

ACC

10000/124/26

AWARDS/
MAR. 44-

10000/124/26

AWARDS/COMMENDATIONS, ETC. PERS-2
MAR. 44 - APR 45

FILE

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/2245
25 April 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq., Allied Commission.
To : Agriculture Sub-Commission - Fisheries Division,
Allied Commission.
Subject: Lieutenant (di ports) Francesco FERRARO.

1. With reference to your letter ACR/507.6, dated 12 March, the Ministry of Marine advise that the above named has been posted to Maricentro, Rome at the disposal of Allied Commission for Liaison duties.

H. ST. J. BUTLER,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
for REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

3462

Rec 2

B
10A

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : N.S.C. - Rome
Date: 22nd Apr. '45
Ref.: 8548/2

Subject: Lt.(Port) Francesco FERRARO.

Ref. your NSC/1824 of 15th ulto.
and further to our 7538/2 of 11th inst., you
are informed that above has been posted to
Maricentro, Rome at disposal of Allied
Commission for the appointment referred to
in your above-cited.

CHIEF OF CABINET

DG/P.

3461



Ministero della Marina
GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA - ROMA

Prot. N° 8548 V. Allegato

ARGOMENTO: Tenente Porto Francesco FERRARO.

Roma 22 APR 1945 1945

NAVY SUB-COMMISSION
Headquarters AC.

Con riferimento alla vostra lettera NSC/1824 del 15 marzo u.s. ed a prosecuzione del mio foglio 7538/2 in data 11.4. 1945, si comunica che non provvedimento in corso il Tenente di Porto FERRARO è stato destinato a Maricentro Roma a disposizione della Commissione Alleata per l'incarico di cui al vostro foglio in riferimento.



IL CAPO DEL CABINETTO
C. di V. P. BASLINI

3460

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
 To : F.O.L.I. - Rome
 Date: 11 Apr. '45
 Ref.: 7538/2

Subject: Lt. Francesco FERRARO.

Ref. your NSC/1824 of 15th ulto. and further to our 4282/2 of 26.2.45, you are informed that the above Officer has been transferred from the Army to the Navy List (Captaincies of the Port Corp) with his own rank and seniority.

The corresponding decree is in course of being registered at the "Corte dei Conti".

CHIEF OF CABINET

DG/P.

3459



Ministero della Marina
GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO MARINA - ROMA

Del. N° 538/2 *Allegati //*
ARGOMENTO Tenente Francesco FERRARO.

Roma

1945

All P.O.L.I. = ROMA

Riferimento foglio NSC/1824 in data 15 marzo u.s. e prosecuzione nostra lettera 4282/2 del 26.2.1945, si comunica che l'Ufficiale in argomento è stato trasferito dai ruoli del R.Esercito in quelli della R.Marina (Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto) con il proprio grado e la propria anzianità.

Il relativo decreto è in corso di registrazione presso la Corte dei Conti.



IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
C. di V. F. BASLINI

3458

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/1824
15 March 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Ministry of Marine - ROME.
Subject: Ten. RE Francesco FERRARO.

1. With reference to your letter 4282/2 dated 26th February 1945, it is understood that the decree for the transfer of the above named officer to the Navy has been published in Bollettino N.6 - Foglio d'Ordine, 10 March 1945.

2. The Fisheries Division, Agriculture Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, are anxious to retain the services of this officer for liaison duties and it would be appreciated if you could confirm his appointment.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION.

Copy to:
Agriculture Sub-Commission, AC.



17 MAR 1945

3457

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Agriculture Sub-Commission

FF/cc

12 March 1945

AGR/ 507.6
TEL: 478208

SUBJECT: Lieutenant Francesco Ferraro

To : Navy Sub-Commission

1. Reference:

- a) Agriculture Sub-Comm.AGR/507.8 dated 1 February 1945.
- b) Navy Sub-Commission first end.on ref.(a) NSC/1617 dated 2 February 1945.
- c) Navy Sub-Commission NSC/1723 dated 2 March 1945.

2. Under the date of 1 March 1945 Lieutenant Francesco Ferraro, Liaison Officer with the Fisheries Division, has been transferred from the Italian Army to the Navy.

3. The decree of transfer has been published on the "Bollettino N.6" attached to the "Foglio d'Ordini" 10 March 1945 of the Italian Navy.

4. In consideration of the reason for which the transfer has been recommended, it would be appreciated if you request the Ministry of Marine - Direzione Generale del Personale - to keep Lt.Ferraro as Liaison Officer with the Fisheries Division.

Leland G. Allbaugh
LELAND G. ALLBAUGH
Director
Agriculture Sub-Comm.

3456

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/172³
2 March 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Agriculture Sub-Commission, Hq. AC.
Subject: Lieutenant Francesco FERRARO, Italian Army.
Reference: (a) Agriculture Sub-Com. ltr AGP/507.8 dated 1 February 1945.
(b) Navy Sub-Commission first encl. on reference (a) NSC/1617 dated 2 February 1945.

1. The following is a translated copy of a letter from the Ministry of Marine which has been received by the Navy Sub-Commission in answer to references (a) and (b).

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : F.O.L.I. - Rome
Date: 26.2.45
Ref.: 1282/2.

