

acc

10000/120/5715

IPW/41

ESCAPED ITALIAN P.O.W. FROM FRENCH CO

Jan. - Nov. 1945



RESCUED ITALIAN P.O.W. FROM FRENCH CONCENTRATION CAMPS

WMD / I POW
SUB-Com

7373
7401

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
245-24
OFFICE AFFAIRS SECTION
CANADIAN POLICE OF THE WESTERN

Mr. D. GIBSON
Mr. 511
7 November 1945.

TO : THE / 12/1/45/ 28
SUBJECT: THE IN (British) Police in
North Africa.
FROM : Ministry of Post and Telephones.

- 27

1. Information from 10/1/45 dated 25 October 1945.
2. The position of representatives in the various is dealt by this Division solely with the information office for the Western and Provincial Div. General treatment of that office in its daily business which are undertaken.
3. To avoid this complete elimination of work will you please advise the Division your views and any advice which the Information Office for the Western and Provincial Div. may in turn will usually give to this Division.
4. To avoid or avoid that General treatment has been fully advised by your Division of the history and conditions of the TV reported to in your above stated letter.
5. The your information for various provides in its offices, the French Government has agreed to release the 200 in their hands in North Africa (see attached) may be resolved by action by, by that the transport of 200 million and French TV be provided by the French Government. In view of this it will be realized that the other is not as simple as suggested in your above stated letter.
6. Representatives are being worked out with the French authorities and every effort is being made to expedite the agreed system of their...

2. The question of the inclusion of the French documents is dealt by this mission solely with the historical office for the historical documents and the General Secretariat of the Office in the daily liaison with the national staff.
3. To avoid this constant duplication of work will you please coordinate our French relations and any offices with the historical office for the historical documents and the General Secretariat of the Office in the daily liaison.
4. It should be noted that General Mareschal has long been fully informed of the history and condition of the 116 reported to in your above report letter.
5. The your information the reports published in the following: The French Government has agreed to release the 116 in their hands in North Africa (the Government has agreed to) may be produced by means of, b) that the Government of North Africa and France (1) is provided by the French Government. In view of this it shall be understood that the order to not be made as suggested in your above report letter.
6. Negotiations are being carried out with the French authorities and every effort is being made to accomplish the speedy return of these 116.

7401

JGR
 J. G. ...
 Chief,
 Division.

Copy to: General Mareschal - historical office for the historical documents and the General Secretariat of the Office in the daily liaison.

28

EB/pb

Rome 25th October 1945

Ministry of Post War Assistance
POW Bureau - I[^]Division - 1[^]Section (Pol)

TO: The Allied Commission
Sub Commission for Italian POW
RCME

Prot. 3904/D-6

SUBJECT : Italian POW who have escaped from French
Prisoner Camps in North Africa.

With letters 675/Pol dated 16/3/45 and 1500/Pol dated 11th May 1945 the repatriation was requested of 112 Italian POW who had escaped from French Camps in North Africa and who, on arriving in Italy onboard ships of the Italian Navy and Italian merchant ships, were arrested by the Allied Military Police and interned, a part of them at S.Andrea (Taranto) and a part at Camp 209 near Naples.

The Allied Commission with letters IPW/41/11 dated 26/3/45 and IPW/41/16 dated 16/5/45, informed us that the matter would have to be taken up directly with the French Authorities and that the prisoners would remain in the Custody of the Allies, untill an agreement has been concluded with the French Government.

Up to now the French Authorities have given no answer regarding this matter probably because, as is known by your Commission, the French Government having decided to liberate all the Italian prisoners, considers this question superated as said repatriations, have already begun since the 1st of the month from France and discussions are in course regarding the available shipping space, to return those from North Africa.

41/

7400
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- 2 -

We have been informed that 62 of ^{the} prisoners in question in Allied Custody, who were waiting liberation in the Camp of S. Andrea (Taranto) (herewith attached is a list of their names) have been transferred to Algiers Camp 211 (in British Custody) and put with the fascist prisoners. The fate of those remaining prisoners who were in Camp 209 Naples, is unknown.

