

ACC

10000/120/5058

IPW/1/18-A

Complaints : Concerning : (A)

AUG. 1945 - NOV. 1946

(B)

Complaints : Concerning : (A) Accn on Board Troop Ships During Repatriation
(B) Reception at Ports of Disembarkation

r. P46

3339
7414

WERP/fs

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

IPW/18A/47

21 Nov. '46

Subject:- IPW ex "Arundel Castle" - Complaints.

Dear General,

Reference your letter 14641/242.5, dated 14 Aug., forwarding a report by the Military Territorial Command at Naples, regarding treatment of IPW who were repatriated on S.S. "Arundel Castle" on 1st Aug. '46.

I enclose a copy of a report by Col. Dodson, G.C. Troops on the Arundel Castle at that time.

In view of the nature of the reply, which to my mind is sincere and apparently extremely accurate in view of its length, there would appear to be a need for an enquiry by you so that the Military Territorial Command responsible can be called upon to produce more detailed explanation of the allegations, and furthermore of who made these allegations which strike me, from the report of this same British Officer, to be uncalled for, and quite unfounded.

Very sincerely Yours

To:- Gen. A. Mannerini
Autonomous Office for War Veterans
Min. of War - Rome -

3414

3801

MMIA

SUBJECT : Complaints on Italian PW
on board "Arundel Castle"

CONFIDENTIAL

GHQ GMP

3072/1/A2

18 Nov 46

Opened

PM

21/1

1020

Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.
M.M.I.A.
Italian PW Division.

Reference your LPW/1/18/A/45 dated 15 August 46.

Attached is a copy of a report from the Officer Commanding
Troops, Arundel Castle, relating to complaints referred to in your
above-quoted letter.

DSF/jms

A. Symon
Colonel,
Colonel "A".
huj
Dutro

encl:

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
RECEIVED	21 NOV 1946
REG. NO.	1047

3413

1/18A

IPW

1025

SUBJECT: Complaints of IPW on board
"Arundel Castle".

RECEIVED 31 AUG 1946
10 AM

GHQ CEF.

3072/1/A2.

26. Aug 46.

The Under Secretary of State,
The War Office,
Curzon Street House,
Curzon Street,
LONDON, W.1.

1. The attached letter has been received from Land Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, MIA, IPW Division and is forwarded for any action you may deem necessary, it would be appreciated if you could inform this GHQ of any action taken, in order that a reply can be given to Allied Commission.

AGM/MC.
Encl.

W. Morgan
WD MORGAN,
Lt-Gen,
C-in-C.

Copy to:- Land Forces Sub Commission,
Allied Commission,
MIA,
IPW Division - Your IPW/1/18/A/45 of 15 Aug refers.

MINISTER OF WAR DIVISION
Log. No. 9667 SEP 1946

46
3412

PS

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

IPW/1/18/46

15/8/46

SUBJECT : Complaints of IPW on board "ARUNDEL CASTLE"

TO : G1 (Br), G.H.Q.
C.M.F.

1. The following report of the Military Territorial Command of Naples is herewith forwarded to you for your information & comments:-

a) The draft of 1303 veterans (of whom 631 were from PW Camps in Kenya and 672 from S. Africa) who arrived at Naples on 1st Aug on board "Arundel Castle" report that during the journey they were nearly starving for lack of food.

b) During the last two days the officers were deprived of the hammocks and forced to sleep on the floor.

c) The uniforms they had were in such deplorable state that a civilian suit had to be issued to them.

2. The Italian authorities, ^{while} acknowledging the fact that this treatment is so unusual, wish to point out this incident, which presumably occurred due to a misunderstanding of orders issued by some of the Commanding Officers.

For the Chief Commissioner

A
J.E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chief

IPW Div.

3411

14 August 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for War
Veterans and Repatriated PWs

Prot.n.14641/242.5

TO : Land Forces S/C A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
It.Pris. of War Division


ROME

SUBJECT : Repatriation of group of Veterans
from Kenya and S.Africa -

Ref.letter No.13160/208 of 12 July 46.

The Military Territorial Command of Naples makes the following report about the ~~Group~~^{group} of 1303 veterans (of whom 631 were from PW Camps in Kenya and 672 from S.Africa) ~~that~~^{who} arrived in Naples on 1st Aug 46 on SS "ARUNDEL CASTLE".

- 1) The Veterans, during the journey, were nearly starving because they were given very scarce food.
 - 2) During the last two days of the journey their hammocks were taken away from them and they had to sleep on the floor.
 - 3) The veterans from S.Africa were badly dressed, and it was necessary to issue them with civilian clothes.
- - - -

As their treatment has not been like the one usually given by the British to the IPW (who are generally quite satisfied), we are of the opinion that this is due either to a wrong interpretation of orders issued by individual commanding officers or through the latter's initiative.

We therefore beg your Commission to forward to the competent Authorities this letter, in order to avoid further ~~similar~~^{recurrences}.

S/GEN.A.MANNERINI

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION	
(M.M.I.A.) A.C.	15 AUG 1946
Received	9240
Log. No.	



HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

A P O 794

Ref: 9002/81/EC.22 July 1946.

My dear Mr. Key,

I have been informed by the Italian Ministry of War that the 37th Battalion of Italian Prisoners of War, with a strength of about 100, is at PROCUPLJE (Yugoslavia). I have been further informed that the existence of this Battalion was, until recently, unknown.

These Prisoners of War were captured in Albania five years ago and were living under very bad conditions, being housed in caves and with poor food and clothing.

I should be grateful if you would ask your Ambassador in Belgrade to take up this matter with the Yugoslav Government with a view to having these prisoners repatriated to Italy.

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

David McK. Key, Esq.,
U.S. Charge' d'Affairs ad interim,
U.S. Embassy,
ROME.

Copy of: IPW Sec ✓

3409

42

23 JUL 1946

8709.

1/18A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

A P O 794

Ref: 9002/82/EG.22 July 1946.

My dear Sir Noel:

I have been informed by the Italian Ministry of War that the 37th Battalion of Italian Prisoners of War, with a strength of about 100, is at PROCUPLJE (Yugoslavia). I have been further informed that the existence of this Battalion was, until recently, unknown.

These Prisoners of War were captured in Albania five years ago and were living under very bad conditions, being housed in caves and with poor food and clothing.

I should be grateful if you would ask your Ambassador in Belgrade to take up this matter with the Yugoslav Government with a view to having these prisoners repatriated to Italy.

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

H.E. Sir Noel Charles, Bt., KCMG, MC,
British Ambassador,
British Embassy,
ROME.

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
Land Forces S/C (IPW Section).

3408

WERP/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/41

17/7/46

SUBJECT : Repatriation of Italian PW f om India

TO : G.H.Q., C.M.F. (2)

1. The following report, regarding 2087 IPW who arrived from India on SS "SCYTHIA" on 29 June 46, has been received from Italian Military Command at Naples:-

"The veterans were embarked wearing a Grey uniform in very bad condition and with 2 black bands on the trousers, uniforms that were distributed to them when their khaki uniforms were taken from them by the British Authorities.

The food was very scarce during the first days of the voyage but the rations were increased after the intervention of Lt.Col. Galiano, Pietro - the ranking officer of the Group- who informed the English Colonel who was in charge of the transport, that the food during imprisonment had been far superior; and that they had received much more human treatment.

What is written above is reported to your Commission with the request that you will intervene on behalf of the future repatriates with the Competent Authorities in order to obtain better treatment in future for those veterans who have during imprisonment contributed to the Allied Cause."

2. The Italian Ministry of War makes the following comment:-
"Particular attention should be given to the necessity that the Veterans be repatriated with uniforms that do not bear the signs of imprisonment (bands, patches etc.) inasmuch that this Ministry, in the impossibility of furnishing new uniforms, will be obliged to send the men home dressed as above, which is humiliating and bad for their morale."

The veterans were embarked wearing a grey uniform in very bad condition and with 2 black bands on the trousers, uniforms that were distributed to them when their khaki uniforms were taken from them by the British Authorities.

The food was very scarce during the first days of the voyage but the rations were increased after the intervention of Lt.Col. Galliano, Pietro - the ranking officer of the Group - who informed the English Colonel who was in charge of the transport, that the food during imprisonment had been far superior; and that they had received much more human treatment.

What is written above is reported to your Commission with the request that you will intervene on behalf of the future repatriates with the Competent Authorities in order to obtain better treatment in future for those veterans who have during imprisonment contributed to the Allied Cause."

2. The Italian Ministry of War makes the following comment:-
"Particular attention should be given to the necessity that the Veterans be repatriated with uniforms that do not bear the signs of imprisonment (bands, patches etc.) inasmuch that this Ministry, in the impossibility of furnishing new uniforms, will be obliged to send the men home dressed as above, which is humiliating and bad for their morale"

3. It would be appreciated if the gist of these reports could be sent to the appropriate authorities.

For the Chief Commissioner

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

2 (41)

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for
War Veterans & Repatriated PW

12 luglio 46

No. 13160/242/5

TO: LAND FORCES S/C (MMIA)
IPW Division
ROME

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Groups of Veterans
from India.

The Territorial Military Command of Naples has made the following report relative to the 2087 veterans that were repatriated on the SS "Scythia" on 29/6/46:

10) A The veterans were embarked wearing a grey uniform in very bad condition and with 2 black bands on the trousers, uniforms that were distributed to them when their ~~own~~ uniforms were taken from them by the British Authorities. Khaki

20) The food was very scarce during the first days of the voyage but the rations were increased after the intervention of Lt.Col. Galliano: Pietro - the ranking officer of the Group - who informed the English Colonel who was in charge of the transport, that the food during imprisonment had been far superior; and that they had received much more human treatment.

What is written above is reported to your Commission with the request that you will intervene on behalf of the future repatriates with the Competent Authorities in order to obtain better treatment in future for those veterans who have during imprisonment contributed to the Allied Cause. B

Δ Particular attention should be given to the necessity that the veterans be repatriated with uniforms that do not bear the signs of imprisonment (bands, patches etc.) inasmuch that this Ministry, in the impossibility of furnishing new uniforms, will be obliged to send the men home dressed as above which is humiliating and bad for their morale.

D

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40

- 2 -

Thanking you for whatever you may do regarding the subject as above.

sgd/ Gen. A. MANNERINI

3405

WERP/fs

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

IPW/1Pol/618

6/7/46

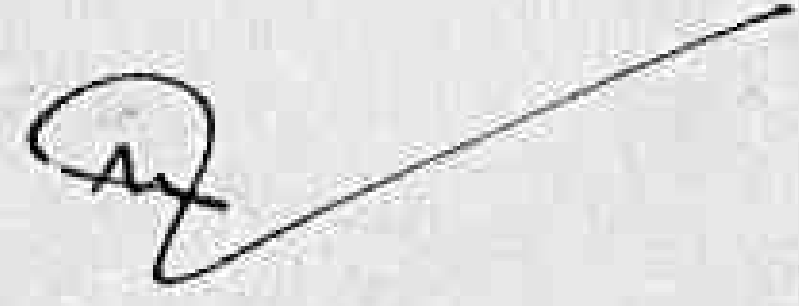
SUBJECT : Italian PW - Morale -

TO : Ministry of War. Autonomous Office for War Veterans

: Ministry of Post War Assistance, PW Bureau

Ref Autonomous 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/Pol/C-2, dtd 9 May 46.

