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IPW/48

Provision of Hospital Accommodation

Feb. - Sept. 1945

Provision of Hospital Accommodation For Repatriated Italian P.O.W. + War Veterans

ft. 1945

7608
7621

WMD/ICOW
SUB-COM

7

MERANO REPATRIATION HOSPITAL COMMAND
 HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 APC 394 U.S. ARMY

Merano, 10 September 1945.

MINUTES OF A M E E T I N G HELD AT
HEADQUARTERS MERANO REPATRIATION HOSPITAL COMMAND

Persons present:

Lt. Col. SNEBEKER, I. C. MRHC
 Capt. R. BATTAGLIA, M. C. Surgeon, MRHC.
 Bernard KATZIN, ARC., Field Representative
 Major T. A. G. GIBB, 53 B. L. U.
 Major H. T. BREWIS, 53 B. L. U.
 Lieut. T. A. MIZZI, 53 B. L. U.
 Capt. J. P. ADLAM, Representative No. 2 District
 Capt. HOPKINS, CAO, Merano
 Capt. C. C. CIROS, AMG Merano
 Gen. Giacomo NEGRONI, Commandant IV Military Territorial
 Ccl. BIANCHINI, Director of Sanità Militare
 Lt. Col. P. GIACCONE, Town Major of Merano
 Col. C. RAVNICH, Commander Regt. "Garibaldi"
 Major Paul VALLI, Regt. "Garibaldi"
 Capt. V. LEONELLI, Commandant "Folgora" Division
 Major B. BRUNI, Acting Hospital Director IRC
 Capt. C. R. VALERMO, Captain Carabinieri
 Lt. Col. EICHLER, Supervisor Depot 531 in Sanitätspark FELTRE.

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 Col. C. RAVNICH, Commander Regt. "Garibaldi"
 Major Paul VALLI, Regt. "Garibaldi"
 Capt. V. LEONELLI, Commandant "Folgore" Division
 Major B. BRUNI, Acting Hospital Director IRC
 Capt. C.R. PALERMO, Captain Carabinieri
 Lt. Col. EICHLER, Supervisor Depot 531 in Sanitätspark FELTRE.

7621

..... 7648
 Regg. in
 Regg. di Feltre

FM
 196

SUBJECT: Hospitalization facilities and Military Accommodations in
----- the Merano area.

Col. Snedeker defined the duties of the MERANO REHABILITATION HOSPITAL COMPANY which are to implement the organization of the Italian Red Cross and to cope with the problem of hospitalizing Italian repatriates in Merano. The basic number to be reckoned with is 5000 which can be brought up to a maximum of 6000, if necessary. Accommodations have been provided to satisfy these needs. However, should the influx increase to a great extent, i.e. patients from Russia and other countries arrive, then additional buildings will have to be requisitioned within the Merano area. The biggest hotels will be chosen first, so as to limit the number of hospital establishments as much as possible.

So far 3000 people have been received. About one third of these have been already sent by train to the South. 50% of the total can be reckoned as TB patients, 10% are orthopedic cases and 5% Venereal disease.

These repatriated patients are not subject to military discipline. The control employed by this Headquarters is therefore purely on a civil basis, which makes it sometimes difficult to deal with infectious cases who do not want to follow the hospital regulations.

Owing to the lack of available beds, it has up to now not been possible to establish a reception center where the patients would be received and sorted out according to diagnosis and after medical classification transferred to the respective hospitals. However, such a plan is being worked out now and it is hoped to be put into effect very soon. The IRC (name of the staff were mentioned) have actually performed a heroic piece of work in dealing with the problem of accommodating the Italian repatriates considering their small staff, which is one of the chief stumbling blocks. Now there are indications that Headquarters in Milan and Rome are waking up.

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General Negroni suggested that the number of patients for this area will be more likely 50,000 to 50,000 than 5-6000.

Col. Ravnich

said in answer to Col. Smederer's statements, that the Italian Military authorities have already sent on their way to Merano 10 doctors, care and medical. In fact, to review the whole medical equipment of the "Poligono" Division will arrive and put itself at the disposal of the IRC.

- 3 -

Col. Snedeker, referring to the Decree stipulated in Rome in February 1941, mentioned that there is no agreement contained therein with regard to this part of the country. If this Hospital Center were to be kept as a compact unit, this would facilitate dealing with accommodation and supplies, as well as administration.

Col. Snedeker discussed a working program, based on the maximum bed-capacity of 6000 people, which -- as can be judged so far -- in all probability will not be overreached.