This news was utterly unexpected and has made a very sad impression on those, who are responsible for the interests of the Italian prisoners, as the Italian Government has done all in its power to clear up their position.

The fact of the matter is this: these prisoners, on their arrival in Italy, should have been automatically freed, according to the Geneva Convention, and there was no reason whatsoever to prospect the question to the French for approval, they also should have been subsequently freed anyway at the end of hostilities, as they had been many months in prison in Italy, which constituted enough punishment for their only sin in trying to escape initially from a Camp where, as is well known, the treatment given them was not of the best. (How many escapes from imprisonment have been applauded ~~by~~ Compatriots ~~of~~ the Powers in War) What is difficult to understand is why at the last moment, while awaiting a decision, they should have been transferred over seas and put with Fascist prisoners.

We therefore beg your Commission, that in consideration of the decision of the French Government to repatriate all the prisoners, to call this matter to the attention of the Competent Authorities and obtain the repatriation of the Italians in question in British Custody in Camp 211.

We beg you for a courteous answer and we thank you.

The Ministry

Luca

Algeria

Italian Prisoner of War Sub Commission
 HQ AC APO 384
 Received 2 November 1945
 Log No 11407

NOMINAL ROLL OF 62 ITALIAN POWs ESCAPED FROM FRENCH CAMPS OF NORTH AFRICA AND INTERNED IN CAMP OF S. ANDREA (TARANTO) IN ALLIED CUSTODY.

1-	Sgt.Maj.	FERRANTELLI	Leonardo	son of	Gaetano	1913	Trapani
2-	"	NICOTRA	Amedeo	"	Antonio	1914	Catania
3-	Soldier	RAGONESE	Arcangelo	"	Francesco	1908	Messina
4-	"	TRAPANI	Antonio	"	Agatino	1920	Enna
5-	"	DIDEDDA	Domenico	"	Giuseppe	1921	Foggia
6-	"	DE JULIS	Amato	"	Felice	1921	Teramo
7-	"	PAPAIS	Achille	"	Dionisio	1920	Sacile
8-	Mar.	GHILARDI	Franco	"	Giovanni	1922	La Spezia
9-	Soldier	CENCARLI	Elio	"	Silvestro	1921	Udine
10-	Cpl.	PITTUCO	Domenico	"	Crescenzo	1919	Roma
11-	Cpl.Maj.	CONTESSA	Giuseppe	"	Giovanni	1917	Brescia
12-	Soldier	DIMARCO	Francesco	"	Michele	1908	Catania
13-	"	PATREI	Eliseo	"	Romualdo	1920	Littoria
14-	"	BARATTI	Augusto	"	Carlo	1910	Forlì
15-	"	MALDONATO	Natale	"	Saverio	1920	Reggio C.
16-	Cpl.Maj.	CARETTI	Giuseppe	"	Giuseppe	1912	Roma
17-	Soldier	CHECCHI	Pietro	"	Agostino	1914	Lucca
18-	Cpl.Maj.	CRIPPA	Alberto	"	Pietro	1911	Milano
19-	Soldier	PASTORI	Mario	"	Giuseppe	1920	Parma
20-	"	DI CARA	Angelo	"	Giuseppe	1916	Enna
21-	Cpl.Maj.	GIOVANNINI	Egidio	"	Agostino	1918	Forlì
22-	Soldier	GILERA	Attilio	"	Andrea	1920	Milano
23-	"	COLLINI	Tommaso	"	Alessandro	1911	Roma
24-	"	Barbieri	Gentile	"	Giacomo	1901	Brescia
25-	"	FRANSI	Francesco	"	Carlo	1902	Milano
26-	"	MARCONI	Nutino	"	Ivio	1922	Livorno
27-	"	FILIPPONI	Federico	"	Virgilio	1910	Ancona
28-	"	ALLEGRO	Salvatore	"	Francesco	1911	Palermo
29-	S.C.Man.	MACHIETTO	Armando	"	Giuseppe	1925	Venezia
30-	Cpl.	RODENGHI	Guido	"	Giuseppe	1911	Brescia
31-	Cpl.Maj.	LIBRALATO	Gino	"	Giovanni	1922	Udine
32-	Soldier	ALBERTI	Carlo	"	Giuseppe	1921	Brescia
33-	"	BEFFA	Luigi	"	Samuele	1909	Mantova
34-	Marò	TOLONE	Francesco	"	Giuseppe	1922	Catania
35-	Soldier	TESTA	Guido	"	Attilio	1920	Mantova