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


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

Encl. 1

3404

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

copy :-

Subject : Complaints regarding treatment of IPW

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

MIDDLE EAST FORCE
L.12000 AG5 (a)

G.H.Q., CMF.

25 June '46

1. 305 PW Camp. (Ref Min.P.War Assistance letter 1317/Pol/C-2
dttd 9 May 48)

(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 vegetables.

(b) Clothing is issued up to authorized 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 pounds.

(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 IPW 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 as above)

The remarks concerning the officers from this camp are appreciated. Unfortunately we were forced to close down 304 Camp and

Age 2

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 Min. of War, Autonomous Office letter 10782/3, dtd 31 May 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 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.

4. Ref Min. of War letters 10976/217/3, dtd 31 May 46 and 423291/RIGR, dtd 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 GHQ 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.

3402

(sgd) ???Lt.Col.AAG General

Comander in Chief

(sgd) P.G.Bulfin (Lt.Col.)

WERP/is

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

IPW/1/18A/38

15/6/46

SUBJECT : Italians in Albania

TO : Autonomous Office for Veterans & Repatriated PW, Min.of War

Ref your 9121/220/EPGR, dtd 14/May/46

1. Although representation was made regarding the plight of the Italians in Albania, mentioned in your above-quoted letter, it was not known in this Division that similar representation had already been made by the Executive Commissioner, Allied Commission.
2. The answer, however, appears to be the same, in that there is no British Representative in Albania since the withdrawal of the British Military Mission on 5 April 46. On the other hand an American Mission has now been established in TIRANA.
3. It is therefore recommended that you take up this matter with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order that approach can be made to the American Embassy on behalf of the Italians in Albania.


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

38 3401

8298

IPW

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 965.12

13 June 1946.

SUBJECT: IPW in Albania.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission,
(Attn: IPW Div 121A) APO 794.

Reference IPW/1/18A/36 of 27 May 46.

1. There is no change in the status of repatriation of Italians from Albania as covered in our letter of 25 May 46, G-5: 014.33-67, subject: "Italians in Albania", copy of which is attached hereto.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

[Signature]
A. I. HAULEN
Brigadier General, U.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Encl: Copy Ltr
014.33-67 of
25 May 46.

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
1/18A

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
C.	
15 JUN 1946	
Log No	4812

37
3400

COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 014.33-67

23 May 1946

SUBJECT: Italians in Albania.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 794.

Reference your letter 2218/152/EC of 12 April with enclosure 6/1635 IFA of 6 April 1946.

1. Since the withdrawal of the British Military Mission from Albania on 5 April 1946 there has been no British representative in that country.

2. An American Mission has been established in Tirana and it is suggested that recommendations are therefore made to the American Embassy by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Italians in Albania.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

/s/ E.W. RICHARDSON.
for A. L. HAMBLIN
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

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37 h

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

IPW/1/18A/36

27/5/46

SUBJECT : IPW in ALBANIA
TO : A.F.H.Q.
(for G5)

1. The following situation in Albania as at December 1945 has been reported by a special Mission of the Italian Red Cross:-

- a) 766 Specialists employed in bridge-building and working oil-wells
- b) 28 Medical Officers and 19 ORs -paid badly or not at all- held in various civilian and military hospitals without opportunity of repatriation.
- c) 55 Italians in civil prisons awaiting trial. It is stated that 67 have already been killed with summary trial

2. May it be stated please if anything can be done at this point to arrange the repatriation of these IPW ?

For the C.C. —

File

36
J.E. REED 3398
Lieut. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

17 MAY 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR WAR VETERANS
AND REPATRIATED PWs

FILE : 9121/220/RPCR

Rome 14 May 1946

SUBJECT: Italian POW in Albania.

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

According to a report from a special Mission of the Italian Red Cross the Italian PWs in Albania up to December 1945 are the following:

- 766 Specialists employed in the building of bridges and oil wells: it is not known how many of them are military personnel.

- 28 medical Officers and 19 enlisted men belonging to Sanitary Corps who were there on duty - paid badly or not at all. - They are in various civilian and military hospitals, and are not allowed to repatriate.

Furthermore, there are 55 Italians in Civil prisons awaiting trial (67 have already been killed with summary trial).

We call this matter to the attention of your Division in order that you may examine the possibility of a direct contact between the Allied Authorities and the Albanian Government in order to obtain the restitution of the Italian prisoners.

S/ GENERAL A. MANNERINI

g 5 Apr 46
Chief of Div.
Possible, this could
be done better by Executive Commission,
or else through diplomatic channels.

23 May

3397

MINISTRY OF WAR DIVISION
16 MAY 1946
6608

1/18A

MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR WAR VETERANS
AND REPATRIATED PWs

FILE : 9121/220/RPCR

Rome 14 May 1946

SUBJECT: Italian POW in Albania.

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

According to a report from a special Mission of the Italian Red Cross the Italian PWs in Albania up to December 1945 are the following:

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Furthermore, there are 55 Italians in Civil prisons awaiting trial (67 have already been killed with summary trial).

We call this matter to the attention of your Division in order that you may examine the possibility of a direct contact between the Allied Authorities and the Albanian Government in order to obtain the restitution of the Italian prisoners.

S/ GENERAL A. MANFERRINI

3396

WERP/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/34

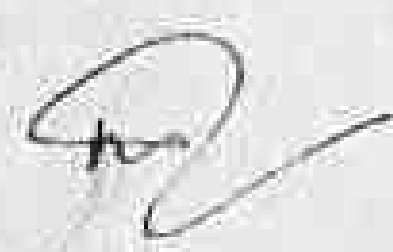
15/5/46

SUBJECT : Complaints regarding treatment of IPW

TO : G.H.Q., C.M.F.
attn.: G1 (Br)

1. The att. translation of a letter received from the Italian Ministry of Post War Assistance regarding alleged hardships in Camp 305, EGYPT, is forwarded for favour of investigation and remarks of the appropriate authorities.

For the Chief Commissioner


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



Encl.

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3395

MINISTRY FOR POST WAR ASSISTANCE
PRISONER OF WAR BUREAU
1st Div. 1st Sec Pol

FILE : 1317/Pol/C-2

Rome 9 May 1946

SUBJECT: Treatment of Italian PW's in Camp 305, Egypt.

NO : Allied Commission, S/C, IPW Div, Rome.

We are informed that the Italian prisoners in Camp 305, Egypt are not being treated properly.

They state that their rations have been cut, they are not furnished with the proper clothing, are given no form of entertainment and are under very strict surveillance.

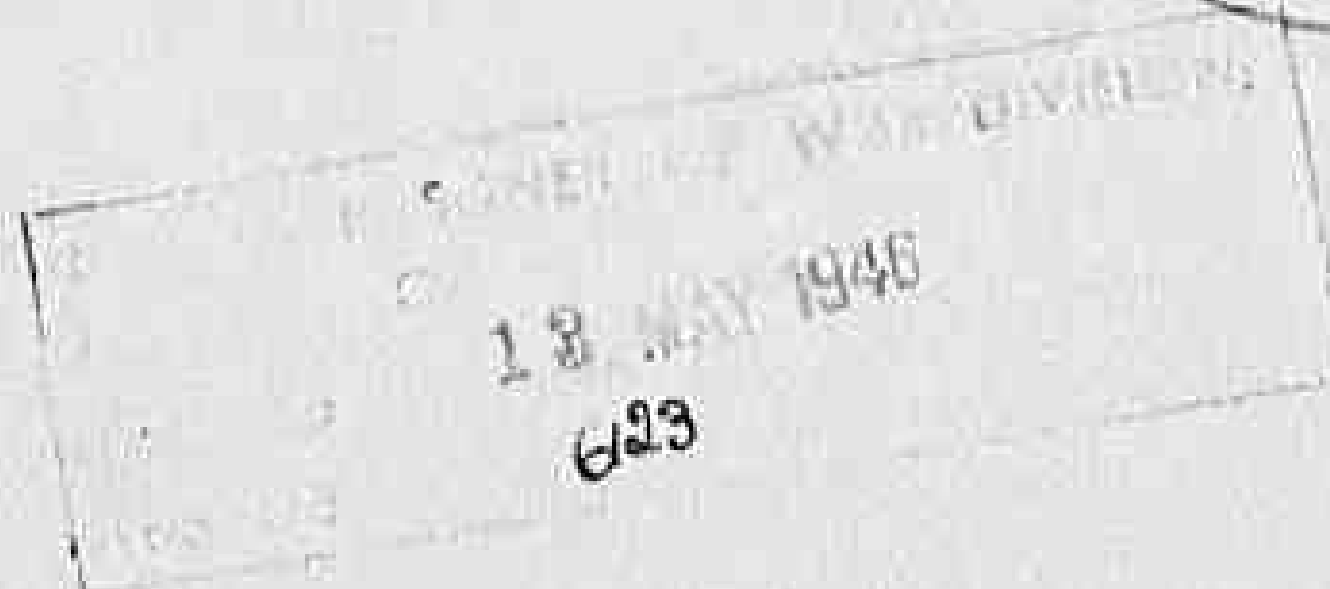
It results that the prisoners of Camp 304 have been transferred to the Camp in question, these individuals being in greater part Officers who signed the request to co-operate and now find themselves in Camp 305, which is a non co-operator Camp.

The co-operators deserve consideration, who have for years being behind barbed wire and whose position should be examined individually.

We would therefore greatly appreciate if the A.C. would take this matter up with the Competent Authorities and if possible, give these individuals who have been sent to Camp 305, not for political motives, better treatment.

S/ DR. FAUSTO NITTI

33 3394



MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR WAR VETERANS AND
REPATRIATED PWs

FILE : 8137/242/5

Rome 19 April 1946

SUBJECT: Repatriation from England.

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

4 Apr. All the prisoners that were repatriated on the "Queen of Bermuda" and the "Carthage" from England, who arrived in Naples on the 20 March 46, have declared without exception that they were given bad and insufficient food.

As no protests were made by prisoners arriving on other ships, it is thought that this question depends entirely on the above mentioned ships.

Your Commission is therefore informed of the matter for such action as you deem necessary.

S/ GENERAL A. MANNERINI.

3393

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
I. C.	
Received	25 APR 1946
Log No.	5527

32

1/18A

WERP/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/31

10/4/46

SUBJECT : IPW 's Baggage

TO : Ministry of War, Autonomous Office for Repatriated PW

Ref.your 2540/255, dtd 2/Feb/46

1. The baggage referred to in a/q letter was despatched from India on 12/Mar/46 .

See
6/30

[Signature]
J.E. REGIS
Lieut.Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

31

5392

SUBJECT: IPW - Baggage.

5646

RECEIVED 16 APR 1946
3868

IPW sk

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

GHQ CMT.

3155/A2.

2 Apr 46.

Your IPW/1/18A/15 dated 8 Feb refers.

1. The baggage belonging to these IPW was despatched from INDIA on 12 March 46.

RLB/NC.

FR
Pl. rep. now to file (14)

2/14

Re Balfour for
JIC NAPIER,
Brigadier,
DAG.