Subject: Lt. (Army) Francesco FERRARO.

Ref. your NSC/1617 of 2nd inst., the proposal to transfer above to Captaincies of the Port is being attended to and the corresponding interministerial decree is under way.

CHIEF OF CABINET"

H. W. ZIOLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC

3455

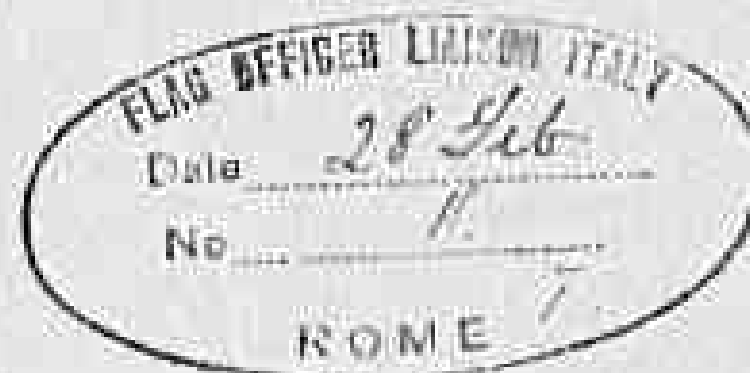
// From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : F.O.L.I. - Rome
Date: 26.2.45
Ref.: 4282/2.

Subject: Lt. (Army) Francesco FERRARO.

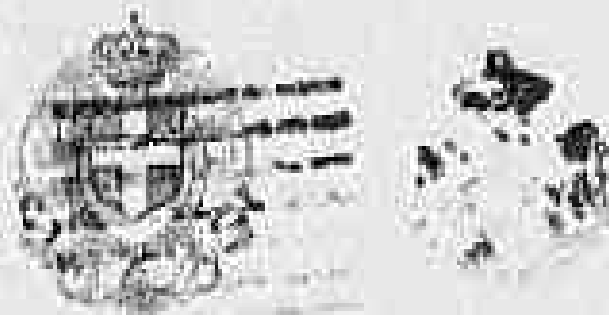
Ref. your NSC/1617 of 2nd inst.,
the proposal to transfer above to Captaincies
of the Port is being attended to and the
corresponding interministerial Decree is under
way.

CHIEF OF CABINET //

DG/P.



3454
FILE



Mod. 40

Roma 26 FEB 1945 A

Ministero della Marina

GABINETTO

M. P. O. I. I. = ROMA

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO MARINA - ROMA

Red. V. 4282/8 Allegati

ARGOMENTO Tenente R.E. Francesco FERRARO.

Riferimento vostro foglio NSC/1617 del 2.2.1945, la proposta di trasferimento del Tenente R^o Esercito Francesco FERRARO nelle Capitanerie di Porto è stata accolta ed è in corso il decreto interministeriale relativo.



IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
G. di V. F. BASLINI

[Handwritten signature]

File

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/1617
2 February 1945

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on
Agriculture Sub-Com. AC.
ltr AGR/507.8 of 1 Feb 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Ministry of Marine - ROME.
Subject: Lieutenant Francesco FERRARO, Italian Army.

1. Forwarded, concurring in the recommendation contained
in the basic correspondence.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

Copy to:
Agriculture Sub-Commission.
Fisheries Division,
(Attn: Lt-Cdr Mulieri)



*Capt Bastini Requested
22 Feb to update*

7 FEB 1945

Page 2

3452

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Agriculture Sub-Commission

AGR/ 507.8
TEL: 478208

1 February 1945

SUBJECT: Lieutenant Francesco Ferraro, Italian Army.

To : The Ministry of Marine - Direzione Generale del Personale -

Via : Navy Sub-Commission - AC -

1. Lieutenant Francesco Ferraro has been assigned as Liaison Officer with the Fisheries Division, Agriculture Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, for about five months. During that period he has shown exceptional abilities as an officer, and in his work with boats in the various fishing ports he has visited in Continental and Peninsular Italy.

2. Because of his background in port and shipping work as an officer and as a civilian and because of his University training in the field of Economics, Lieutenant Ferraro's duties with this Division have been executed with the maximum efficiency. However since the full reactivation and the development of Italian fisheries, ports, and shipping is within the predominant jurisdiction of the Navy, it is felt that if the requested transfer to the Capitaneria di Porto is effected, his work with the Division would be facilitated in many ways.

3. Lieutenant Ferraro possesses the qualifications required by the Ministry of Marine for its Capitaneria di Porto officers.

4. This Division takes pleasure in recommending Lieutenant Ferraro.

B.C.F. MULIERI
Lieutenant Commander
Chief Fisheries Division

3451

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : N.S.C. - Rome
Date: 20 Apr. '45
Ref.: B.4842

Subject: Cdr. (Temp.Serv.) Enrico, MATTOLI.

In reply to your signal of 15th
ulto., you are informed that above has been
exempted from recall to service.

CHIEF OF CABINET

DG/P.

3450



LO/va

Ministero della Marina
GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO MARINA - ROMA

*Prot. N° B. 4842 Allegato*ARGOMENTO Cap. di Fregata di compl. Enrico
MATTOLI.

