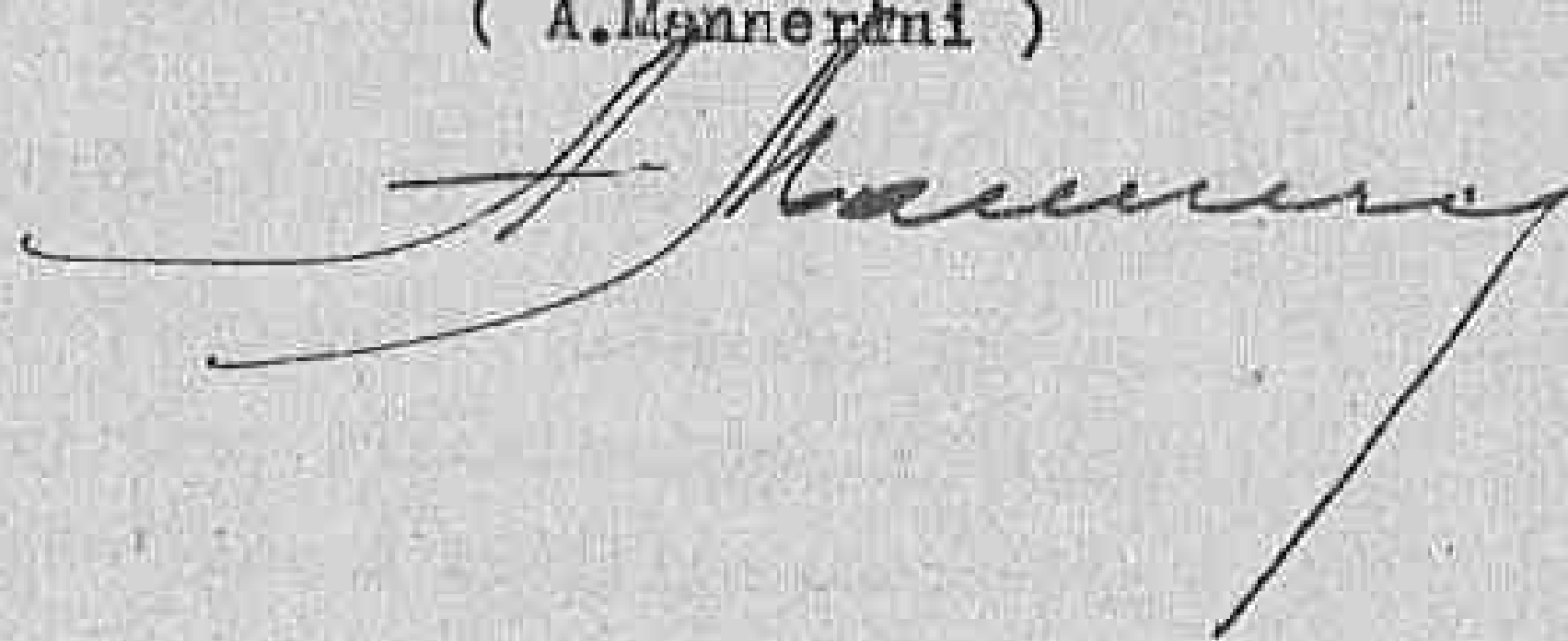
Risposta al Foglio del
Dir. L. N. 2

OGGETTO Dipendenze del Servizio Prigionieri di Guerra.

- 1°.- Faccio seguito al foglio 10903/60 in data 29 maggio u.s.-
- 2°.- Con riferimento al paragrafo c) di detto foglio, preciso l'importanza di mantenere invariati i criteri tuttora seguiti con siderando militari e non "displaced persons" i prigionieri di guerra.
- 3° - Un mutamento di tali criteri ed un eventuale passaggio alla categoria di "displaced persons" dei prigionieri di guerra avrebbe senza dubbio notevoli conseguenze sul loro morale, in quanto essi giustamente confidano sul loro diritto, sancito dalle leggi del loro Paese, di essere considerati "soldati" sino all'atto del collegamento in congedo.
- 4° - E' ben noto che, per effetto di una disposizione alleata, i prigionieri di guerra vengono considerati "civili" dal momento del loro arrivo in Patria.
- 5° - Tuttavia tale provvedimento è stato molto attenuato anche per il fatto che tutta l'organizzazione militare in atto ⁵¹ ~~51~~ ormai bene sperimentata con il rimpatrio di oltre un milione di prigionieri, con tanto interessamento e tanto spirito di comprensione presieduta dalla Italian P.O.W. Division, ha permesso di non far sentire affatto le conseguenze morali della disposizione suddetta.
- 6°)- Per quanto sopra, e, considerazione anche di molta importanza, dato il reciproco senso di fiducia e di comprensione dovuto al lungo periodo di lavoro svolto a stretto contatto con la Italian