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
I. A. C.
- red
Cy No 5018

18 APR 1946

3391
30

1/18A

WERP/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/29

SUBJECT :- "S" PW Camp

TO : Ministry of Post War Assistance, PW Bureau

Reference your Memorandum containing observations on "S" Camp, Taranto, and enclosing letter from: CARLO ---, both received in this Division without an official covering letter about 22/3/46.

1. Many of the allegations in your memorandum can be answered without investigations on the spot, and the following remarks are forwarded:-

a) Letters

Prisoners are allowed to write 4 letters a month and to receive unlimited mail. All mail is uncensored.

b) Camp Staff

"S" PW Camp has been in existence for a very long time. This is the first time any complaint has been received regarding the bearing of the Camp Staff.

c) Searches

Daily searches are a routine matter designed to combat escapes etc.

d) Food

All PW in CMF and BTNA are fed upon the same ration scale. This ration scale has remained constant for some considerable time.

e) Possessions

It is clearly laid down in orders that confiscation of any posses-

3390

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page 2

sion must and will be effected against receipt. As for the stealing of articles, it is requested that evidence of more than one witness be produced by you.

f) Sleeping facilities

Again it is stressed that the camp has been in operation for a considerable length of time. It has on many occasions been visited by members of the International Red Cross who have stated in their written reports that the camp is all that is to be desired.

g) Release

As you are well aware, negotiations are in progress to hand over this camp and the inmates to the Italian Authorities. All the inmates are either neo-fascists, non-cooperators or relegated co-operators. It has long since been agreed by the British and Italian Governments that all co-operators will be repatriated, before any non-cooperator or neo-fascist is released. Therefore the prisoners have only themselves to blame for their continued detention.

h) Holding

The force of this complaint is not understood, especially in view of reply given to (g) above.

j) Menaces

Such a serious allegation cannot be considered unless full and irrefutable evidence is forthcoming.

k) Interest/....

This is read to imply that the Italians and not the British Authorities are showing no interest in these PW.

2. As your memorandum appears to be based upon a letter received by the father of one of the inmates, it is not considered necessary to hold an investigation.


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

3389

SUBJECT:- 'S' PW Camp.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Copy No. 1...

CHQ CMF

2455/A2

29 Mar 46

TO:- Land Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission,
MIA,
IPW Division.

Your IPW/1/18A/25 of 25 Mar 46 refers.

1. Many of the allegations in the memorandum can be answered without investigations on the spot and the following remarks are forwarded:-

(a) Letters.

Prisoners are allowed to write 4 letters a month and to receive unlimited mail. All mail is uncensored.

(b) Camp Staff.

'S' PW Camp has been in existence for a very long time. This is the first time any complaint has been received regarding the bearing of the Camp Staff.

(c) Searches.

Daily searches are a routine matter designed to combat escapes etc.

(d) Food.

All PW in CMF and BYNA are fed upon the same ration scale. This ration scale has remained constant for some considerable time.

(e) Possessions.

It is clearly laid down in orders that confiscation of any possession must and will be effected against receipt. It is noted that the Ministry of Post War Assistance allege that articles are stolen. It is requested that evidence of more than one witness be produced by the Ministry.

(f) Sleeping facilities.

Again it is stressed that the camp has been in operation for a considerable length of time. It has on many occasions been visited by members of the International Red Cross who have stated in their written reports that the camp is all that is to be desired.

- (b) Camp Staff.
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Daily searches are a routine matter designed to combat escapes etc.
- (d) Food.
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- (f) Sleeping facilities.
Again it is stressed that the camp has been in operation for a considerable length of time. It has on many occasions been visited by members of the International Red Cross who have stated in their written reports that the camp is all that is to be desired.
- (g) Release.
As you are well aware, negotiations are in progress to hand over ³³⁸⁸ this camp and the inmates to the Italian Authorities. All the inmates are either neo-fascists, non-co-operators or relegated co-operators. It has long since been agreed by the British and Italian Governments that all co-operators will be repatriated, before any non co-operator or neo-fascist is released. Therefore the prisoners have only themselves to blame for their continued detention.
- (h) Holding.
The force of this complaint is not understood, especially in view of reply given to (g) above.
- (j) Menaces.
Such a serious allegation cannot be considered unless full and irrefutable evidence is forthcoming.
- (k) Interest/....

1/189

(k) Interest

This is read to imply that the Italians and not the British Authorities are showing no interest in these PW.

2. Should a representative of the Italian Ministry so desire, arrangements will be made for him to visit this camp accompanied by a British conducting officer to be furnished by you. If this visit is desired please inform this CMO of the names of the persons concerned and indicate an approximate date for the visit so that the necessary permits can be forwarded to you.
3. As the Ministry's memorandum appears to be based upon a letter received by them from a parent of one of the inmates, it is not considered necessary to hold an investigation.
4. It is requested that the Ministry be acquainted with the contents of this letter.

DSP/ER.

D. Naker.

JTC NAPIER,
Brigadier,
DAG.

3. As the Ministry is not considered necessary by them from a parent of one of the inmates, it is not considered necessary to hold an investigation.

4. It is requested that the Ministry be acquainted with the contents of this letter.

DSP/ER.

J. Napier.
JIC NAPIER,
Brigadier,
DAG.

3387

Subject:- Repatriation of It Ps W - TARANTO

RECEIVED 29 MAR 1946

2 BLU

Tel: 52278

A 13

26 Mar 46.

Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MMIA), Rome
(for It PW Branch)

1. Considerable trepidation is being felt in GENOVA amongst relatives of It Ps W captured during the African campaign and now awaiting release at 'S' Camp, TARANTO. A deputation of these (several hundred families are said to be involved) called at this HQ today.

2. The chief complaints are that the standard of feeding is reported by the inmates themselves to be very poor and quite insufficient to their needs; that though they arrived in TARANTO on 13 Feb they have been given to understand that they will not be sent to their homes before the end of April to the beginning of May and that released PSW repatriated from Africa through NAPLES at a later date have already arrived in GENOVA.

3. Since this HQ undertook to obtain infm and, if possible, to give whatever help was possible, it would be most appreciated if the matter could be investigated and this HQ informed what can^{be} or is being done. Such infm would be passed to the relatives interested.

4. Minister GASPAROTTI has already been informed of the sit by the relatives concerned and has promised to assist.

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4. Minister GASPAROTTI has already been informed of the sit by the relatives concerned and has promised to assist.

GENOVA

Major,
DAA&QMG.

0386

HET/go

C.C. B/F 6 Apr 46

[Signature]

27

*Dickson is able to answer this
J.E.R. + G.M. Hammett
fully when TARANTO
return from 30/3.*

LOG No. <i>1187</i>	PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION, 29 MAR 1946	LOG No. <i>1187</i>
---------------------	--	---------------------

RECEIVED 20 MAR 1946
3625

A 555

20 Mar 46

~~SECRET~~

Ca

1 Pow.

No. 27 B. A. E. Co-operator Coy

Reference your 1074/A1 (Ser. 44/23) dated 2
Mar 46.

Disbandment of the above mentioned unit was effected w.e.f. 15 Feb 46 and all the Co-operators have been re-arrested.

In the field.
IN/AP.

British Troops North Africa.

Copy to 1- G (30) CHQ GAF
Land Forces Sub-

Commission Allied - Your EW/18/519 dated
Commission 4 Mar 46 refers.

3385

1. 12N PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
(N 12N) A. C.

Received

26 MAR 1966

Log. No.

4588

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

IP/A/135/25

25 March 1945

SUBJECT: Complaints - Treatment of IPW at 'B' Camp, TARANTO.

TO : GEN. CHY.
(G : Brit).

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Forwarded herewith are copies of a letter received by the Ministry of Post War Assistance, together with copies of a memorandum from that Ministry.
2. In view of the allegations made in the attached letters, may an investigation please be made and this HQ informed of the result.
3. An Officer from this Division can be sent if required to assist in any enquiries you may deem necessary to institute.

For the Chief Commissioner:

[Signature]
DAVID N. REEDS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Division

25

3384

MEMORANDUM

Camp 8 - Taranto

Many people have presented themselves in these days at this POW Bureau, who are relatives of the Italian Military Personnel interned in Camp "8" at Taranto, and have made the following statements:-

- They do not receive any letters from the prisoners
- The personnel on duty in that Camp, are arrogant and more severe than in any other Camp.
- That the prisoners are humiliated and have to submit to a daily punishment without motive.
- That the food is not sufficient and is getting worse.
- Their most intimate possessions are frequently stolen from them.
- They sleep on the ground, the darkness and even water filters through their light covering.
- They have been interrogated by a Commission of control but not yet freed.
- They are held in proximity with regular PW's and Military personnel captured in the North after the liberation, who formed part of the so-called republican army.
- They are very often ^{MENACED} ~~menaced~~.
- The Authorities show complete lack of interest toward them.

CONF

Taranto 12 March 1946

Dearest Father,

I will try to send this letter by a civilian in order that you may know the situation in which I find myself.

I left Algiers on the 1st of February, arriving at Taranto on the 6th. Nobody received us at the docks. We were received only by horrible communist writings on the walls that looked as if they had been written in blood. The few women smiled, I don't know whether their smiles were ironic or welcoming. In large letters we read the following inscription on a wall: "Veterans, poor and impoverished Italy will do all that is possible to receive you with honour". In fact the reception could not have been poorer. We marched to S. Andrea. When passing under the submarine barracks, an old man smiled at us and said "I am proud of you"; who knows why he has not already been "liberated".

In him we had a common interest - he had been forgotten like us. We finally arrived at the Camp, and there, all our illusions fell.

At Camp 214 they gave us a paper, we called it the "Document", which informed us that we no longer depended from the English administration. It was the closure of our credit. Here we were told that the paper was not valid and that the Administration would be re-activated. The Camp personnel is much more severe and arrogant than in any other Camp. Every day we have to submit to atrocious humiliations as for example; every now and then we have to submit to perquisitions without motive and they steal our most intimate possessions.

The Heads of the Camp send us to report to the English Commander who answers with a very bored air, that there were no elements with which to accuse the soldiers of King George.

We have to obey all the caprices of a British Corporal. The food is not sufficient to feed a normal man, moreover it is getting less every day. Regarding this latter question they answer that everything they give is a present and that therefore we cannot protest against their generosity.

We sleep on the ground. The dampness and the water filter through our light covering. Somewhere there is a concentration Camp as oppressing, and we are in Italy. That for the English.

The Italians have shown their interest and also the representatives of the Italian Government.

As I wrote you before we have been interrogated by a Commission of Control. Another disillusion. We thought we were to be freed in ten days. That is what our dear officers told us. In fact after ten days another 30 passed and we still see no signs of being freed. Now a voice is going around that we will be freed in May. Certainly we cannot smile at our good luck.

Many look at the barbed wire as their last hope of liberty. A few attempted to get through. To-day a sergeant major told us not to be surprised if some one leaves his skin on the barbed wire.

Too many times we have been warned. They leave us cold. We may have died in slavery in the African deserts. That is to die for liberty.

3382

- 2 -

What an absurdity dear father. Have no fear for me. If I had any such intention I would certainly not write you like this. Not for the fear of those few drunken sentries, because more than one night I have gone out and come back through the barbed wire for quite a different reason than for the idea of escaping; but because I have hopes of being shortly released, for we prisoners since 1943, our release is an insistent mirage. Yesterday the Archbishop of Turin came and said Mass. Here is the comfort he brought us: 1 kg. of bread for a 100; 1 orange for four; 1 apple for 4 and a dried fig a-head, and post cards hidden from the English Command. The days go on.