27A

(23)

(P)

Since having informed the I.G. that all questions in relation to IPW in French hands must be dealt with between the French and Italian Governments direct, numerous complaints have been received from the MC stating that he never receives a definite answer from the French Embassy in reply to his enquiries.

~~IPW~~
9/41

7397

26

COPY

SUBJECT:- Italian PW Escapees from French Custody.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.
IPW Sub Commission.

ALLIED FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS

G1(Br)/3161/A2

19 Jun 45

1. Reference your IPW/1/41/18 dated 14 June 45.
2. It is regretted that this Headquarters cannot interwene on behalf of the Italian Government on matters in which the Italian and French Governments have direct representation. In the circumstances no further action is being taken.

WAKF/DDKT.

/s/ W. A. K. Finlayson
/T/ W. A. K. FINLAYSON,
Major, D.A.A.G.,
for Major General,
DAG. G.-1 (Br).

7396

25

COPY

EB/amc

IFW/1/41/18

14 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian POW escapees from French Custody.TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.
(Att: G-1 (Br) Section.)

Reference your letter C-1 (Br) 3161/A-2 dated 11 June 1945.

1. The High Commissioner for Italian POW was contacted and he states that no definite answer has been received from the French Embassy in regard to the matter in question.

2. The High Commissioner for PW begs the Allied Authorities to intervene on their behalf, as he feels that the French will keep this matter going for an indefinite time.

3. I shall be pleased if I can be advised of any action or decision made regarding this question.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

7395

24

COPY

SUBJECT: - Italian PW Escapees from French Custody.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission,
(IFW Sub-Commission)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

G1(Br)3161/A.2.

11 June 45.

1. Reference this Headquarters CR/3161/G1(Br) dated 22 Mar 45.
2. Can you please state if any progress has been made between the French and Italian Government on the question of the French owned Italian escapees which are at present held in British custody.
3. It is pointed out that they have now been in British custody for some time and are being fed etc. at the expense of the British Government.

/S/ W. A. K. Finlayson
/T/ W. A. K. FINLAYSON,
Major D.A.A.G.,
for Major General,
DAG, G.1(Br).

WAKE/AP

Copy to:- G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon. (Your EFW/103/7 dated 2 June 45 refers)

See 24

7394

23

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

WFO ~ How SE

6/28/1945 (91)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Italian p.o.w. who escaped from North African camps.

Acc 15

1. The High Commissioner for P.O.W. with note n.1500 of May 11th. 1945 interested the Allied Commission in the case of the Italian p.o.w. who escaped from the French camps in North Africa, warmly requesting that the prisoners be turned over to the Italian Authorities.

2. The Allied Commission, with letter I.P.W.41/16 of May 16th. addressed to the High Commissioner, replied that the aforesaid soldiers had to remain in Anglo-American custody until the Italian and French Authorities should have reached an agreement on the question, and added in a successive letter that they "regretted being unable to intervene in favour of the Italian Government in questions directly concerning the French and Italian Governments".

3. In the case of the 112 Italian soldiers who escaped from the French concentration camps in North Africa and took refuge on board Italian vessels which subsequently returned to Italy, the status of p.o.w. is definitely extinguished and the Italian Government fail to see for what reason they should submit their release to French approval. According, in fact, to the letter and the spirit of the Geneva Convention the French State cannot lay any claim to the former prisoners nor rule conditions or formalities as regards their release.

