

ACC 10000/120/5663

NO. 1/23 Italian P.W. Escaped or Liberated F
opened: Nov. 1944 - Closed: Ap. 1946 - From:

ain P.W. Escaped or Liberated From German Concentration Camps

4 - Closed: Ap. 1946 -

From: Dec. 1944 - TO: Ap. 1946

3615
3680

Tele: GOTTINGEN 494855 Search Bureau
B.A.O.R.Ref: PWDF/55700/Inf

8 April, 1946.

To: Combined Repatriation Executive
120 Allied Control Authority Building
BERLIN
B.A.O.R.Subject: Lt.Col.CLEINATI - Italian PW

1. Reference your CRX/512/683 dated 2 April, 46 enclosing letter from Land Forces SUB-COMMISSION A.C. concerning the above mentioned ITALIAN National.
2. It is regretted that no action can be taken by this Bureau as the last known locations are in the AMERICAN and finally RUSSIAN zones of occupation.
3. The entire correspondence is, therefore, being forwarded to the Central Tracing Bureau, UNRRA Central Headquarters, ARDEN, A.P.O. 757, U.S. Army.

3/May

M.F. Robertson
R.E.H. STOTT
COLONEL
Director of Bureau.

3680

MFR/GH

COPY TO: C.T.B. (with enclosures) attention "S" Unit
Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.
M.I.I.A. Italian P.W. Division
(Your IFW/1/23/54 of 21.3.46 refers)Copy sent c/o
CRX.
Full address
unknown.

1/23

56

Advance Headquarters,
Control Commission for Germany (BE),
Berlin, B.A.O.R.

G.R.X.
(Combined Repatriation Executive)
120 Allied Control Authority Building
BERLIN

RECEIVED 23 APR 1946
5725

CRX/5.2/ 7.7

8 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Request for information concerning Italian PW, Lt. Col. of Marine
(Port Commander) OLGINATTEI Giuseppe.

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission A.C., M.M.I.A., Italian Prisoners-of-War
Division, c/o AFHQ, Caserta, Italy.

Reference your IPW/1/23/54 dated 21 March 1946.

1. This office holds no records of individuals and the matter has
therefore been referred to the Search Bureau at Gottingen with a request
that they reply direct to you.

O.K.
Wait.
2/4

M. O. PUNCHARD,
J. Comd.
CRX.

M. O. Punchard

55

3679

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
LAND FORCES A.C.
Received 23 APR 1946
Log No. 6432

Telephone:
489081
Haf 368

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

IPW/1/23/54

21 March 1946

SUBJECT: Request for information concerning Italian PW
Lt Col of Marine (Port Commander) OLGINATTI Giuseppe

TO : Combined Repatriation Executive, BERLIN

1. This Division has received a request for information concerning subject PW, and as to the likelihood of his early repatriation.

2. Lt Col OLGINATTI, son of the late Alessandro OLGINATTI and of Corinna ARDEMAGNI OLGINATTI, was born at PAVIA on 17 Nov 1890.

3. On 8 Sept 43 (date of the Armistice with ITALY), he was in service with the Port Command of TOULON (FRANCE). Not wishing to turn himself over to the Germans, he departed and tried to re-enter ITALY, but was captured by the Germans and sent to their concentration camp at CZENSTOCHOWA (POLAND).

4. In Aug 44, he was transferred to the camp at NUREMBERG (NURNBERG LANGAVASSER 13a No. 1686 bar.94 Stalag XIII Teillager Oflag).

5. The family recently learned from the Italian Red Cross that, together with other superior Officers of the Italian Navy, he was transferred to the MUELEBERG (ELBE) Camp No. 4. Later he was unofficially reported to have been transferred to a Collection Centre at SPREMBERG.

6. May this Division be advised, please, as to the actual whereabouts of Col OLGINATTI, and as to whether he is in Anglo-American or Russian custody? Also, is there any likelihood of his early repatriation?

7. Any information as to his health and welfare would also be appreciated.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

H. ARMAND & SONS.
Capt. Sped. 3678 AUS

for
J. E. REGIS
Lt. Col., CAC
Chief
IPW Division

FILE

1 FEB 1946

I. CRUEL ROUTING

DOUBTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

File:

Date 30 January 1946

SUBJECT:

Fill in each column, initial action, and draw a line across the sheet just below initials. Number each memo consecutively in first column. Use entire width of sheet for long memos.

No.	From	To	Date
1	G-1 A	Col. Regis I.P.W.	Further to our telephone conversation of a few days ago, I understand that your office sent letters of inquiry to the Ministry of War and the Italian Red Cross on 24 October 1945 inquiring about the status of P W Carabinieri ROLLO, Agostino, son of Angelo M.P. 55292 -Concentration Camp Dachau who was afterwards <u>seen</u> at the Concentration Camp at Alacka, i//. No news in 7 years. Since it would appear that some answer should have been made by these agencies within a period of 4 months could I ask that some inquiry be made?

EDWARD D. S. SULLIVAN,
Major, Air Corps,
G-1 American.

1/23/51
Acc
For action

52

1/23/52
FILE
3677

1/13

DATE 31 JAN 1946
EXTENDED ON CARDS.
INITIALS: S. [initials]

81 JAN 1946
Log No 2596

Telephone:
489081
Ext 368

URGENT

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

IPW/1/23/51

31 February 1946

SUBJECT: Request for information as to welfare and whereabouts of Italian PW Carabinieri ROLLO Agostino di Angelo (MP 55292), formerly in German Concentration Camp at DACHAU, later reported seen at ALACKA(?) Camp

TO : Combined Repatriation Executive, BERLIN

1. Last October (1945), this Division addressed inquiries concerning subject PW to the Ministry of War (Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated Prisoners of War), and to the Italian Red Cross.

2. To date, no word has been received from either of these sources.

3. Inquiry at General Headquarters of the Royal Carabinieri in ROME also has been without avail. It is claimed there that they have no record of a Carabinieri named ROLLO Agostino. The only ROLLO they have listed has Giuseppe as his first name, and is listed as being assigned to the BARI Legion.

4. However, Maj Edward D. S. SULLIVAN, Air Corps, G-1 (US) of 2675 Regt, Allied Commission, states that Carabinieri ROLLO Agostino is a relative of a relative of his, and that he has seen a photograph of ROLLO Agostino in the uniform of a Carabinieri. He further states that ROLLO Agostino is from LEGGE Province of Italy.

5. It is therefore requested that a careful search be made of your records for any information concerning subject PW, from whom his family has had no word in more than two years. This Division has no record of his having been repatriated.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

H. ARMAND GO HAST,
Capt., Spec. Rep. AUS

for
J. E. REGIS
Lt. Col., CAC
Chief
IPW Division

3676

FILE

51

HEADQUARTERS MTOUSA
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
(Prisoner of War Information Bureau)
APO 512 U. S. Army

RED/dkh

FWIB 20-333

3 September 1945

SUBJECT: Prisoner of War - TOCCAFONDI, Urbano.

TO: Director, War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War
Sub-Commission
Allied Commission
APO 394, U. S. Army

1. Reference is made to your letter, file IPW/1/23/47, dated 18 August 1945, subject as above, addressed to G-5 Section, AFHQ.

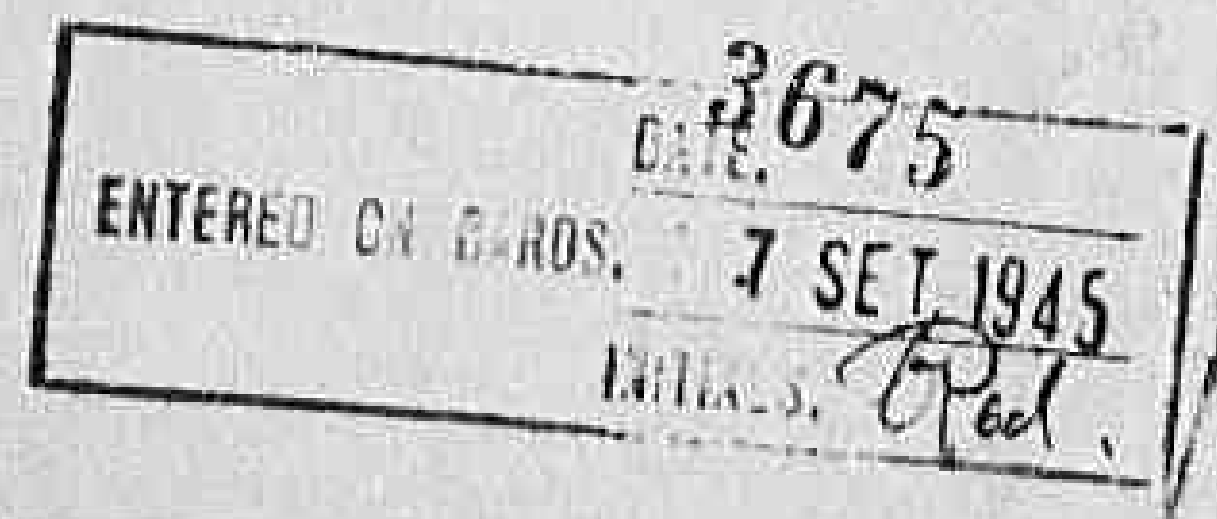
2. The case concerning prisoner of war TOCCAFONDI, Urbano, has been referred to the Commanding General, United States Forces in European Theater, for appropriate action.

