

ACC

10000/120/5695

NO 23

REPORTS TO GENERAL BRO

REPORTS TO GENERAL BROWNING

6091
6094

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

IPW/23/2

22 May 1946

SUBJECT : Report on trip to Cairo & Algiers.

TO : GC, M.M.I.A.

1. The u/s has visited MEF Hq on 7 May and secured the release of all IPW's in ME to be returned on Italian ships furnished by the It. Min. of Marine to this Division for the above purpose. The reports should be completed not later than 15 Sept 46.
2. A further understanding was reached in regards to over a thousand IPW's of Tripolitan birth to be returned to Trivoli and exchanged for equal number of civilians desiring to return to Italy. This matter is now awaiting decision from the War Office.
3. The repatriations of IPW's from South Africa and East Africa Command was also discussed with the top levels of MEF. Brig Smythe AGPS suggested a visit to the above Hq in order to coordinate the movements. Upon closing the above subject the u/s flew to Algiers where the French N.A. High Commander was contacted and secured the following understanding:
 - a) that all IPW's now remaining in French hands will be released and returned to Italy by June, 15.
 - b) that the Italian ships will not be used for Transportation of General PW from France to N.A. to replace the liberated Italians.
 - c) that all IPW's now in jail in Morocco, Algiers and Tunisia serving sentences handed out by Military Courts would be assembled in Algiers and the u/s be notified so that a ship be despatched to repatriate same. Prisoners serving sentences for crimes committed and punishable under laws existing in peace time conditions will be handed over to the Carabinieri upon their arrival and tried in Italian Courts. Prisoners that have committed crimes purely punishable under Military Laws and in war conditions will be freed. Gen Mannerini, Commanding the Italian Forces etc. has been notified of this agreement and he highly approves

2. A further understanding was reached in regards to over a thousand IPWs of Tripolitan birth to be returned to Tripoli and exchanged for equal number of civilians desiring to return to Italy. This matter is now awaiting decision from the War Office.

3. The repatriations of IPWs from South Africa and East Africa Omd was also discussed with the top levels of MEW, Brig Smythe AGPS suggested a visit to the above Hq in order to coordinate the movements. Upon closing the above subject the u/s flew to Algiers where the French N.A. High Commander was contacted and secured the following understanding:

- a) that all IPWs now remaining in French hands will be released and returned to Italy by June, 15.
- b) that the Italian ships will not be used for Transportation of General PW from France to N.A. to replace the liberated Italians.
- c) that all IPWs now in jail in Morocco, Algiers and Tunisia serving sentences handed out by Military Courts would be assembled in Algiers and the u/s be notified so that a ship be despatched to repatriate same. Prisoners serving sentences for crimes committed and punishable under laws existing in peace time conditions will be handed over to the Carabinieri upon their arrival and tried in Italian Courts. Prisoners that have committed crimes purely punishable under Military Laws and in war conditions will be freed. Gen Mamorini, Commanding the Autonomous Office etc., has been notified of this agreement and he highly approves it.

4. It is suggested that the u/s be authorized to visit the EAC Hq and S.A. Hq in the near future.

JAMES E. REEKS
Lieut Colonel
Chief
IPW Div

6094

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main HQ (MIA)
LEUVILLE (LECCO)
G/24/1

2

13 June 1944.

My Dear Campbell

1. Thanks for your letter of 5 June. It is just what I wanted. No need to send me official letters unless it is a specific demand for something from Comando Supremo. D.O. letters fill the bill perfectly satisfactorily.

2. I wrote the Chief Commissioner saying that we cannot put any more Combat Divisions in the line. The C.I.L., including NEBO, is already over 20,000 strong compared with demand by General ALEXANDER of C.C.S. for a strength of 14,100. Combat troops in the line have to exist on their own technical equipment of which there are limited stocks. Moreover, adding another Combat Division would be at the expense of something else, probably Internal Security Divisions. I have expressed this ad nauseum to Ministry of War and S.M.R.E. and Marshal MESSE ought to know this situation. I wish he would not go 'butting-in' over these matters without consulting me first. Will you please tell INPANTE that I strongly oppose the CREMONA being used for Combat particularly as it is the worst Division in SARDINIA, as MESSE should also know.