P.O.W. Division, ho il pregio di raccomandare vivamente la opportunità di non addivenire ad alcun mutamento agli attuali criteri nei confronti delle dipendenze di cui in oggetto.-

IL GENERALE
CAPO DELL'UFFICIO AUTONOMO
(A. Mannerini)



7072

Rome, 26 June 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for War
Veterans and Repatriated PWs

Prot.n.12544/217/1 RPGR

TO LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

R O M ESUBJECT : POW in Australia -

Reference our conversation regarding above subject and the speeding up of the repatriations from Australia, herewith attached and forwarded to you is a copy of a letter sent from the It. Comander of the Camp at Myrtleford Australia, concerning the state of mind of the prisoners who have been interned in these Camps for many years and are still awaiting to be repatriated.

signed/ A. MANNERINI

5109

615

1/Pol.

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
Received	28 JUN 1946
No.	8127.



Ministero della Guerra
 Off. Aut. Reduci Prigionieri
 di Guerra e Rimpatriati

Transmiss. 25/11/1946
 Del. 21/11/1946
 REG. Allegato

OGGETTO Prigionieri di guerra in Australia.

IPW Rec. 96 Giugno 1946
 Transmiss.

1a LAND FORCES SUB
 COMMISSION A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
 ITALIAN P. OF WAR DIVISION
 CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Superintendent of the R O M A

Gen. La. N°

Con riferimento alle conversazioni intercorse in merito alla opportunità di accelerare per quanto possibile i rimpatri dei prigionieri di guerra dall'Australia, trasmetto copia di lettera ora pervenuta dal Comandante Italiano del Campo di Myrtleford (Australia) concernente lo stato d'animo dei prigionieri da molti anni ormai internati nei campi ed in attesa di rimpatrio.

IL GENERALE
 CAPO DELL'UFFICIO AUTONOMO
 (A. Mannerini)

A. Mannerini

Myrtleford, Viet 1 giugno 1946

Alle LL.EE. : Il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri
Il Presidente dell'Assemblea Costituente
Il Presidente del Senato
Il Ministro dell'Interno
Il Ministro degli Esteri
Il Ministero della Guerra
Il Ministro per l'Assistenza Post Bellica.

R O M A

Mentre l'attività del Governo ferve nel turbinoso ritmo della vita del Paese e l'attenzione delle Autorità è naturalmente reclamata da problemi immediati, più scottanti, potrà giungere opportuno il ricordo che la sorte dei sedicimila prigionieri in Australia, attende soluzione.

Varrà ricordare che, proprio in questo mese, il primo gruppo di essi gli equipaggi del Remo, Romolo, e Felce - inizia il settimo anno di internamento: che tale nucleo è immediatamente seguito da elementi dell'Armata e della Marina da Guerra, catturati nel primo mese delle ostilità ed anche essi prossimi ad iniziare il settimo anno di reticolato; che, infine, la gran massa, proveniente dalla Grecia e dalla prima campagna Libica, iniziò la propria odissea negli ultimi mesi del 1940 ed andrebbe sta scrivendo al proprio passivo l'inoltrato sesto anno di costrizione e di lontananza.

Il 26 marzo u.s. S.E. Gasparotto telegrafava d'attendere "sereni e fiduciosi" poiché costante l'interessamento del Governo per i prigionieri d'Australia" ma, nell'ulteriore attesa, sostanzialmente nulla è trapelato, che prelude alla fine.

Il 27 aprile, anche S.E. Gasparotto dichiarava alla stampa che il rientro dei prigionieri dall'India era in via d'acceleramento e che sarebbero rimpatriati anche quelli d'Australia, i quali, "come a tutti noto", erano in ottime condizioni, poiché, in gran parte adibiti a lavori agricoli: per la verità, tutti i soldati e pochi ufficiali, già addetti a tali lavori, sono ora nei campi, per aver dovuto far posto ai reduci Australiani. I soldati sono stipati in campi, prima destinati a contenere una metà e perciò nelle condizioni più adatte a favorire ogni deformazione mentale ed ogni sfaldamento morale: non è mancato, fra essi, qualche fatto luttuoso.