In riscontro al messaggio in data
15 marzo u.s. del F.O.T.A.L.I. Roma, si
informa che è stato disposto l'esonero
dal richiamo in servizio attivo del Capi
tano di Fregata di complemento Enrico Mat
toli.

IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
C. di V. F. Paslini

Mod. 40

Roma. 20 APR 1945

NAVY SUB COMMISSION

ROMA

3449

14th April, 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL.

From: Mr. Ian D. Campbell, MEDBO "CAMPBELL COMMITTEE";
ROME.

To: NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, H.Q., A.C.

Subject: Retirement of Commander MATTOLI.

1. I have to thank you for your communication of 11th April, NSC/2103 enclosing copy of a letter addressed to Italian Naval Authorities on the above subject.
2. As Commander Mattoli is now serving on the staff of M.W.T.R., MED, and is at present stationed with me in Rome, I have forwarded copies of this correspondence to Mr. J. Gibson Graham.

Ian D. Campbell

(IAN D. CAMPBELL)
CHAIRMAN
MEDBO CAMPBELL COMMITTEE.

3448

Pres 2

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Navy Sub-Commission

NSC/2103
11 April 1945.

FILE

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq, AC.
To : Mediterranean Shipping Board, Hq, AC.
(Attention Mr. Ian Campbell).

Subject: Retirement of Commander MATTOLI.

1. A copy of letter written by Flag Officer, Northern Area, Mediterranean to Italian Naval Authorities on the retirement of Commander Enrico MATTOLI, Italian Royal Navy is forwarded for your information.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN
REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

1 Encl.



12 APR 1945

3447

Office of Flag Officer,
Northern Area,
Mediterranean.

At NAPLES. 3rd April, 1945.

No. FOMM.465-1.
FLAG OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY.

RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER MATTOLI.

I enclose for your information copy of a letter which I have been pleased to write to Admiral Oliva on the retirement of Capitano di Fregata Enrico Mattoli, who has for so long been my Liaison Officer.



Samuel
REAR ADMIRAL.

DATE: 8th April, 1945
FROM: FOTALI ROME.
TO : NAVY SUB-COMM. SIGN. HQ. /G.

FORWARDED FOR APPROV. DATE SECTION.

of REAR ADMIRAL.

3446

The Flag Officer,
Northern Area Mediterranean,
Navy House,
NAPLES.

31st March, 1945.

Dear Admiral Oliva,

It has always been a pleasure for me to write in praise of any member of my Staff upon his retirement. It is therefore without hesitation that I address this letter to the Minister of Marine through you on the occasion of the retirement of Capitano di Fregata Enrico Mattoli not only from his appointment as my Liaison Officer, but also from the Italian Royal Navy.

Nevertheless, I find it difficult to express fully my appreciation of the services which this Officer has rendered to me personally, to the British, American and Italian Navies generally, and to the Allied War Effort as a whole, between 2nd October, 1943, and 31st March, 1945. Many of his achievements during this period were of a kind which can never figure in official despatches but these, no less than those of his services which have received more public attention, have served to smooth the difficult path of our initial relationships in Naples, to secure at an early date a firm and mutual understanding, and to ensure a continual reciprocity of those ideas and sentiments which are essential to an intelligent participation in our joint war effort.

The spirit of collaboration shown by Commander Mattoli at all times has rendered a service of inestimable value to his own country, and has gained for him a memory warm with gratitude among us all. I am glad to number him among my personal friends.

I should be grateful if you would convey to the Minister my very real gratitude for this Officer's services and my sincere regret at his departure.

Yours sincerely,

S.E. L'AMMIRAGLIO DI DIVISIONE
ROBERTO OLIVA,
COMANDANTE IN CAPO DEL DIPARTIMENTO
MARITTIMO DEL BASSO TIRRENO,
NAPOLI.

(Sgd.) J.A.V. MORSE.

3445

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/1739
5 March 1945.

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D:

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Ministry of Marine - ROME.
Subject: S/Lieut. (di Porto) TOMASI, Virgilio.

1. Enclosed herewith is an extract from a report received from Civil Affairs Officer, LAMPEDUSA, regarding a British aircraft which crashed in the sea off the Island of Lampedusa on the night of February 1st, 1945.

2. The Navy Sub-Commission wishes to add its expression of appreciation for the services rendered by the above-named officer.



REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

Copy to:
FOTALI
Air Forces SC-AC.

12 MAR 1945

3444

Subject: AIRCRAFT CRASH
Sicily Region
Allied Commission

Lampedusa
15 Feb 45

I first observed the aircraft approaching at approximately 1930 hours. It began circling the island at approximately 1940 fired a red Vercy light. I was at my living quarters, three kilometres from the town. I immediately telephoned to the CCRB station, ordering my car to be sent immediately to the landing-ground to provide light, with as many other lights as could be got to illuminate the runway. Sub-Lieutenant TOMASI, Port Commander, had also seen the signal and at once proceeded by motorcycle to the landing-ground, taking with him also a motorcycle-truck. In a few minutes the landing-ground was illuminated by the headlights of my car, and the two motorcycles, four and later eight fishermen's kerosene flares, and thirty lighted ballistite sticks.