FOR THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL:

Bernard Mark
BERNARD MARK
Captain, CMP
Director

N/A

(50)

IPW
1/23

WH/FS

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

IPW/1/23/4911 Sep. '45

TO: Ministry of War
Ministry of Post War Assistance (PW Bureau)

SUBJECT: FULLEN Camp

1. Ref. your 2911 Pol/F.8.7 dated 16 Aug.
2. To enable us to ascertain under whose control is this Camp will you please state exact position of FULLEN, with reference to nearest well known town.
3. In telephone conversation of this morning (this office & Lt. Antonelli) it was stated that only about 50 or 60 PW still await repatr. from this camp, in view of para 2 of above quoted letter will you please confirm this.

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

File

3674

*asked for a copy
of 1511/Pol/F/8*

Rome 16th August 1945

MINISTRY OF POST-WAR ASSISTANCE
POW Bureau

TO : The Allied Commission
Sub Commission for Italian
POW and WMD. R O M E

N° 2911 Pol/F.3.7

SUBJECT : Sick Italian Military personnel in Camp
Fullen - Germany.

see 47 a
With letter N° 1511/Pol/F 8 dated the 10th
of May 1945, we informed your Sub Commission of the
pitiable state of ex Italian prisoners in hospital N° 2
at Fullen in Germany and asked you to have them repa-
triated as soon as was possible.

As we have again been informed that their
situation is becoming more serious each day, due to
the climatic conditions and their housing, notwithstan-
ding the care given them by the Allied Authorities, we
again beg you to consider the urgency of the need of
repatriating this sick people (over a 1000) amongst
whom, are many ill with T.B.C. who, if could be sent
to a warmer climate and could be better taken care of
would still be able to save their lives.

Dott. Fausto Nitti

3673

*IPW
1/23*

COPY

mdp

PRISONER OF WAR SERVICE

n.di prot. 1511/Pol./F-8

TO: Allied Sub Commission
Prisoner of War

Rome

SUBJECT : Liberated sick italian prisoners in Fullen camp in
Germany -

An Italian General, Prisoner of War repatriated from Germany, has brought news that in the Hospital Camp n.2 Fullen(once Fullen-Lager 308), when liberated by Canadian troops, were found about 1600 Prisoners of War of whom 200 officers.

The phisical conditions of these Prisoners of War were terrible, they were ~~all~~ used both morally and phisically by the Germans and mortality was very elevated (about 10 deaths every day).

The very bad conditions of these Prisoners of War, who are for the greater affected by T.B.C., are much better now for the care the Canadian troops have given them.

The Italian Government requests this Sub Commission to obtain in the shortest delay that is possible the repatriation of these Prisoners of War and of all others that have been found in Germany in same condition as those above mentioned.

We thank this Sub Commission for every thing that will be done to interest the competent authorities on this subject.

for

High Commissary

T.L.Gaspano

3672

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

JER/ame.

47

IPW/1/23/47

18 August 1945

SUBJECT: POW TOCCAFONDI Urbano

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
(Att: G-5 Section)

see 46

1. The Italian High Commissioner for POW informed this Sub-Commission that the above soldier was captured by the Germans in Sept. 43, he was interned in Germany at A.K. 15000 Lager - Bezeichnung 17494 siehe Rückseite - Stammlager XIII C.

2. He escaped from the concentration camp on October 1944 and is now working at Co. B.N/C Co-2 ECAB APO 658 c/s U.S. Army.

3. The High Commissariat begs to obtain his repatriation.

We will be pleased to be informed of any action taken on this matter.


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

3671

1/22

EB/pb

Rome 8th August 1945

46

ITALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR POW
Military Section.

TD : The Allied Commission
Sub Commission for Italian
POW and W.M.D.

ROMEN° 27691/1^{di} Prot.

SUBJECT : Soldier TOCCAFONDI Urbano. *see 47*

The High Commissariat has been informed that the soldier TOCCAFONDI Urbano was captured by the German troops in Sept. 43 and interned in Germany at (A.K.15000 Lager - Bezeichnung 17494 siehe Ruckseite - M.Stammlager XIII C).

Escaping from the concentration camp he managed to join the west front in October 44 and is now doing service at the Co.B.H.C. Co-2 ECAR APO 658 e/s U.S. Army.

We beg your Sub-Commission to interest the competent authorities to obtain if possible, his repatriation.

Gen. V. Dapino

(Translated 10 August -EB)

LPW
1/23

DATE. <i>11. VII 45</i>
ENTERED ON CARDS.
INITIALS. <i>DP</i>

L/edf

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rome 7th August 1945

1547/37

Dear Colonel Campbell,

Following my letter No.19/14685/39 dated the 1th August, I inform you that our Ambassador at Moscow has furtherly informed us that the Sovieet Government has agreed to free our compatriots, whether military or civil who were interned by the Germans and liberated by the Russian Army on the Eastern front.

The Soviet military Authorities have already received instructions to come to an agreement with the Allied Authorities for the Consignment of these people in a place to be established along the German frontier. The Soviet Authorities have stated that the return of these POW can be completed within fourteen days.

It is therefore very urgent that a decision be taken regarding the matter I wrote you about in my last letter and while awaiting your answer, I send you my most cordial greetings.

For the PRUMAS

Translated 9th August.

3669

1 PW
1/23

EB/pb

(44a)

Rome 1 st August 1945

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

N° 19/14685/33

Dear Colonel Campbell

/ (42) see 45.

Following my letter n°3/13340/30 dated the 30th 20 of July 1945, I inform you that the Soviet Authorities have informed our Ambassador at Moscow, that the number of Italian prisoners liberated by the Soviet troops in Russia, Poland, Germany and Austria are about 100.000 men who are now in concentration camps in various localities under the direct command of Italian officers.

Our ambassador at Moscow suggests that we should proceed immediately to an agreement between the Soviet Military Authorities on onehand, and the Allied and Italian Authorities on the other, for the repatriation of the persons in question.

In the meanwhile I propose that you and General Mannerini make direct contact with the competent soviet authorities in Vienna or in another locality, in the aim of establishing the agreements in this sense, if you agree we will telegraph Moscow.

While awaiting your decision regarding this matter, I am yours sincerely

R. (rest illegible)

*6.2. contacted he arrived early USSR Rep. 19 22.
apparent 11.30 7/25/45*

3668

IPW
~~11/23~~ 1/23

*Sum
Gib*

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

R32/prb

9/9

(44)

G-5: 383.7-1

7 August 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italians deported to Germany and Poland and liberated by the Soviet Armies.

TO : HQ USFET C-5.

see 43

1. Allied Commission Italy has been informed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that agreement has been reached at Moscow between the Italian Ambassador and Mr. Andre Vyshinsky, Vice Commissary of the people for Foreign Affairs, as to the repatriation of Italians held by the Soviet Armies.

2. It is not known whether this subject and the movement to Italy which it involves have been the subject of negotiations between your HQ and the Russian Authorities. Also the number of Italians involved is unknown.

3. May we please be informed of the present situation and the action you propose to take to effect the repatriation of Italians held by the Soviet Armies.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:



R. E. Bohl
R. E. BOHL
Captain

Copy to: HQ Allied Commission ROME (your Ltr 1/23/43 of 31 July refers). ✓

3667

1PW
1/23

JAG/RT/td

(43)

IPW 1/23/45

21 July 1945

Subject : Repatriation of Italian deported to Germany and Poland
and liberated by the Soviet Armies.

To : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512, U.S. Army.
Attn: G-5 Section.

file 39 44

- 1/. Reference your G-5: 583.7-3 dated 23 June 45.
- 2/. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Sub-Commissioners that the Italian Ambassador at Moscow had reached an agreement with Vice Commissary of the people for Foreign Affairs Mr. Andre Vyshinsky as to the repatriation of the Italian PW held by Soviet Armies.
- 3/. Mr. Vyshinsky expressed himself as being in favour of their repatriation overland, but he pointed out that the transfer of these bodies through German territory to the Italian frontier had to be decided upon by the Allies.
- 4/. We would greatly appreciate if you will take this matter up with the competent authorities and advise.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

file

3666

EB/SMC

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
No. 13340/30

Rome, 20 July 45

Dear Colonel Campbell,

Referring to the conversation held by yourself, Minister Zoppi and General Mannerini on the 13th of this month, I herewith forward the copy of a letter sent to me by Brigadier Lush regarding the repatriation of Italian soldiers interned in Germany, freed by the Allies, actually in Russian custody in the regions occupied by the Soviets.