I received two letters from Don Stagni, but I do not think he has received news of me although I tried to get news to him. Three post cards from mother, Don Marchetti has not yet arrived.

I have written all this so that you may get an idea of the interest that the Italian Government shows towards its prisoners of war. Do not come down because it is very difficult to get permission to see me and to go near the barbed wire is prohibited on pain of death.

What a sad sight it is dear father to see people kicked and mocked about or shot at, under the eyes of their sons, brothers or husbands.

Never as in those days, have I longed for liberty in order to get away from Italy. I swear to you that I did not think that our situation was so miserable.

Kisses to mother, Laura and Mario.
To you above all.

CARLO.

3381

21 MAR 1946

PRO MEMORIA

CAMPO "S" = Taranto

In questi giorni si presentano a questo Servizio Prigionieri di Guerra congiunti di militari italiani internati nel Campo "S" di Taranto facendo presente:

- che non ricevono corrispondenza da parte dei prigionieri;
- che il personale di guardia è più arrogante ed intrasigente di quanto non sia stato altrove;
- che giornalmente subiscono umiliazioni atroci, perquisizioni o riviste senza motivo;
- che il cibo non è sufficiente al mantenimento di una vita normale e che in più è soggetto a diminuzione continua;
- che spesso vengono derubati anche delle cose intime;
- che dormono in terra, l'umidità filtra attraverso le coperte e l'acqua attraverso i copritelli;
- che sono stati sottoposti ad un interrogatorio da parte della Commissione di Controllo, ma non vengono liberati;
- che spesso sono minacciati;
- che sono tenuti in promiscuità prigionieri di guerra regolari, militari catturati al Nord dopo la liberazione e già facenti parte dell'esercito della pseudo repubblica sociale;
- che manca qualsiasi interessamento da parte delle Autorità.

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- che manca qualsiasi interessamento da parte delle Autorità.

3380

(26)

AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION	
(MILITARY DIVISION)	
DATE	25 MAR 1946
FILE NO.	4508

C O P I A

21 MAR 1946

Taranto, 12/3/46

Babbo carissimo,

cercherò di inviarti questa lettera tramite qualche civile, così potrà in miglior modo, illustrarti la situazione in cui mi trovo.

Partii da Algeri il 3 Febbraio e sbarcai a Taranto il 6. Nessuno era alla banca. Sui muri, solo, ci accolsero orribili insegne comuniste. Sembravano scarabocchiate col sangue. I pochi operai avevano un sorriso non so se di malinconia o di scherno. In caratteri cubitali abbiamo visto su una facciata questa scritta: "Reduci, l'Italia impoverita e immiserita farà il possibile per accogliervi degnamente". Infatti l'accoglienza non poteva essere più misera e povera. Poi, a piedi, ci siamo incamminati verso S. Andrea. Passando sotto la caserma sommergibili, ci ha sorriso un vecchio motto "Sono fiero di voi". Chissà perché non è stato ancora scarpelato.

In quella abbiamo visto qualcosa di comune, perché anche lui era dimenticato,..... come noi. Siamo infine giunti al campo. La prima illusione ci venne così a crollare istantaneamente.

Al 21 ci dettero un foglio: "il documento" dicevamo noi, per il quale non dipendevamo più dall'amministrazione inglese. Era la chiusura del nostro credito. Qui invece ci dissero che non era valido e che l'amministrazione si sarebbe aperta di nuovo. Il personale di guardia è più arrogante e intrasigente di quanto non sia stato altrove. Ogni giorno subiamo umiliazioni atroci. Qualche esempio, tanto per comprenderci. Ogni tanto ci sottopongono a perquisizioni o riviste senza motivo, e ci derubano fin delle cose intime. I capi Campi ci mettono a rapporto col Comandante inglese e si sentono rispondere con fare annoiato che non vi sono testimonianze degne di fede per accusare soldati di Re Giorgio.

Bisogna sottostare ad ogni capriccio di un caporale britannico. Il cibo non è sufficiente al mantenimento di una vita normale. In più è soggetto a diminuzioni continue. Anche a questo proposito ci è stato risposto, che ogni volta ci regalano qualcosa, e che non possiamo lamentarci della loro magnanimità.

Dormiamo in terra. L'umidità filtra attraverso le coperte e l'acqua passa attraverso i copriteli. Mai un campo di concentramento è stato così opprimente. E siamo in Italia! Questo per gli inglesi.

Gli italiani anche; i rappresentanti del nostro Governo, hanno dimostrato il loro interessamento.

Come ti scrissi precedentemente, siamo stati sottoposti all'interrogatorio della Commissione di controllo. Le speranze ci hanno illuso ancora con insistenza. Credevamo di essere liberati entro dieci giorni. Così

fare il possibile per accogliervi degnamente". Infatti l'accoglienza non poteva essere più misera e povera. Poi, a piedi, ci siamo incamminati verso S. Andrea. Passando sotto la caserma sommersibili, ci ha sorriso un vecchio motto "Sono fiero di voi". Chissà perchè non è stato ancora scarpelato.

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Bisogna sottostare ad ogni capriccio di un caporale britannico. Il cibo non è sufficiente al mantenimento di una vita normale. In più è soggetto a diminuzioni continue. Anche a questo proposito ci è stato risposto, che ogni volta ci regalano qualcosa, e che non possiamo lamentarci della loro megalomania.

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Infatti, dopo i primi dieci giorni, sono passati altri venti, e ancora non si vede nulla in proposito. Ora si parla di Maggio. Non si può sorridere alla fortuna propizia.

Molti guardano al reticolato come l'ultima speranza di libertà. Qualcuno ha già tentato. Oggi un regimental sergeant major, ci ha avvisati di non meravigliarci se qualcuno lascerà la pelle in mezzo ai fili spinati.

Troppe ne abbiamo sentite di queste minacce. Ci lasciano indifferenti. Tanti morirono per la schiavitù, nei deserti d'Africa. Cos'è il morire per la libertà? FREEDOM!

26A

26A

TRANSLATE ALL OF THIS

Quanta assurdità, caro babbo! Non aver paura per me. Se avessi qualche intenzione simile non te lo scriverei certamente. E non per timore di queste quattro sentinelle ubriache, perchè più di una notte sono uscito dal reticolato e poi rientrato, per tutt'altri motivi che la fuga; ma perchè la speranza di un prossimo rilascio, per noi prigionieri del 1943, mi balla dinanzi come un miraggio persistente. Ieri è venuto a dirci una messa l'arcivescovo di Taranto. Ecco esattamente il conforto che ci ha portato: 1 kilo di pane in 100, 1 arancio in 40, 1 mela in 4 e 1 fico secco a testa. E poi le cartoline di nascosto al Comando inglese. Fino ad oggi così è trascorso il tempo.

Ho ricevuto due lettere dal Comm. Stagni, ma non credo che abbia avuto qualche mia notizia, benchè mi sia interessato per farglielo avere. Tre cartoline da mamma. Don Marchetti ancora non è arrivato.

T'ho scritto tutti questi dettagli affinché tu possa vedere qual'è l'interessamento del Governo italiano a proposito dei prigionieri di guerra. Non venire quaggiù perchè il chiedere un colloquio è oltremodo difficile e l'avvicinarsi al reticolato proibito sotto pena di morte.

Che spettacolo, caro babbo, vedere della povera gente presa a calci o a colpi di fucile, sotto gli occhi dei figli dei fratelli o dei mariti!

Mai come in questi giorni è forte in me il desiderio di essere libero per andarmene dall'Italia. Ti giuro, non immaginavo che le nostre condizioni fossero così misere.

Baci cari e abbracci a mamma, a Laura e Mario.
A te in particolare

CARLO

tempo.

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A te in particolare

CARLO

3378

WERP/ang

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

IPW/1/18A/25

22 March 1946

SUBJECT : Baggage IPW.

TO : Ministry of War (Aut. office for War Veterans
and Repatriated PW)

Ref. your 2540/255 dated 2 Feb. 46. 14

1) The attached copy of letter 210/P dated 27 Feb. 46 from Headquarters MOV Suez Area is forwarded for your information.


JAMES E. REOLIN
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Division

25

3377

3076.
IPWSUBJECT: Loss of Baggage - Ex PW.Land Forces, Sub Commission,
Allied Commission,
MIA,
IPW Division.
-----GHQ CMF.3155/A2.19 Mar 46.

Your IPW/1/18A/15 dated 8 Feb refers.

1. We enclose copies of letters 12360/2/AG5(b) of 8 Mar from GHQ MEF and 210/P of 27 Feb from Headquarters Nov Suez Area.

see 49/20

HHW/MC.
Encl.

[Signature]
 JIC KAFIR,
 Brigadier,
 DAG.

see 14

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
(MIA) A. C.	
Received	21 MAR 1946
Log No.	4428

24

3371

1/18a

C O P YSUBJECT: Italian PW - Loss of Baggage.GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
MIDDLE EAST FORCE
12360/2/AG5(b)GHQ CMF.

8 March 46

Ref your memo 3155/A2 dated 12 Feb 1946.

Investigations have been made concerning the missing baggage in question and a copy of a report received from HQ Mov Suez Area 210/P dated 27 Feb 1946 is forwarded herewith for your information.

(Sgd) ???
for General
C-in-C.

3375

C O P Y

Subject : Loss of Baggage - Italian Pws ex India.

HQ NOV
SUEZ AREA
Tel Tewfik 133
Ref 210/P

27 Feb 46

Q(M)IR
GHQ MEF.

Copy to:- Q(M)1(S).

Reference your Q(M)1R 221/8 of 21 Feb 46.

1. The Italian officers originating the complaint of lost baggage apparently reached M.E. on the "MALOJA" on 26 Dec 45. Twenty two officers disembarked and of these seven subsequently embarked on the "CHITRAL" on the 30 Dec 45.
2. The remaining 15 Officers ex "MALOJA" went forward at a later date for embarkation at Port Said.
3. The "MALOJA" was cleared of baggage and all of this was sent to 216 Group the same day as the personnel. Baggage for the "CHITRAL" was loaded under escort from 216 Group on the day of embarkation.
4. The Commandant of 216 Group states definitely that no complaint whatever over lost baggage was submitted to him nor has he any surplus kit on hand.
5. Unofficial reports of extensive pilferage in Taranto have been received locally.
6. If any baggage was left on board the "CHITRAL" at Taranto as suggested in the first para of the copy letter, no reports of its still being on board when the ship passed through this port again have been received.
7. It is again submitted that Italian POW from other Commands carry very much more kit than entitled and this is always a great embarrassment during transhipments.

(Sgd) D.F. SHERVINGTON

Capt
for Major R
DAQMG(M).

3374

URP/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/23

20/3/46

SUBJECT : Application for Compassionate Posting

TO : Ministry of Post War Assistance, PW Bureau
T/183118 FRISICARO, G.

1. The attached application is forwarded to you for investigation and recommendations.


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

Encl.: as above.

Confidential

23

3373

4976

SUBJECT:- Application for Compassionate Posting - T/183118 Pte. FRISIGARO G.**CONFIDENTIAL**TO:- Land Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission,
MIA,
IPW Division.CONFIDENTIALCOPY NO: 1.GHQ CMF3063/A215 Mar 46

The attached application is forwarded to you for your investigation and recommendation, please.