At approximately 2030 hours the aircraft, which had come down low, was seen to switch on its landing lights for a few seconds as it approached the landing-ground, but again it turned away and circled. Coming in again from the west at landing level it crashed into the sea.

I at once telephoned again for a rescue party to put out in boats and for my car to come at once to my quarters. Sub-Lieutenant TOMASI had at once proceeded to the port to organise a rescue party. I proceeded within a few minutes to the town by car and found that Drs. BEOLI and FRIGNONE had opened up the Ambulatorio and were in readiness to give treatment to any injured. Two trucks were ordered out and I proceeded with my car and one truck with a party of CCRB and other volunteers by land to CALA GROCE to pick up anyone who had been able to reach the shore.

TOMASI and his rescue party in four boats, which subsequently were augmented to ten, had already put out and reached the scene of the crash in under twenty minutes.

I recommend to your attention the invaluable services rendered on this occasion by Sub-Lieutenant TOMASI Virgilio of the Royal Italian Navy, commanding the port of Lampedusa. His energy, efficiency and organising ability were shown both in arranging the most efficacious illumination possible of the landing-ground and in preparing and controlling the rescue party, when his promptness certainly saved the lives of the five survivors. Later he gave great assistance in the important salvage work. This opinion I know is shared by the officers in charge of that work.

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

NAVY S/C (2)

1065

SECRET

OFFICE: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

PHONE: 15553 EXT 1

FILE: RC/093

22 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft crash

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E

I am forwarding herewith copy of a report received from the C.A.O. LAMPEDUSA regarding the British plane which crashed in the sea off Lampedusa on the night of 1 FEB 45.

Can the Naval Subcommittee please be asked to take any action that may be necessary in respect of the services rendered by sub-Lieutenant TOMASI Virgilio of the Royal Italian Navy.

di 1/45

McLan Brigadier

Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

Encl-report of airplane (British) crash off Lampedusa on 1 FEB 45.

Copies TO: Air Forces Subcommittee
Naval Subcommittee

3443

[Signature]
FILE

COPY

SECRET

subject: AIRCRAFT CRASH

Irapodusa
15 FEB 48Regional Commissioner
Sicily Region
Allied Commission

Sir,

I have to report that on the night of 1 FEB 48 a four-engine aircraft, carrying 10 passengers and 7 crew, crashed in the sea off CALA CROCE in the island of ILLIRIA.

[I first observed the aircraft approaching at approx. 1930 hrs. It began circling the island and at approx. 1940 fired a red flare light. I was at my living quarters, three kilometres from the town. I immediately telephoned to the GCR station, ordering my car to be sent immediately to the landing-ground to provide light, with as many other lights as could be got to illuminate the runway. Sub-lieutenant TOMASI, Port Commander, had also seen the signal and at once proceeded by motorcycle to the landing-ground, taking with him also a motorcycle-truck. In a few minutes the landing-ground was illuminated by the headlights of my car, and the two motorcycles, four and later eight fishermen's kerosene flares, and thirty lighted ballistite sticks.]

The aircraft continued to circle at a moderate altitude. A few minutes later the aircraft signalled by lamp, but I was unable to pick up the message. It had no signal lamp available. Twice the aircraft went out of sight and sound, first in a northerly and then in a southerly direction, returning each time to continue circling the island.

[At approx. 2030 hrs the aircraft, which had come down low, was seen to switch on its landing lights for a few seconds as it approached the landing-ground, but again it turned away and circled. Coming in again from the west at landing level it crashed into the sea.] It was subsequently noted that the aircraft had struck the water about 50 yds from shore at the easterly point of CALA CROCE. The tail broke off, the fuselage split open and was destroyed, the cockpit wings and motors shot forward about 100 yards and upended.

[I at once telephoned again for a rescue party to put out in boats and for my car to come at once to my quarters. Sub-lieutenant TOMASI had at once proceeded to the port to organise a rescue party. I proceeded within a few minutes to the town by car and found that Drs. MEZIO and BRIGONCHI had opened up the ambulatorio and were in readiness to give treatment to any injured. Two trucks were ordered out and I proceeded with my car and one truck with a party of GCR and other volunteers of land to CALA CROCE to pick up anyone who had been to reach the shore.

TOMASI and his rescue party in four boats, which subsequently were augmented to ten, had already put out and reached the scene of the crash in under twenty minutes. Seven injured and nine dead were picked up (two of the dead by the shore party). As there were no further signs of survivors, I returned to the town to supervise care for the injured, who were given first aid, provided with bedding, clothing and hot drinks, and finally accommodated in houses in the

3442

SECRET

town, with the exception of one who was so seriously injured that he was taken to the hospital to be under constant watch. One of the injured men died after being treated at the ambulatorio.

After the injured had been treated the dead were brought in to the waiting-room of the ambulatorio. They included a woman. They remained there under guard during the night. Another dead man was brought in at first light when the search was resumed. Two bodies, lying under the wreckage of the wings, could not be disengaged.