1. ID-patients are to be kept in barracks and not housed in big hotels in the center of the town. Provisions for hospitalizing such patients on the outskirts of the town will be made as soon as possible.

2. This will eliminate the damage which the town might incur on its reputation as a health resort.

3. The establishments proposed are:

- a) No. 1 Barracks Hospital, which will act as a reception center. (The Swiss Hospital, now occupying this establishment, will soon move to the Mermerhof)
- b) The New Artillery Barracks.
- c) Other buildings in Merano.

The American Command have tapped over 42 buildings in Merano which are located in four distinct groups.

- 1) Near the station
- 2) In the center of the town
- 3) A group in Mula Alpa
- 4) The Barracks in Mula Parra

Of those buildings about 25 will be given back for civilian use. The released establishments are all of a capacity of less than 200 beds. They include two schools and a police barrack. The Italian Field Hospital in Area 9, 10, 11 and 12 were life-savers on July 27th when the first train came in. They will be liquidated as soon as possible, but before going so, the hospital in Merano must be organized and in full use. This work will probably take another month.

The latest information as regards train movements is as follows: Eight trains with 350 people each, have been announced to arrive 3-4 days apart. These 3 trains will mean approximately 2700 patients.

Capt. Allen: There are about 10,000 German POWs working near the Brenner Pass, who will sooner or later need hospital care. Hospital facilities for 400 will be established in Merano and accommodation for personnel working in South Tyrol.

7617

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2. This will eliminate the damage which the town might incur on its repatriation as a health resort.

3. The establishments proposed are:

- a) No. 21. Terraviva Hospital, which will act as a reception center. (The Swiss Hospital, now occupying this establishment, will soon move to the Hermannhof.)
- b) The New Artillery Barracks.
- c) Other buildings in Merano.

The American Command have turned over 42 buildings in Merano which are located in four distinct groups.

- 1) Near the station
- 2) In the center of the town
- 3) A group in Madia Alta
- 4) The Barracks in Mala Farm

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The latest information as regards train movements is as follows: Eight trains with 350 people each, have been announced to arrive 3-4 days apart. These 8 trains will mean approximately 3750 patients.

Capt. Adlam: There are about 10,000 German POWs working near the Brenner Pass, who will sooner or later need hospital care.

Hospital facilities for 400 will be established in Feltre and accommodation for personnel working in Sanitätszone Feltre.

Col. Snedeker pointed out that the barracks in Madia Bassa should provide accommodation and parking space for vehicles as well as food storage.

Capt. Adlam stated that No. 2 District has now become No. 1 District and raised the question "What is going to happen to Feltre?" Feltre is actually a completed medical supply factory, where hospital requirements are stocked and also produced. Many raw materials are being turned into manufactured goods.

A well trained staff is also on hand.

- 4 -

Gen. Negroni mentioned that "Feltre" is only the changed name for the "Military Establishment" of the Italian army, which was the greatest establishment in Italy of this kind had its seat in Florence. The complete establishment, together with all its equipment and medical supplies, was transferred from Florence to Merano. Actually it is the property of the Italian Army.

Capt Adlam replied that "Feltre" not only holds Italian medical stocks, but also a large amount of German medical equipment and supplies, as well as a great many medical materials from civilian sources. The whole establishment is probably to come under the control of MIA which will hold the responsibility for the proper distribution.

Col. Snedeker made it clear that "Feltre" will serve nobody when all the parties concerned are jumping on it endeavouring to tear it to pieces. Only if it can be preserved as a working whole and production continues, can the need of all the hospitals and of the Italian Army be met.

Gen. Negroni agreed that the Depot Feltre should be maintained as at present, but if it is not possible to have Italian supervision, then a representative of Allied Commission should assume control of the place.

Capt. Adlam assured that Feltre is being strictly guarded and that it continues to produce. It is his duty to prevent the breaking up of this Depot until decisions as to the fate of Sanititspark Feltre have been made in Rome. The mad rush from all sides has been stopped. Exact inventories are made and a highly reliable checking system is employed.

Gen. Negroni expressed the hope that "Feltre" would be well cared for until one day it would go back to the Italian Government.

Capt. Adlam pointed out once more that the ultimate fate of Feltre lay in the hands of MIA.

Col. Snedeker then opened up a new thread of conversation by putting the question: "What has the Italian Military 7018
to do with regard to accommodation space within the

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Col. Snedeker then opened up a new thread of conversation by putting the question: "What has the Italian Military in mind with regard to accommodation space within the Merano area?" 7618

Gen. Negroni replied that first everyone should state their requirements in order to have a clear basis on which decisions can be made. So far the IIRC and the IRC have already stated their needs and based their calculations on a maximum number of housing and feeding 6000 patients.