Tutti attendono che, mentre ogni parte del mondo i prigionieri sono tornati o sono in via di ritorno, si pensi infine anche a loro, programmando ed effettuando il rimpatrio, senza che, per esso, si continui ad apporre, come ancora qualche giorno fa il Ministro della Guerra (Mr. Torde) che "la perdurante deficienza dei trasporti non consenta imbarchi

La loro attesa non è stata confortata neanche dal vedere attuare le disposizioni, impartite dal Governo di Londra a quello di Canberra, d'assegnare ogni spazio d'imbarco disponibile a gruppi di prigionieri, in attesa del rimpatrio generale, come annunciato da S.E. Perandini, in risposta ad un telegramma dell'8 marzo.

Questa pertanto è la vera situazione, anche se non conforme a quella che costà si seguita a prospettare dalla radio, della stampa ed anche dagli Uffici, interessati ai prigionieri.

Essa è riconfermata dall'ultima comunicazione, 23 aprile, del Consiglio Svizzero di Melbourne. Questi dichiara che le Autorità locali prevedono che dei passeggeri si potranno ottenere, nel prossimo futuro, per

varrà ricordare che, proprio in questo mese, il primo gruppo di essi gli equipaggi del Reno, Romolo, e Felce - inizia il settimo anno di internamento: che tale nucleo è immediatamente seguito da elementi dell'Armonautica e della Marina da Guerra, catturati nei primi mesi delle ostilità ed anche essi prossimi ad iniziare il settimo anno di reticolato; che, infine, la gran massa, proveniente dalla Grecia e dalla prima campagna Libica, iniziò la propria odissea negli ultimi mesi del 1940 ed anch'essa sta scrivendo al proprio passivo l'inoltrato sesto anno di costrizione e di lontananza.

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Essa è riconfermata dall'ultima comunicazione, 23 aprile, del Console Svizzero di Melbourne. Questi dichiara che le Autorità locali prevedono che dei passaggi si potranno ottenere, nel prossimo futuro, per un certo numero di raccomandati dalla Commissione Alleata in Italia, che le stesse stanno compiendo sforzi per ottenere l'uso d'una nave ospedale; (i malati più gravi non partirono nell'agosto 1945, poichè la nave ospedale loro destinata fu assorbita da esigenze del Pacifico) che parimenti le Autorità si adoperano con ogni sforzo per iniziare il rimpatrio generale.

Il Console sostanzialmente rivela che le condizioni del problema non hanno fatto alcun progresso dal giorno dell'armistizio Italiano o dalla fine della guerra in Europa: dall'Australia, malgrado la buona volontà ora protestata, sono partiti solo due ufficiali, nell'aprile 1945, per

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raccomandazioni della Commissione Alleata in Italia e circa 600, tra ufficiali e truppa, per raccomandazione medica o per ragioni d'età.

La massa dei prigionieri è rimasta ad attendere, sottoposta ad immutata disciplina, controllata in immutata maniera. Nessun miglio-
ramento di condizione neanche per gli ufficiali cooperatori, ai quali non è stata ancora neppure assicurata considerazione di prece-
denza nel rimpatrio, com'è avvenuto in ogni altro Paese.

E' l'attesa senza cenno di fine è per di più, generalmente aggra-
vata da scarsità di notizie, attribuite a disservizio di posta e
alle illusioni su d'un sempre imminente ritorno, tenacemente propi-
nato alle famiglie.

E quanto ancora uomini, già tanto provati, potranno sopportare
una detenzione, che sempre non debba avere fine, senza uscirne sfidu-
ciati di tutto e di tutti?

Si voglia cortesemente vagliare l'opportunità d'una risposta d'una
azione definitiva per i prigionieri in Australia.

Con ogni ossequio

Prto T.Col. A. Piragino 47008

5 B Camp P.O.W.

Myrtleford (Australia)

P. C. C.

IL MAGGIORE

(A. de Giorgio)

Deu Piragino

5106

E quanto ancora uomini, già tanto provati, potranno sopportare una detenzione, che sempre non debba avere fine, senza uscirne sfiduciati di tutto e di tutti?

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Con ogni ossequio

Ftto T.Col. A.Piragino 47008

5 B Camp P.O.W.

Myrtleford (Australia)

P. O. C.
IL MAGGIORE
(A: de Giorgio)

Dee' Parigi

5106

615

LAKE FORCES ENE COMMISSION A.C.
M.H.I.A.