During the night aircraft circled over the island searching for the wreck and in the morning two Yugoslav MIs and an RAF rescue boat arrived from Malta. An American destroyer came into port and landed a doctor, who visited the injured, and two administrative officers, with whom I proceeded to identify the dead. The injured were removed by the American destroyer with the exception of the man in hospital who was too seriously injured to move. The doctor remained with him. An RAF aircraft carrying a doctor and blood plasma arrived at noon and blood transfusion was attempted but the injured man died. At approx. 1700 hrs a British destroyer arrived and landed a party, who subsequently took off the dead and the American doctor.

Meanwhile, on instructions handed to me by the commander of the RAF rescue boat, I placed a CCMR guard on shore near the wrecked plane, with instructions to keep off any unauthorized boat and to fire if necessary, if a warning were disregarded.

On 3 Feb 48 planes, MIs and rescue boats arrived from Malta, with an RAF security officer and a detachment of the RAF Regt; salvage operations were taken over of them and divers from the Malta Dockyard, with the assistance of local labour.

Further details are not included for security reasons.

On 11 Feb 48 I was flown to Malta for the inquiry, which was however postponed, and I returned on the following day, as the RAF party were to be withdrawn, the plane having broken up in foul weather and there being little hope of further salvage.

[I recommend to your attention the invaluable services rendered on this occasion by Sub-Lieutenant TOMASI Virgilio of the Royal Italian Navy, commanding the port of Lampedusa. His energy, efficiency and organising abilities were shown both in arranging the most efficacious illumination possible of the landing-ground and in preparing and controlling the rescue party, when his promptness certainly saved the lives of the five survivors. Later he gave great assistance in the important salvage work. This opinion I know is shared by the officers in charge of that work.] I suggest that this recommendation should be brought to the attention of the Italian Naval Command.

/s/ Angus Watts
Major, R.Sigs
CNO, Lampedusa.

3441

SECRET

FIDELING/093

22 Feb 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft crash

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
R O M E

I am forwarding herewith copy of a report received from the C.A.O. LAMPEDUSA regarding the British plane which crashed in the sea off Lampedusa on the night of 1 FEB 45.

Can the Naval Subcommittee please be asked to take any action that may be necessary in respect of the services rendered by sub-lieutenant TOMASI Virgilio of the Royal Italian Navy.

*M. Can Brigadier*M. CANE
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

Encl-report of airplane(British) crash off Lampedusa on
1 FEB 45.

Copies TO: Air Forces Subcommittee
Naval Subcommittee

3440

C O P YS E C R E T

Subject: AIRCRAFT CRASH

Lampedusa
15 FEB 45Regional Commissioner
Sicily Region
Allied Commission

Sir,

I have to report that on the night of 1 FEB 45 a York four-engined aircraft, carrying 12 passengers and 7 crew, crashed in the sea off CALA GROCE in the island of LAMPEDUSA.

I first observed the aircraft approaching at approx. 1930 hrs. It began circling the island and at approx. 1940 fired a red Verey light. I was at my living quarters, three kilometres from the town. I immediately telephoned to the CCRP station, ordering my car to be sent immediately to the landing-ground to provide light, with as many other lights as could be got to illuminate the runway. Sub-lieutenant TOMASI, Port Commander, had also seen the signal and at once proceeded by motorcycle to the landing-ground, taking with him also a motorcycle-truck. In a few minutes the landing-ground was illuminated by the headlights of my car, and the two motorcycles, four and later eight fishermen's kerosene flares, and thirty lighted ballistite sticks.

The aircraft continued to circle at a moderate altitude. A few minutes later the aircraft signalled by lamp, but I was unable to pick up the message. We had no signal lamp available. Twice the aircraft went out of sight and sound, first in a northerly and then in a southerly direction, returning each time to continue circling the island.

At approx. 2050 hrs the aircraft, which had come down low, was seen to switch on its landing lights for a few seconds as it approached the landing-ground, but again it turned away and circled. Coming in again from the west at landing level it crashed into the sea. It was subsequently noted that the aircraft had struck the water about 50 yds from shore at the easterly point of CALA GROCE. The tail broke off, the fuselage split open and was destroyed, the cockpit wings and motors shot forward about 100 yards and upended.

I at once telephoned again for a rescue party to put out in boats and for my car to come at once to my quarters. Sub-lieutenant TOMASI had at once proceeded to the port to organise a rescue party. I proceeded within a few minutes to the town by car and found that Drs. MEOLI and BRIGNONE had opened up the ambulatorio and were in readiness to give treatment to any injured. Two trucks were ordered out and I proceeded with my car and one truck with a party of CCRP and other volunteers by land to CALA GROCE to pick up anyone who had been able to reach the shore.

TOMASI and his rescue party in four boats, which subsequently were augmented to ten, had already put out and reached the scene of the crash in under twenty minutes. Seven injured and nine dead were picked up (two of the dead by the shore party)/ as there were no further signs of survivors, I returned to the town to supervise care for the injured, who were given first aid, provided with bedding, clothing and hot drinks, and finally accommodated in houses in the

3439

SECRET

town, with the exception of one who was so seriously injured that he was taken to the hospital to be under constant watch. One of the injured men died after being treated at the Ambulatorio.

