

ACC 10000/12016139

A/11 (S BW FILE)

MARRIAGESOpened: June 3, 1945 - Closed AUG. 27, 1946
From: May 1944 - TO: AUG. 1946

MARRIAGES

June 3, 1945 - Closed AUG. 27, 1946
n. May 1944 - TO AUG. 1946

6651
6693

Subject:- Marriage Regulations.

NO 1 Army Co RA

A 47

27 Aug 46

List 'A' Copy to SCF
(P. 10)

1. The attention of all Unit Commanders is drawn to the booklet, "Marriage Regulations (GP)" issued as appendix 'A' to GPO 258/46. And especially to part 2, "Regulations peculiar to Italy".
2. From cases which have arisen, it is quite obvious that many Officers are not conversant with the exact difference between the two forms of marriage possible between a British Soldier and an Italian National.
3. The men concerned should be told to explain to their fiancées the exact nature of "Marriage in the Lines" and the attendant disadvantages for a non-British subject. Awkward situations have arisen when at the last moment this has had to be explained (e.g. by a Chaplain) and the girl has been unwilling or reluctant to accept 'Marriage in the Lines'.
4. Attention is drawn to the necessity for two essential documents for Marriage according to Italian Law, on the part of the man:
 - (a) a proper British Birth Certificate. (A certificate of Registration of Birth is not sufficient).
 - (b) A Consular Certificate of "No Impediment".

PA

Signature
Maj
DAR & CIG

6693

2068

785020

34

MESSAGE OUT

090940 B

FROM:- HQ 1 MRR

TO:- List 94

A 47 (.) UNCLASS (.) VERBALLY TEXT OF ANSWER IN HOUSE OF LORDS ON 31 JUL
 ON SUBJECT OF MARRIAGE OF TROOPS ABROAD READS AS FOLLOWS (.) QUOTE: (.) THE
 PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (.) I AM ABLE TO STATE THAT
 IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDERS SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO
 RELAX THE PRESENT BAN ON MARRIAGE BETWEEN BRITISH SERVICEMEN AND ALIEN WOMEN
 OTHER THAN JAPANESE IN CASES WHERE REASONS FOR MARRIAGE ARE GOOD AND THERE
 IS NO SECURITY OBJECTION (.) THE AUTHORITY TO COMMANDERS INCLUDE THE GRANTED
 IS IN WIDE TERMS (.) MY RIGHT HONORABLE FRIEND IS CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL BE
 EXERCISED AT ALL TIMES IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MEN THEMSELVES AND THAT
 NO CLOSER DEFINITION OF THEIR DISCRETION IN THIS MATTER IS REQUIRED (.) THIS
 REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON MARRIAGES WITH GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN WOMEN AND
 WITH WOMEN OF OTHER EX ENEMY COUNTRIES WILL IT IS FELT BE IN ACCORD WITH
 GENERAL SENSE OF MEMBERS THIS HOUSE AND OF PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY (.)
 UNQUOTE (.) THIS POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED NOTWITHSTANDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH
 CRO 268/46

12/8 S K R. H. H. A

Capt

6592

33

Subject: - Marriage PolicyIN 1 Army Gp RAA 47List 'A' plus SCF
OF(RC)7 Aug 46

Ref this A47 of 27 May.

It is pointed out that padres' report called for in para 2 of the a/q letter will be made out by a padre of the applicant's own denomination. A report from the padre of the fiancée's faith will only be obtained when the fiancée herself is subject to military law.

FD
SKA/na9/8 SK Ann Henschel
DAA & CIG

6691

HD 1 Army Gp RA

AD-175

2-Ing 46

- a) Number, rank and name of husband,
- b) Christian and maiden name of wife.
- c) Present address in Italy of wife.
- d) Date of application and area or formation where originated.
- e) Any special reasons for expediting repatriation e.g. advanced state of pregnancy lack of accommodation, etc.

MI
UK/na

D.M. & C.M.

66917

2071

785020

dh

81.

MESSAGE OUT

FROM:- HQ 1 AGRA

31 11 50 B.

TO:- List 48

A 47 (.) UGLAS (.) SUBJECT IS MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY ABOUT INTERFACES WITH
GERMANS OR AUSTRIANS WITHOUT CONSENT (.) HAVE YOU KNOWLEDGE OF ANY BRITISH
ARMY PERSONNEL OTHER THAN EX IN SUBSEQUENTLY AUTHORIZED OR ONE SPECIALLY
AUTHORIZED BY H.Q. IF SO WHAT ACTION IF ANY HAVE YOU TAKEN (.) REPORTS
REQUIRED THIS HQ 5 AUG (.) NIL RETURNED NOT REQUIRED

SK Amst 1
Capt

18

6689

2072

785020

A/11

Subject: Marriage

HQ 1 Army Gp RA

A 47

12 Jul 46.

List 'A'

1. So that children may be born in wedlock, the Corps Commander directs that permission will be granted for marriage to take place to pregnant fiancées provided medical evidence shows the period of pregnancy to be six months.

2. This modification to the normal six months waiting period in no way alters the withholding of permission to marry persons who are deemed to be unworthy of British citizenship.

Fd
SKA/wv

S K Amthor
DAA & QMG

13/7.

0088

2073

785020

29

MESSAGE OUT

From:-- HQ 1 AFSA

To:-- List 'A' plus Camp & Sigs.

M47(.) Unclass(.) Subject is request for review of dates
of approval of marriage applications(.) Ref this HQ letter
M47 of 24 Jun(.) Appeals submitted to this HQ should be
accompanied by all documents of marriage application as
originally forwarded for approval

Product
Maj

2/7

6687

CONFIDENTIALSubject: - Marriages.HQ 1 Army Gp USA24/24 Jun 46LIST 'A'

1. The Corps Commander intends to impose a waiting period of 6 months, without exception, on applications for marriage with Italian civilians.
2. If applicants accept this decision, well and good. If they appeal against it, their appeal which must state reason will be submitted for further consideration by the Corps Comd.
3. The initiative in appealing should be left entirely to the applicant but he should be informed of his right of appeal.

FD
SKA/epS. K. Armstrong Cpl
DIA & JAG

6686

HQ HOME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794, 43 AME

Telephone: 66501

Ref: 73A/POL

19 Mar 46

SUBJECT: - Marriage between alien women on the
Continent of Europe and British
soldiers

Distribution "Y" British

1. Copy of War Office letter HQ/PO/137 (AC/46) dated 24 Jan 46 is attached for information.

2. In cases where alien military personnel in COT apply for permission to marry an alien living on the Continent of Europe, if the applicant is due to return to the UK on arrival of release within the four months indicated following his application, he should be advised to adopt the procedure indicated on arrival in the UK.

3. If it is not anticipated that he will return to the UK within four months and he wishes to proceed with his application for marriage to an alien such as is mentioned in para 2, he should be instructed to apply in accordance with GPO 160/41, but should be warned that, owing to the necessity of ascertaining and complying with the marriage requirements of commands other than COT, there is likely to be a considerable delay.