4. The A.C.'s attitude does not appear, therefore, to be based on any juridical foundation and it unwarrantably extends the detention of 112 soldiers who, pursuant to the Geneva Convention, have the right to be released.

1393

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

Subject: Italian p.o.w. who escaped from North African camps.

1. The High Commissioner for P.O.W. with note n.1500 of May 11th. 1945 interested the Allied Commission in the case of the Italian p.o.w. who escaped from the French camps in North Africa, warmly requesting that the prisoners be turned over to the Italian Authorities.

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4. The A.C.'s attitude does not appear, therefore, to be based on any juridical foundation and it unwarrantably extends the detention of 112 soldiers who, pursuant to the Geneva Convention, have the right to be released.

5. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs warmly request the A.C. to reconsider the question and to interest the proper Military Authorities in releasing the aforesaid soldiers.

Rome, 17th. August, 1945

21

1945

JER/tb

IPW/41/20

24 July 1945

Subject : Italian PW escapees from French custody.

To : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

- 1/ Reference your letter No. 1500/Pol/D-6 di prot. dated 11 May 45, subject as above.
- 2/ Allied Force Headquarters regrets that they cannot intervene on behalf of the Italian Government on matters in which the Italian and French Governments have direct representation.
- 3/ It is suggested that this matter be taken up through diplomatic channels between the two Governments themselves.

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

7392

file

20

3540 (19)

SUBJECT:- Italian PW Escapees from French Custody.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.
IPW Sub Commission. ✓

G1(Br)/3161/A2.

19 Jun 45.

See 18

1. Reference your IPW/1/41/18 dated 14 June 45.
2. It is regretted that this Headquarters cannot intervene on behalf of the Italian Government on matters in which the Italian and French Governments have direct representation. In the circumstances no further action is being taken.

W.A.K. Finlayson

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

WAKF/DDKT.

IPW
41

B/F 15/7/45
391/c
19

EB/anc.

(18)

IPW/1/41/18

14 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian POW escapees from French Custody.TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
Att: G-1 (Br) Section*see 17/19*Reference your letter G-1 (Br) 3161/A-2
dated 11th June 1945

1. The High Commissioner for Italian POW was contacted and he states that no definite answer has been received from the French Embassy in regard to the matter in question.
2. The High Commissioner for PW begs the Allied Authorities to intervene on their behalf, as he feels that the French will keep this matter going for an indefinite time.
3. I shall be pleased if I can be advised of any action or decision made regarding this question.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

7394
B/P
18

d. PWS/c
2802 (14)

SUBJECT:- Italian PW Escapees from French Custody.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

G1(Br)/3161/A2. φ

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

11 Jun 45.

see 18/10

1. Reference this Headquarters CR/3161/G1(Br) dated 22 Mar 45.
2. Can you please state if any progress has been made between the French and Italian Governments on the question of the French owned Italian escapees which are at present held in British custody.
3. It is pointed out that they have now been in British custody for some time and are being fed etc. at the expense of the British Government.

W.A.K. PIRLAYSON
Major, D.A.A.G.,
for Major General, 7389
DAG, G.1(Br).

WAKE/AP

Copy to:- C.H.Q., 2nd Echelon. (Your EPW/103/7 dated 2 June 45 refers).

17

IPW
41

CP/vl

16

IPW/41/16

16 May 1945

Subject: Italian P.O.W. who escaped from French Custody.

To : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War:

see 15
Reference your letter No. 1500/Pol/D-6 dated
11 May 1945.

1. Higher Authority have ruled that these escaped PW shall remain in Allied Custody until agreement on this matter is reached between the Italian Government and the French Authorities.
2. As soon as this agreement is reached, the appropriate action will be taken by the Allied Authorities.



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

To : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War:

See 15.

Reference your letter No. 1500/Pol/D-6 dated
11 May 1945.

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2. As soon as this agreement is reached, the appropriate action will be taken by the Allied Authorities.

J.A.C.

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

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CC

High Commissioner for Italian PW.
No. 1500/Pol/D-6 di Prot.