Regarding this question, our Ambassador at Mosca has informed us that the Vice Commissary at the People for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vyshinsky has expressed himself as being in favour of their repatriation over-land. We on our part, have no difficulties in discussing directly the question with the Soviet Authorities, but as the transfer of people in German territory to the Italian frontier can only be decided upon by the Allies, we would greatly appreciate if you will take the matter up directly with Shaef.

Cordially

s/ Prunas

3665

12W
1/23

(40)

Ref: IPW/1/23/40.

29 June 1945

My Dear Dr. Prunas:

*See 33 C 28, 39*Reference your letter 19/0944/25 and my letter
IPW/1/23 dated 20 June 1945.

I have been informed by higher authority that
the responsibility for the repatriation of Italians deported
to Germany and Poland and liberated by the Russian Army rests
with the Italian Government and the Russian Military representative
in Rome.

Yours very truly,

E. Talbot

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner
for the Chief Commissioner.

Dr. Renato Prunas,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Italian Government,
R O M E.

gfk

3664

WMD 51/39
3901ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

WHH/pc

G-5 : 383.7-1

23 June 1945

SUBJECT : Repatriation of Italians to Germany and Poland,
and Liberated by Soviet Armies.TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.
(WMD & IFCOT Sub-Commission.)

1. Reference your subject letter, IPW/1/23/34, dated 20 June 45.
2. Repatriation responsibility rests with Italian Government and Russian Military Representative in Rome.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

W.B. Hemphill
W.B. HEMPHILL.
Lt. Colonel.

3663

IPW
1/23

JR/anc.

(38)

IPW/1/23/38

26 June 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian PW of the Germans freed
by the Russians in Camp IV B (and Muhlberg)

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War

See 37, 27, 26, 25

Reference your letter No.1871/Pol.F-8 di prot. dated
8th June 1945.

1. We have been advised by Higher Authority that as
a result of a conference recently held the repatriation of
ex POW is to be carried out according to a fixed programme.

2. The transit camp at Odessa is being closed and it
is not considered possible that the Russians will now repa-
triate the group in question via Odessa.

3. No action is being taken at present on this matter.
You will be informed of any new development as soon as possible.

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

3662

UMD & IPW

(37)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

REB/jjr

3665

G-5: 014.33-115

20 June 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian ex Ps.O.W.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

/see 26, 27, 25, 38

Ref your IPW/1/23/26 dated 14 June 1945.

1. As a result of conferences recently held, the repatriation of ex Ps.O.W. is to be carried out according to a fixed programme of priorities and routes.

2. It is not considered possible that the Russians will now repatriate the group in question via ODESSA. Particularly in view of the fact that the transit camp at ODESSA is being closed w.e.f. 24 Jan. 45.

3. No action is at present considered necessary upon letter under reference.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:



R. E. Beel
R. E. BEEL
Captain.

E.C. has file - Mola

3661

IPW
1/23

(36)

(F)

Ref/IPW/1/23/36

25 June 1945

My dear Dr. Prunas :

See 24 & 32

Reference my letter IPW/1/23/24 dated 11 June 1945.

I have now been advised that ODESSA is to be closed as the point of hand-over for Prisoners of War, and that an overland transfer point for all Prisoners of War in that theatre is to be established at ~~BRUNNEN~~ in the Russian zone, Austria.

Yours very truly,

/s/ ELLERY W. STONE.

(Sgt) ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Don Renato Prunas
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome.

FILE

3660

JAO/ci

(35)

(F)

IPW/1/23/3520 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War in French Hands.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

See 29.
I have to acknowledge your letter 1926/Pol/F/8 dated 14 June 45.

1. It has been decided by higher authority that the question concerning Prisoners of War in French hands should be dealt with by the Italian Government through the French Embassy in Rome.

2. As I explained to you this morning, when I discussed the matter with you, the question is a delicate one, but I will take the matter up with SHANT when I visit there at an early date.

3. I shall also endeavour to find out anything that can be done through other channels, to help in the repatriation of Italian Nationals held by the French.

/s/ J. A. CAMPBELL

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

FILE

3659

(34)
(P)

JAG/ed

IFW/1/23/220 June 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italians deported to Germany and Poland,
and liberated by the Soviet Armies.

TO : Allied Forces Headquarters, AFO 512.
(Att: G-5 Section)

See 28 + 33 + 39

1. The Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs have requested me to interest the competent Allied Authorities in the question of Italians deported to Germany and Poland, and liberated by the Soviet Armies on the eastern front.
2. The secretary General to the Italian Foreign Office stated he has been informed that in the ELBA Region, zone occupied by Soviet Troops, there are concentration camps of ex-Italian Prisoners of War.
3. The Italian Foreign Office has signaled the Embassy in Moscow to request the Russian Government to send these soldiers to zones occupied by Anglo-Americans.
4. The Italian Government request that these Italians be received by British and American Forces, and arrangements ~~be~~ made for their repatriation to Italy.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J. A. CAMPBELL

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

FILE

365/8/45
B/F
c/c

(33)

(P)

Ref/124/1/23/33

June 1945

My dear Dr. Prunas :

See 28,34,39,40

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 19/0944/25 dated 9 June 1945.

The matter referred to has been forwarded to higher authority for their consideration.

I shall inform you in due course of any action taken.

Yours very truly,

/s/ M. S. LUSH,
BRIGADIER
EX-100, Comd
Major W. G. GORDON
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

For

His Excellency don Renato Prunas
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome.

FILE

3657

BIF 20/6/45
34

WMD + IPW (32)
3101

RESTRICTED

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

EHH/mcc

G-5: 014.33-115

14 Jun 45.

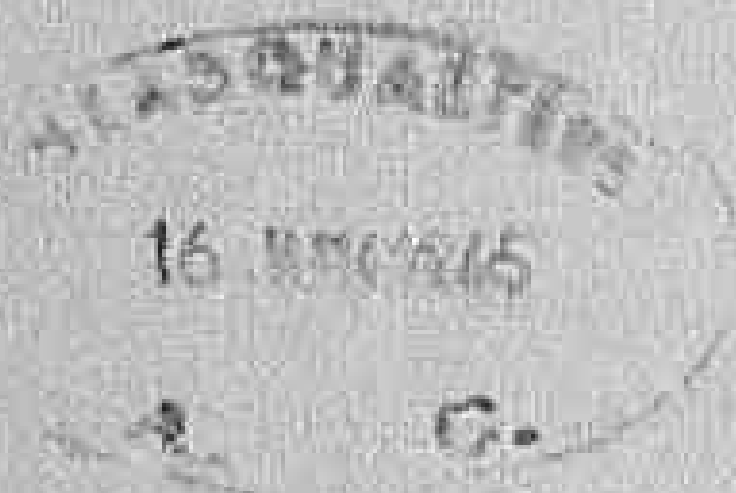
SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War freed by Russian Operations.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission.
(WMD & IPOW Sub-Commission)

See 23/24/36.

Reference your IPW/1/23/23 dated 8 Jun concerning the above subject. This Section has been advised by G-1(Br) (Major MAY) that ODESSA is to be closed as a port of handover and an overland transfer point for all prisoners of war in this theatre is to be established in Russia Zone, Austria, at ZELTWEG.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

E.H. HEYD,
Lt-Colonel.Copy to: ~~G-1(Br)~~ (Major MAY)

3656

IPW
1/23

JAG/01

(31)

IPW/1/23/3118 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Internees in Germany.

Dear General Mannerini,

See 30.

Reference your letter no. 40952/REGH dated 11 June 1945.

The question of Italian Internees in French hands is one which should be dealt with through the French Ambassador in Rome. This is a ruling which has been given by higher authority, however, I shall always be prepared to help in any way and to consider any suggestion you or the Italian Government may have to make.

Yours sincerely

JAC

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

TO: General Commanding,
Autonomous Office for War Veterans
and Repatriated Italian PW
Ministry of War, Rome.

3655

(30)

AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR VETERANS
Prot. 40952/RPGR

Rome, 11/VI/45

TO: It.P.O.W. Sub-Comm.
For Col. CAMPBELL
ROME

SUBJECT: It. Internees in Germany.

See 31.

With reference to our telephone conversation I send you a copy of the "Reporter" with the article in question.

I beg you to take an interest and will be grateful for everything you can do in favour of the Italian Internees especially for those in French hands, because while the Anglo-Americans do everything they can to assist and favour the repatriation of our compatriots, it seems that the French consider them as prisoners and not only don't help them but hinder their repatriation.