4. The following explanation of paras 2 and 3 above is given in order to meet any queries which may have arisen in connection with them.

5. Nothing in this letter is intended to alter the existing regulations with regard to marriage applications in this theatre, with the single exception that if an officer or soldier due to return to UK within the four months immediately following his application to marry a woman resident on the Continent of Europe, any outside COT, should be advised to adopt the procedure indicated in the War Office letter.

6. The only cases where the War Office scheme would

Ref: - 734/POL

19 Mar 46

SUBJECT: - Marriage between alien women on the
Continent of Europe and British
soldiers

Distribution "War Office"

1. Copy of War Office letter HQ/PC/137 (162/44) dated 24 Jan 46
is attached for information.

2. In cases where alien military personnel in GEF apply for
permission to marry an alien living in the Continent of Europe, if
the applicant is due to return to the UK or Division of Release within
the four months immediately following his application he should be
advised to adopt the procedure indicated on arrival in the UK.

3. If it is not anticipated that he will return to the UK within
four months and he wishes to proceed with his application for marriage
to an alien such as is mentioned in para 2, he should be instructed to
apply in accordance with GRC 162/44, but should be warned that, owing
to the necessity of ascertaining and complying with the marriage re-
quirements of countries other than GEF, there is likely to be a consid-
erable delay.

4. The following explanation of paras 2 and 3 above is given in
order to meet any queries which may have arisen in connection with them.

5. Nothing in this letter is intended to alter the existing
regulations with regard to marriage applications in this theatre, with
the single exception that an officer or soldier due to return to UK
within the four months immediately following his application to marry a
woman resident on the Continent of Europe, who enters GEF, should be
advised to adopt the procedure indicated in the War Office letter.

6. The only cases where the War Office scheme would apply to women
resident in GEF are those in which a soldier who is now serving in the UK
or has been released in the UK, and who has not previously submitted an
application for marriage, desires to marry a woman resident in GEF.

J. W. FRYAR
Staff Colonel
for Lt Col

25/3

785020

- 2 -

COPY/COHD/POL/137(1042)THE WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

14 January 1946

Memorandum for:

All Commands at Home
GOC Northern Ireland and London DistrictSubject: Marriage between Alien women on the Continent
of Europe and British soldiers

1. Many applications are received from soldiers for leave or compassionate leave to the Continent to enable them to marry women in France, Belgium and elsewhere.
2. As a general rule leave for this purpose cannot be granted, and the applicant should be informed that his marriage must take place in the United Kingdom and that he must take the necessary steps to enable the woman to travel here for the purpose. The steps to be taken are described in paras 4 - 6 below.
3. The exception to the above general rule is the case in which a soldier is due to proceed overseas in the near future or in which the woman's ill-health prevents her travelling, when the grant of special leave may be considered.
4. An applicant should write to the woman informing her that he is a British subject now resident in England (or Scotland or Northern Ireland as the case may be) giving his full personal particulars, address etc., and stating that he is ready to marry her as soon as she arrives here. He should instruct her to produce his letter to the nearest British passport control officer or Consulate and ask for a visa to enable her to enter the United Kingdom.
5. An applicant should, if possible, call at the Home Office (Aliens Department) 40, Old Bailey, LONDON, E.C.2., before he writes as above, to verify the contents of para. 4., which may be subject to alteration from time to time.

6684

LONDON, S.W.1.

14 January 1946

Memorandum for:

All Commands at Home
COsC Northern Ireland and London District

Subject: Marriages between Alien women on the Continent
of German and British soldiers

1. Many applications are received from soldiers for leave or compassionate leave to the Continent to enable them to marry women in France, Belgium and elsewhere.
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5. An applicant should, if possible, call at the Home Office (Aliens Department) 10, Old Bailey, LONDON, E.C.2., before he writes as above, to verify the contents of para. 4., which may be subject to alteration from time to time. If it is impossible to call, the applicant should send a copy of his letter to the woman to the Home Office (Aliens Department) for information.

6. The woman will obtain a visa which will enable her to travel to the United Kingdom and remain here for two months. If she is not married within two months she is liable to be deported.

7. The procedure indicated above does not apply to women of German or Austrian nationality who are not permitted to enter the United Kingdom.

Director of Personal Services

785020

HC HOME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794, US ARMY

Telephone: 66504

Ref: - 73N/PCL

18 Mar 46

SUBJECT: - Repatriation and Marriage
of Alien Fiancées

Distribution "F" British

1. Arrangements have been made by the War Office for the repatriation to the UK of an alien fiancée of a soldier if the soldier is in the UK himself and has signed a statutory declaration required by the Home Office, stating that he will comply with the following conditions:-

(a) That he is legally free to marry.
(b) That he will marry the repatriated fiancée within two months of her entry into the UK.

(c) That he will provide a home for her.

2. The British Consular Representative has authority to issue visas for entry into the UK.

3. As the journey to the UK would be difficult without military assistance, when a request is received from War Office to repatriate a fiancée, arrangements for her journey by the most suitable means will be made by GHO.

4. Such passages will be on repayment in the UK.

5. Fiancées will not have priority over wives.

6. Security and moral screening will be carried out in all cases, under arrangements of this HQ.

J.W. EVANS,
Staff Capt,
for Lt-Col,
AA & QMG.

6083

to the UK of an alien fiancée of a soldier if the soldier is in the UK himself and has signed a statutory declaration required by the Home Office, stating that he will comply with the following conditions:-

- (a) That he is legally free to marry.
 - (b) That he will marry the repatriated fiancée within two months of her entry into the UK.
 - (c) That he will provide a home for her.
2. The British Consular Representative has authority to issue visas for entry into the UK.
3. As the journey to the UK would be difficult without military assistance, when a request is received from War Office to repatriate a fiancée, arrangements for her journey by the most suitable means will be made by GHQ.
4. Such passages will be on repayment in the UK.
5. Fiancées will not have priority over wives.
6. Security and moral screening will be carried out in all cases, under arrangements of this HQ.

6083

J.W. EVANS,
Staff Capt,
for Lt-Col,
AA & QMS.

2081
A/11

HQ ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794 US ARMY

Telephone: 66601

Ref:- 73A/POL

SUBJECT:- Marriages

19 Jan 46

List 'B'

1. Marriage applications may be submitted in respect of British personnel who wish to marry Germans and Austrians where both parties are members of H.M. Forces.
2. Such applications will be submitted on the Appendix to GRO 162/44 in accordance with existing instructions.

Brd.

A.L. LOUDEN
Major
DAAG
for Lt Col
L. & QMG

6682

785020

Subject: - Marriages - Pre-Marital Medical Examination.

CONFIDENTIAL

A 17

25 Jan 46

OSC All Units in 204 Sub Area

1. A copy of CHQ COM letter 6151/44 of 12 Jan 46 is forwarded for information.
2. Any such applications from intending brides will be referred to MED this HQ, who can arrange the necessary hospital accommodation and examination.