IPW/1901/615

June 46

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

1. I understand that no provision is made for the IPW Division in the new V.E. of this Sub Commission proposed at a recent conference at Caserta.
2. It is obvious that the Division will be retained for the present, and although it is not known yet under whose jurisdiction it will function, I wish to recommend at this stage most strongly that the Division remain under the Land Forces S/C (M.H.I.A.) for the following reasons:-

- a) The Italian Government earnestly desire the continuation of the present system.
- b) The IPW Division should remain purely a military body as at present and should be controlled by a military S/C, since the subjects to be dealt with are soldiers.
- c) It is felt that some slowing-up in repatriation of IPW will follow if the present system has to be changed; at present the IPW Division has nine Italian ships which have been used for repatriation of IPW from French North Africa and are at present being used for the repatriations from the Middle East: in the event of a change, it is feared that some of these ships would be used for the repatriation of civilians, whose claims for early return to Italy are not so high.
- d) The Military Liaison between the IPW Division and the Italian Ministry of War is most important, in view of the retention of IPW at ports, the documentation and disposal, and the fact that the IPW is not released from the Army until two months after he is sent home, proves that the procedure is closely bound up with work of this S/C.

3. In the past, the question of attaching the IPW Division to the Displaced Persons S/C has been raised. A letter written by the Italian Ministry of War in August 1945 states that the Italian Government considers all IPW as military personnel until released and mentioned the Military centres run by military personnel under the Italian Territorial Command, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of War (Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated PW) and the IPW Division. Attached herewith is a letter of 30th May 46 from the Minister for the War representing that the IPW Division continues as at present also attached is the reply from this S/C dated 5th June 46

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4. In view of the foregoing, it is strongly recommended that no change be made in the status of IPW Division and I would be grateful if representation can be made on the above lines at the earliest moment.

P.S. Perhaps I should add that, at the existing rate of repatriation, it is probable that all IPW will have been returned by at least the end of 1946, any change in management would thus be only for a limited period.

(Sgd) L. BROWNING.

Major-General,
Comd. Land Forces S/O A.O.
(M.M.I.A.)

File

14

Rome, 24 June 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR

Autonomous Office for War
Veterans and Repatriated PWs

Prot.n.12424/60

TO LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M.M.I.A.)
ITALIAN P.O.W. DIVISION
Civil Affairs SectionR O M ESUBJECT : Dependence POW Bureau

1°) Following letter No.10903/60 dated 29-5-1946.

2°) In reference to paragraph (C) of said letter, I wish to stress the point of the necessity of maintaining the present policy regarding POW and that is, that they continue to be considered as military personnel and not as "displaced persons".

3°) Changing their status by putting the POW in the category of "Displaced Persons", would have a very bad effect on their morale, inasmuch that it is their right to be considered "soldiers" until definitely released from military service.

4°) As is known, due to an Allied disposal, the POW are considered Civilian on their arrival in Italy.

5°) However the disposal in question has been greatly attenuated by the fact, that, the existing military organisations have, in the repatriation of over a million prisoners, been able with the aid and comprehension of the It.POW Division to avoid that the prisoners receive the bad impression and the unfortunate reactions that this disposal would produce,

6°) In view of what is written above and ⁵¹⁹the atmosphere of reciprocal faith and comprehension in which, we have worked with the It.POW Division, I beg you to kindly examine the opportunity of making no charges relative to the question in discussion.

signed/ A.MANNERINI

617

8016 1PW

SUBJECT:- Welfare - Propaganda.GHQ CMT.3455/A-2.20 Jun 46.

HQ Allied Commission,
Land Forces Sub-Commission,
M.M.I.A., 1 PW Division.

Reference your letter 1PW/1 Pol/611 dated 6 Jun 46.

Both GHQ Middle East and GHQ India have been informed of the Italian Governments wish that the false rumours should be corrected.

Ward
24/6

JLC Napier

JLC NAPIER,
Brigadier,
DAG.

RGRC/JKR

612

510

RECEIVED 24 JUN 1946

WAR DIVISION,
24 JUN 1946
8020

1/Pol

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/IPOL/6H

6/6/46

SUBJECT : Welfare - Propaganda -

TO : G.H., OMF
GI (Br)

Further to our IPW/"B"/39, dtd 30/5/46

1. Enclosed you will find two copies of translation of letter by Gen. Mannerini, Chief of Autonomous Office for Veterans & Repatriated PW, dtd 31/5/45, and two copies of a circular dtd 30 Aug 45 N°10054/AGQ signed by P.G. Balfin, Maj. Gen. DAC.
2. Col. Regis had at the time taken up this matter verbally with AFHQ, G5, hoping to have grounds to deny the authenticity of said official statement to the Italian Government.
3. The Italian Authorities point out that they have never done anything to hamper or obstruct the return of their connationals, and that at all moments the utmost in their power was displayed to hasten their repatriation. (see para 1 of GHQ circular:-
"The Italian Government cannot accept the repatriation of a large number of IPW due to the difficulty of finding jobs for them and the difficulty of feeding the Italian people" and para 2 of same:-
"....continues pressure is being brought on the Italian Government that they accept at least a small quota of prisoners each month".
All this is very contradictory to Italian policy.