THE GENERAL
Head of the Autonomous Office

A. MANNERINI

*1945
1/23*

3654

(29)

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Rome, 14 June 1945

TO: The Allied Commission
IPOW & WMD Sub-Commission

No.1926/Pol/F/8 di Prot.

SUBJECT: Declaration of the state of imprisonment on the part
of the French Authorities relative to our compatriots
freed in Germany.

See 35

1. We have been repeatedly informed that, our compatriots freed by the Armed Forces from imprisonment Camps in Germany, if found in French, or German, or Austrian territory by the French, they are declared by the French Authorities as being POW and as such interned in other concentration camps and also given the same treatment as German POW.

2. It is known that in certain localities in France, the American Authorities have protested against this regulation and have refused to turn over to the French Authorities Italian POW freed in Germany, if the French do not first agree to treat them as Freed Military personnel and not as POW, (example: the Camp in Champagne, Section 5 of the SHAEF).

3. Under these dire conditions, it seems that there are 150,000 Italian P.O.W. at Württemberg, where the authorities of the 1st French Army have the control of the territory and are at the point of putting (if they have not already done so) on the POW status, our compatriots already freed from German Concentration Camps.

4. The High Commissariat thinks it is not necessary to illustrate the complete illegality of this action. It is thought sufficient to put in evidence the fact, that these individuals have not only, not fought against the French but have fought against the enemy of France, who had become the enemy of Italy and had even more, refused to collaborate with the Germans, for which reason they were put into concentration camps by the German Armed Forces.

5. These soldiers who have made sacrifices to obey the imperative orders of co-belligerence against a common enemy, ³⁶⁵³ not now be abandoned by the Allied Forces to such an unjust destiny.

6. As this re-instatement on a POW status is essentially a Military question, that the French Military Authorities perform ^{WMD}

IPW
1/23

the power ~~with~~ given them by the Supreme Allied Command and by the Military operations, that have given them the power to dispose of our compatriots, the High Commissioner hopes that the Supreme Allied Command will examine this grave question, and give disposals for the liberation from POW status of any POW-French custody and of our POW in German custody, who are to be considered by the Armed Forces at their command, as freed from imprisonment.

7. This definition of our compatriots from the point of view of Military jurisdiction, is to be considered absolute, relative to any eventual change regarding this matter by the French political authorities.

8. We beg your Sub-Commission to take into consideration this request with a certain urgency and call the matter to the attention of the Supreme Allied Commission for their decision regarding it.

9. It can be easily understood, that if this misunderstanding with the French Authorities can not be superated, the tension existing between our contries will be increased rather then diminished.

For The High Commissioner
Gen.V.Dapino

Translation

WMD & IFOW

28

State Department

The Secretary General

19/09441/25

Rome, 9 June 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

22, 23, 24, 33, 34, 37, 40

I refer to my letter of June 1st, n. 08591, concerning the repatriation of the Italians deported to Germany and Poland and liberated by the Soviet Armies on the Eastern front.

Having heard that in the Elba region, in the zone occupied by the Soviet troops, there are concentration camps of ex-Italian prisoners, this Department wired to the Embassy in Moscow to ask the Russian Government to send these soldiers to the zone occupied by the Anglo-Americans.

I shall be most grateful, my dear Admiral, if you will kindly inform the competent Allied Authorities, asking them to receive the said prisoners and arrange for their repatriation.

Yours very truly,

S. R. Prunas

see 33/34

EC Dist - 14 June 45

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner +
Allied Commission
Rome

Action: WMD & IFOW SC

INFO: CHIEF COMM 2551

EXEC COMM

e.o.

1945
1/23

EB/amc.

(27)

IPW/1/23/27

14th June 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian ex-P.O.W. of the
German freed by the Russians in Camp IV
B (Muhlberg).

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War

See 25/26 -

Reference your letter No. 1871/Pol.F.8 di
Prot. dated the 8th June 1945

The letter has been forwarded to higher
authority for consideration.

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

36524/4/45
B/F
c/c.

EE/smc. (P)
(26)

IPW/1/23/26

14th June 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian ex-P.O.W. of the
Germans freed by the Russians in camp IV B
Muhlberg.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
Attn: G-5 Section

See 25/24 + 37

1. The attached translation of letter No. 1871/Pol.P.
8 di Prot. dated the 8th June 1945, received from the High
Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

2. I shall be pleased if you will inform me of any
action taken.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director
WMD & IPO: Sub-Comm.

2 Encls.
Copy to G-31

~~615643~~
45-
9/e

(25)

High Commissioner for Italian PW

Rome 8th June 1945

No. 1871/Pol./F.8 di Prot.

To the Allied Commission

Sub-Commission for Italian PW

Attention Col. Campbell

See 26/27
Subject: Repatriation of Italian ex POW of the Germans freed
by the Russians in Camp IV B (Muhlberg)

In Camp IV B. situated on the West of the Elbe, between
Leipzig and Riesa, on the 1st of May there were 350 Italian
officers who were freed with 500 warrant officers and soldiers.

According to information received from the Italians of
the Camp, the Russian authorities intend to repatriate these in-
dividuals in two or three months time, sending them first to
Odessa.

We beg you to examine the possibility of sending these
Italian towards the north of Italy. (Via Brenner or Switzerland)
thereby reducing the fatigue of a long journey by railway and by
sea, for people who have already suffered so much during German
imprisonment.

Signed for the High Commissioner

Gen. V. Dapino

3648

IPW
1/23

(24)

Ref/IFW/1/23/24

11 June 1945

My dear Dr. Prunas :

Sec 22/23 + 28 + 32, 36.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 19/08594/23 dated 4 June 1945, and to say in reply that the matter has been referred to higher authority for their consideration.

I shall, of course, inform you as soon as a decision has been made.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLEERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency don Renato Prunas
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome.

~~11/11/45~~
3687

(23)

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

W/1/3/238 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War freed by Russian operations.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.
(Att: G-3 section.)

See 24/9/32

Reference your G-3:014.33-115 dated 18 April 1945.

1. The Italian Government now point out that they have received information from their Ambassador in Moscow, that according to agreement made by the Anglo-American General Staff and the Soviet General Staff, the repatriation of Italians would no longer take place through Olesca, but by land.

2. A request has been made to this Headquarters by the Italian Government, to interest the competent military authorities in the fate of these Italians, and to have them repatriated in the same way as the co-prisoners of other nations.

3. It is pointed out that the subject above referred to, is one of great controversy, and the cause of embarrassment to the Italian Government.

4. I shall be pleased if you will let me know of any action which may be taken in this matter.

For the Chief Commissioner :

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

3646

HMD:IPON/S/C

Translation

(22)

State Department

19/08591/23

Rome, 1 June 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

the State Department has already asked the intervention of the Allied Commission for the repatriation of the Italians who had been deported to Germany and Poland and were liberated by the Soviet army on the Eastern front. I refer to memorandum n. 6/914/394 of March 31st, 1945, in which we asked this repatriation to take place through Odessa, in the same way as for the ex allied prisoners. I also refer to the kind answer of Col. Campbell, of April 23rd.

We have been informed by our Ambassador in Moscow that according to recent agreements made by the Anglo American General Staff and the Soviet General Staff, this repatriation would no longer take place through Odessa, but by land.

I shall be most grateful, my dear Admiral, if you ask without delay the competent military authorities to take an interest in the fate of the Italians and have them repatriated in the same way, as the ex-prisoners of other nations. The Nation follows this question with great anxiety, as you can see from the daily press.

Waiting for your answer and thanking you, I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours sincerely,

S. R. Prunas

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

o.o.

EC DIST - 4 June

ACTION - HMD:IPON S/C -

INFO - CHIEF COMMR.

- EX COMMR.

0015

IPW
1/23

JAC/vl

(21)

Ref: IPW/1/23/21

28 May 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

See 2c.

In reply to your Memorandum dated 10 May 1945 regarding the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War, the arranging of the necessary transit centres, and the supply of clothing.

My letter IPW/1/23/18 dated 24 May 1945 signed by Admiral Stone explained what had been done regarding collection centres and camps; and further, that this Sub-Commission is in daily consultation with General Mannerini on all questions concerning the returning Italian Military personnel.

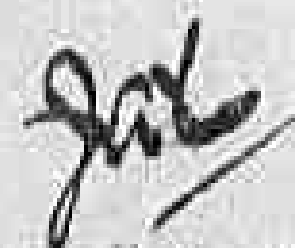
The points you make regarding clothing are having the closest attention, and such clothing as is available will be immediately offered to the Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated Italian Prisoners of War. This whole question of clothing has been discussed with General Mannerini, and, it is understood, that arrangements have been made in the North for the supply of all available clothing from that source.