In the field
JW/rob

Copy to :-

MED

SCV

REMARKS

COPY

Subject: - Marriages - Pre-Marital Medical Examination

HQ BTH

Rear HQ 15 Corps

HQ 2 District

HQ 3 District

HQ LT(C)

HQ ROAD Area Allied Command

HQ BTH

CHQ COM

6151/44

12 Jan 46

6081

1. It has been noticed by this CHQ that 'A' Branches of certain formations in this command when making enquiries in accordance with GPO 162/44 are requesting medical officers to examine medically and to report upon foreign born women engaged to marry British soldiers.

2. Pre-marital examination cannot be enforced under British law, civilian or military, and therefore such requests are being made without competent authority and obviously without any realization of the implications.

3. In view, however, of the widespread prevalence of certain diseases (notably tuberculosis) amongst the civilian population in this command, this HQ is prepared to arrange facilities at British hospitals for medical examination of such women, provided it is made quite clear to the women that -

- (a) She understands the examination voluntarily and is willing to sign an indemnifying form of consent.

In the field
JH/rob

Copy to :- JED

STP

REMARKS

COPIES

Subject:- Karriagos - Described Medical Examination

MC 222
Near HQ 13 Corps
HQ 2 District
HQ 3 District

MC 15(3)
MC ROEL Area Allied Command
MC 300A

CHQ CHQ

6151/44

12 Jan 45

6081

1. It has been noticed by this HQ that 'A' Branches of certain formations in this command when making enquiries in accordance with GPO 162 (4) are requesting medical officers to examine medically and to report upon foreign born women engaged to marry British soldiers.

2. The medical examination cannot be enforced under British Law, civilian or military, and therefore such requests are being made without competent authority and obviously without any realization of the implications.

3. In view, however, of the widespread prevalence of certain diseases (principally tuberculosis) amongst the civilian population in this command, this is referred to various facilities at British hospitals for medical examination at civilian hospitals provided it is made quite clear to the examinee that:-

- (a) She understands the examination voluntarily and is willing to sign an informing form of consent.
- (b) She realizes that the examination will necessitate admission to hospital and detention in such hospital whilst the following investigations are being carried out:-
 - (i) Medical History
 - (ii) Urine analysis
 - (iii) X-Ray of chest
 - (iv) Routine physical examination
 - (v) Blood tests
 - (vi) Any further tests suggested by the findings from (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) above.

It is pointed out that Pelvic examination for Venereal Disease will not be carried out unless specifically requested by the examinee.

4. The results of these examinations must be treated as CONFIDENTIAL for the information in the first instance solely of the Commander concerned with giving consent to the marriage. If, however, the examinee agrees, the report may be given to other interested parties (e.g. the intended husband).

Subject:- Marriages

A 47

13 Jan 46

GAC All Units in 204 Sub Area

1. The War Office have now given a ruling that marriages between BRITISH Service personnel and GERMANS and AUSTRIANS, where both parties are members of the Forces, are permissible.
2. If, therefore, applications for such marriages are received, they will be dealt with in the usual way according to GHO 152/44 and this HQ letter A 47 of 7 Jan 46 as amended by A 47 of 13 Jan 46.

Prinson Capt

In the field
JBC/146

Major
DAA & GME
204 Sub Area

Copy to:- SGP
GM (re)
Walford

B 19/1

6680

HQ ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794, US ARMY

Telephone:- 66501

Ref:- 73/POL

9 Jan 46

SUBJECT:- Marriage

Distribution List "B" (British)

Reference is made to this HQ letter 73A dated 22 Sept 45.

1. In future, when submitting marriage applications in respect of members of the United Kingdom military forces who wish to marry foreign nationals, it is no longer necessary to submit a medical certificate upon the applicant's fiancée.

3/14/1

T. E. D. DUTTON,
Staff Capt,
for Lt-Col,
AA & QMG,

6689

Subject:- Local Marriage

A 47

16 Jan 46

OAC All Units in 201 Sub Area

This HQ letter A 47 dated 7 Jan 46 will be amended as follows:-

(1) Reference at head of letter will be amended to read:-

"Reference GPOs 152/44 and 121/45".

(2) ~~DELETE~~ para 4(h); substitute:-

" 4(h) Brief report by a chaplain of the applicant's denomination and of the prospective bride's denomination (if different) who have interviewed the applicant. (These interviews should take place before the forms of application are completed). "

In the field
JBN/lde

Whitson Calt

Major
W.A. & CMC
201 Sub Area

9/17/1

6628

Subjeet: Local History, Ages

DoD ALL Users in 201 Only Access

Reference and 162/44.

- (a) For the last six years conditions throughout the world have been abnormal. The future is full of uncertainties. Against this background how much more willing to accept theories is in long term perspective. How life can at best only have a cup of coffee in a life-long contract? How to find in Italy hesitant to suggest himself in a life-long contract? How to find in UK is far too short a period to make any man to suggest his that no man under the age of 26 has lived - normal adult life of home which enabled him to assess clearly the difference between life as a bachelor and as a married man.
- (b) That the foreign party to the marriage will find him otherwise settling down. After the war in a foreign land meant people who speak a different language and whose habits, inclinations and expectations are greatly different.
- (c) That in these days the parties are of different political persuasion, although this may lead to present little or no difficulty at the time of marriage, it may become a grave problem in later life, especially in the case of a foreign party.

(a) Applications for marriage will only be refused in exceptional circumstances, or where there is a real security objection which would prevent the issue of a British passport or where the woman is of really bad character, an prostitute or confirmed thief. Considerations for petty offences will not be considered a bar to marriage.

(b) A waiting period of 6 months from the time of the first application to the unit commander will normally be imposed unless there are good reasons for a shorter period.

(c) If the objection is refused the unit commander is informed in writing of the reasons for the refusal.

2. As soon as a Commanding Officer is aware that a soldier is likely to request permission to marry, he will interview the soldier and endeavor to dissuade him from precipitate action in the matter. Whilst the difficulties involved in "blind marriages" are generally appreciated the following points should be stressed:-

(a) For the last six years conditions throughout the world have been abnormal. The future is full of uncertainties. Against this background how much more difficult is it for a soldier to make a long-term contract. How much more difficult should the soldier who has lost contact with his home life and can at best only have a superficial knowledge of home life in Italy hesitate to marry himself in a life-long contract? Few would leave in the far too short a time of 26 to make a normal adult life of home which takes after many years of foreign service. It is no exaggeration to say that no man under the age of 26 has lived a normal adult life at home which enables him to assess clearly the difference between life as a bachelor and as a married man.

(b) That the foreign party to the marriage will find him or herself settling down after the war in a foreign land amongst people who speak a different language and whose habits, inclinations and dispositions are greatly different.

(c) That in cases where the parties are of different religious persuasion, although this may seem to present little or no difficulty at the time of marriage, it may become a grave problem in later life, particularly over the upbringing, religion and education of children.

(d) That a man making his career at home in the difficult post-war years is likely to find that a wife of foreign origin, however helpful and devoted, is unable to give the same assistance as a wife of his own race and that she may in fact unwittingly constitute a hindrance to him.