Rome 11th May 1945

To the Allied Commission
Sub-Commission for It. PW.

(15)

Subject: Italian P.O.W. who escaped from French custody.

See 11, 13, 14, 16. — 21

Reference your letter IPW/41/11 dated the 26th March 1945.

The High Commissariat has prospected the question, of Italian P.O.W. who escaped from ^{FRENCH} imprisonment and are now under British and American custody, to the Italian Embassy in Paris on the 30th of March 1945, up to date no answer has been received.

Your Sub-Commission is requested to intervene on behalf of said military personnel, who are still languishing in the camp of St. ANDREA Taranto - that they may be returned to the Italian Military Authorities, to bring ^{to} ~~an~~ end ~~to~~ this situation which is humiliating and contrary to the Geneva Convention.

/s/ the High Commission

General P. Gazzera

41

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14

CC.

Rome 27th April 1945

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
No. 1357/Pol/D.6 di Prot.

TO: The ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M E

φ

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War escaped from French Camps.

See 10, 11, 13, 15.

Reference your letter IPW/41/11 dated the 26th of March 1945.

We take note that the Italian Prisoners of War who have escaped from French hands are now in British Custody.

We have turned the matter over to the French diplomatic Authorities and are now waiting for an answer.

/s/ THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. P. GAZZERA

41

*B/P in 14 days ✓
11/5/45*

gc.

*7386/5/45
B/F gc.*

14

13

IPW/41/13

26 April 1945

Subject: Italian PW Escapees from French Custody

To : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War

See 11 + 14, 15.

May a reply now be forwarded, please to my
IPW/41/11 dated 26 March 1945.

clg.

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

When received, reply to encl (10)

gc

*B/P 1/5/45
gc.
7385*

13

(12)

Rome 23rd. March 1945.

High Commission for It.PW.

To the Allied Commission

No. 849/POL/D-6 di Prot.

Sub-Commission for It. PW.

Rome

Subject: Consignment to the Allied Authorities of P.O.Ws
who have escaped from Prison Camps.

①

Following our letter No. 333/Pol. dated the 29th. of
January 1945. relative to subject.

It is known that 25 P.O.W. who escaped from the French
in North Africa, landed at Augusta on the 22nd. of December
1944, were transferred on the 16th of January 1945, to Naples
and sent to the 209. P.O.W. C.M.F.

We beg the Allied Commission to call this matter to
the attention of the proper authorities that they may kindly
examine the situation of these, our unfortunate compatriots,
who having escaped from the bad treatment shown to them in
French prison camps in North Africa, are still behind the
barbed wire.

We await your courteous reply regarding the decision
to be taken for the above mentioned individuals and we thank
you in anticipation.

Signed the High Commissioner

Gen. Pietro Gazzera

IPW
41N/A
see encl. ①
c/c.

7384

12

~~COPY~~

(F)

(11)

IPW/41/11

26 March 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoner of War escapees from French custody. *A*TO: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War*See 10, 5 + 9 + 13 + 14, 15*

Reference your letter No. 675/POL/D-6 dated 16 March 45

1. There are approximately 112 French owned Italian Prisoner of War escapees from North Africa in British custody in Italy at the present time.

2. The matter is now a question for settlement between the Italian Government and the French Government and it is suggested that your Government take the matter up with the French Authorities in Rome.

3. Meantime, it is the intention to retain these men in British hands until an agreement is reached between you and the French Government.

4. I shall be pleased if you will report to me as early as possible the result of your negotiations.

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

Copy to:

Autonomous Office for War Veterans and
Repatriated PW, Italian Ministry of War
(Att: H.E. A Casati)

(Your letter No. 403382/
RPGR dated 24 Feb. 45 refers)

FILE. ✓

BTF 24/45
2383
9c

11

WMD + IPW

3435

(10)

SUBJECT:- Italian PW Escapees from French Custody.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

CR/3161/G1 (Br).

22 Mar 45.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.
B.T.N.A.

See 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13 & 14.