The question of sending Missions to Germany and other countries has been put forward to higher authority for consideration.

It is suggested that delegates from the Italian Red Cross should consult with the International Red Cross on all questions concerning Italian Prisoners of War.

I would again assure your Excellency that this Sub-Commission is always prepared and ready to assist and advise those departments of your government responsible for Prisoners of War.

Yours very truly



J.A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director

WD & IPW Sub-Com.

3644

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

Transliteration

Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Memorandum for the Allied Commission

See 21

The Government hopes that the repatriation of the Italian prisoners of war may take place without delay.

Because of its moral, political and social repercussions, the problem of the prisoners of war is one of the most urgent and important questions of the present varied of national life. It concerns an important mass of youthful energies - the strongest from the moral and productive point of view, - which have been for a long time - from two to four years - in captivity abroad, without feeling the psychological process of the new democratic life of the Nation and its hard work for reconstruction. The precarious and uncertain moral situation of our prisoners has immediate and constant repercussions in the Country on several million members of their families, whose thoughts, political attitudes and social activities depend on the problem of over one and a half million Italians scattered in concentration camps all over the world.

This painful situation obliges the Government to stress the fact that it is necessary to repatriate without delay all our prisoners, in conformity with the wish of all the Italian nation.

Trusting that this may soon take place, the Government is taking the necessary action to welcome in the country this large mass of repatriated, prisoners, interned persons, officers and other ranks who find themselves abroad because of the war.

The organization of the relief services for officers and other ranks who are being repatriated has been entrusted to the War Department which has drafted a detailed plan, foreseeing the establishment of various 'gathering centres', adequately placed, where the soldiers will be sent when being repatriated.

Considering the urgency for this organization for the reception of interned prisoners to start functioning, the Government begs the Allied authorities to allow as soon as possible the Italian military personnel indispensable for the functioning of the organization, as from the plan drafted by the War Department and forwarded, last January, to the War Material Disposal and Italian P.W. Sub-Commission, to get ready.

Appealing to the usual kind comprehension of the Allied Authorities, the Government asks them to give every possible help in the way of materials, foodstuffs, vehicles required for the functioning of the said centres.

The main cause of procrastination is the lack of clothing.

180N5/c
20
May 10, 1945

moral situation of our prisoners, their immediate and constant repatriations in the country on several million members of their families, whose thoughts, political attitude and social activities depend on the problem of over one and a half million Italians scattered in concentration camps all over the world.

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Appealing to the usual kind comprehension of the Allied Authorities, the Government asks them to give every possible help in the way of materials, foodstuffs, vehicles required for the functioning of the said centres.

The main cause of preoccupation is the lack of clothing for the soldiers coming from Germany.

Because of the raw materials we can dispose of, as well as because of the working, the possibilities of the national production do not allow us to cope with this requirement.

We want to submit to the attention of the Allied Authorities the following proposals which aim at solving this important question:

- 1) The Allied Commission might examine the possibility of ceding to the Italian Government such clothing as the Commission does not mean to remove from Italy.
- 2) The raw materials necessary for the working in the manufactures might be unblocked, and the transfer of such raw materials to territories under Italian Administration authorized.
- 3) The clothing, barracks equipment and outfit belonging to the German and fascist troops in North Italy might be reserved for the Italian Government, for the requirements of repatriated prisoners.

100/3

3613

- 2 -

4. In case it would not be possible to cover thus the entire clothing requirement, the Allied authority might examine the possibility of ceding to the Italian Government, against payment, a certain amount of clothing, to cover the remaining requirement.

The situation of the great mass of Italians who were interned in German prisoner camps and have now been liberated by the advance of the allied armies is a cause of great anxiety.

Though for various reasons it isn't yet possible to give the exact figure of Italian citizens at present in Germany, we believe that in German territory there must be over a million Italians, between prisoners of war and civilian workers who were deported there. There are over 600,000 prisoners of war, and over 500,000 civilians.

For most of the interned Italian soldiers, the Nazi authorities one-sidedly leave the qualification of workers; qualification which was only a disguise for the compulsory work which the Italian had to do.

The state of these numerous Italians, most of whom are in bad physical conditions because they suffered from want, is very serious.

We quite realize the very great difficulties which the problem of the prisoners in Germany represent for the Allied Governments and we are grateful for all the efforts they do for them.

However, we feel it is our duty to contribute, more than we have been allowed to do, through practical action, direct intervention and to the limit of our possibilities, to the solution of a problem which is of such concern for us.

The Italian Government renounces therefore the request for missions of the C.R.I. to be sent without delay in Germany and Austria to cooperate in the relief work for so many unfortunate compatriots.

The delegates of the C.R.I. appointed for Germany are Adv. Enrico VITALE and Dr. Eng. Edoardo RIGHI DEL RICCIO; for Vienna and Austria, Dr. Perry BAYER.

The Italian Government is ready to pay the expenses of the assistance and only asks that the above mentioned missions might be helped to buy the occupation currency which will be put in circulation in Austria and Germany.

Rome, 10 May 1945

have the qualification of novices, qualification which was only a hindrance for the compulsory work which the Italians had to do.

The state of these numerous Italians, most of whom are in bad physical conditions because they suffered from want, is very serious.

We quite realize the very great difficulties which the problem of the prisoners in Germany represent for the Allied Governments and we are grateful for all the allies do for them.

However, we feel it is our duty to contribute, more than we have been allowed to do, through practical action, direct intervention and to the limit of our possibilities, to the solution of a problem which is of such concern for us.

The Italian Government renews therefore the request for missions of the C.R.I. to be sent without delay in Germany and Austria to cooperate in the relief work for so many unfortunate compatriots.

The delegates of the C.R.I. appointed for Germany are Adv. Enrico VITALE and Dr. Eng. Edoardo RICCI DEL RIZIO; for Vienna and Austria, Mr. Henry ZYLLER.

The Italian Government is ready to pay the expenses of the assistance and only asks that the above mentioned missions might be helped to buy the occupation currency which will be put in circulation in Austria and Germany.

Rome, 10 May 1945

3642

e.c.

EC DIST - 15 May
ACTION: 180X5/c -
INFO: CC
: EC
: CAJec

translation

enclosure 1

action taken by the Italian Government to organize relief and repatriation for Italians who were deported to Germany.

In the meeting of April 20th, the Council of Ministers asked the State Department to express to the Allied Governments the wish that the Italian Government might be enabled to bring relief directly and as soon as possible to Italians who have been deported and interned to Germany, and facilitate their return in the country, keeping in mind that their detention and the hardships they suffered are due to their refusing, in the interest of Italy and of the United Nations, to collaborate in any way whatsoever with the German enemy.

In conformity with the above mentioned decision, H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs has given instructions to the Italian Ambassadors in the Allied capitals to make arrangements in this sense with the Governments to which they are accredited.

The Italian Government considers that an Italian participation in the relief and repatriation organization for the Italians deported to Germany might take place by sending in the Reich, representatives of some Italian Organization, with the Commissions which U.N.R.R.A. organized there; for instance, delegates of the Italian Red Cross. These delegates would cooperate with the U.N.R.R.A. Commissions for all things concerning the Italians.

This implies of course that U.N.R.R.A. would be authorized, in Germany, to look after deported Italians as well as deported citizens of the United Nations. It seems that all Italians, whether ex-soldiers or civilians, deported to Germany by the Germans, will be considered by the Allies as 'displaced persons', which ought to facilitate a favourable answer to the request we made to the U.N.R.R.A. Central Committee, for it is U.N.R.R.A. which has to look after the displaced persons'.

Foreign Affairs gives instructions to the Italian Ambassadors in the Allied capitals to make arrangements in this sense with the Governments to which they are accredited.

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E.C.

3641

PW

932(19)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

WJH/j

G-5: 383.6

21 May 1945

SUBJECT: Escaped Italian PW.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference G-5: 383.6 dated 4 April 1945. ^{??} (4)

2. Request received by phone from your office asking the name of the officer who handed the document referred to referenced letter be supplied. — see (8)

3. Name of officer is:

Captain Stanley C. Brach,
R. C. Chaplain ex Campo 21,
Chieti, Italy and
Cflag 64, Schubin.

For Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

M. J. Heyl
M. J. HEYL
1st Lt. AUS.



Area for 1/23 from c/s office.

*1 PW
1/23*

3640

(18)

Ref: IPW/1/23/18

24 May 1945

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

17(a)

In reply to your letter of 24th April 1945, I can assure Your Excellency that everything possible is being done to administer to the needs of the returning Italian prisoner soldiers from Germany.

Camps for this purpose, staffed by Italian Military Detachments, have now been formed at the following places:

VARESE
TREVISO
PADOVA
VERONA
MILANO
TORINO
GENOVA

MODENA
BOLOGNA
FLORENCE
AREZZO
FIRENZE
ROME
NAPLES

As Your Excellency is aware, the Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission is working in the closest liaison with General Mannerini, and is available at any time to assist and advise on any questions in connection with Italian Prisoner of War problems.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

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

3639

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

(14)

Tel: 735

Ref: 2216/17/EC.