611

2-

4. Lately further statements, said to be issued by GHQ, containing similar falsehood, are reported to circulate in IPW Camps. All this creates great dissatisfaction in Italian circles and alarm in Italian headquarters for the repercussion it may have at this delicate moment of political climax.

• Could enquiries please be made re these pamphlets, and if false, their authenticity denied.

6. We should greatly appreciate if the Camp Authorities both in India and Middle East would concur to keep up the moral of the IPW denying all such statements which are proved false, and pointing out the efforts the Italian Government is continuously making to repatriate them.

J. E. REGIS
J. E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

Copy to GHQ, CMP attn. 65
Encl. 2

5101

MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR REPATRIATED PWs

FILE : 10976/217/3

Rome 31 May 46.

SUBJECT: Delay in the repatriation of Italian PWs from the M.E.

TO : Allied Commission, S/C, IFW Div., Rome.

1. Per letter No. 423291/RPGR dtd 30 Nov 45, you were informed that the Roman newspaper "Italia Nuova" published a cutting from a document from G.H.Q. M.E.F. regarding the non repatriation of our prisoners from the M.E.

2. This matter was referred to you in consideration of the reactions that this news would produce on the public opinion, and if it would be necessary to deny the Statement made in the document in question, ~~in order~~ that the Italian Government was opposed to the restitution of prisoners from the M.E.

3. From information furnished us from Veterans who in these days have returned from the M.E. it seems that the prisoners still left in the M.E. are convinced that the Italian Government does not want them to be repatriated, due to the difficulties of interior origin in Italy.

We call this matter to the attention of your Division, in order that you may study the possibility of eliminating the causes that are producing the serious inconvenience, with your comprehension and sense of humanity.

4. The document from G.H.Q. M.E.F. and the copy of the article published in the "Italia Nuova" were forwarded to your Office per letter No. 424010/RPGR dtd 30 November 1945.

S/ General A. Mannerini

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
MINISTRY OF WAR	
RECEIVED	4 JUN 1946
FILED	7257

51 (6/1/46)

1/98



VC/cm

Ministero della Guerra
Uff. Auton. Reduci Prigionia di

Guerra e Rimpatriati

Divisione
Prot. N. 10976/217/3
Allegati

OGGETTO Ritardo nel rimpatrio dei prigionieri italiani nel Medio Oriente.

Trasmissione

Roma, 31 maggio 1946

Al 1° ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

- R O M A -

IPOW.

Richiesta al Foglio del
Dir. Gen. N. 2

- 1°) Con la lettera 423291/RPGR, in data 30 novembre 1945 si segnalava che un giornale di Roma (Italia Nuova) aveva pubblicato lo stralcio di un documento del G.H.Q.-M.E.F. riguardante il mancato rimpatrio dei nostri prigionieri di guerra nel Medio Oriente.
- 2°) Il fatto era segnalato a codesta Divisione nell'eventualità che essa, in considerazione dei riflessi che detta pubblicazione poteva avere nell'opinione pubblica, ritenesse opportuno di smentire l'affermazione contenuta nel citato documento, che cioè il Governo Italiano si opponeva alla restituzione dei prigionieri di guerra nel Medio Oriente.
- 3°) Dalle informazioni fornite dai reduci che rimpatriano in questi giorni dall'Egitto risulta che fra i prigionieri ancora nel Medio Oriente persiste la convinzione che il Governo Italiano non gradisca il loro rimpatrio per difficoltà di carattere interno del Paese.

Si segnala pertanto a codesta Divisione il permanere di una situazione che può dannosamente influire sul morale dei prigionieri perchè essa, con l'alto senso umanitario che sempre l'ha distinta, voglia esaminare la possibilità di eliminare la causa di sì grave inconveniente.

5399

- 4°) Il documento del G.H.Q.-M.E.F. e la copia dell'articolo dell'"Italia Nuova" furono trasmessi col foglio 424010/RPGR del 30 novembre 1945.

IL GENERALE
CAPO DELL'UFFICIO AUTONOMO
(A. Mannerhi)

A. Mannerhi

VERP/fs

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1/610

5/6/46

TO : Autonomous Office for Repatriated PW (Ministry of War)

I am in receipt of your letter 10903/60, dated 29 May 46, on the subject of the reported transfer of the Italian POW Division from the Land Forces Sub Commission (MMIA) to UNRRA.

I am glad to inform you that there is no intention to alter the status of this Division at the moment. It will continue as heretofore to function as an integral part of MMIA.