- 2 -

- (d) That however much the parties are now in love, their affections are not being tried as they will be when they live at home and that there are many adventures to be endured by posturing the marriage until a moment of the process has returned home and conducted the wedding by home at night. If both parties are even still at the moment of the wedding, they can feel no more than that they have a wonderful wedding at home at night. The wedding is to be held in the home at night. The wedding is to be held in the home at night. The wedding is to be held in the home at night.
- (e) That the British soldier in Italy, with money to spend, is the Italian woman and liberally supplied with cigarettes and other luxuries, almost unobtainable to the Italian, presents by comparison a startling picture to a young girl which it is quite possible he may be unable to live up to when he returns to civilian employment after the war. Acquaintance in Italy must almost inevitably be superficial and of brief duration.
- (f) Reports of marriages contracted during the last war show that a slightly small percentage turned out remarkably happily. In very many cases the husband's wife found the climate and on two of three British soldiers that they were unable to live up to him, with those who either lost their husbands or induced them to leave their home country and live abroad with her. It is hardly to be supposed that the experience of the present war will be any different. It must be remembered that the Italian people were the best of the world's people of our country. They were brave and devoted soldiers and through it would be hard to live up to them. They were brave and devoted soldiers and through it would be hard to live up to them. They were brave and devoted soldiers and through it would be hard to live up to them.
- (g) There is no divorce in Italy. If the soldier after returning home has various disadvantages too overwhelming, he is obliged to type himself as a soldier to go to Italy.
- (h) If there are any children, the wife almost certainly have the children and that is the usual custom in the country which, as has been proved in the past, has led to great unhappiness to the child and eventual isolation.
- (i) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (j) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (k) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (l) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (m) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
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- (o) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (p) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (q) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (r) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (s) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (t) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (u) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (v) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (w) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (x) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
- (y) There are many other differences which the wife will find in themselves such as differences in the way of thinking, fundamentally different attitudes towards religion, etc.
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(g) Records of marriages conducted during the last year show that a slightly smaller percentage turned out reasonably happy. In very many cases the foreign wives found the climate and customs of Great Britain so uncomfortable that they were unable to maintain it, while with those who either left their husbands or induced them to leave, the situation, stability and life abroad was poor. It is usually to be expected that the experience of the war must have been a hardship. It must be borne in mind that they for more than three years the Italian people were the isolated members of our country. They were bitter and isolated members of the race. It would seem to be a old friends again, very many families in Great Britain have lost husbands, fathers, sons and are there fighting against Italy. They will not be likely to welcome a neighbor in Italian wife.

(h) There is no divorce in Italy. In the earlier efforts to find the various descriptions too overwhelming and confused to be himself he cannot do so in Italy.

(i) If there are children, the will almost certainly have the children and often the local children in the vicinity which, as has been proved in the past, has led to great unhappiness to the child and eventual isolation.

(j) There are many other differences which it will be difficult to find as different facts is required again, cumulatively militate strongly against happiness.

(k) There are many cases of men who the last year the world around the unhappiness of their wives and children as a result of the war to live in the wife's country, usually to their own unhappiness, in other cases their wives forced them to do so.

3. Either before or after the CO's interview the CO will be seen by a chaplain who will explain to him the religious aspect of the situation. This interview is most important when it is a parties, reflects the war religion.

4. If the soldier agrees to his decision the CO will forward in duplicate a questionnaire (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z) to the CO's office with a report (in duplicate) giving the following information:-

- (a) Age/Service or of enlistment.
- (b) Date on which application was first made to CO unit.
- (c) Length of period of military service.
- (d) Date applicant had leave to UK or other part of the world for leave or when he was for leave.
- (e) Length of period of the parties.
- (f) If the intended field is present, the expected date of delivery

- 3 -

- (c) Any reason which might justify the reduction or waiving of the normal 6 months' waiting period.
- (d) Brief report by a chaplain of the applicant's denomination, who has interviewed the applicant. (This interview should take place before the forms of application are completed).
- (e) Statement by unit commander that he has satisfied himself from unit records and such other enquiries as may be necessary that the applicant is free to marry; or, when the applicant has instituted divorce proceedings, the OC must satisfy himself that the decree has been made absolute before forwarding the application. In normal cases it is sufficient to check the truth of the applicant's statements by consulting unit records and, if necessary, G2 and Echelon, who will themselves, if there is any doubt, ask for confirmation from Home R corps. Further enquiries on this subject are only required when there is reason to doubt the truth of the applicant's statements or doubt about the facts on which his freedom to marry depends. Only when such further enquiries are necessary will approach be made to the Police.
- (f) The unit commander's opinion both of the individual and of the prospects of a happy marriage, including any other relevant information, such as whether either party speaks the other's language reasonably well and the attitude of the applicant's parents to the proposed marriage.

In the field
PT/10s

6686

201 301 1000

2092

785020

19

CONFIDENTIAL
59 Area.
53 A.
27 Nov 45.

SUBJECT: Foreign Born Wives of British Soldiers -
Identity Certificates.

ALL UNITS.
Camp 59 Area.

1. There is no form of British identity certificate available to foreign born wives of British soldiers, during the period between the date of marriage and the date of issue by British Consul of a British Passport.
2. It has been decided to introduce a temporary identity certificate to cover this period.
3. Form of identity certificate is shown as Appendix "A".
4. This certificate will be issued by OG units or Head of Establishment to foreign born wives of British Officers and ORs under their command.
5. Units will keep a record of certificates so issued.
6. On the issue of a British passport, the certificates will be withdrawn and destroyed under unit arrangements.
7. Authority CMC GEP 9949/A4 dated 19 Nov 45.

[Handwritten signature]
Lt Col.
11 & 12.

RAC/D.

APPENDIX "A"

IDENTITY CERTIFICATE FOR FOREIGN BORN
WIFE OF A BRITISH SOLDIER

- (a) NAME OF WIFE.....
 - (b) ADDRESS OF WIFE.....
 - (c) CERTAIN IDENTITY CARD NUMBER.....
- STAMPED OF WIFE.....

6673

IS THE WIFE OF

- (d) NUMBER.....
- (e) RANK.....
- (f) DATE.....

3. Form of identity certificate is shown at Appendix "A".
4. This certificate will be issued by GO units or head of Establishment to foreign born wives of American Officers and ORAs under their command.
5. Units will keep a record of certificates so issued.
6. On the issue of a British Passport, the certificates will be withdrawn and destroyed under unit arrangements.
7. Authority GPO GMP 3949/A4 dated 19 Nov 45.

[Signature]
Lt Col.
A. G. GMB.

740/3.

APPENDIX "A"

IDENTITY CERTIFICATE FOR POLISH WOMEN
WIFE OF A BRITISH SOLDIER

6675

- (a) NAME OF WIFE.....
- (b) ADDRESS OF WIFE.....
- (c) BRITISH IDENTITY CARD NUMBER.....

SIGNATURE OF WIFE.....

IS THE NAME OF

- (a) NUMBER.....
- (b) RANK.....
- (c) NAME.....
- (d) UNIT.....
- (e) COMMAND.....