HM/ER.
encl.

J. L. Napier
JLC NAPIER,
Brigadier,
DAG.

CONFIDENTIAL

3372

PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,	
[MIA] A. C.	
Received	18 MAR 1946
Log. No	4854

TRANSLATION

TO : Officer Commanding No 6 Italian RAF Company

I the undermentioned,

T/183418 PTE PRISICARO Giuseppe son of Vincenzo and Berdici Angela born at LICATA (AGRIGENTO) on the 27th October 1902 and living at LICATA at present a POW Co-operator with the 6 Italian RAF Company submit the following for your consideration:

October 1944 whilst serving with the 10th Italian RAF Company in Italy I was granted 14 days leave. Prior to having completed my leave I was taken seriously ill with Bronchitis and Rheumatism and admitted to the Italian Military Hospital of Licata. After having been treated for approximately 2 months I was discharged with 20 days sick rest. Having terminated the allotted rest I reported to the Italian Police Station at Licata being in due course escorted to the British Police Headquarters at Catania. At Catania I was kept for 20 days and subsequently posted to No 209 POW Camp.

There I was charged for being absent without leave and awarded 28 days Detention by the Commanding Officer, being however assured that I would not be posted to North Africa.

However on the 25th of July 1945 I was posted to 241 POW Camp, where in turn I was posted to the 11th and subsequently 6th Italian RAF Companies, as Co-operator" Africa Employable Only"

I therefore consider my punishment as being unjust in view of the fact my absence was due to the already stated reasons of health; the Italian Military Hospital at Licata being in possession of my leave form and knowing my position as Co-operator should have taken the necessary steps.

Sir taking into consideration the above and realising my present position I trust that you will be good enough to reverse the case and revise my present status.

Further to the above I am a father of 7 children one of whom requires a delicate operation. My wife is also in a poor medical condition and unable to support so large a family. It will thereby be appreciated that my return to Italy is urgently required.

4/5/46

PTE PRISICARO Giuseppe

Certified that the above is a correct translation of Pte Priscaro's statement.

.....
1614924 Lac Muzicchi P.
6 Ital RAF Company CMF.

3371

Capapla

(26)

L.S.O.C. A.C. (M.S.I.A.)
DIV. RICHIEDENTI DI GUERRA ITALIANI
100/1/184/15 02 0 fa bralo 46

CONTESTO: perdita di bagaglio.

AL V (Sr) GEN. OUP
e.p.o. ALL. INF. ARMO. ALIQUII A. EUG. DI GUERRA RISPATRIATI
(rif. vostra 2549/255 del 2-2-46).

1. Il Ministero della Guerra Italiano ci ha inviato la lettera allegata.
 2. Vaghiate cortesemente mettervi in contatto con il GEN. MRP e con l'India per tentare se vi sia alcun mezzo di rintracciare il bagaglio in questione e di inviarlo in Italia.
- Per il Capo della Commissione

Stato Capit.
P. IL INF. OOL. REGIS IEN DIV

A.S. - Segret. del Gen. Audetto
Nuclei Traduttori

Traduzione n° 540/0
Data di arrivo: 12-1-46 - ore 12
Data di partenza: 10-1-46 - ore 13.10

Capapla

UFFICIO REDUCI
E, PER COMODITÀ
Gabinetto

UFFICIO COORDINAMENTO

3370

- 1. Il Ministero della Guerra Italiano ci ha inviato la lettera allegata.
 - 2. Vogliate cortesemente mettervi in contatto con il CMA MAP e con l'India per tentare se vi sia alcun mezzo di rintracciare il bagaglio in questione e di inviarlo in Italia.
- Per il Capo della Commissione

F.to Capit.
P. IL MIN. DEL. GUERRA TIM 314

S. M. A. - Segret. del Gen. Addetto
Nucleo Traduttori

Produzione n° 540/0 Data di arrivo: 12-2-46 - ore 12
Data di partenza: 12-2-46 - ore 13.30

Allegato

UFFICIO REDUCI
E. PER CONOSCENZA
Gabinetto
UFFICIO COORDINAMENTO

OK
3370

folio 18
Refers.

103 140	1324
UFFICIO	
DIREZIONE E AMMINISTRAZIONE	
MILITARE	
13 FEB 1946	
DATA	
15-2-46	
21	

1/189

ANN/cm

MINUTA

2

Febbraio 1946

1'ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR
DIVISION CIVIL AFFAIR SECTION

- R O M A -

Uff. Auton. Reduci Prigionia di
Guerra e Rimpatriati

2549/255

Bagagli ufficiali reduci dall'India con nave Chitral

Numerosi ufficiali giunti il 3 Gennaio a Taranto dall'India con la nave Chitral sono rimasti privi del bagaglio che non è stato sbarcato dalla loro stessa nave.

La situazione di disagio morale e materiale di questi ufficiali è grave, perchè il suddetto bagaglio rappresenta per essi, oltre all'intero corredo personale, il frutto dei risparmi fatti in lunghi anni di prigionia e la raccolta di oggetti cari destinati ai loro familiari. Molti di questi ufficiali sono addirittura privi di ogni particolare indispensabile alla vita quotidiana.

Nessuna indicazione precisa si ha circa questo bagaglio. Le informazioni fornite da alcuni reduci segnalano che durante il viaggio per ferrovia, effettuato in India, per raggiungere il porto di imbarco, due vagoni dovettero essere staccati dal convoglio per guasto; altri attribuiscono il ritardo a disguido avvenuto a Suez, dove tutti gli ufficiali dovettero trasbordare su altra nave.

Per quanto sopra si prega il cortese interessamento di codesta Divisione perchè il ricupero del predetto bagaglio sia premurato più che possibile.

3369

IL GENERALE

CAPO DELL'UFFICIO AUTONOMO

(A. Mannerini)

LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
Italian Prisoners of War Division

JER/HT/bm

IPW 1/18A/2011 Mar 1946

SUBJECT : Baggage - Italian PWs repatriated from INDIA
in December, 1945.

TO : MINISTERO ASSISTENZA POSTI BELLICI, Servizio
Prigionieri di Guerra, Ufficio Finanziario.

1. I inform you that 1008 pieces of baggage,
the personal property of Italian PWs who were
repatriated from INDIA in Dec 45, are at present held
by M.F.O., Embarkation HQ, Bombay.

2. This baggage will be dispatched to Italy
as and when shipping becomes available and you will
be notified of date of dispatch to Italy.

3. No action will therefore be taken on
individual claims for such properties until this
baggage will be received in Italy.

See 18 (same source)
J. E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel, C.A.C.,
Chief
IPW Division

Copy to : Capt. Alessio MEL,
Via Oberdan, 10, ANCONA,
(Your application to the BRITISH EMBASSY
refers. Further information will be given
with regard to the impounded money). 3368

Copy in: File 1/4 (encl. 3200).

20

File

TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY
R O M E

The undersigned Capt MEI, Alessio ex POW No. 48138, Camp 27 Yel, India, who arrived at Toronto on the 3rd January 1946 onboard the S/S "Chitral" states that the British Government owes him L. 4.780 (Italian lire) that he deposited when captured, said sum not being returned to him when repatriated according to the follows "Original POW Directorate G.H.Q. Receipt for money impounded from POW No. 51776 in my hands".

He furthermore states that his baggage was not returned to him consisting of:

- 2 leather valises
- 1 shawl strap
- 1 mountain sack

of a comprehensive weight of 170 kilograms, this baggage was taken from me by the English at Yel on the 10th of December 1945. Will you please inform me how I can obtain this money and my baggage.

Sgd. Alessio Mei
Via Oberdan, 10
Ancona

Dr. Trist
This went to the British Embassy
at first
was handed over by Wilson
of the Embassy
Please deal with this case
8/1/46

Oct 20 and 1/4/3403

3367

Italian Prisoner of War Sub Commission
40 AC APG 394
Received 17 MAR 1946
Log No 3042

DATE: 9 MAR 1946
ENTERED ON CARD.
137123. J.P.

1/8/46

Al' Antasciata Inglese

Roma

Io sottoscritto, Capitano Mei Alessio, già P.O.W. N° 48138 al 2° Campo di Gol - India - sbarcato a Taranto l'8 gennaio u.te. dal Piroscafo Inglese "Chitral", dichiaro di essere tuttora creditore del Governo di S.M. Britannica di Lire italiane L. 780. = versate all'atto della cattura e non restanti miei all'atto della partenza, come documentato da "Original Prisoners of War Directorate G.H.Q. - Receipt for money impounded from prisoners of war N° 51.776. - a mie mani. -

Dichiaro inoltre che, allo sbarco, non mi fu riconsegnato il bagaglio composto di

- N° 2 valigie di cuoio
- " 1 porta filaid
- " 1 sacco alpino

del peso complessivo di libbre 170, bagaglio ritirato dalle truppe Inglese a Gol la sera del 10 dicembre 1945 - originario della mia partenza.

Chiedo che mi siano cortesemente indicati quali le pratiche da svolgere allo scopo di venire al più presto in possesso di quanto sopra.

con perfetta osservanza

3366

Mei Alessio

Governo di S.M. Britannica di
 lire italiane 4.780. = versati all'atto della caduta e non resti-
 tuirli all'atto della partenza, come documentato da "Original
 Prisoners of War Directorate G.H.Q. - Receipt for money impounded
 from prisoners of war N° 51.776. - a me mani.-

Dichiaro inoltre che, allo sbarco, non mi fu consegnato
 il bagaglio composto di:

- N° 2 valigie di cuoio
- " 1 porta-plaid
- " 1 sacco alpino

del peso complessivo di 48kg 170, bagaglio ritirato dalle For-
 ze Armate Inglesi e GdL la sera del 10 dicembre 1945. originari della
 mia partenza.

Chiedo che mi siano cortesemente indicati quali le pratiche
 da svolgere allo scopo di venire al più presto in possesso di
 quanto sopra.

(con perfetta osservanza

3366

Alessio Mei

Alessio Mei - Ancona - Via Oberdan 10

Translate fresh
 to me pl.

2/5/3

WERB/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/18

7/3/46

SUBJECT : IPW Baggage

TO : Autonomous Office for War Veterans & Repatriated PW

Ref. your 2549/255 dated 2/Feb/46

1. This Division has been informed that baggage in question is at present held by M.F.O. Embarkation HQ, Bombay. This baggage will be dispatched to Italy when shipping will be available, you will be notified of date of dispatch.

2. For information.

Jed *18*
J.E. REGIS
Lieut.Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

3365

see 17-

4497.

CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT:- IPW Baggage.COPY No 1.GHQ CMF.3155/A221 Mar 45

TO:- Land Forces Sub - Commission,
HQ, Allied Commission,
MMIA,
IPW Division.

Reference your IPW/1/18A/15 of 8 Feb

1. Copy of 40216/II/PW1(B) attached for your information.

Encl.
HHW/DPS.

J. Webb
Brigadier,
A/DAG.

2/10/45

Italian Prisoner of War Sub Commission
HQ AC APO 304
Received *7 MAR 1946*
Log No *4004*

3364

1/8A

COPY

BY FAST AIR

General Headquarters, India

Adjutant General's Br.,

SIMLA 22 Feb 1946.