After the injured had been treated the dead were brought in to the waiting-room of the Ambulatorio. They included a woman. They remained there under guard during the night. Another dead man was brought in at first light when the search was resumed. Two bodies, lying under the wreckage of the wings, could not be disengaged.

During the night aircraft circled over the island searching for the wreck and in the morning two Yugoslav MIs and an RAF rescue boat arrived from Malta. An American destroyer came into port and landed a doctor, who visited the injured, and two administrative officers, with whom I proceeded to identify the dead. The injured were removed by the American destroyer with the exception of the man in hospital who was too seriously injured to move. The doctor remained with him. An RAF aircraft carrying a doctor and blood plasma arrived at noon and blood transfusion was attempted but the injured man died. At approx. 1700 hrs a British destroyer arrived and landed a party, who subsequently took off the dead and the American doctor.

Meanwhile, on instructions handed to me by the commander of the RAF rescue boat, I placed a CORN guard on shore near the wrecked plane, with instructions to keep off any unauthorized boat and to fire if necessary if a warning were disregarded.

On 3 FEB 45 planes, MIs and rescue boats arrived from Malta, with an RAF security officer and a detachment of the RAF Regt; salvage operations were taken over by them and divers from the Malta dockyards, with the assistance of local labour.

Further details are not included for security reasons.

On 11 FEB 45 I was flown to Malta for the inquiry, which was however postponed, and I returned on the following day, as the RAF party were to be withdrawn, the plane having broken up in rough weather and there being little hope of further salvage.

I recommend to your attention the invaluable services rendered on this occasion by Sub-Lieutenant TOMASI Virgilio of the Royal Italian Navy, commanding the port of Lampedusa. His energy, efficiency and organising ability were shown both in arranging the most efficacious illumination possible of the landing-ground and in preparing and controlling the rescue party, when his promptness certainly saved the lives of the five survivors. Later he gave great assistance in the important salvage work. This opinion I know is shared by the officers in charge of that work. I suggest that this recommendation should be brought to the attention of the Italian Naval Command.

3438

/s/ Angus Watts
Major, R. Sig
CAO, Lampedusa.

SECRET

(STA. 121/231)

PSSN/515/2-44/20,000+20,000

NAVAL MESSAGE

S. 1320d.

(Established—May, 1930)
(Revised—January, 1933)

To:

From:

53 BLU (R) MAIN EIGHTH ARMY

MMTA

IMPORTANT SECRET.

FOLLOWING FOR GENERAL UTILE FROM MINISTER OF MARINE BEGINS.
"PLEASE INFORM H.Q. POLGORE GROUP AND H.Q. SAN MARCO REGT. THAT
VISIT OF MINISTER TO PRESENT FLAG AND DECORATIONS FOR VALOUR IS
POSTPONED 24 HOURS. MINISTER WILL ARRIVE ASCOLI IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EARLY HOURS OF AFTERNOON SUNDAY 25TH FEB.
AND PRESENTATION COULD TAKE PLACE MONDAY MORNING 26TH FEB."

221528

DIS. 9.10.

HAND P/L

TOR A.M.23/2

23/2/45.

3437



MINISTERO DELLA MARINA
DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLA MARINA MERCANTILE

Roma, 17.1.45

Il Direttore Generale

Caro Ammiraglio,

Le invio copia della lettera

rilasciatami dal FLAG OFFICER NORTHERN

AREA MEDITERRANEAN, come da Lei richiestomi.

Con molti ossequi

Tenente-Generale A.N.
CARLO MATTEINI

All'Ammiraglio ZIROLI
Naval Sub-Commission
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

Via V. Veneto
ROMA

3436

Caro Ammiraglio,

Le invio copia della lettera
rilasciatami dal FLAG OFFICER NORTHERN
AREA MEDITERRANEAN, come da Lei richiestomi.
Con molti ossequi

Carlo Matteini

Tenente-Generale A.N.
CARLO MATTEINI

All' Ammiraglio ZIROLI
Naval Sub-Commission
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

Via V. Veneto
ROMA

3436

Per 7

1504

Office of
Flag Officer Northern Area Mediterranean
Naples

Copy

NAPLES, 4th January 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN -

Generale MATTEINI, Under-Secretary of
State for the Italian MERCHANT MARINE, is
proceeding to ELBA by road with my full au-
thority.

Request all facilities be granted
him.

(Sgd.) D. HAMMERSLEY JOHNSTON

Captain, R.N.
for REAR ADMIRAL.

(C.O.S.)



3435

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Navy Sub-Commission

HSC/1485

10 January 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, HQ, AC.
 To : Land Forces Sub-Commission, HQ, AC.
 Subject: Commanding Officer of No. 2 Italian I.W.T. Company.

1. With reference to your letter No. UD/9 of 27 November, the question of Captain NICCOLI's promotion has been referred to the Ministry of Marine who state that there are certain administrative objections to promoting this officer immediately to Major's rank.

2. Captain NICCOLI's good services are, however, being taken into account and steps are being taken to accelerate his promotion as much as possible.

H. W. ZIROLI,
 Commodore, U. S. Navy,
 for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

Copy to:
 Director of Transportation
 UD in (Decks)

3434

FILE

JAN 1945

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : F.O.L.I. - Rome
Date: 24/12/44
Ref.: 1154/FO

Subject: Lt. (Temp. Serv.) NICCOLI, Guido.