SIGNED.....

OR

DATED.....

BRITISH WOMEN'S GROUP

THIS IDENTITY CERTIFICATE IS NOT VALID UNLESS PRODUCED IN
CONJUNCTION WITH WIFE'S OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.

Subject:- Marriages

CONFIDENTIAL

All Army Units
Internal

HQ 59 Area
53 A
23 Nov 45

In future, when application is made to this Headquarters for the approval to the marriage of a British soldier and a foreign subject other than American, the following reports and certificates will accompany Appendices A, B and C to GRC 162/44.

1. (a) Certificate that the contents of GRC 162/44 and of the attached copy of Headquarters 2 District letter 194A dated 31 May 44 have been explained to the men concerned.
(b) If the parties are of a different religion a certificate to the effect that GRC 121/45 has been complied with.
(c) Report on the civilian from an approved civilian doctor.
(d) Statement from G2E confirming from Records that the man is free to marry.
(e) Certificate of length of acquaintanceship of the parties, and of the period of time during which the military applicant has been unable to see his fiancée regularly.
2. Appendices A B C will be prepared in duplicate.
3. ESS report will be obtained by this HQ on receipt of the completed forms from units.
4. This HQ letter of even reference dated 3 June 45 is hereby cancelled.

FAC/VM

6884
for Lt Col.
AA & GAG.

C O R R

Subject:- MarriagesCONFIDENTIALAll Commanding OfficersHQ No 2 District, GHQ.
1944.
31 May 44.

Ref GEO 162/44.

1. An increasing number of applications by soldiers to marry Italian civilians is being made to this HQ. Most Commanding Officers realise that everything possible should be done to discourage such marriages, few of which turn out happily or even survive for more than a short period. In some cases O/C Units and Comds are supporting such applications without being satisfied that the soldier is fully aware of his responsibilities and the disadvantages which are likely to occur.
2. O/C Units will therefore, as soon as they receive an application to marry, see the applicant and explain to him the perils inherent in a mixed marriage. He will be told that there is a widespread belief in Italy that the normal British soldier is very well off. Accordingly many Italian mothers are making an all out effort to secure what they consider an advantageous alliance for their daughters. Troops who visit Italian houses in a casual way may find themselves, quite unintentionally, so deeply committed that they cannot extricate themselves: there have been instances of this. Further, the girls themselves are so imbued with this idea by their mothers, that they rush a passing infatuation to a matrimonial alliance.
3. The statistics of last war marriages with Foreigners show that only five per cent proved successful. There is no reason to hope that present war international marriages will prove any more satisfactory; the reverse is more likely owing to even more bitter feelings to which it has given rise. It is our duty to protect the 95% of our troops from matrimonial shipwreck.
4. There are many reasons which militate against the success of a British-Italian marriage which should from time to time be brought to the notice of all troops.
 - (a) Of necessity acquaintance must be slight, superficial and of brief duration.
 - (b) Disparity of nationality - this includes disparity of language, customs and manner of life. It is very difficult to maintain a long and happy married life on such dissimilar foundations.
 - (c) There is in 90% a disparity of religion as the Italians are practically 100% Roman Catholic and as only 10% of the troops are Roman Catholic there is bound to be in the majority of cases all the complications to which this disparity can lead.

- (d) The Italians have been recent and bitter enemies and in a number of cases have carried out atrocities on British sailors and soldiers. Few of the soldier's relations and friends at home will accept an Italian wife as persona grata in the family. She is thus committed to a miserable and lonely existence.
- (e) There is no divorce in Italy. If the soldier afterwards finds the various disparities too overwhelming and wishes to free himself he cannot do so in Italy. On the other hand if he seeks and obtains a divorce in England he is free but his partner by her religion and the laws of her own country is not free.
- (f) If there are any children, they will almost certainly have the ridicule and gibes of the local children in the vicinity, which, as has been proved in the past, has lead to great unhappiness to the child and eventual isolation.
- (g) There are many other differences which though small in themselves, such as different tastes as regards cooking, cumulatively militate strongly against happiness.

5. There are many cases of men after the last war who could stand the unhappiness of their wives and children no longer and who went to live in the wife's country usually to their own unending regret: in other cases their wives forced them to do so.

6. COs may place themselves in a difficult position if they do not make adequate inquiries and ensure that the man is in fact single. There are numerous cases of married men making a false statement on attestation declaring that they are single. COs should therefore make inquiries through the police of the man's town or country that he is in fact single and has no encumbrances.

7. It is understood that it has been agreed by the Cardinals and other high Italian authorities that when a Parish Priest is notified of an intended marriage with a British soldier, he will at once inform the local Curia (equivalent of the British "Chapter") who will take the matter up with the nearest CP(RC).

8. Finally, if a soldier is determined to press his application, he will be told, in order to prove that there is a genuine affection and not a passing infatuation, that arrangements will be made to attach him for a period of 2 months to a unit at a distance, and that, if at the end of this period he still desires to get married, a final decision will then be given by this HQ. Where such attachments cannot be arranged by Area or Sub-Area HQs, assistance will be sought from this HQ.

(31) EP MAFES.
Major General,
Comd No 2 District.

2097

785020

SUBJECT :- Marriage52 British Liaison Unit,
AD/CON
11 Sept 45.TO:- 2326633 Signal REPTD.Fd.,
14 L of C Signals,
CMF.

I very much regret to tell you that your application for permission to marry Signorina PICCOLO has been refused by HQ No 2 District.

All relevant correspondence has therefore been forwarded to the OC of your present unit, and he will no doubt be notifying you accordingly in due course. Any appeal that you may wish to make should now, therefore, be addressed to him.

FIELD
SCHO/RBLieutenant Colonel,
Commanding 52 British Liaison Unit.

6672

785020

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: 2526633 SIGA BTRUS.P.

Proposed Marriage to Italian Civilian

52 British Liaison Unit

C.M.

4 AUG 45

CON/DEPTS

To: HQ 59 Area

Re: Your letter 33A dated 3 June 45.

1. Application has been made to me by the above named soldier for permission to marry an Italian civilian, and in accordance with the above mentioned letter I forward the following reports and certificates relevant to the case for onward transmission to Higher Authority:

- (a) I certify that HQ 2 District letter 104 A dated 31 May 44 has been read and explained to the soldier concerned.
- (b) The parties are of the same religion.
- (c) Report on Civilian by approved civilian Doctor. Signed 'A'
- (d) W.D.B. Report. Signed 'B'
- (e) Statement from O.C. confirming from Records that the soldier is free to marry. Signed 'C'
- (f) Report on woman's family by Italian S.I.B. Signed 'D'
- (g) Parties have been acquainted 3 months.
- (h) The soldier has been stationed in the town in which woman resides throughout the period of their acquaintance. *6/6/45*

2. Application form A, B, and C in accordance with GSO 152/44 are attached. Signed 'E'.

3. Letter from H.C. Chapter 59 Area is attached. Signed 'F'

4. Personally, I can see no insuperable reason why the marriage should not take place. With regard to the W.D.B. Report, I do not feel inclined to attach overmuch importance to the woman's reported association with Germans, as I feel that over a period of years fraternization with resident German soldiers was practically inevitable.