17, 18.

Reference Allied Commission letter IPW/41/3 dated 14 Feb 45 and subsequent correspondence, and B.T.N.A. letter A390/16 dated 23 Feb 45.

1. Approximately 112 French owned escapees from NORTH AFRICA are in British custody in ITALY at the present time.
2. As this is a matter for settlement between the Italian Government on the one hand and the French on the other, it is the intention to retain these men in our hands until an agreement has been reached between the French Ambassador in ROME and the Italian authorities.
3. Will you please inform the authorities concerned accordingly, and report progress in any negotiations that may take place to this Headquarters.

HEADQUARTERS

24 MAR 45

A. C.

WAKF/wel

A. M. Filaison
A.M. FILAISON,
Brigadier, A.D.A.G. (O).,
for Major General,
DAG, G.1 (Br).

Copy to:-

Liaison Section.
British Resident Minister.
G-5.
Headquarters,
No. 3 District.

IPW
41

7382

10

(9)

CC.

Rome 16th March 1945

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
N. 675/Pol/D-6 di Prot.

TO: THE ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M E

SUBJECT: Italian POWs who escape from imprisonment.

Reference your letter No. IPW/41/7, dated the 1st of March 1945. *see 4+8*

It would be greatly appreciated if you would furnish the High Commissioner with information regarding this matter, that the Italian Authorities may give the proper disposals to the Italian Captains of the ships, relative to their deportment in similar cases in the future.

/s/ THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen. Pietro GAZZERA

41

7381

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(S)

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

IPW/41/8

17 March 1945

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War escaped from French Custody.

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

see 6/7+9, 10

Reference your CR/3161/G1(Br) of 24 February 1945.

1. I shall be pleased if I can be advised if any decision has yet been made regarding this question.

For the Chief Commissioner:

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

B/F 30/3/45

Gc

7380

(7)

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

IPW/41/71 March 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War escaped from French custody.

TO : Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated
Prisoners of War, Italian Government, Rome.
(Att: H.E. A. Casati.)

See 1/6 + 8 + 9, 10

Reference your letter No. 403382/RPGR dated 24
February 1945.

The whole question of the escape from North Africa
of French owned Prisoners of War is at present being invest-
igated by Allied Force Headquarters, and I shall advise you
of the decisions arrived at in due course.

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

B/F 30/3/45
9/8

7379

Copy to :
General A. Mannerini, (letter No. 402781 dated 6 February
Comdg. Autonomous 1945 refers.)
Office for War Vet-
erans and Repatriated POW.
Italian High Commissioner for POW (letter No. 315/D-6 POL
dated 29 January 1945
refers.)

FILE

IPW 116 (6)

SUBJECT:- Italian PW escaped from French G,study.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

CR/3161/G1(Br).

24 Feb 45.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.

See 3 + Y. 8, 10

1. Reference your letter IPW/41/3 dated 14 Feb 45 addressed to G-5 Section, this Headquarters.
2. The whole question of the escape from NORTH AFRICA of French owned PW is at present being investigated by this Headquarters, and you will be advised of the decisions arrived at as soon as possible.

Asst. Dir. Gen.
 W.A.K. FINLAYSON,
 Major, D.A.A.G.,
 for Major General,
 DAG, G.1(Br).

WAKF/ER.

Copy to/- G-5.

26 FEB 1945
 HEADQUARTERS

73748
 30/3/45
 BIF
 690

IPW
41

BOR/gm

MINISTRY OF WAR

Autonomous Office for War

Veterans and Repatriated P.O.Ws'.

Rome, 24th February 1945

403382/RPCR

TO: THE ALLIED COMMISSION. ROME.

See 7.

SUBJECT: Italian Military Personnel escaped from Camps in Algeria.

I have been informed that at the English Camp A=St.Andrea (Taranto), there are at present seventy individuals of the Italian Military personnel, who escaped from French Camps in Algeria aboard Italian ships, and there are now again interned in above-mentioned Camp.