In reply to NSC. 1244 of 30th ulto.

In accordance with the laws governing the promotion of Officers, it is impossible to promote Lt. NICCOLI to the rank of Lt. Cdr. except through their rulings.

Nor can NICCOLI undertake the functions of the higher rank as, by law, same should go to the Officer next on the roster for advancement.

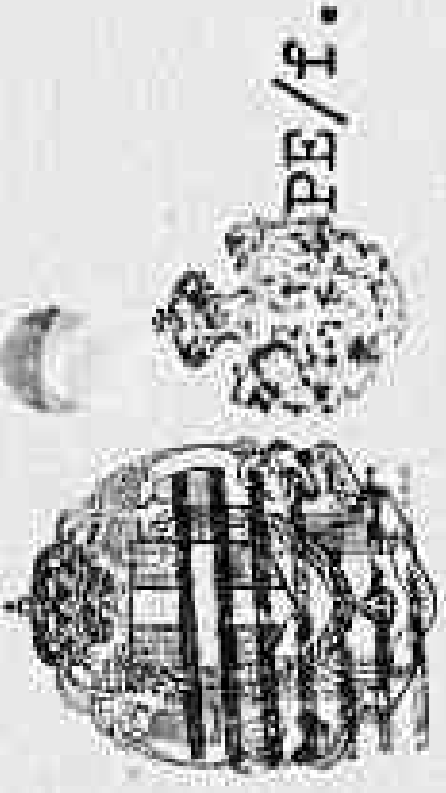
And this is not the case with NICCOLI.

2. However, if the laws impede NICCOLI from obtaining rapid recognition for the praiseworthy manner in which he is carrying out his duties, it should be borne in mind that he is on the list forwarded to the Promotion Committee which already is examining same.

Said Committee has also received N.S.C.'s proposal which, being an authoritative recommendation, will be taken into account when weighing up this Officer's suitability for promotion.



3433
FILE



PE/f.

Ministero della Marina

GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA-ROMA

Post. No. 454/fo Allegati

ROMA

F.O.L.I.

ARGOMENTO: Tenente di Vascello di compl. NICCOLI Guido.

Si risponde al foglio No.WSC.1244 in data 30 u.s.

In base alla legge che regola l'avanzamento degli Ufficiali, non è possibile promuovere al grado di Capitano di Corvetta il Tenente di Vascello NICCOLI se non attraverso le disposizioni della legge stessa.

Nè al NICCOLI si possono concedere le funzioni del grado superiore in quanto, sempre per legge, tali funzioni possono essere date all'Ufficiale primo iscritto nel quadro di avanzamento.

E questo non è il caso del NICCOLI.

2.-

Se però quanto prescritto dalle leggi impedisce che il NICCOLI possa ottenere subito riconoscimento per il modo lo devole con il quale egli assolve il proprio incarico, occorre tener presente che egli è compreso negli elenchi trasmessi alla Commissione ordinaria di avanzamento per lo scrutinio che già è in corso.

Alla predetta Commissione è stata inviata la proposta della N.S.C., proposta che per l'autorità dalla quale è stata avanzata, sarà tenuta nel debito conto per il giudizio che verrà espresso sull'Ufficiale circa la sua promozione.

IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
C. di V. F. Baslini

3432

ARGOMENTO: Tenente di Vascello di compl. NICCOLI Guido.

Si risponde al foglio No.NSC.1244 in data 30 u.s.

In base alla legge che regola l'avanzamento degli Ufficiali, non è possibile promuovere al grado di Capitano di Corvetta il Tenente di Vascello NICCOLI se non attraverso le disposizioni della legge stessa.

Nè al NICCOLI si possono concedere le funzioni del grado superiore in quanto, sempre per legge, tali funzioni possono essere date all'Ufficiale primo iscritto nel quadro di avanzamento.

E questo non è il caso del NICCOLI.

2.-

Se però quanto prescritto dalle leggi impedisce che il NICCOLI possa ottenere subito riconoscimento per il modo lo devole con il quale egli assolve il proprio incarico, occorre tener presente che egli è compreso negli elenchi trasmessi alla Commissione ordinaria di avanzamento per lo scrutinio che già è in corso.

Alla predetta Commissione è stata inviata la proposta della N.S.C., proposta che per l'Autorità dalla quale è stata avanzata, sarà tenuta nel debito conto per il giudizio che verrà espresso sull'Ufficiale circa la sua promozione.

IL CAPO DI CABINETTO
C. di V. F. Baslini

3432

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Navy Sub-Commission

NSC/1244

30 November 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq, AC.
To : Ministry of Marine, Rome.
Subject: Commanding Officer of No. 2 Italian I.W.T.
Company.

1. The British Military Authorities have represented that it would be an advantage if the officer-in-charge of No. 2 Italian I.W.T. Company, Captain Niccoli, could hold the rank of Major. The officers Commanding the other two Italian I.W.T. companies are both Lieutenant Commander, the equivalent rank of Major, and the war establishment authorizes that OC's of such companies should hold Major's ranks.