40216 /IL/P.W.I.(b).

To

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES.

REPATRIATION - ITALIAN PW.

Reference your No. 2/151 dated 29 Jan 46.

1009 pieces of baggage, the personal property of Italian PW who were repatriated in Dec 45, is at present held by the M.F.O. Embarkation HQ, Bombay. This baggage will be dispatched to ITALY as and when shipping becomes available and you will be notified of date of dispatch to ITALY.

This also disposes of your No. 3155/A2 dated 12 Feb 46.

??????????????

for
COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN INDIA.

3363

B/F

1/18A to Maj. Hamilton, when reply
received to CHS, CMF letter 3155/12
of 12 Feb. copy to us. (F. 116)

Chief Clerk

Buck anything to
do with Curbans to
Dis. Liss. etc

A

3716.

GFM CMT

SUBJECT:- Italian PW - Loss of Baggage.TO:- GHQ,
Middle East Forces.

3155/A2

12 Feb 46

GHQ,
MILIA.

Reference attached Italian Ministry of War letter No. 2540/255 dated 2 Feb 46.

1. It is requested that investigations be made in order to discover the present location of this luggage.
2. If this luggage is found, please inform this GHQ of its MIA in ITALY, copy to Land Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, MILIA, IPW Division.

MIA would reply is received

MB/ER.
encl.J.M.A.B. & P.
Lieutenant General,
Commander-in-Chief,
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES.Copy to:- Land Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, MILIA,
IPW Division.

(Yr IPW/1/18A/15 dated 8 Feb 46 refers.)

16
3362

Italian Prisoner of War Sub Commission
HQ AC APO 394
Received 15 FEB 1946
Log No 8259

1/18A

MH/FS

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

IPW/1/18A/15

8/Feb/46

SUBJECT : Loss of baggage

TO : G1 (Br)
G.H.Q.
CMF

1. The attached letter (translation) has been received from the Italian War Ministry.

2. Could you please communicate with GHQ MEF and India, in order to see if there is any means of tracing the luggage referred to, and forwarding it to Italy.

For the Chief Commissioner

JRH
J.E. REGIS
Lient. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

15
3361

Encl. : as above

Copy to : Antismuggling Office
see 16.

2359

CONFIDENTIAL.Copy No: 2. *J/W*SUBJECT :- IPW in AUSTRALIA.GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES.Under Secretary of State,
The War Office,
LONDON.
-----3821/12.10 Jan 46.

1. The attached memorandum received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Allied Commission is forwarded for your information.
2. May this GHQ please be advised in order that a reply can be given to the Italian authorities.

GHQ/DDPT.

~~RECE.~~
Geno
held
James S/Kap
 Lieutenant General,
 Commander in Chief,
 CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES.

 Copy to :- Headquarters, Allied Commission ✓
 IPW Division (Your IPW/1/18/11 of 4 Jan refers).

3358

 Allied Commission War Rel. Commission
 HQ AC 120 324
 Received 15 JAN 1946
 Log No 2053

12

MH/fs

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

IPW/1/18A/1317/Jan/46

SUBJECT : Italian PW in Australia

TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 1./ Reference your memo 6/5155/3257 dtd 14/Dec/45
- 2./ GHQ, Central Mediterranean Forces inform us that they have communicated on this subject with the Under Secretary of State, The War Office, London.
- 3./ Any decision reached by the latter will be communicated to you as soon as received.

J.E. Regis
J.E. REGIS
Lieut. Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

Copy to: Executive Commissioner

3359

~~118A~~

13

Rome 2 February 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for Repatriated Faw

File No. 2540/255

TO ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
R.O.M.E.

SUBJECT: Luggage of Officers repatriated from India
on ship "Chitral"

Many Officers who arrived on 3 Jan from India on the ship "Chitral" are without their luggage which was not disembarked from the ship.

These Officers are in an uncomfortable situation both morally and materially, since this luggage represents for them not only their whole personal wardrobe, but also the fruits of savings made during long years in prison and the collection of gifts destined for their families. Many of these Officers are literally without every object indispensable for daily life.

No precise information is available about this luggage. Some of the repatriated Faw state that during the railway journey in India to the port of embarkation two wagons had to be detached from the train because they were defective; others attribute the delay to the luggage's going astray at Suez, where all the Officers had to transfer to another ship.

We therefore ask that your Division be so good as to interest itself in being that the recovery of this luggage be expedited as much as possible.

see 49/30²

THE GENERAL
Head of the Autonomous Office
Sgd. A. Mannerini

box of baggage

see 16

14 3360

1/180

Italian Prisoners of War Sub Commission
HQ AC APO 304 - 6 FEB 1946
Received _____
Log No. 2891

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

DMW/adp

IPW/1/18A/11

4 January 1946

SUBJECT : IPW in Australia.TO : G-1 (Br)
GHQ. CWP

1. The attached memorandum has been received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is forwarded to you for such action as you may deem necessary.

2. Will you please notify this office of any action you may take.

[Signature]
JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IP. W. Div.

Copy to Office of Executive Commissioner

Incl: Memo : 6/5153/3237 dated 14 Dec 1945.

See file 6.

3357

11

COPY

6/5 3/3237

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject : Message of Italian prisoners of war in Australia to the Italian Premier.

1. The President of the Council of Ministers has received the following message from the Mirtleford Camp in Australia:

"Officers, soldiers and personnel of the Italian Merchant Marine, some of whom seriously ill, have been prisoners for five years and are longing for liberation ever since. Also their morale is badly depressed, on account of their departure having been agreed upon three months ago, starting with a first group of over 50-year-old seamen".

2. The Allied Commission is kindly requested to take note of the above message for those steps that they will see fit to take with the competent Allied Authorities to the end of an early repatriation of said Italian subjects.

Rome, December 14th, 1945

3356

11A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

MDT/mdp

IPW/1/18A/90

3 January 1946

SUBJECT : IPW in Jugoslavia

TO : Headquarters
Venezia Region
A.M.G. APO 394.

1. Ref your RXII/383.6(E) dated 22 December 1945.
2. The conditions of these IPW in Jugoslavia is known. The undersigned has requested permission to visit Jugoslavia to effect the speedy repatriation of all IPW. This visit has been considered necessary owing to the lack of communications either diplomatic or military between the two Countries.

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
I.P.W. Div.

Seen by Col Regis
1/1/46

3355

10

1854

JKD/sa

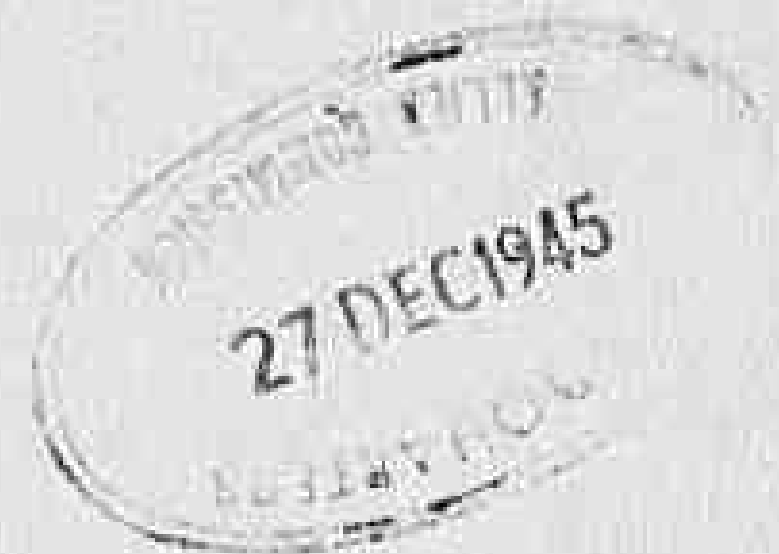
1POW

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394.

22 Dec 45

TO : HQ Allied Commission
SUBJECT : Italian Prisoners in Yugoslavia.
FILE No. : RXII/383-6 (15)

I forward herewith for your consideration
letter and enclosure received from the Provincial
Commissioner of Udine.



Al. Regio to su
16

[Signature]
Regional Commissioner.

Encl. (2)

3354

9

Italian Prisoner of War Sub Commission
HQ AC APO 384
29 DEC 1945
1566

1/187

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
UDINE PROVINCE
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER

Tel. No.

A. M. G. Udine Ext. 4

File No. UDI/PC/25.

Date 19 Dec 45.

Subject : Italian Prisoners in Yugoslavia.

To : H.Q. AMG.
Venezie Region.

1. The attached copy of a letter from Ceol Bruno received by his mother Mrs. Ceol Annunziata now residing at Cavallese (Trento) via Daino No. 7. is forwarded for any action which may be possible, to effect his release.
2. This letter was smuggled across the border by a friend of the prisoner and posted in Trento.
3. Ceol Bruno age 26 served with the 18 Regimento Fanteria, Divisione Aquila.
4. He was taken prisoner by the Germans at Corfu (Greece) on 8 Sep 43. and subsequently taken to Logor Rodd Sovitid, Smeredevo, Jugoslavia.
5. It is believed that the conditions under which this man is living are similar to those being endured by numerous Italians now in the hands of the Yugo-Slavs.

HNB/rw.

Enclosure : ONE

H. N. BRIGHT. Lt. Col.

Provincial Commissioner.

3353

NO. VENEZIA REGION
Doc. No. 7554 d
Date Recd. DEC 20 1945

C O P Y.

"Now Mother, I will explain to you my position. For nine months I have been a prisoner for the Slovenians, and I suffer worse than I did when I was a prisoner of the Germans. I work in an iron foundry, which is very hard work, and I receive 900 grammes of maize bread and some beans daily. No other food for the past nine months. My uniform is worn to rags and I am now almost naked. We sleep in wooden huts on straw without blankets, and the wind enters from all directions. I have sent two messages through the Red Cross, but have had no letter from you. Inform our authorities in order that they may help us, otherwise it will always get worse." 3352

From your son,

Smedorovo.
16 September 1945.

Bruno.

ALLIED COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISION
APO 394

22/XII 1945.

TO:

Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Sub-Commission

→ Italian Prisoners of War Div.

Region

See:

3351

HQ ALLIED COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP

STATION UDINE
RECORD NO 3337

ITA 1417-45

From:

PAGLIARINI Ugo
S. Caterina 23
(Italy)

UDINE

To:

SCHIAVON O.

(Italy) ~~ORDINE~~ (UDINE)

Give place of Postmark where there is no address.

Date of communication or postmark if letter is undated 26 November 1945	Type mail ordinary surface	Reg. No. "	Language Italian	Previously censored by -	Enclosures -
Postage relevant record -	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation G-2 (CI) AFHQ AC HQ - FILE		Disposal of original communication Held Excluded Photographed Return to sender Passed Condemned	

COMMENT

EX-PRISONERS IN RUSSIA COMPLAIN OF ILL-TREATMENT.

"....my journey was very long. From RUSSIA to ITALY it took thirty two days, and we were treated even worse than by the GERMANS....."

*Dear Gen Col
12/1/46*

COMMENT

EX-PRISONERS IN RUSSIA COMPLAIN OF ILLTREATMENT.

"...my journey was very long. From RUSSIA to ITALY it took thirty two days, and we were treated even worse than by the GERMANS....."