2. Application has been made to me by the above named soldier for permission to marry an Italian civilian, and in accordance with the above mentioned letter I forward the following reports and certificates relevant to the case for onward transmission to Higher Authority:

- (a) I certify that HQ 2 District Letter 194 A dated 31 May 44 has been read and explained to the soldier concerned.
- (b) The parties are of the same religion.
- (c) Report on Civilian by approved civilian Doctor. Marked 'A'
- (d) W.S.S. Report. Marked 'B'
- (e) Statement from QM confirming from records that the soldier is free to marry. Marked 'C'
- (f) Report on woman's family by Italian S.I.S. Marked 'D'
- (g) Parties have been acquainted 3 months.
- (h) The soldier has been stationed in the town in which the woman resides throughout the period of their acquaintance. *6627*

2. Application form A, B, and C in accordance with GHO 152/44 are attached. Marked 'E'.

3. Letter from R.C. Chapter 59 Area is attached. Marked 'F'

4. Personally, I can see no insuperable reason why the marriage should not take place. With regard to the W.S.S. Report, I do not feel inclined to attach overmuch importance to the woman's reported association with Germans, as I feel that over a period of 3 years fraternisation with resident German soldiers was practically inevitable.

BOL/MA.

L.H. Conyers,

Lieut. Col.
S.S.

2100

785020

SUBJECT:-Physic 1 Examination.

Dr I. Mano,
832 Field Hospital.

I have examined Signorina Pico Giuseppina di Francesca born at Cividate al Piano, and at present living at Bergamo, and I certify that she is not suffering from tubercular disease or venereal disease (semiotically ascertained).
This certificate has been issued at the request of 82 HQ, 52 British Liaison Unit.

Capt. Med. Gallo Imigi,
OG Hospital.

6670

The 4th June 1945. 11/13

PICCO Giuseppa daughter of Francesco and Carminata Virginia, born at Ovidata al Piano (Bergamo) 20th Jan 1923, is dwelling here and resident at Via Borgo S. Caterina n 22.

Her family consists of:

Father-Picco Francesco age 35, shoemaker.

Mother-Carminata Virginia age 45, housekeeper.

brother-Renzo age 17, unemployed.

Her father by order of the "Tribunale di tappa-Intendenza, 3 Armata" (military tribunal for soldiers on leave or passing through the district) was sentenced to 3 years and 4 months of military confinement for desertion, date 27. 9. 1917.

The whole family has not any particular political record, having always set aside, no physiological record.

For what concerns morality, one can have strong doubts, the PICCO Giuseppa, being physically a beautiful girl, has in the past and is still much courtshipped. For the time past she has been many times in company of German and Republican soldiers, and of all who succeeded in pleasing her.

Member of rather a modest family and without economical resources, except the gain of the chief of the family, about one year ago she opened a shop of lady hair-dressing in the same road, Via Borgo S. Caterina n 3.

Public opinion claims that the required ^{MONEY} was chiefly obtained from German soldiers.

Nevertheless for what concerns morality there is not ^{real} evidence, which is extremely difficult to obtain. 6989

Source of information,

CC RB S.I.M.

Church for the ceremony

PARROCCHIA DI BORGO SANTA CATERINA V.M.

VIA BORGO SANTA CATERINA.

BERGAMO.

0000

Subject: Marringo.

OC,
14 L of C Signals.

2726635 Sign MARRIS P.J.

The attached correspondence in respect of the above named is forwarded for information. Will you please inform Sign MARRIS.

WV/MS

CONFIDENTIAL

52 British Liaison Unit,
CWP.
11 Sep 45.

WV/AM

WV/AM
Lieut-Col.
GO.

6867

The 4th June 1945

Picco Giuseppa daughter of
Francesco and Carminati Virginia
- born at Cividata al Piano
(Bergamo) the 20th/Jan./22
is dwelling here and resident
at Via Borgo S. Caterina n22

Her family consists in:

- father: Picco Francesco 55 of age, shoemaker
- mother: Carminati Virginia 45 of age, housekeeper
- brother: Enzo 17 of age, unemployed

Her father, by order of the "Tribunale di
Tappa - intendenza 3^a Armata" (military
tribunal for soldiers on leave or passing
through the district) was sentenced
to 2 years and 4 months of military
confinement for desertion. date 27/3/1917.
04/6

The whole family has not any particular political record, having always set aside - No psychological record.

For what concerns morality, one can have strong doubts - The PICCO Giuseppa, being physically a beautiful girl, has been in the past and is still much courtshipped -

For the time past, she has been many a time in company of German and republican soldiers and of all who succeeded in pleasing her -

Member of a rather modest family and without economical resources except the gain of the chief of the family, about a year ago she opened

a shop of lady hair dressing
on the same road via S. Paternina n.3
Public opinion claims that the
required money was chiefly obtained
from german soldiers.

Nevertheless for what concerns morality
there ~~are~~ is not ~~reliable~~ evidence,
which is extremely difficult to obtain.

Source of information
CC.RR. S.I.M.

SUBJECT:- MARRIAGE (to Italian Civilian).

62 British Liaison Unit,
OMF.

A/4
20 Jul 43.

Officer i/c Records,
GHQ, 2nd Echelon,
OMF.

2326833 Sqn WETS F.J. R.C. Signals.

Could you please confirm from records that this man
is free to marry.

How 6/6/43
Lieut.
Camp Commandant.

SUBJECT: Proposed Marriage of British
soldier to Italian Civilian.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

A/17

16 Jul 45.

R.O. Chaplain,
59 Area.

Could an interview please be granted to Sgmn Betts
of this Unit? A.R.O. stipulates that soldier be interviewed
by a chaplain of his own denomination.


Lieut.

Camp Commandant.

6653

SUBJECT:- 23266, Signal BEMTS.F. - Proposed man go to an
Italian Civilian.

52 British Liaison Unit.

GP.

3 July 45

To:- AASMG.,
IN 59 AREA.

Ref No: A/4/61

Herewith application forms A,B,C, in accordance with conditions
as laid down by G.R.O. 162/44.

Both parties have been medically examined by a Military doctor.
Field Security has confirmed that there are no security objections.

The soldier has been interviewed by an Army Chaplain of his
own denomination.

ED/EN.


Lieut.
Camp Commandant.

FORM A

Appendix A (see GPO 162/44)

NOTICE OF MARRIAGE

I hereby give notice that I am applying for permission to marry. The parties, of myself and the other party are as under:-

Name and Surname (in full of both parties)	Nationality	Condition (bachelor etc.)	Number and Rank of Profession	Date of Birth	Religion	Unit or Place of Residence	Length of Residence
FRANK JOHNS BETTS.	BRITISH	BACHELOR	2326633 SIGNAL MAN.	26/6/23.	R.C.	52. Batal Liaison Unit.	
GIUSEPPINA LUIGINA, CESIRA, PICO	ITALIAN.	SPINSTER.	HAIRDRESSER	20/1/22.	R.C.	22. Rosa Sana CATERINA BERGAMO	19 years.