Major Brewis then stated the British requirements which would amount to accommodation for:

1 Regt. Headquarters - 150 men with abt. 30 vehicles
 1 Battalion
 1 Company

750 men with abt. 80 vehicles.

Gen. Negroni explained that the Alpini Depot would be allotted to the Italians for accommodating 1 battalion and 1 company with their vehicles. The Alpine Motor Barracks and the former Task Force command post will serve for Regt. Headquarters. In addition, the Villa Astoria, Main Alta, will be used as separate quarters.

Capt. Adlam said the only difficulty is that there is still an auto-park at the Alpini Depot which is under control of No. 2 District.

Col. Snedeker remarked on the large food stocks which are stored at the Alpini Depot and enquired how much of the Depot could continue to be used for food storage.

Capt. Adlam again asked for the goods and vehicles to be left at the Alpini Depot, as it will be difficult to have them removed on account of shortage of man-power.

Col. Giaccone said that as soon as the Italian troops were moved into Merano, means could be provided to move all the stocks now at the Alpini Depot, if necessary.

Capt. Hopkins mentioned that decisions are being made now about the CIM stocks. Probably they will be given back to the Italian Government or to the Italian Red Cross.

Capt. Adlam remarked that part of the food stored at the Alpini Depot serves to feed Sanitäre Par. Feltre. This is an arrangement which has been made pending further decisions from AFHQ.

Col. Giaccone summed up the conversation and defined the general situation as follows:

Five Parties, each separate and not coordinate, are interested in dividing accommodation facilities in Merano, according to their respective requirements. These are: The Merano Repatriation Hospital Command, which includes the Italian Red Cross, No. 2 District, including Sanitätspark Feltre, Regt. "Garibaldi" and "Polcevera", Division

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Merano can be divided into three areas of authority

Area 1) The whole barracks area in Meis Bassa, which includes Sanitätspark Feltre, Hospital 21 and the New Artillery Barracks. The latter will be left to the mutual disposal of No. 2 District and the MHC.

Area 2) The Alpini Depot, The Andreas Hofer Kaserne, the Platzkommandantur. This area will be allotted to the Italian Military authorities.

Area 3) The rest of the town, which falls under the

- 6 -

civilian administration of AMG (Capt. Hopkins)

Capt. Hopkins voiced the suggestion that the AMG might be here only until the end of the month.

Major Brewis stated that all military units will have to apply to the City Command for allocation of billets. AMG has a Rental Office at its disposal which will deal only with civilian allocations. The City Command will work in cooperation with AMG. Actual requisitions will be passed on to the Provincial Billet Office in Bolzano.

Col. Giaccone (Italian Town Major) agreed to take over the responsibility for military billeting, provided he is given full authority and responsibility.

This was agreed to.

Capt. Adlan stressed the point that this agreement should be taking effect as from this date.

Gen. Negroni asked permission to enter the Alpini Depot and other Italian Barracks to search for papers relating to Italian military matters.

This was agreed to.

Gen. Negroni then asked for the assignment of a smaller building (abt. 30-40 rooms) to be used as offices and quarters for the Italian Territorial Command.

Col. Snedeker said that a list of released properties was con- signed to Capt. Hopkins (AMG Merano) for his disposal. To the question of Gen. Negroni about transferring hospitals out of the center of town, Col. Snedeker stated that it was the intention to clear the "Atlantic" as soon as possible, but so far the number of spare beds was not sufficient to permit the transfer.

Gen. Negroni then clarified on the request of Col Snedeker, the nature and duties of the various Italian units who would be entering the Merano area.

In conclusion General Negroni restated the assign- ment of Military Areas in Merano as previously given.

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The request from Capt. Hopkins for the release of the two schools and one police barrack was answered by Col. Snedeker who said that this had already been done.

Meeting adjourned 1700 hours.

L. Snedeker
L. SNEDEKER, Lt. Col.
O.C.

785120

IPW

C 25420
SEP 281504A

F/945
SEP 281930A
PRIGITY

AIRG

MIA INFO LISTING DISTANCE 51 AREA NORTHMOVES MOV ANCONA RCOM

UNCLASSIFIED

5

ALCOM's GOSS of 25 Sept not to oil.

1. 470 Italian Evac Hosp will move in period 1-7 October under arrangements NORTHMOVES from TURIN to ANCONA. Str for roll mob approx 85 personnel 30 tons stores.

2. 4 personnel and 2 vehs report ahead to displaced persons rep ANCONA.