*Dear Mr. Col
Dear
4/1/45*

3350

(8)

Italian Prisoners of War Sub Commission

17) C A O 384 29 DEC 1945

Received

Log No

4565

1/18A

EXAMINER Italian censor REVIEWER M.M. EXAMINATION DATE 26 November 1945

SPECIAL NOTICE - The attached information was taken from private communications, and is extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Civil Censorship Officer, Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

ITA 11418-45

From:

To:

CONTI Dina
Via Montello 59
(Italy) FOREMONTE (UDINE)

MARCHIOLI Marietta
(Italy) MELAZZO D'AQUI (ALESSAN
DRIA)

Give place of Postmark where there is no address

Date of communication or post- mark if letter is undated	Type mail	Reg. No.	Language	Previously censored by	Enclosures
22 November 1945	ordinary surface	-	Italian	-	-
Previous relevant record	Station allocation	C. C. G. Allocation	Disposal of original communication		
-	-	G-2 (CI) APHQ AC HQ FILE	Hold Excised Photographed Sent with comment to:	Passed Condemned Return to sender	

COMMENT

ANTI-COMMUNIST FEELINGS OF EX PRISONERS OF WAR.

"....I am disgusted to hear that a Socialist and Communist Party has been formed at PATIGNO and there are both men and women members. The Communists leaders are BEPPE and UGO, two repulsive brutes. This is why I will never set foot in PATIGNO again. I am almost ashamed of my birth place, but when our prisoners return from RUSSIA, you will see what the end of Communism will be like!"

seen by Col. Davis
4/1/56
3849

COMMENT

ANTI-COMMUNIST FEELINGS OF EX PRISONERS OF WAR.

"...I am disgusted to hear that a Socialist and Communist Party has been formed at PATIGNO and there are both men and women members. The Communists leaders are BERPPE and UGO, two repulsive brutes. This is why I will never set foot in PATIGNO again. I am almost ashamed of my birth place, but when our prisoners return from RUSSIA, you will see what the end of Communism will be like!"

seen by Col. Bari
4/1/56
3849

(17)

Italian Prisoner of War Sub Commission

IC-PC APO 384

Reported 29 DEC 1945

Log No 1564

EXAMINER
Italian censor REVIEWERM.M. EXAMINATION DATE
28 November 1945

SPECIAL NOTICE - The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Civil Censorship Officer, Allied Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Message of Italian prisoners of war in Australia to the Italian Premier.

1. The President of the Council of Ministers has received the following message from the Murtleford Camp in Australia:

"Officers, soldiers and personnel of the Italian Merchant Marine, some of whom seriously ill, have been prisoners for five years and are longing for liberation ever since. Also their morale is badly depressed, on account of their departure having been delayed upon three months ago, starting with a first group of over 50-year-old men."

2. The Allied Commission is kindly requested to take note of the above message for those steps that they will see fit to take with the competent Allied Authorities to the end of an early repatriation of said Italian subjects.

Rome, December 24th, 1945



Leggi

WOW

1028/4510/9

6

Subject: Message of Italian prisoners of war in Australia to the Italian Premier.

1. The President of the Council of Ministers has received the following message from the Mittleford Camp in Australia:

"Officers, soldiers and personnel of the Italian Marchant Marine, some of whom seriously ill, have been prisoners for five years and are longing for liberation ever since. Also their morale is badly depressed, on account of their departure having been agreed upon three months ago, starting with a first group of over 50-year-old seamen."

2. The Allied Commission is kindly requested to take note of the above message for those steps that they will see fit to take with the competent Allied Authorities to the end of an early repatriation of said Italian subjects. **A**

Rome, December 24th, 1945



See
by
Legi
HL/4338

11

See
Legi

Received
Log No
20 DEC 1945
1843

118A

mdp

MINISTRY OF WAR
Bureau for the repatriation
of Prisoners of War

TO: Allied Commission
IPOW Sub-Commission
Rome

SUBJECT : Notifying arrival Prisoners of War -

1. The military authorities in Florence have informed that the 26 August 1945 without previous notifying a train of more than 1600 ex Prisoners of War coming from Germany passed through the station.

The lack of previous notifying, the briefness of the halt in the Florence station and the lack of disponibility of bread rations made it impossible to give food to the Prisoners of War who had received nothing in the way of food since the Brenner Pass.

2. As cases like this have a great moral and material importance on the moral of the Prisoners of War that arrive from Germany in bad physical conditions and can easily be avoided if the authorities are notified in time of the passing of the trains. We rely on the kind intervention of this Sub Commission to give disposals on this matter.

Signed
Anfosso

*A/F on the file
of Regis has it.*

*See file
This matter
of 1/1/49
or 1/1/49
that it is
managed by*

3347

*IPW
1/1/49*

RESUME OF THE LETTER OF THE POW Lt. VOLICNO Emilio.

During the journey from Pyrgos to Alexandria I was treated like a displaced person and not as a military prisoner; shut up in the storage there was no air and no latrine. With me were Midshipman NARDI Ranieri and Midshipman G.N. CARNEVALE Mario. The passage to Egyptian camps was made in trucks and trains.

The repatriation from Alexandria to Naples was made with the ship OTROASSIA where we were treated as follows: we slept on iron tresses on the floor in the 3rd class and we ate in the 2nd class. With the same boat, Major Italo SCARACOTTA and Capt. A.N. NATALE were repatriated too.

When I landed in Naples on 13/4/45 no Italian Authority was present and I was treated very badly.

We landed on a dock near the "Spazio a Scalo Napoletani" and I was in a group of 35 Italian officers and a few minutes later a military truck arrived; a British corporal came down and without any explanation pushed us with his hands towards the truck, making signs that we had to get up. I protested with energy and tried to get his hands off me and he became very angry. Fortunately an English soldier said to the corporal that first to get up the truck were to be the Colonels and other superior officers and then the subalterns. The corporal stopped for a few minutes and then began again to push me **As** the superior officers and not yet got in the truck. As I found I was not treated as an officer and **in** the spirit of the International Convention for POW, I did not obey and looked at him with hate. The heroic corporal put the gun from his shoulder and pointed more or less in my direction taking off the security. Seeing my indifference he turned the gun around and do doing hitting me with the butt and wounding a finger of my right hand.

The names of the present officers are: *officers present are as follows*

Col. of General Staff FACIO - Col. Infantry ANGELOZZI - Colonel Inf. QUINICO - Col. Art. RICCARDI - Col. Art. PASTORE * Et Col. Inf. VENTURA - Lt. Col. Inf. LEONE - Lt. Col. Inf. CRISPO - Lt. Col. ANTONICO - Lt. Col. Med. BRUNETTI - Lt. Col. Inf. CASONE - Lt. Col. Bers. TRAMONTI - Maj. Inf. INDELICATO - Maj. Inf. AGHERO - Capt. Inf. CECERE - Lt. Air Force CARASSAL - Lt. Air Force PEDRETTI - Lt. Inf. ARANCIO - Lt. Inf. FAA' DI BRUNO - Lt. O.R.E.M., INCHINA - Maj. of harbour SCARACOTTI - Capt. N.A. NATALE, Capt. O.R.E.M., CRUCIOTTI

s/ Traina

3346

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for War Veterans and
Repatriated POW

Rome, 24 August 45

Prot. No. 415118/RPGR

TO: Allied Commission
S/C for Italian POW
Rome

SUBJECT: Arrival at Naples of a group of war veterans from
England

On the 11th of August 45 there arrived at Naples on the
English ship "Georgin" 278 ex-POW as follows:

35 officers in good physical conditions from Germany,
from the camps Reine and Furstenhau.

4 officers, 239 warrant officers and soldier sick and
invalides, that were captured in North Africa.

The only news that was received regarding their arrival
or that referred in any way to this group, was the following
message sent to the High Commissioner on July 13th.

"The Allied Commission informs you as follows:

340 POW of whom 288 invalides, and 6 ^{that} have superated the age
of 50, including 46 specialists, will leave England for Italy
in the near future. We will inform you later as to date
and port of arrival."

The lack of further news brought about the fact, that when
the group arrived in Naples without warning, instead of the
invalides being received in hospital as they should have been, ^{they}
where all sent on to S. Martino, said camp having to provide for
the care of them in the places of cure in the district.

We beg your Sub-Commission, who has always shown such a benevo-
lent interest in our POW to give disposals that in future these
inconveniences may be avoided.

s/ For Gen. Mannerini
Col. Anfosso

3345

1. This sailing was NOT
notified to G-1 (B-1) AFHQ.
2. G-4 (MOS & TN) AFHQ, notified
MOV ALCOM who assumed
we knew.

3. MOV ALCOM promise to tell us in future
in case we don't already know.

WMB

18W

1/7

WB/mdp

MINISTRY OF WAR
Autonomous Office for War Veterans
and Repatriated

(2)

Rome 22nd August 1945

to the A.C.S/c for I.P.W.
and W.M.D. -

715271/ RPQR. -

SUBJECT : Repatriation of 139 Italian Officers POW, sick
and invalides from Egypt.-

Empire Trooper

On the morning of the 7th of August the English ship "Q.Q.1729" arrived at Naples out of Port Said, with 139 officers and 614 warrant officers and troops onboard, who were POW co-operators from Camp 304. The officers were repatriated on the grounds of illness and for after effect of wounds received in combat and the list included the following officers:

- 1 General of Division
(General Gatti Porcinari Giulio)
- 3 Colonels
- 29 Superior Officers
- 106 subalterns.

It was understood, as was referred to us by the officers in question, that ^{they} would have been repatriated on a hospital ship, instead of which when arriving onboard the "Q.Q. 1729", they were put into the steerage and only by the insistent requests, on the part of General Porcinari, were they allowed to go on deck in a limited space in the prow. That these officers were all in a very precarious state of health was confirmed by the fact, that many of them had to be put into the ships infermery by the Sanitary personnel onboard.

Arriving at Naples the Officers were disembarked and made to walk in Indian file between two lines of armed British Soldiers to the trucks at a distance of 150 meters, and they were not allowed to look after they baggage.

The trucks instead of going to S.Martino, went directly to Afragola and left the whole group of repatriess as the British Camp n. 209.

1 PW
1/7

- 2 -

2A

These officers were put into a Camp with the fascists detained by the English Authorities in tents, on cots with straw mattresses in a punishment Camp, that certainly was not fair treatment to men in their physical condition.

file 49/13. All this, apart from procuring them the great inconvenience of the loss of their baggage (attention our letter N. 414692 dated the 14th August 1945) and which has not yet been found, has had a very sad effect on the morale of the officers in question, who having been co-operators and were repatriated on the grounds of illness, hoped to receive treatment more adequate to their needs.

Knowing the benevolent interest that your sub Commission has always shown to our POW, I report this matter to you that you may avoid anything of the kind happening again.

s/ GEN. A. MANNERINI

In view of Col Regis
having read pertinent
extracts of my report on
my visit to NAPLES to
Gen MANNERINI before
this was written, this
letter is superfluous. I suggest

3343

Wm B. Regis

Subject: ARRIVAL OF SICK ITALIAN REPATRIATES AT NAPLES 7 AUG 45
FROM MIDEAST.