NORMAN E. FISKE, COL.

For Major-General

Comd. Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)



TRANSLATION

FROM : Post War Ministry
TO : AC. I.P.W. Subcommission.

REF: 75871
DATE: 21/5/46

SUBJECT: Release of Italian P.O.W's.

Reference letter I.P.W./1/598 of 9/4/46.

The Italian Red Cross addressed ^{OF THE} above has been asked to supply the address of the family ^{OF THE} soldiers in order to make possible the necessary investigations:-

- Soldier MAESTRELLI Carlo
- Soldier MAESTRELLI Giorgio
- Soldier FOSSALUZZA Amelio

With regard to:-

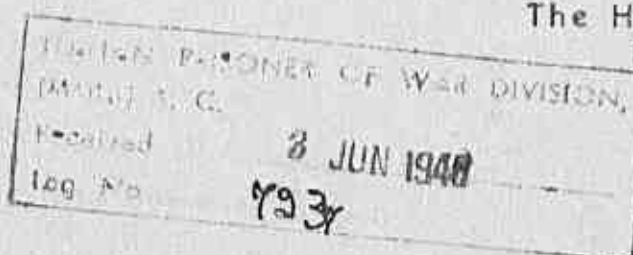
61453 - Serg. Maj. MANZI Raffaele, the CC.RR. of the locality in which the family resides, have been asked to supply the required information.

The case of 116557

-S/Lt. GOBIO Antonio, is not a compassionate one as there are other persons in the family who are ^{able to} work.

Further information will be forwarded as soon as possible.

The Head of Service
Dr. Fausto NITTI.



Copy:-

57809(AS2)

May 17

FROM: TROOPERS

TO : MIDEAST, INDIA, GENCOM EAST AFRICA, CMFALCOM, MMIA, JAMAICA

secret

1. Individual Italian PW may be permitted to remain in the commands in which they are at present held if Government concerned so wishes provided:-

a) PW is discharged from Italian Army.

b) Once discharged from Italian Army has been authorized individuals will acquire status of Civilian Alien and will not revert to PW status or qualify for repatriation as ex PW.

c) Each prisoner will be given an individual statement of his credit balance similar to that provided for repatriation.

2/ If any Government other than British Commonwealth wishes to retain PW prior ref must be made to War Office PW 1.

3/ Instructions for obtaining discharge will be forwarded by fast air.

COPY FOR
REFERENCE

ex file 65

5096

608

May

MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR REPATRIATED PWs

FILE : 10903/60

Rome 29 May 1946

SUBJECT: Transfer of IPW Division to U.N.R.R.A.

TO : Allied Commission, S/C, IPW Div., Rome.

- a. According to unofficial information it results that the IPW Division due to new directives, may be transferred to the U.N.R.R.A..
- b. The experience that this Ministry has acquired during more than two years of intense work, moves us to call your attention to the fact that it would be much better, especially at the present moment, to continue as things are and with the present directives, that have brought about such good results.
- c. It is particularly necessary to maintain the present policy and directives, which have been followed up to date, according to which the PWs are on a military status and are not displaced persons, which they would become, if the IPW Division would be turned over to the U.N.R.R.A.
- d. Furthermore, due to this mass of repatriating prisoners and the procedures that are in course for the future repatriation of the remaining prisoners in as the shortest time as possible; the problem is to be considered in the last phase and it would be therefore be particularly wrong to change now the directives, especially in that which regards the utilisation of the ships of the Italian Navy for transport.
- e. We therefore consider it our duty, to beg your Division to take the above matter up with GHQ in the aim of continuing the present order of things; that has given such excellent results.

S/ By the Minister
Manlio Brosio

Chief of Div

I know nothing of this!

How did they

get this

memorandum

Etc

of this!

MINISTRY OF WAR DIVISION

30 MAY 1946

Log No 9116

5095

607

Shu CD

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE - PRISONERS IN INDIA
PADUA

Padua 5 May 1946

TO: Admiral Stone, Chief A.C.

This Committee has voted an order of the day, and begs Admiral Stone to intervene personally with the British and American Governments in order to repatriate the prisoners from India in small ships.
Thank you.