5 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Repatriation - Italian Nationals and PW.

TO : War Materials Disposal & Italian PW Sub-Commission.

1. Attached is letter from the Prime Minister dated 24 April 1945 to the Chief Commissioner.
2. There was a doubt as to the figure of 700,000 PW quoted in this letter but from the further letter enclosed, dated 4 May, you will note that approximate verification is given.
3. Will you kindly prepare a reply for signature by the Chief Commissioner. An interim reply should be submitted if the subject is likely to require lengthy consideration.

E. Shorden
157 Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

Incl:
as above

123

3638

Translation

(17a)

The President of the Council of Ministers

Rome, 24 April 1945

My dear Admiral,

the possibility that the events in Germany will suddenly bring about the liberation from internment camps of the 700 thousand Italians who preferred sacrifice to adhesion to the fascist government, makes me ask you for the assurance that these Italian prisoner soldiers will also have the assistance and protection of the Allied Armies to supply them with foodstuffs and clothing till their repatriation, and that their return will be facilitated.

Grateful for the numerous assurances received a propos of this assistance, the Italian Government stated it was ready to make any financial sacrifice whatever, and on this subject, the Treasury Department sent note 108938 on December 18th, 1944 - which was preceded by an interview between the Minister of Treasury and Brigadier Graffey-Smith - to the Allied Commission, and note 105905 on March 5th.

To prove that no stone has been left unturned, I enclose a copy of the note sent to U.S.R.R.A. by the same Ministry of February 9th 1945, and I know that the same action was taken later on by the State Department.

I want to tell you again that the Government, through its various organs, including the financial ones, is at your disposition for the settling of this matter, and to stress the opportunity of receiving my Undersecretary to the Presidency, possibly together with the representative of the Ministry of Treasury, to coordinate the preliminary regulations which may have to be made.

Truly yours,

B. I. Bonomi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
R o m e

e.c.

Original letter handed to H. Attolini
27/4/45 to check figure of 700,000 with
J. G. G. *Bh.*

Verbal reminder to H. Attolini *3/5/45*

3637

Ditto 3/5/45

Now see letter att'd. 5/5/45 *Bh.*

Translation

(17b)

Ministry of Treasury
n. 103636

Rome, 9 February 1945

To : The General Direction of U.N.R.R.A. for Italy
and for the attention of

The State Department
Cabinet

SUBJECT : Proposal for relief (foodstuffs and clothing) to the Italian prisoners in Germany.

I hear that the confidential request made by the representative of the Treasury Department, Dr. Marcolini, to Mr. Keuf, President of the U.N.R.R.A. Mission in Italy to supply foodstuffs and clothing to the Italian prisoners in Germany, and carrying them to our debit, was cordially answered by the President who promised his support and intervention with the Central Seat of U.N.R.R.A.

The necessity of such assistance has already been pointed out to the Allied Commission, in note 10 December 1944, after having asked for Colonel Grafftey-Smith's interest. We must again state that it is impossible for Italy to supply clothing, sanitary assistance and foodstuffs for her own prisoners when the collapse of Germany will deprive them of what little supplies they now receive.

There are no less than 600,000 Italians who were arbitrarily made prisoners on the date of the armistice for they refused to fight at the side of the Germans, and have now been deported for eighteen months, first in Poland and now in "Eastern Germany".

What is more, since last April, it has been impossible, not only to write to them, but also to send them food and clothes-parcels,

From this we must infer that these Italians are reduced to the point of starvation, and that the day of victory might be that of their death.

To be repatriated, they will require relief expeditions to clothe and feed them.

Italy has no means of relief and is ready to do anything to save her children.

I shall be most grateful if this problem can be examined without delay and submitted to the Central Seat, in agreement, of course, with the competent Military Authorities.

3636

- 2 -

I thank you for the confidential assurance that everything will be done for the requested intervention to be decided in the first meeting of the Central Council of U.N.R.R.A. in the United States; our Ambassador in Washington will be personally informed. Dr. Marcolini has been entrusted with the study of the whole operation in Italy and wherever it will be necessary; not to create expectations which might be disappointed, this is to be kept secret, in expectation of the final resolves of the American Authorities and of the engagements that the Royal Government will take on the subject.

THE MINISTER

S. Solari

S.C.

3635

Translation

(17)c

Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Chef de Cabinet

n. 33902/10900/2 19/5

Rome, 4 May 1945

Dear Cittadini,

In answer to your letter of April 28th, I want to tell you that, though it isn't possible for various reasons to know the exact number of our compatriots who are in Germany, it seems that there are at present in German territory - between prisoners of war and civilian workers who were deported there - over a million Italians. There are over 600,000 prisoners of war and over 500,000 civilians.

As it is well known, the Nazi authorities gave the qualification of workers to a large part of these Italian interned soldiers; qualification which was but a disguising of the compulsory work to which our compatriots had to submit.

Today, in relation with the development of the war, the situation of this large mass of Italians, most of whom are in bad physical conditions because of the sufferings they went through, is more serious than ever.

In his letter of April 24th, addressed to Admiral Stone, His Excellency the President of the Council stressed the fact that it was our duty to contribute more than we have been allowed to, through practical action, through direct intervention, and as much as we can, to this work of relief for so many unfortunate compatriots.

I shall therefore be most grateful if you can confirm to Admiral Stone the advisability of drafting a preliminary agreement on this delicate and urgent question, in an interview with His Ex. the Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council.

Truly yours,

3634

S.....

Marchese Giangaspare CITTADELLI
A.C. - Via Veneto
R o m e

C.O.

CP/v1

(16)

(F)

10 May 1945

IPW/1/23/16

Subject: Rationing of Repatriated Military Personnel from
Enemy territories

see 14/15

To : General Commanding, Autonomous office for War
Veterans and Repatriated Prisoners of War.

1. With reference to your 407234 EPGR dated 4 May
1945.

2. The appropriate authorities have been requested
to give SEPRAL the necessary authorization for the issue of
Civilian type ration to the military personnel to which you
refer.

16.20 hours

11/5/45

Ans. Bologna planned. Say SEPRAL
Civilian ration is not sufficient,
(being enough to live on).
Asked if OK for them to receive "Refugee
type" ration to all Repatriates (same as they are receiving to Civilian
Refugees) - } replied "yes".
Hansel

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

3633

(F) 15

ACTION REGIONAL COMMISSIONER AND FLORENCE RPTD R REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
AND BOLOG NA

7235

10 May 1945

PRIORITY

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

See 14/16.

PARA ONE PD SUBJECT IS ITALIAN PW RETURNING FROM GERMANY AND
NORTHERN ITALY PD

PARA TWO AND FLORENCE RP TO AND BOLOGNA FROM ALCON CITE AGUED PAREN

PARA TWO PD PLEASE INSTRUCT SUPRAL TO ISSUE CIVILIAN TYPE RATIONS
TO THESE PW PD

PARA THREE PD FOOD S/C THIS HQ HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND AGREE PD

PARA FOUR PD PLEASE ENSURE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS DONE FOR THESE
REPATRIATED PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ACCOMMODATION AND CLOTHING PD

PARA FIVE PD PLEASE ADVISE WHEN ACTION TAKEN PD

1PWS
#16 1/23

WHD & IPOW SUB C ON

RBB

Nicholas Flombino

CWO, U. S. A.
Asst., Adjutant3632 14/5/45
Gc.

SI/cb

Ministry of War
Autonomous Office for War Veterans
and Repatriated POW

Rome 4th May 1945
To the Sub-Commission for
Italian PW and WMD

14

407234 RPCR

Subject: Rationing of Repatriated Military personnel from
Foreign Territories/

See 15/16.

The territorial Military Command of Florence has informed us that numerous soldiers are arriving from the North Italy in the Florence Zone and quite a few come from foreign territory, particularly Germany.

Other military personnel, Veterans from Concentration Camps, are arriving also in the Bologna Area.

Taking into consideration that the above mentioned areas are provided with no particular organization for the reception of these people, this Ministry, relative to what was done in Rome, for the Veterans and repatriated P.O.W. who escaped the control of the lodging centers in the South of Italy, have given disposals to the Commands of the Districts of Florence and Bologna to gather these individuals together and provide for their administration and matriculation.

Disposals have also been given that during their stay in the various districts they shall be given the "Civilian type rations presented for P.O.W."

PRESCRIBED
Said rations must be supplied, as is known by the local S.E.P.R.A.L.