3. As regards Italian soldiers falling into our hands North of the line you already have our G/19 dated 3 June.

4. I have told Ministry of War and S.M.R.E. that if I find them doing anything on Marshal MESSE's orders direct which I know nothing about, I shall be very angry and if it is contrary to our policy I shall certainly countermand the orders. Glad to see that INPANTE agrees that you and I should know all that is going on. There will be no harm in you telling him the gist of the above and that I will not tolerate any side-tracking by the Italians to gain their ends in a round-about way when they cannot do so through me!

over 20,000 strong compared with demand by General ALEXANDER of C.C.S. for a strength of 14,100. Combat troops in the line have to exist on their own technical equipment of which there are limited stocks. Moreover, adding another Combat Division would be at the expense of something else, probably Internal Security Divisions. I have expressed this ad nauseum to Ministry (War and S.M.R.E. and Marshal MESSE ought to know this situation. I wish he would not go 'butting-in' over these matters without consulting me first. Will you please tell INMANTE that I strongly oppose the CREMONA being used for Combat particularly as it is the worst Division in SARDINIA, as MESSE should also know.

3. As regards Italian soldiers falling into our hands North of the line you already have our G/19 dated 3 June.

4. I have told Ministry of War and S.M.R.E. that if I find them doing anything on Marshal MESSE's orders direct which I know nothing about, I shall be very angry and if it is contrary to our policy I shall certainly countermand the orders. Glad to see that INMANTE agrees that you and I should know all that is going on. There will be no harm in you telling him the gist of the above and that I will not tolerate any side-tracking by the Italians to gain their ends in a round-about way when they cannot do so through me!

Best Wishes,

Yours Sincerely
Langley Browning

Major J.A. GALT BELL,
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C., L.C.
Adv. H.Q.
Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
SALerno

tw:LB.

6093

(1a)

Army Sub-Commission,
Rear Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission.

5 June 1944.

Dear General,

I had a talk with General Infante on the subject matter of our conversation last week. He would not admit to sending any instructions to S.M.R.E. on questions of rations etc., however he did agree that I should know all that was going on so that I could keep you fully in the picture.

The result was that to day I had a meeting with General Infante who explained what had been discussed at a luncheon on Saturday with General Alexander, General Mason Macfarlane, Marshal Messe and General Infante.

I will pass on most of the information I was given and you can decide if anything is of interest.

The question of categories for Italian Military personnel falling into our hands during the advance was discussed. This you have issued instructions on.

The forming of two small Italian Administrative Sections to go forward, one with 5th Army and one with 8th Army, to help in questions such as - sorting out the man power - and assisting in any military matters concerning the Italian Army. I understand a letter has been written to you on this subject by General Mason Macfarlane.

Reinforcements for Italian Troops in the line. Marshal Messe thought the Cremona Division in Sardinia should be used. This Division came from Corsica and had no arms and equipment. The Marshal asked General Alexander if he could have certain arms and equipment for this Division to train with, so that they could then be ready for the line when arms were available for issue to them. I understand that General Alexander said he would have his staff study this question.

The question of Italian troops entering Rome. General Alexander had stated that an official entry into Rome would be made. 1 Battalion and 1 Company of the CIL would represent the Italian Army. I understand that General Infante discussed this with General Harding and 1 Battalion of 67 Regiment plus 1 Company of the CIL were selected and trucks were being sent to collect them so that they would enter Rome with the 5th Army.

6092

9 June 44.
File 23.

(16)

General Alexander had stated that very few troops and little or no Garrison would be stationed in Rome.

General Mason Macfarlane had stated that he hoped the Allied Control Commission and Italian Government would commence to move to Rome in about four weeks and that the move would be completed in two weeks.

General Alexander had said that the 2nd Front would start any day, and that the Russian Army would also attack.

General Alexander also stated that the Italians had fought well and he hoped to go and see them with Marshal Messe in a few days time.

I send this as a D.O. letter as I was given the information by General Infante as "Off the Record".

I think it is at least a start in getting some information of what they are doing.

If you would like reports of any interviews with General Infante set out in a more official form please let me know.

Yours

General L. Browning, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
Army Sub-Commission,
Main R.O. (RMA)
LEWIS (RCCN).

6091

1436