Col Peeps to see

[Handwritten signature]

Dist

Info-Action
Info

Disper
Chief Commissioner
L Forces
IPOW SC
UNRRA
File 2 Float

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481

SEP 28 1945 7615

Italian Prisoner of War Service Commission
19 SC 402 384
Received 29 SEP 1945
File No. 10251

[Handwritten mark]

1 PW

04/2029
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DL200

TO: AMEMB, WASHINGTON, DC
FROM: AMEMB, ROME (04/2029)
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

UNCLASSIFIED

4

Re arrangements for the movement of 515 Italian POWs from Milan to Rome. The personnel of the 1st Army Group has been ordered to be moved on flat. The report of the Italian persons of the 1st Army Group is attached under of 04/2029. The report of the 1st Army Group is attached under of 04/2029. The report of the 1st Army Group is attached under of 04/2029.

W. Legitt to see

See map of

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
FILE 2
PROAT

48/

SEP 2 1945

7614

Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Committee
HQ AG APO 394
Received 28 SEP 1945
Log No 10253

785120

6
1 POW

REF/10
REF 271645A

R/0875
REF 261030
IMPORTANT

SI AREA N UNCO DISPER
ADDER SITE ABOVE 2800 1000 MILAN

UNCLASIFIED.

Ref your memo of ²⁶ 30 September 45. Not ready yet receive Italian
Eid Hospital. Have find accommodation for it in next few days. Am
working with both SI AREA and SIS DE CI L'AREA. Will keep you informed.

DISC
SI AREA
SIS DE CI L'AREA
S. FORNIA
SI AREA
UNRA
FILE 2
PLANT

J.

Italian Prisoner of War Sub-Commission

HQ AG APO 394

Received

28 SEP 1945

ag No.

10859



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DEPT/TO/MAIL

FOR ACTION GROUP THREE ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS WITH DURING THE PERIOD
REGIONS FOR SAITH GROUP NUMBER ONE AND TWO AREA FOR THE GROUP NUMBER ONE ALSO
RELAY FOR VIEW FOR INFORMATION

6009

26 September 1945

REGENCY

UNCLASSIFIED BY

PARA ONE TO MAY FOR GROUP TWO AND THREE

PARA TWO TO THE ACTION GROUP THREE ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS WITH DURING THE

PERIOD REGIONS FOR SAITH GROUP NUMBER ONE AND TWO AREA FOR THE GROUP NUMBER

ONE ALSO RELAY FOR VIEW FOR INFORMATION FROM ALSO ALSO ALSO

PARA TWO TO ITALIAN FIELD HOSPITAL NUMBER FOUR SEVEN ZERO THREE LOCATION

SUCOLA BRANCHI CIVILIAN PERSONS TO BE MOVED TO AREA IN OFFICE IN

CHARGE OFFICE TO REPORT ON ARRIVAL TO DEPLACED PERSONS IMMEDIATELY AREA FOR

FOR LOCATION

Handwritten signature/initials

See 5

*Be Regni to see
20/4 H*

DISTRIBUTION (BY HAND) :

- W.M.F.
- I.P.O. Division
- INTRA Italian Mission.
- 2nd Branch D.P. & R.C.

48

DEPT
47009

Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commissioner
IO AC SPD 304
Received 28 SEP 1945
Log No 10203

7612

785120

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DPR/109/147

FOR ACTION DEST TWO INFO HEADQUARTERS LOMBARDIA REGION FOR DOC GROUP DISPER
CMA EMILIA REGION FOR EAST GROUP DISPER CMA ALCOM MILAN FOR FISKE FOR
LAURENTELLI

3090

26 September 1945

ROUTINE

URGENT FIELD ED

PARA ONE ED MAY FOLLOWING MOVE BE INITIATED ED

PARA TWO FOR ACTION DEST TWO INFO HEADQUARTERS LOMBARDIA REGION FOR DOC GROUP
DISPER CMA EMILIA REGION FOR EAST GROUP DISPER CMA ALCOM MILAN FOR FISKE FOR
LAURENTELLI FROM ALCOM CITE AEDM ENEM

PARA TWO ED ITALIAN WARD HOSPITAL NUMBER FIVE ONE WEST FOREST LOCATED VIA
BORGO ONE FOUR CMA BELONG TO BE MOVED TO BOLOGNA ED OFFICER IN CHARGE CONVOY TO
RECEIVE ON ARRIVAL TO BE PLACED WITHIN REPRESENTATIVE CMA MUNICIPIO CMA
BOLOGNA FOR NEW LOCATION

Handwritten notes:
Ruespita 7 file su P...
M/A luglio

DISTRIBUTION (by hand) : M.M.I.A.
W.M.D. & I.P.O.W.
USIA Italian Mission
"A" Branch D.P.R.S.C.