As the territories of Florence and Bologna are under the jurisdiction of the Allied Military Government, we beg your Sub-Commission to inform the competent Allied Authorities of this matter that they may authorize the S.P.R.A.L. of Florence and Bologna to adhere to the request of the said Commands for the rations for the Veterans in question.

This Ministry would appreciate prompt action on this matter from your Sub-Commission as there are already many military personnel of this category in Florence.

Signed Gen. A. Mannerini.

1123

3631

(13)

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR
Military Section
No 32637 d1 Prot.

Rome 16th April 1945

TO: the Allied Commission
Sub Commission
IPW & WMD

R O M E

SUBJECT: Repatriated Italian POW from France.

Reference to a verbal communication from Maj. Alper.
Will you please forward the list of names of the 85 Italian
Prisoners of War who were liberated from German Custody by the
Allied Forces and repatriated from France.

/s/ FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. V. DAPINO

23 APR. Called Lt. Antorelli - no notice rec'd by us -
taken to DISPER Camp, Rosignano + then/asm
IPW
1/23 dispersed - informally! FILE

3630

receipt of any news of him, your wishes regarding his repatriation will have attention.

IPB/1/23/12

25 April 1945

2. ~~Gennaro Ferris,~~
56 Via Bergamaschi,
Rome.

See 11

Reference your letter dated 18 April 1945 addressed to Admiral Stone.

A request has gone forward asking that all information available concerning the liberation of Italian Nationals held prisoner by the Germans, be forwarded to this Headquarters by the quickest means possible.

The name of your nephew Renzo Gabos, and your request that he be repatriated to Rome, have been noted; on receipt of any news of him, your wishes regarding his repatriation will have attention.

JAC
J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
RHD & IROV Sub-Com.

3629

COPY ~~to~~ E.C.
FILE ✓

Translation

To Admiral Stone
Rome

Rome, 18 April 1945

WMD:IPW

(11)

In September 1943, the Germans took the Italian soldiers doing service in the 'G. Sabelli' airport of Bolzano; among them was my nephew, RAFFO GABOS 1 Aviere.

Through the channel of the Holy See, I sent His. E. the Apostolic Nunzio in Berlin, Mons. Cesare Orsenigo, two doctor's certificates issued in 1935 (time which could give rise to no suspicion) saying that young Gabos wasn't in good health. I therefore asked for his repatriation.

On June 24th, 1944, Mons. Orsenigo wrote to me, saying he was very sorry not to be able to obtain the repatriation of Gabos, and telling me that the young man was interned in the following camp: M. Stannlager IVD, Arb. - Kdo No 30 I - Merseburg.

This year, in March, I got a message from young Gabos through the Red Cross, (6.11.44), giving the following address:

Gemeinschaftslager Weissenhofleser Stö 111 Merseburg/Seale

Now that the town of Merseburg (between Leipzig and Weimar) has been occupied, by the Americans, I very much hope that Gabos has finally been liberated.

I shall be most grateful if you will kindly take an interest in the fate of the young man, asking the American Authorities in Germany to repatriate him to Rome, where his Mother, who is staying with me, is waiting for him with great anxiety, for we are certain he will need to be taken care of after suffering for such a long time.

Hoping that you will grant this request, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

E. Gennaro Perris

Rome, Via Bergamaschi, 56

c.c.

Rc Dist - 21 Apr 45

Action: WMD:IPW

In September 1943, the Germans took the Italian soldiers doing service in the 'G. Sabelli' airport of Bolzano; among them was my nephew, RENZO CABOS 1. Aviere. uo

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Hoping that you will grant this request, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

S. Gennaro Ferris

Rome, Via Bergamaschi, 36

S.C.

Re List - 21 Apr 45

Action: WMD-IPW3028

DATE: 24-4-68

INFO: C in New ConnR

ENTERED ON CARDS.

INITIALS.

Line ConnR

123

(10)

IPW/1/23/1023 April 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War freed by Russian operations.
TO : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

See 9, 6, 5.

With reference to Memorandum No. 6/914/394 dated 31st March 1945.

It has been agreed that any available shipping space after care has been taken of American and British recovered Prisoners of War may be used for the transport of Italian recovered personnel in those instances where the ships will be routed via Italian ports.

The provision of special shipping facilities for this purpose is not envisaged at this stage, but will be held in view when the numbers warrant.

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

3627

WIND 41 PW

(9)

7821

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

WDN/cml

G-5: 014.33-115

18 April 1945

SUBJECT : Italian POW freed by Russian operations.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

See 5 + 6 + 10, 23/24

1/ Reference is made to letter IPW 1/23/6 of
8 April 1945 and enclosure.

2. It has been agreed that any available shipping space after care has been taken of US and British recovered POW may be used for the transport of Italian recovered personnel in those instances where the ships will be routed via Italian ports.

3. The provision of special shipping facilities for this purpose is not envisaged at this stage but will be held in view when the numbers warrant.

4. Regarding para 4 of the enclosure it is desired to point out that an exact parallel between French and Italian personnel does not obtain. It is at your discretion whether the attention of the Italian Government is drawn to this point.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

W. DRIFFIELD-WHITE,
Major.

Copy to :*

G.1A)
G.1B) A.F.H.Q.
Mov & Tr.)

1/23

3626

GG.

Rome 16th April 1945

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
No. 1212/Pol.F.8 di prot.

TO: The Allied commission
R O M E

SUBJECT: Letter from General Visconti Prasca who escaped from German imprisonment.

See 4 + 4. + 19

Reference your letter IPW/1/23, 7, dated the 10th of April 1945.
We thank very much your Sub Commission.

The High Commissioner would appreciate very much to be able to talk to the American Officer who ^{through} the letter from General Visconti Prasca, to thank him personally and to obtain information regarding the destiny of other Italians who have been freed or have escaped from German hands. Even if he is not at present in Rome, he may perhaps return in the near future.

Thanking you.

/s/ The HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. P. GAZZERA

19 APR - Called J. Gen. Manuack - 4-5 - she will try to trace the Amer. O in question. (initials)

1/23

*B/F 23/4/45
3625
9c.*

(7)

10 April 1945IFW/1/23/7

SUBJECT: Escaped Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

See (4) & 8.
The attached letter handed in by an American officer recently repatriated from ODESSA is forwarded.

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

3624

(6)

IPW 1/23/6

8 April 1945

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War freed by Russians.

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

See 549, 10

- 1/. The attached copy of letter received from the Italian Foreign Office is forwarded.
- 2/. The question of Italian soldiers held Prisoners of War throughout the world, as is well known, is one of considerable controversy, and it is recommended that if the Italian Government's request can be granted - even if it does present difficulties, that the repatriation asked for be arranged.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

Incl.-

B-623/c.

6/9/44/394

⑤

From 4 Displaced Persons

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

See 6 + 9

The Italian Embassy in Moscow informs that the first group of Italian ex-prisoners of war and workmen, liberated by the Soviet Army in its advance through East Prussia, has just arrived to Odessa. This group amounting to 250 persons, includes 3 officers and several women formerly employed in Germany as labourers.

The Italian Embassy, referring to the treatment, excellent in all respects, received by these Italian subjects at the hands of the Soviet Authorities, points out the necessity that the above mentioned ex-prisoners of war and workmen should be repatriated to Italy all the more so as the Soviet Authorities would not raise objections to this initiative.

The interest of the Italian Government in obtaining the return to Italy of these citizens is obvious especially in consideration of the favourable impression that it would produce on the public opinion of the Country, at present very anxious about the conditions of Italian prisoners of war and internees in Germany.

As regards the means of transport, the Italian Embassy ventures to suggest the Allied ships now in Soviet harbours, purposely sent there for the repatriation of Anglo-American ex-prisoners of war liberated by the Soviet Army. It is pointed out in this connection that about 2500 French ex-prisoners of war and workmen in a situation identical to that of the Italians, were authorised to repatriate on board Allied ships.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be therefore very grateful if the Allied Commission would kindly interest the competent Authorities in the above repatriation and in the possibility of implementing it by means of the Allied vessels now in harbours.



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The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be therefore very grateful if the Allied Commission would kindly interest the competent Authorities in the above repatriation and in the possibility of implementing it by means of the Allied vessels now in harbours.



Rome, March 31th, 1945



3622

1 PW

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

KPM/pc

4 April 1945

G-5 : 383.6

SUBJECT : Escaped Italian P.W.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission, APO 394.

See 4 & 19.

Attached is document handed in by an American Officer recently repatriated from ODESSA which is forwarded for necessary action.

For Assistant Chief of Staff G-5

K.P. Mannock
K.P. MANNOCK
Jnr. Comdr.