I desire to be married:-

(Delete the following as necessary).

1. "In the lines" under the foreign marriage act, 1892,
 - (a) by (Name).....(CF)
 - (b) by a CF (CF), (RO), (P), (UB), (H), (C of S), (J).
 - (c) by an Appointed Officer.

It has been pointed out to me that whilst a marriage "in the lines" is valid by the laws of the United Kingdom, it may not be recognised by the laws of other countries.

2. By the Italian marriage authorities in accordance with local Italian law; and I understand that, in addition to the production of the consent on the reverse hereof, I must comply with the requirements of the local law.

Witness my hand this... 3rd... day of... July... 1945...

(Signed).....

N.B.- If either of the parties has been divorced, the applicant should ensure that the chaplain whom he wishes to perform the ceremony has no objection to doing so.

6861

FORM B

Appendix B (see GRO 162/44)

Recommendation and Consent.

1. (To be completed by C.O.)

I recommend that consent be given to the proposed marriage of (No)....
 (Name in full).....
 (Unit).....

TO

(No.).....(Name in full).....
 (Unit or Address).....
 (Date) (Signed).....

2/. Recommendation or decision of Ede. or Area Comd.

(giving date after which the marriage may take place).

(Date)..... (Signed).....
 (Appointment).....

3. Decision of higher authority, where applicable,

(giving date after which the marriage may take place).

(Date)..... (Signed).....
 (Appointment).....

NB.- Immediately after any marriage has been performed according to the local Italian law, the applicant must immediately produce to his C.O. a certified extract of the entry in the local marriage register in order that the necessary particulars may be recorded and passed to the Registrar General, Somerset House, London.

FORM C

Append: C (see GRO 162/44)

(To be completed where the other party is not a member of the British naval, military or air forces, or a British national subject to United Kingdom military law)

1. Full Name and Rank of Applicant... *SIGNALMAN FRANK JOHNS BETTS*...
 2. Army Number... *232 6633*...
 3. Unit... *52 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT C.M.F.*...

Particulars of the other Party.

1. Surname (in block letters)... *PICO*... Christian Names... *CRISTOPHINA LUIGINA CESIRA*...
 2. Permanent Address... *22 BORGO SANTA CATERINA BERGAMO*...
 3. Date of Birth... *20.1.23*... Place... *CIVIDATE AL PIANO PROV. BERGAMO*...
 4. Nationality at Birth... *ITALIAN*...
 5. Present Nationality... *ITALIAN*...
 6. Names (in full) and Nationality of Father and Mother:-

NAME	NATIONALITY AT BIRTH	PRESENT NATIONALITY
(a) Father... <i>PICO FRANCESCO</i> ...	<i>ITALIAN</i> ...	<i>ITALIAN</i> ...
(b) Mother... <i>CRIMINATI VIRGINIA</i> ... (Maiden Name)	<i>ITALIAN</i> ...	<i>ITALIAN</i> ...

10. Passport or Certificate of Identity No. *5142/681*... where issued... *BERGAMO*...

(Signed)... *F. J. Betts*...
(APPLICANT)

Names and addresses of two persons who can be given as references of the other party if he or she is a civilian.

I

II

Name... *LUCIANO CUCCHI*...
 Address... *29 BORGO SANTA CATERINA - BERGAMO*...

Name... *DRAGOTTO PLACIDA GUBU*...
 Address... *CAMP. POLISPORTIVO - M. BROMANO*...
VIA LE REGINA MARGHERITA...

BERGAMO

FORM B

Appen. A 8 (see GPO 162/44)

Recommendation and Consent.

1. (To be completed by C.O.)

I recommend that consent be given to the proposed marriage of (No.)....
 (Name in full).....
 (Unit).....

TO

(No.).....(Name in full).....
 (Unit or Address).....
 (Date) (Signed).....

2/. Recommendation or decision of Hde. or Area Comd.
 (giving date after which the marriage may take place).

(Date)..... (Signed).....
 (Appointment).....

3. Decision of higher authority, where applicable,
 (giving date after which the marriage may take place).

(Date)..... (Signed).....
 (Appointment).....

NB.- Immediately after any marriage has been performed according to the local Italian law, the applicant must immediately produce to his D.O. a certified extract of the entry in the local marriage register in order that the necessary particulars may be recorded and passed to the Registrar General, Somerset House, London.

6359

FORM B

Appendix B (see GEO 162/44)

Recommendation and Consent.

1. To be completed by C.O.)

I recommend that consent be given to the proposed marriage of (No)...
 (Name in full).....
 (Unit).....

TO

(No.).....(Name in full).....
 (Unit or Address).....
 (Date) (Signed).....

2/. Recommendation or decision of Bde. or Area Comd.

(giving date after which the marriage may take place).

(Date)..... (Signed).....
 (Appointment).....

3. Decision of higher authority, where applicable,

(giving date after which the marriage may take place).

(Date)..... (Signed).....
 (Appointment).....

NB.- Immediately after any marriage has been performed according to the local Italian law, the applicant must immediately produce to his CO. a certified extract of the entry in the local marriage register in order that the necessary particulars may be recorded and passed to the Registrar General, Somerset House, London.

COPI

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE REGIONALE
BERGAMO

11/6

Bergamo, 28 Aprile 1945

signorine

Questo C.L.N. dichiara che le

FIGGIO PINA
Pizzoli Giulia

si sono rese benemerite alla causa della Libertà
prestando la loro opera nella raccolta d' indumenti,
viveri e denaro per i "Volontari della Libertà".

Le segnaliamo affinché la loro
posizione sia bene chierita nei confronti di coloro
che dovessero sollevare dubbi o fare insinuazioni.

Il C.L.N. di Bergamo

Certified true copy.

9 June '45.

685
/20.6/10/45. W. E. Chet.
Card. 52 B.L.V.

SUBJECT: - 2326633 Sigm BETTS.F. - Proposed marriage to an Italian Civilian.

To: - DAAG,
XXXXX.,
HQ 59 AREA.

11/5
52 British Liaison Unit.
C.F.
3 July 45

Ref No: A/4/61

Herewith application forms A,B,C, in accordance with conditions as laid down by C.R.O. 162/44.

Both parties have been medically examined by a Military doctor. Field Security has confirmed that there are no security objections.

The soldier has been interviewed by an Army Chaplain of his own denomination.

RD/WH.


Lieut.
Camp Commandant.

6656

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY
APPLICATION FORMS - A, B, and C.

11/4

I certify that I have carried out the conditions as required by
and in accordance with G.R.O. 162/44.

I can see no reason to justify why this marriage should not take
place.

3 July 1945.

L.N. Bayles.

Lt. Col.
G.S.O.I.
52 British Liaison Unit.

6655

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY
APPLICATION FORMS A, B, and C.

I certify that I have carried out the conditions as required by
and in accordance with G.R.C. 162/44.