S/ THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF COMMERCE
PADUA

N/A

✓

RECEIVED PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
CHIEF A.C. 30 MAY 1946
Log. No. 6112

506

ORDINE DEL GIORNO

Le famiglie della provincia di Padova e Venezia dei prigionieri di guerra nelle Indie e in Australia, riunite in assemblea l'8 maggio 1946 nei locali della Camera del Lavoro, gentilmente concessi;

Visto che in seguito al rimpatrio degli ultimi prigionieri testé arrivati dalle Indie ne rimangono ancora più di 22.000;

Constatato che le notizie incontrovertibili avute dai prigionieri confermano che lo stato di disagio morale e materiale dei prigionieri rimasti, già denunciato nel precedente ordine del giorno, si è sensibilmente aggravato per il trattamento che ricevono;

La ragione dei viveri ridotta notevolmente;

La posta che arriva ai loro cari ogni 4 o 5 mesi;

L'azione del tutto passiva della Croce Rossa Italiana in tale campo ed in quello assistenziale in genere;

La mancanza, da parte dei nostri prigionieri, di recenti chiare e precise notizie sull'andamento e sulle condizioni della vita nazionale;

La continua esasperante attesa di un ordine di "RIMPATRIO GENERALE" che dia la certezza del ritorno in Patria, sono tutti fattori che rendono insopportabile e penosa la permanenza nei reticolati, fiaccano la resistenza morale dei giovani e degli anziani, il cui unico desiderio è quello di riunirsi alle famiglie, già tanto provato dalla guerra, per lottare e soffrire, se necessario, con ossa e por ossa;

Decidono di recarsi alle urne il 2 Giugno per compiere il loro dovere di italiani nella fiducia che il Governo comprenda questo atto di fede dei congiunti dei prigionieri di guerra.

APPROVANO incondizionatamente l'opera magnifica che svolge la "VOCE DEL PRIGIONIERO" quindicinale romano al quale inviano il loro caldo ed affettuoso saluto;

INVITANO tutti i Partiti politici protesi solo alle elezioni del 2 Giugno, di non dimenticare questi nostri figli, fratelli e padri, che soffrono la fame e le pene dell'inferno e fare azione comune con le autorità competenti per il loro rimpatrio;

Considerato che i nostri prigionieri accetterebbero qualsiasi accomodamento, anche su navi di piccolo cabotaggio rientrando a piedi, gruppi sull'esempio del "Cacciatorpediniere" "CARABINIERE" pur di vedere risolta la loro situazione;

DELIBERANO di pregare S. Santità Pio XII, l'Ammiraglio Stone, gli Amba-

per il trattamento che ricevono;

La razione dei vivori ridotta notevolmente;

La posta che arriva ai loro cari ogni 4 o 5 mesi;

L'azione del tutto passiva della Croce Rossa Italiana in tale campo ed in quello assistenziale in genere;

La mancanza, da parte dei nostri prigionieri, di recenti chiare e precise notizie sull'andamento e sulle condizioni della vita nazionale;

La continua esasperante attesa di un ordine di "RIMPATRIO GENERALE" che dia la certezza del ritorno in Patria, sono tutti fattori che rendono insopportabile e penosa la permanenza nei reticolati, fiaccano la resistenza morale dei giovani e degli anziani, il cui unico desiderio è quello di riunirsi alle famiglie, già tanto provate dalla guerra, per lottare e soffrire, se necessario, con essa o per essa;

Decidono di recarsi alle urne il 2 Giugno per compiere il loro dovere di italiani nella fiducia che il Governo compenda questo atto di fede dei congiunti dei prigionieri di guerra.

APPROVANO incondizionatamente l'opera magnifica che svolge la "VOCE DEL PRIGIONIERO" quindicinale romano al quale inviano il loro caldo ed affettuoso saluto;

INVITANO tutti i Partiti politici protesi solo alle elezioni del 2 Giugno, di non dimenticare questi nostri figli, fratelli e padri, che soffrono la fame o le pene dell'inferno e fare azione comune con le autorità competenti per il loro rimpatrio;

509

Considerato che i nostri prigionieri accetterebbero qualsiasi accoglimento, anche su navi di piccolo cabotaggio rientrando a piedi, gruppi sull'esempio del "COMITATO D'ORDINE" "CARABINIERE" pur di vedere risolta la loro situazione;

DELIBERANO di pregare S. Santità Pio XII, l'Ammiraglio Stone, gli Ambasciatori Americano ed Inglese, il Capo del Governo, i Ministri della Guerra, dell'Assistenza Post-Bellica o delle Comunicazioni, di svolgere azione precisa in tal senso presso i capi dei Governi Alleati onde ottenere l'immediato rimpatrio totale dei prigionieri dallo India.

WERP/fs

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/63/5D6

28/5/46

SUBJECT : Capt. MOLTEDO, Luigi

TO : G.H.Q., CMB

Ref your 3912/A2 dtd 13/3/46

1. The delay in replying to your a/q letter is regretted, but a reply has just been received from the Italian Authorities regarding Capt. Moltedo, in which it is stated that there is no objection to Capt. Moltedo's remaining for one year in India. May this Division please be informed of the effective date, in order that his administrative position can be regulated.
2. With regard to the question of deferred repatriation, and the question of ex PW remaining in the Command concerned after they are released, the Italian Authorities have approved of this and have made arrangements with the Italian representative abroad.