6 APR 1945

3621

SECRET

To the Ministry of War - Cabinet -
ROME

Having escaped from German imprisonment with the officers here under mentioned, and finding myself now under the protection of the Russian Armed Forces, I feel that it is useful, and a duty to inform the Ministry:

We formed part of Camp 64 2 of Schokken (Pasen) and had undersones, for about 18 months, that had and debilitating treatment given by the Germans to those Italian military who had been loyal and obedient to duty, notwithstanding the repeated pressures, threats, and enticements made with the aim of obtaining an adherence to the Reich Government and to the would-be Italian Social Republic.

On the 21st January last, suddenly the Italian Military, composed mostly of senior generals between the ages of 50 and 60, were sent by foot, on forced marches, under an armed German escort, and with only the baggage which was transportable on their shoulders, towards the west, to escape the Russian advance.

The first marches thus took place in extremely hard conditions: very rigid climate, toil out of proportion to the age and to the depressed condition of those concerned, shelterless and when they could be found, and for the major part divided with cattle in stables.

At any rate the circumstances offered some risky possibility of making an attempt to escape, in accordance with the military duty of any prisoner.

We therefore, decided to do this, notwithstanding the repeated threats on the part of the Germans of extreme sanctions for whoever attempted escape.

During surveillance, we were successful in detaching ourselves from the column and hiding in an open hay-stack, where we spent a polar night. The morning of 25th January, passing unnoticed among the last German patrols, we re-entered the village of Steikovo, where assisted by the Polish population, we were able in the evening to contact the Russians. Taken up on two tanks, we reached Tschernikau, where there was a violent battle going on to force the River Netze.

The local Russian Command after ascertaining our qualifications and our feelings, welcomed us with much friendliness, and the same open sympathetic conduct was taken also by the other Commands of the Great Russian Units, through the medium of which we were to rapidly pass to the back lines.

3620

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The local Russian Command after ascertaining our qualifications and our feelings, welcomed us with much friendliness, and the same open sympathetic conduct was taken also by the other Commands of the Great Russian Units, through the medium of which we were to rapidly pass to the back lines.

Thus we reached the locality of Rambertowo, a few km. east of Wersow, and a Russian Unit, which in changing and pressingly difficult conditions, does the work of collecting and re-allocating.

I will make a fuller statement regarding the facts as soon as this is possible; I wish now to bring the following points to notice:

1. We desire to confirm our indefectible faith, which has been confirmed by the hard trial, and which makes us now able to take up again our place in the battle.
2. We are very anxious to hope to receive as soon as possible, and through whatever medium, a communication from an Italian Authority, which will enable us to make the wished for contact of obedience and sentiment with our Country, and will serve us as a basis.

3620

3. We feel that it would be beneficial if the competent Russian authorities were to receive our gratitude for the respite given us.

4. We find ourselves in very painful conditions, both physical and of decorum. The Russian authorities here also, are doing everything possible to mitigate the harshness of our situation, but they are facing difficulties of a logistic and local nature, which are really exceptional. We are all without any baggage, and find ourselves in the impossibility of changing, cleaning ourselves, or even taking care of the most elementary necessities of living. Shoes torn, clothes worn out, which do not defend us from the rigors of the climate; hygiene does not exist and the whole situation could only be borne by robust young men, and not certainly by mature men who have gone through so much, and are weak like us.

It is necessary to clear our situation as quickly as possible, and better it in the meantime, even if only temporarily. Already three generals of the mine, are in the local hospital. Since the 11th instant, I have tried to get into touch with our Royal Embassy at Moscow, but I have not yet received a reply from them.

General of Army Corps

Visconti Prasca.

Remberovo, 22nd Feb. 1945.

List of the Officers who escaped from the marching column.

General of Army Corps	VISCONTI PRASCA	Sebastiano
" " "	MONTEFIO	Uberto
General of Division	RUBINIO	Vittorio
" " "	BUCCHICCIATI	Ugo
" " "	ILICENTINI	Giuseppe
General of Brigade	CANTINI	Cesare
" " "	SATOLINI	Vincenzo
Infantry Captain	MARINCO	Ludovico

With eight Ordeschi.

The following reached Remberovo isolatedly:

General of Army Corps
Visconti Press.

List of the Officers who escaped from the marching column.

with eight Ordovician.

3619

and 82 other military and Italian workers coming from various camps.

[illegible]

Italians gathered together at Remberton (Wienau)

General of Army Corps	VISCONTI PRASCA Sebastiano	(Rome - V. Felice Giordani 8 c/o Castaldo Arenzano (Genoa))
"	"	Perma - V. Santafiora 5.
General of Division	RUGGERO Vittorio	Rome - V. Nicolo Tartaglia 21
"	ROMBINO Uberto	Rome - V. Parioli 2.
"	PIACENTINI Giuseppe	(Edolo (Brescia) - Albergo Commercio (Cuneo-Corso D'Arno 20-Scotta
"	GAUDINI Cesare	(Rome - V. Torino 7 - Burda (Casale Mto. V. Paleologi 5.
"	SAPORETTI Vincenzo	(Rome - V. Flaminia 395- Salvadori (Este (Padova) - V. Zanchi 10.
Captain	MARSEMPER Ludovico	(Popoli (Pescara) - Corso V.M. (Rome - V. Eleonora Duse 35, - Di Fillo.
Lieutenant	DE PIORIO Gabriele	(Giovinezza (Bari) (Auronzo (Belluno)
General of Brigade	D'AMONTI Giovanni	
Major General	FUSILLI Tito	

in addition to 90 military and civilians, and 1 woman.

General of Army Corps
VISCONTI PRASCA
32.2.45

SAPORETTI Vincenzo (Rome - V. Mininella 195-
Salvatorelli
(Este (Padova) - V. Zanchi 10.

MARSENCO Indovico (Popoli (Pesceara) - Corso V.E.
(Rome - V. Eleonora Duse 53, -
Di Pillo.

DE FIORIO Gabriele (Giovinezze (Bari)
(Autonzo (Belluno)

D'ANTONI Giovanni

MUSELLI Tito

in addition to 90 military and civilians, and 1 woman.

General of Army Corps

VISCONTI PRASCA

22.2.45

3618

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1946
U.S. AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(3)

Ref #372/385

7 December 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome.

SUBJECT : Return of Italian Prisoner of War from Bulgaria.

Reference is made to the Ministries memoranda No. 6/949/401 dated 4 November 1944 and No. 6/989/419 dated 10 November 1944.

Prior to taking action on the subject of the above memoranda the Allied Commission desires to be informed of the following:-

- (a) Will Italian prisoners of war sent from Bulgaria to Turkey not be interned in the latter country?
- (b) If not, what arrangements can be made at a Turkish port for embarkation, etc.?
- (c) Is repatriation desired en bloc and approximately when would the voyages be made?

The Italian Ministry of War have stated that they can accept 3,000 of these soldiers whose repatriation is desired. However the plans for the journey must be made through the Naval Sub-Commission which will require full information concerning the port from which travel is to begin, the number of persons involved, and the approximate date.

For the Chief Commissioner:-

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

3617

926

E MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

COPY

NR. 6/949/401

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION, POLITICAL SECTION

The Italian Minister in Sofia informs, through the Royal Legation at Stockholm, that about 1200 Italian prisoners of war have arrived in Bulgaria, having escaped from German concentration camps and that more prisoners are expected to arrive.

Owing to the difficulty in finding lodgings and food, the living conditions of these P.C.W. are highly unsatisfactory and the Italian Minister in Sofia emphasizes the necessity of having them immediately repatriated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be grateful if the Allied Commission could kindly approach the competent authorities with a view to examining the possibility of proceeding to a gradual repatriation of Italian P.O.W. who are arriving in Bulgaria.

Rome, November 4th, 1944.

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Rome, November 4th, 1944.

3616

E MINISTERO
DEGLI
AFFARI ESTERI

NO. 6/989/419

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION, A.C.

Further to the Memorandum dated 27th October last, and on the basis of recent information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs begs to inform the Political Section, A.C., that Italian prisoners of war escaped from German concentration camps continue to arrive into Bulgaria in increasing numbers. From news received up to date the figure is now of about 3000. Their condition is extremely precarious as they are all suffering from denutrition and lack of clothes, and with the coming of winter their sufferings cannot but increase.

According to a report from the Italian Military Attache in Sofia, the Soviet Command has instructed the Bulgarian Authorities to supply them with clothes and to organise their repatriation to Turkey. On the other hand as there is at present in Rumania other military personnel awaiting repatriation the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be grateful if the Allied Commission could kindly consider the possibility of sending a ship to Istanbul or to any other Turkish port for the repatriation of all the Italian servicemen that arrive in Turkey from nearby countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hardly needs to emphasise the highly humanitarian aspect of the question and is confident that the Allied authorities will take into benevolent

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hardly needs to emphasise the highly humanitarian aspect of the question and is confident that the Allied authorities will take into benevolent consideration the above request with as little delay as possible.

An early reply on the subject will be much appreciated.

Rome, 10th November, 1944.

3615