Handwritten signature: M. G. B.

7611

4

DINER

Handwritten initials: H. B.

471009

785120

RESTRICTED

9 POW

3

6042
SEP 04 0543

P/6415
SEP 04 0543
PRIORITY

5 ARMY FOR ENREZON
HQ ALCON HQ VI DISTRICT

Handwritten signature

RESTRICTED

Subject is supplies and equipment for MERANO hospitals.
 Have arranged with 2 DIST for temporary issuance of medical
 supplies and equipment. Still have no authority for keeping medical
 equipment in hospitals as they are released. Your AG/3089/PH of
 27 July and AG/3118/PH of 14 August refer. Request authority from
 AFHQ to 2 DISTRICT for release of housekeeping equipment formerly
 under 10101 Hospital Company in MERANO. Full requisition follows.
 are submitting bid for cool to V. HEZIA Region but feel you must
 realize that no allotment is likely without vigorous action at ALCOM
 by HOI(?). No vehicles available on authority sent us on 14 August.
 Your AG/3118/PH refers. Request authority from AFHQ to WFOUSAPOC
 Command for release of 6 autos, 20 ambulances, 3 buses, 8 medium
 trucks and 8 heavy trucks when evacuation German sick at MERANO is
 completed also RGL. There is no ALCOM truck company at ROLEANO
 action is pending.

1/1/47

Registration
20/1/48
RESTRICTED

- 4st
- action - P Health SC
- Info - Chief Commissioner
- CA Section
- Disper SC
- IPCH SC
- File 2
- Floor

7610

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(2)

VE/eb

Rome 13th April 1945

MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR
WAR VETERANS AND
REPATRIATED POW
2/06062RPCR

TO: Allied Commission
R O M E

SUBJECT: Repatriation of POW.

*See file 1/16A
for action taken.*

The High Commissioner for Prisoners of War has announced the following arrivals of POW.

9th April From France to Leghorn - 85 Military and Civilians ex prisoners of the Germans.
17th April From England to Naples, - 17 Military Personnel (Mental cases)
21st April From England to Naples, 84 Military Personnel (Mental cases) 30 (T.B. Cases) - 224 (sick and surgical cases)

In more 220 military personnel are ready for embarkation from the Middle East and also 120 specialists are arriving in the near future from various countries.

Regarding the arrivals at Leghorn, it will be necessary to arrange a Lodging Center at Civitavecchia, as the Ministry has no means at Leghorn to provide for the reception of the repatriated POWs.

Relative to the arrivals at Naples, the hospitalization is becoming more difficult every day in that city and it is to be assumed, that with the increasing numbers of arrivals, the hospital organization will not be in a condition to cope with them.

This office, as a temporary remedy for this precarious situation is transferring the sick, that can be transported, to hospitals in Puglia. As however the hospitalization in that region is very limited, I return to the idea of constituting a hospital for War Veterans in the territory of Naples to resolve this very serious problem, and I beg you to examine the question with benevolence.

/s/ The General of the Autonomous
Office

A. MANNERINI.

*IPW
1/4*

7609

Translation

WM 4 I POW SC

①

The President of the Council of Ministers
Minister of the Interior

Paris, 20 February 1945

Dear Admiral,

You will know the difficult situation of the hospitals in the liberated provinces, because of the diminution of the number of beds, due to war damage or to the requisition of hospital buildings by the Allied authorities, for military purposes etc.

Considering this situation, a Commission, entrusted with the drafting of a relief plan for war soldiers who return from prison, has stated that it will be impossible to find beds for the high percentage of soldiers who return from ~~the~~ prison, who will need to be nursed in hospitals.

On the other hand, the Government cannot deny assistance under this form to these soldiers when they need it.

According to the opinion of a Red Commission, the situation might improve if, in their own way, the Allies would avoid requisitioning hospitals, thus making it possible to have immediately a greater number of free beds.

I shall be most grateful, my dear Admiral, if, considering the importance of this problem, you will kindly intervene with the Headquarters of the Army, to obtain that the necessary regulations are made in this sense.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

S. Y. Lenoir

Admiral Stone
Chief of the Allied Commission
S. O. M. S.

EC Inst - 7 Mar 45

Action - C.A. sec

INFO: Chief Comm. 7608

2nd Comm.

I POW SC

LPW
45

S.C.

