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IPW/55

Proposed Utilisation of

Apr. - May 1945

Proposed Utilisation of Italian Service Personnel For Mine Clearance

May 1945

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

CJM/as

G-5: 383.6

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Utilization of Italian Service Unit Personnel.  
(PW in US custody) for Mine Clearance.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

143  
Reference is G-5: 383.6 of 14 and 19 April.

1. The British Foreign Office have reminded this Headquarters that the proposed employment is contrary to articles 31 and 32 of the Geneva Convention unless the Italian co-operators are prepared to waive their rights under these articles.

2. They say furthermore, that it would not be right for non cooperator prisoners of war to be employed on this work even though they volunteered for it.

3. We would be pleased to hear when a decision is to be expected from the Italian Government.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

*C. J. Macnamara*  
C. J. MACNAMARA  
Capt., P.C.

Folio 5 ANSWERS THIS QUESTION.

J.A.C. 3/5/45.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR  
No.1383 Pol/F.7 di Prot.

Rome 30th April 1945

TO : THE ALLIED COMMISSION  
R O M E

SUBJECT: ~~The~~ Utilization of Italian Co-operators for the clearing of  
mines in the fields.

Reference your letter IPW/1/11/1090, dated the 17th of April 1945

W The Italian Government considers it necessary to adhere to the  
clearing up of all the fields that are mined in Italy; it is thought  
that the utilization of the Italian Military Co-operators for this  
work should be given under the following conditions,

- the units should be voluntary and should only be employed on Italian soil.
- They should be paid as the personnel of the R. Army are paid for the same work, that gives them extra pay for every mine recuperated or destroyed, even if this latter is to be paid by our Government.
- They should have the status of the other Italian Military co-operators. "

We await your answer regarding the system to be adopted.

/s/ The HIGH COMMISSIONER  
Gen. P. GAZZERA



P.O.W.

7833

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

JB/as

(F)

G-5: 383.6

19 April 1945

SUBJECT: Utilisation of Italian Service Unit personnel  
(PWs in US custody) for mine clearance.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

See 1091/1092.

1. Reference our G-5: 383.6 of 14 April to you on this subject.

2. We are advised that the U.S. Department of State perceives no objection to the use of Italian Service Unit personnel for mine clearance under those conditions which are set out to you in our letter under reference.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

HEADQUARTERS  
20 APR 1945  
A. C.

*Julius Bylles*  
JULIUS BYLLES  
Major, F.A.

See 1091  
1092

1/11

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

JB/WSW

G-5: 383.6

14 April 1945

SUBJECT: Utilisation of Italian Service Unit Personnel  
(PWs in US Custody), for Mine Clearance.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

*See 1092 & 1123*

1. Provost Marshal General (US) AHFC has raised the question as to whether the above-mentioned personnel might be used for mine clearance:

- a. on a voluntary basis,
- b. after having received thorough training by US Army mine clearance experts, and
- c. under the control of Peninsular Base Section, US Army.

2. It is desired that the views of the Italian Government be ascertained.

For Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

HEADQUARTERS  
15 APR 1945

*Julius Byles*  
JULIUS BYLES,  
Major, F. A.



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