I can see no reason to justify why this marriage should not take
place.

3 July 1946.

L. H. Conyers.

Lt. Col.
G.S.O.I.
52 British Liaison Unit.

6654

SUBJECT: Marriages.

COPY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

HQ No 2 District, CMF.
1944.
31 May 44.

All Commanding Officers.

Ref CRO 162/44.

1. An increasing number of applications by soldiers to marry Italian civilians is being made to this HQ. Most Commanding Officers realise that everything possible should be done to discourage such marriages, few of which turn out happily or even survive for more than a short period. In some cases Oso Units and Comds are supporting such applications without being satisfied that the soldier is fully aware of his responsibilities and the disadvantages which are likely to occur.
2. Oso Units will therefore, as soon as they receive an application to marry, see the applicant and explain to him the perils inherent in a mixed marriage. He will be told that there is a widespread belief in Italy that the normal British soldier is very well off. Accordingly many Italian mothers are making an all out effort to secure what they consider an advantageous alliance for their daughters. Troops who visit Italian houses in a casual way may find themselves, quite unintentionally, so deeply committed that they cannot extricate themselves: there have been instances of this. Further, the girls themselves are so imbued with this idea by their mothers, that they rush a passing infatuation to a matrimonial alliance.
3. The statistics of last war marriages with foreigners show that only five per cent proved successful. There is no reason to hope that present war international marriages will prove any more satisfactory: the reverse is more likely owing to even more bitter feelings to which it has given rise. It is our duty to protect the 95% of our troops from matrimonial shipwreck.
4. There are many reasons which militate against the success of a British-Italian marriage which should from time to time be brought to the notice of all troops.
 - (a) Of necessity acquaintance must be slight, superficial and of brief duration.
 - (b) Disparity of nationality - this includes disparity of language, taste and manner of life. It is very difficult to maintain a long and happy married life on such dissimilar foundations.
 - (c) There is in 90% a disparity of religion as the Italians are practically 100% Roman Catholic and as only 10% of the troops are Roman Catholic there is bound to be in the majority of cases all the complications to which this disparity can lead.
 - (d) The Italians have been recent and bitter enemies and in a number of cases have carried out atrocities on British sailors and soldiers. Few of the soldier's relations and friends at home will accept an

some cases Oso Units and Comds are supporting such applications without being satisfied that the soldier is fully aware of his responsibilities and the disadvantages which are likely to occur.

2. Oso Units will therefore, as soon as they receive an application to marry, see the applicant and explain to him the perils inherent in a mixed marriage. He will be told that there is a widespread belief in Italy that the normal British soldier is very well off. Accordingly many Italian mothers are making an all out effort to secure what they consider an advantageous alliance for their daughters. Troops who visit Italian houses in a casual way may find themselves, quite unintentionally, so deeply committed that they cannot extricate themselves: there have been instances of this. Further, the girls themselves are so imbued with this idea by their mothers, that they rush a passing infatuation to a matrimonial alliance.

3. The statistics of last war marriages with Foreigners show that only five per cent proved successful. There is no reason to hope that present war international marriages will prove any more satisfactory: the reverse is more likely owing to even more bitter feelings to which it has given rise. It is our duty to protect the 95% of our troops from matrimonial shipwreck.

4. There are many reasons which militate against the success of a British-Italian marriage which should from time to time be brought to the notice of all troops.

- (a) Of necessity acquaintance must be slight, superficial and of brief duration.
- (b) Disparity of nationality - this includes disparity of language, taste and manner of life. It is very difficult to maintain a long and happy married life on such dissimilar foundations.
- (c) There is in 90% a disparity of religion as the Italians are practically 100% Roman Catholic and as only 10% of the troops are Roman Catholic there is bound to be in the majority of cases all the complications to which this disparity can lead.
- (d) The Italians have been recent and bitter enemies and in a number of cases have carried out atrocities on British sailors and soldiers. Few of the soldier's relations and friends at home will accept an Italian wife as persona grata in the family. She is thus committed to a miserable and lonely existence.
- (e) There is no divorce in Italy. If the soldier afterwards finds the various disparities too overwhelming and wishes to free himself he cannot do so in Italy. On the other hand if he seeks and obtains a divorce in England he is free but his partner by her religion and the laws of her own country is not free.

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...../(f)

(2)

- (f) If there are any children, they will almost certainly have the ridicule and gibes of the local children in the vicinity, which, as has been proved in the past, has lead to great unhappiness to the child and eventual isolation.
- (g) There are many other differences which though small in themselves, such as different tastes as regards cooking, cumulatively militate strongly against happiness.
5. There are many cases of men after the last war who could stand the unhappiness of their wives and children no longer and who went to live in the wife's country usually to their own undoing; re-ret: in other cases their wives forced them to do so.
6. OOs may place themselves in a difficult position if they do not make adequate inquiries and ensure that the man is in fact single. There are numerous cases of married men making a false statement on attestation declaring that they are single. OOs should therefore make inquiries through the police of the man's town or county that he is in fact single and has no encumbrances.
7. It is understood that it has been agreed by the Cardinals and other high Italian authorities that when a Parish Priest is notified of an intended marriage with a British soldier, he will at once inform the local Curia (equivalent of the British "Chapter") who will take the matter up with the nearest CP(RG).
8. Finally, if a soldier is determined to press his application, he will be told, in order to prove that there is a genuine affection and not a passing infatuation, that arrangements will be made to attach him for a period of 2 months to a unit at a distance, and that, if at the end of this period he still desires to get married, a final decision will then be given by this HQ. Where such attachments cannot be arranged by Area or Sub Area HQs, assistance will be sought from this HQ.

(31) EP HATES.

Major General,
Cmd Hq 2 District.

Ref. H.Q. 59. letter 33 of 3/un. 45.

- ① Not yet done.
- ② Not applicable
- ③ done. } with translations.
- ④ done }
- ⑤ Requested and awaiting reply.
- ⑥ A.C. report covered by F.S.S. report.
- ⑦ Approx. 10 weeks.
- ⑧ NIL.

SUBJECT:- Marriages.

CONFIDENTIAL.

All Army Units.
Internal.

HQ 59 Area.
33 A.

3 Jun 45.

In future, when application is made to this Headquarters for the approval to the marriage of a British soldier and a foreign subject other than American, the following reports and certificates will accompany Appendices A, B and C to GNO 162/44.

1. Statement that the contents of the attached copy of Headquarters 2 District letter 194A dated 31 May 44 have been explained to the man concerned.
2. If the parties are of a different religion a certificate to the effect that GRO 121/45 has been complied with. *H/AB*
3. Report on the civilian from an approved civilian doctor. ✓
4. FSS Report.
5. Statement from OZE confirming from Records that the man is free to marry. *Request*
6. AC report, where practicable, on the antecedents of the family of the civilian party. *Examined by 4.5.5*
7. Length of acquaintanceship of the parties. *Pwabs*
8. Period of time during which the military applicant has been unable to see his fiancée regularly. *NIL*

OJS/psb

09851
for Lt Col.
AA & QMG.