A. INFORMATION:

Gen MANNERINI (Ufficio Autonomo Reduci di Guerra, Rome)
complained 13 Aug that:

- (a) They had disembarked NAPLES and NOT TARANTO as requested.
- (b) They had been sent to 209 PW Camp AFRAGOLA without reference to the Italian authorities despite there being an Italian Liaison Officer available at NAPLES.
- (c) Such camp is used to detain Fascists.
- (d) There they had been treated as PW, i.e.
 - i. Confined behind barbed wire
 - ii. Were searched
 - iii. Had their MAAFI cigarettes impounded
 - iv. Were on a low calory ration scale
- (e) They were NOT moved to Centro Allogio, SAN MARTINO, as his Office had requested, on 8 Aug.
- (f) They had lost some of their baggage.

B. INTENTION:

- (a) To ascertain the truth of these allegations
- (b) To discover what mistakes were made and by whom
- (c) To recommend a procedure whereby such incidents might be avoided in the future.

C. ENQUIRIES MADE: AT HQ AC:

- (a) Repatriation offered 8 Jul by MIDEAST
- (b) Having conferred with Gen MANNERINI, ALCOM signalled to MIDEAST ONLY 10 Jul as follows:
"ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPT REPATRIATION 780 IPW INVALIDS AND SPECIFIES THAT THEY BE LANDED AT TARANTO"
- (c) MIDEAST signalled 3 Aug stating final numbers embarked THIS SIGNAL MADE NO MENTION OF DESTINATION BEING OTHER THAN AS WE HAD REQUESTED;
- (d) No further trace of information about this movement until 9.1(Br)A.2 AFHQ telephoned 7 Aug stating that some 780 PW ex MIDEAST had been disembarked NAPLES and sent to 209 PW Camp, whose Commandant and an Italian General amongst the repatriates were bitterly complaining at such disposal.

- (e) They were NOT moved to Centro Allogio, SAN MARTINO, as his Office had requested. on 8 Aug.
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- (e) Knowing there is never anyone to answer Gen MANNERINI's telephone during the afternoon until 1600 hrs, and that there is no English speaking Officer there, ALCOM telephoned Lt ANTONELLI and requested urgent alternative disposal instructions.
- (f) Despite repeated requests to ANTONELLI 8 Aug no instructions were forthcoming, and it became apparent that he did not understand the full import of ALCOM's request until he visited AC 1600 hrs that day.
- (g) By 1700 hrs 8 Aug ANTONELLI telephoned stating that the repatriates should go to CENTRO ALLOGGIO, SAN MARTINO - NAPLES.
- (h) This information was telephoned to G.1(Br)A.2 AFHQ 1845 hrs - the earliest time that a line to AFHQ was available - and it was promised that immediate action would be taken to move the repatriates next day.

D. VISIT TO COL INGHILIERI (Ufficio Autonomo Reduci di Guerra - NAPLES)

- (a) 38 of the draft were hospitalized; balance were walking cases.
- (b) SAN MARTINO would have been able to accommodate them on the day of disembarkation if they had been informed.
- (c) Movement from 209 PW Camp to SAN MARTINO did not take place until 14 Aug.
- (d) Liaison has not been established between his office and MOV NAPLES, and he did not know of the Lieutenant to whom Gen MANNERINI had alluded.
- (e) Officers' baggage was still missing.

E. VISIT TO AFHQ = Maj CONDRON (G.1(Br)A.2)

- (a) A copy was produced of AFHQ signal F.31792 dated 3 Aug to ALCOM for action advising the number due to arrive and stating that they would disembark NAPLES ex EMPIRE TROOPER 8 Aug.

F. VISIT TO MOV NAPLES & S/Capt G(M)(Personnel) = Capt CHAPMAN

- (a) This Officer assumed his present appointment 13 Aug; his predecessor had already left and was not available therefore to be interviewed;
- (b) MOV NAPLES Disembarkation Order No.118 was produced. It stated that 171 Officers and 609 ORs Italian PW would disembark 7 Aug on Berth 25 NAPLES ex EMPIRE TROOPER and would move to 209 PW Camp under arrangements that Camp/
- (c) It was stated that such disposal was laid down by "A" Branch 56 Area.
- (d) ESO on Berth 25 had stated that all baggage was off loaded and cleared from the quay night 7/8 Aug.
- (e) It was thought likely that the PW baggage had accompanied some 700 displaced persons who disembarked from the same vessel and moved to NAPLES CENTRAL STATION for rail movement to a destination not known to him. Such movement is a civil commitment.
- (f) He would welcome an Italian Liaison Officer being available to deal with these drafts, but could find no trace of one having been available in the past.

G. VISIT TO 209 PW CAMP = AFRAGOLA (Adjutant = Capt NILE)

- (a) OC PW Camp had protested by telephone 1 Aug to AFHQ that the repatriates should NOT be routed to his camp.
- (b) "A" Branch 56 Area told NILE by telephone that the

F. VISIT TO MOV NAPLES & S/Capt Q(M)(Personnel) - Capt CHAPMAN

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G. VISIT TO 209 PW CAMP - AFRAGOLA (Adjutant - Capt NILE)

3341

- (a) OC PW Camp had protested by telephone 1 Aug to AFHQ that the repatriates should NOT be routed to his Camp.
- (b) "A" Branch 56 Area told NILE by telephone that the draft were definitely for 209 Camp and were to be treated as a normal PW intake. They added that disposal would be notified as soon as possible.
- (c) On arrival the repatriates
 - i; Were searched - to avoid unauthorised entry of prohibited articles and subsequent possible transfer to other PW.
 - ii. Were deprived of NAAFI cigarettes &c
 - = to avoid dissatisfaction amongst British guards. This is normal practice and does not apply to other property: the cigarettes were returned on departure.
 - iii. Were rationed on low calory scale
 - = This is the normal PW scale, and is the only one in issue at PW Camps.
 - iv. Were NOT disinfested
 - = because such was considered needless as they had just disembarked from a British vessel.
 - v. Were supplied with one extra blanket in view of their medical condition.

- (d) Gen GOTTI POSCINARI, the senior repatriate was informed of the position, which he appeared to understand fully, and which he undertook to pass on to the others to allay discontent. He appears not to have been unduly distressed.
- (e) Col BOWER of SAN MARTINO was allowed to visit the repatriates, and his visit is stated to have been markedly cordial.
- (f) Transport was stated by 3 Dist through 56 Area to have been unavailable on account of sudden calls for "LIAP" movement of British personnel.
- (g) 4 x 3-Ton lorries only were supplied 14 Aug: these were supplemented by 209 PW Camp from own resources in view of their inadequacy, and of the unfortunate events which had already marred the repatriation.
- (h) A full statement of missing baggage had been prepared by the repatriates themselves, and had been forwarded by the Camp to HQ 56 Area.
- (i) All types of PW are accommodated in this Camp, and segregation of types is not normally undertaken.

H. VISIT TO HQ 56 AREA

- (a) Staff Lieut dealing with PW and Movements stated:
- i. Difficulties had previously arisen, therefore disposal to 209 PW Camp was specifically queried with Maj CROFT at HQ 3 Dist. The latter stated that G.I.(Br) AFHQ had no disposal instructions to offer - hence as 209 PW Camp was the only local establishment suited to the reception and screening of PW, the draft was sent there.
 - ii. Nothing was known of the existence of an Italian Liaison Officer authorised to advise on PW.
 - iii. Guidance, if not positive direction, from a high level would be welcomed to define transport priorities between British service commitments and the movement of Italian PW; it being noted that Italians were frequently ~~strapped~~ lifted when British personnel had to march. It was appreciated that in this particular instance the choice did not arise as the Italians were sick.

(b) S/Capt "Q" stated:

- i. He was aware some baggage was missing but pointed out that docks clearance was a Movements responsibility and that receiving Unit were normally on hand to assist.
- ii. He had enquired of HSO = see report of conversation

3340

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3340

(b) S/Capt "Q" stated:

- i. He was aware some baggage was missing but pointed out that docks clearance was a Movements responsibility and that receiving Unit were normally on hand to assist.
- ii. He had enquired of ESO = see report of conversation with ESO at para "I" below.
- iii. The list from 209 PW Camp had not yet arrived, but when it did he would pass it to MMIA.

I. TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ESO ON BERTH 25 NAPLES:

- (a) The EMPIRE TROOPER off loaded all her baggage night 1/8 Aug and it was all cleared from the docks.
- (b) No one appeared to take care of the PW, although in the case of the displaced persons on the same vessel, an official supplied by AMG (Naples Commune) was, as on previous occasions, on the spot.
- (c) It was assumed that all the baggage went to NAPLES CENTRAL STATION with the displaced persons. Enquiry had been made of the PW whether there was any more baggage for them; the reply was negative = he could not remember who gave this answer, not what his rank was.
- (d) He would very much welcome the future presence of an English speaking Italian Officer provided that such person had the backing of AC and the Italian authorities and would be prepared to work under his direction to arrange marshalling of personnel and kits and their

despatch from the docks.

J. VISIT TO NAPLES CENTRAL STATION:

- (a) Italian KToknew nothing of the movement or the displaced persons on 7/8 Aug, but stated that Italian Red Cross would have handled it if it took place!!
- (b) Italian Red Cross stated that the movement did take place and that personnel and baggage departed for ROME, from where they would be routed to various destinations by the Italian Red Cross Office at ROME.

K. FURTHER ENQUIRIES AT HQ AC:

- (a) AFHQ signal F 31792 of 3 Aug did NOT reach IPW S/C.
(b) Internal distribution made by Message Centre ALCOM was:

Action: Trans S/C

Info: Chief Commissioner
Econ Sec
File (2)
Float

- (c) In view of the contents of the signal (copy attached) it is NOT understood
- i. Why IPW was omitted from distribution
 - ii. Why Transport S/C did not refer it to IPW

L. CONCLUSIONS:

- (a) About this incident: 3339
- i. ALCOM Message Centre failed to route the AFHQ Signal F 31792 correctly.
 - ii. Transportation S/C should have referred it to IPW.
 - iii. Had there been a liaison link available between MOV NAPLES and the Italian authorities, the mistake could have been avoided despite i & ii above.

- (b) For the future
- i; All signals emanating from ALCOM about movements should be copied to AFHQ cite FHGDM.
 - ii. Gen MANNERINI should be requested to provide an English speaking Liaison Officer at each

Info: Chief Commissioner
Econ Sec
File (2)
Float

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(a) About this incident:

- i. ALCOM Message Centre failed to route the AFHQ Signal F 31792 correctly.
- ii. Transportation S/C should have referred it to IPW.
- iii. Had there been a liaison link available between MOV NAPLES and the Italian authorities, the mistake could have been avoided despite i & ii above.

3339

(b) For the future

- i. All signals emanating from ALCOM about movements should be copied to AFHQ cite FHGDM.
- ii. Gen MANNERINI should be requested to provide an English speaking Liaison Officer at each port to which repatriates are normally routed. Such Officer should be introduced to local MOV HQ by ALCOM, and should be empowered by the Italian authorities to issue orders (on the direction of ESO) to repatriates concerning transportation arrangements for themselves and their baggage.
- iii. It would greatly assist MOV at each port if such Officer were always available to advise on disposal of repatriates, as soon as notice be received of their expected arrival.
- iv. Can Italian transport be made available to lift repatriates from the port to their destination? This would be particularly helpful at NAPLES, which port is so busy with redeployment of British and American personnel.

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