I beg the Commission to examine the possibility of releasing and returning to our administration these men who have rejoined their country after so many difficulties.

These men will be assigned to groups in the It. Army; if they still have Military obligations and if not will be released.

Signed:

The Minister of War

A.CASATI/.

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SUBJECT:- Escaped PW.

IPW 223
④

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

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

CR/3161/G1(Br).

12 Feb 45.

1. Reference phone conversation (Campbell - Barsdorf)
2. The two parties of Italian PW who escaped from BIZERTA are at present held in British Custody. These two parties have a total strength of 63, they are thought to be the same parties as those to which you refer.
3. It is confirmed that no action will be taken to dispose of these PW pending receipt of your letter on the subject.

PT/JM

IPW
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Feb

HEADQUARTERS
14 FEB 1945
C.

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

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(3)

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

IPW/41/314 February 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War escaped from French Concentration Camps.

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

See 1 + 2 + 6 + 7, 10

1. The attached translations of letters received from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and the General Commanding the Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated Prisoners of War are forwarded.

2. The opinion expressed by the Legal Sub-Commission at this Headquarters is that in the case of the 61 Prisoners of War (mentioned in letter No. 315/D-6 POL dated 29 January 1945), it appears that they reached Italy and rejoined the Italian Navy, prima facie, there is no power to order their return to any Prisoner of War Camp, French or otherwise.

3. With regard to the 25 Italian Prisoners of War who arrived on the 'Jean Ribaut', it is understood that this is an American ship, the Italian authorities do not ask for their release but only that they remain in Allied custody, however, the Italian Government would prefer that they be repatriated.

4. I shall be pleased if you will inform me if the wishes of the Italian Government can in this case, be granted.

For the Chief Commissioner :

J. A. Campbell

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

encls: 315/D-6.POL dated
29 Jan. 45.
402781/RPGR dated
6 Feb. 45.

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MINISTRY OF WAR

Rome, February 6th 1945

Autonomous office for War Veterans
and repatriated P.O.W's.

N. 402781/RPGR

TO: WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND IPW SUB-COMMISSION. ROME.

_____ *see 12.*
SUBJECT: PW who had escaped from the A.S. Camps.

_____ *see 347.*
The ship "Jean Ribaut" arrived in the port of Augusta on the 22nd of December 1944, out of Oran, with 25 IPW aboard who had escaped from French concentration Camps.

So far as we are informed, it would seem that the Capt. of the ship, turned these men over to the F.S.S. at Augusta, who in turn transferred them, under police escort, to the F.S.S. of Siracusa.

→ I beg this Sub-Commission to intervene on the behalf of these P.O.Ws' and have them transferred to Allied Custody, in or out of Italy, and not have them sent back to from where they escaped, for reasons that on other occasions it has been necessary to mention.

Signed:

the General Commanding the Aut. Office
General A. MANNERINI.

0-B/E 30/3/45
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THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
N. 315/D-6. Pol.

29 JANUARY 45

To: The Allied Commission. IPW Sub-Commission. Rome

Subject: IPW EVADED IMPRISONMENT.

Escaping from French imprisonment (61) Italian PW arrived on Italian soil from North Africa. Their escape was prompted by the bad, treatment they received in the French Camps: inhuman treatment from all points of view, and contrary to the Geneva Convention.

→ It appears that the Commanding Officer of the F.O.T.A., Admiral Morgan, intervened with the Italian Navy Authorities, and although he has told that the Navy Ministry had ordered these Authorities to hold the above-mentioned PW, he confirmed the order for their return, limiting it to permit that they remain in the British Armed Forces' hands.

Following international law, the escaped PW touching national soil, cease ipso-facto to be PsW, and can not be retaken prisoner except in combat. (see art. 50 of the Geneva Convention).

I beg this Commission to intervene immediately with the Commanding Officer of the F.O.T.A. so that he will give back to the Italian authorities the above-mentioned soldiers, ex PW.

Thanking you.

The High Commissioner
General Pietro Gazzera

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