For the Chief Commissioner


J.E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

509

Copy file 1 Policy

605

Office of the Flag Officer,
Liaison, Italy,
ROME.

17th May, 1946.

No. F.O.L.I. 1036/16.

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
MILITARY MISSION TO THE ITALIAN ARMY.

PRIVATE TELEGRAM SERVICE - MERCHANT SHIPS.

A translation of Ministry of Marine's letter No. SM/24102, dated 2nd May, 1946, is forwarded for information. There is no naval objection to the passing of private radio telegrams of any kind.

N/A
2/5

S. A. Schubert

for REAR ADMIRAL.

Enclosure :-

Translation of Ministry of Marine's letter
No. SM/24102, dated 2nd May, 1946.

605091

7025
RECEIVED
1946 MAY 20

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Maristat)
To : F.O.L.I. - Rome
Date: 2nd May 1946
Ref.: SM/24102

Subject: Private telegram service

Reference is made to F.O.L.I.'s letter No. 1036/16 dated 29th December 1945.

With reference to what was stated in para. 2 of the above-mentioned letter, the private telegram service with merchant ships has been restored for some time, and ex-prisoners of war returning to their Country have been permitted to send telegrams with a fixed text to their families.

You are informed that the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs has communicated on 15th April that the English Section aboard the S.S. "ARGENTINA" has forbidden the acceptance of telegrams which were being sent by the soldiers, asserting that it had not received any communication regarding the acceptance of telegrams on board ship.

The above is communicated to you for whatever action you may deem necessary.

for CHIEF OF STAFF



AMH/E.
9

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION

21 MAY 1946

Log. No.

6257

5091

WERP/fs

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
W.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

13/5/46

IPW/1/Pol/603

SUBJECT : Disposition of South Tyroleans

TO : Minister of Interior

Ref our IPW/IPol/600, dtd 1/5/46

May a reply now please be given to a/quoted letter.

J.E. REGIS, Lt. Col.
Chief IPW Div.

603
5089

Copy to: Executive Commissioner

10
 SUBJECT:- Italian Co-operator - Repatriation to TRIPOLITANIA

TO:- Under Secretary of State,
 The War Office,
 Curzon Street House,
 Curzon Street,
 LONDON, E.C.1.

6945
 MMIA

3057/A2

6 May 46

WA/T. 23732 O/A HANDEHMI MOHAMED

1. The above mentioned co-operator has applied to be repatriated to TRIPOLITANIA. This has been approved by GRC MAF.

2. May this GRC be informed please whether you are prepared to make an exception to your signal 91180 PW2 dated 29 Dec 45.

MB/MR.

J.M.A.R. Capt
 W.D. MORLAN
 Lt-Gen
 G-12-C

Copy to:- GRC MAF (Ref L.81577 AG 5(a) dated 26 Apr 46 refers.
 Allied and Foreign Air Liaison Section
 MUSEUM Detachment Air HQ ITALY
 (Cdr 3057/A2 dated 21 Feb 46 refers.)
 Land Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, IACIA,
 IPW Division)

602

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
LONDON	
Received	10 MAY 1946
Log. No.	6092

3008

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: F 65762
 Date/Time of Origin: MAY 041224 B

Message Centre No: H/2655
 Date Time Rec'd: MAY 051000
 Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE FHGEG
 TO: ALCOM ROME

IPOW.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

Connection your proposal to repatriate 600 Italian
 PW ex French North AFRICA to TRIPOLITANIA and CYRENAICA.
 Please see trooper signal 91180 PW 2029 December.

We know that
 but we are hoping to get
 this signal. Sp. 64 Reg
 on 18 May

for all Regs to
 2

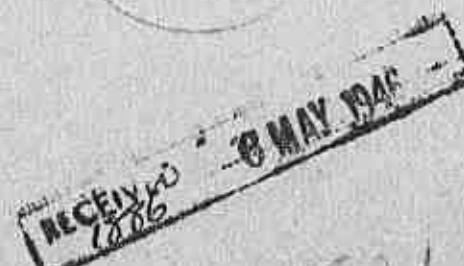
see 570

ACTION

	AC DIST
ACTION	I.P.W. 2
INFO	CHIEF COMMISSIONER
	FLOAT 2
	FILE



RESTRICTED



PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
C.	
Received	26 MAY 1946
Log. No	518

5087

1465