2. Captain Niccoli has carried out his duties in a most satisfactory manner and it is particularly desirable that he should remain in Command of the Company. It is requested therefore that favourable consideration be given to his promotion, if necessary on an acting basis.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

3431

Subject:- Personnel of
Italian Units

Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MMIA)
SD/9
27 Nov 44

Naval Sub Commission A.C.

Reference conversation Lt Harvey - Major Copleston,
attached is a copy of a letter from Transportation Increment
CMF.

We would be obliged if you would take up with the
Italian Naval Authorities the question of Captain Niccoli's
promotion.

gsh


Maj Gen
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MMIA)

3430

C O P Y

Subject:- Personnel of Italian
Units

Transportation Increment,
CMF
Tel: Firebox - 44
Outside line - 843062
Tn.A.1/100/4
25 November 1944

To : Land Forces Sub Commission (MMIA)
HQ AC

Copy to: D.D.Tn. (Docks)

1. The Three Italian I.W.T. Port Operating Coys were formed on
WE IV/22P/1.

The ranks of the Officers in this War Establishment are

Major - 1
Captain - 1
Subalterns - 2

2. The personnel of the Companies are Naval and in most cases hold Naval Rank. The OCs of No 1 and 3 Coys hold the rank of Capitano di Corvetta which is understood to be the equivalent of Major.

The OC of No 2 Coy, Captain Niccoli holds Military rank and is thus one grade lower than that provided in the establishment.

3. Captain Niccoli was specially selected to command this company. He has filled the appointment in a most satisfactory manner and it is particularly desired that he should continue in Command.

4. Will you please take up with the Naval authorities the question of Captain Niccoli's promotion to Major which is recommended not only from the point of view of Captain Niccoli's merits, but also because it is considered most desirable that the Company Commander should hold the rank authorised in the War Establishment.

(sgd) E.L. PARKES
Colonel
for Brigadier
Director of Transportation

3429

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

File

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on
MTOUSA ltr AG Durante,
Peter F. of 12 Dec 1944.

NSC/1374
21 December 1944.

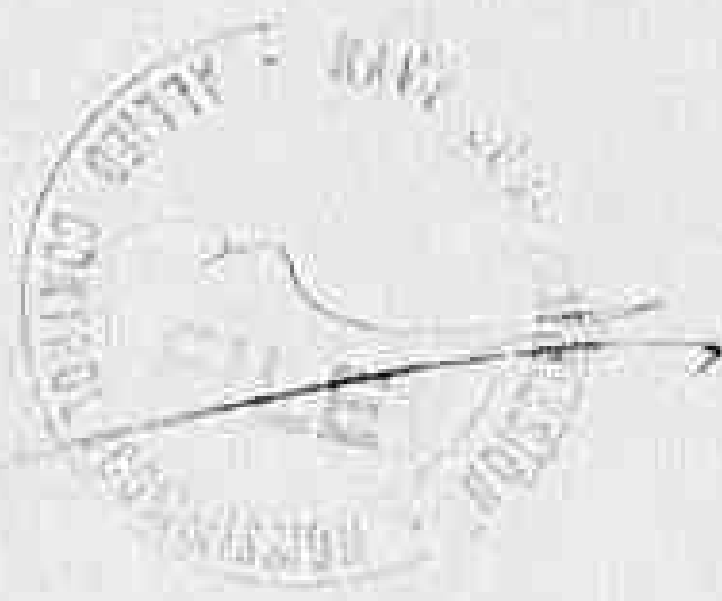
From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Headquarters, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, U.S. Army.
APO 512.

Subject: Cpl. Peter F. DURANTE. Decoration - Awarding of.

1. Ministry of Marine letter SM/16400 (original and translation) is forwarded in accordance with paragraph 3 of basic correspondence.

2. Also attached is a copy of Navy Sub-Commission letter NSC/1373 of 21 December 1944, which notifies the Ministry of Marine of the Theater Commander's concurrence in DURANTE's acceptance of the award.

H. W. ZINOLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.



3428

From: I.R.N. Staff Office.
To : F.O.I.I. - Rome.
Date: 27.9.44
Ref.: SM/16400

Translation

Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. U.S. Army Lt. Peter DURANTI has taken part in several fairly risky operations in Submarines of the Group at Brindisi; your Command knows to which operations I refer, so I will not dwell on the matter.

2. For the courage and skill shown during these operations at sea, the C.O.s. and several Officers and men of the Italian Crews have been decorated by this Ministry with the Medal for Military Valour.

As Lt. DURANTI is in the same conditions as the above and has shown the same fine qualities, I have the intention of decorating him with the Bronze Medal for M.V.

/s/- CHIEF OF STAFF.

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

REC/1373
21 December 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Ministry of Marine - ROME.
Subject: Cpl. Peter F. DURANTE. Decoration - Awarding of.

1. Further to Navy Sub-Commission letter NEC/940 of 3 October and with reference to Ministry of Marine letter SM/16400 of 27 September, the Theater Commander, Mediterranean Theater of Operations has notified the Navy Sub-Commission of his concurrence in the acceptance of the Italian Medal for Military Valour by Corporal Peter F. DURANTE, 32704332, United States Army. Therefore, the award may be presented to Corporal Durante by the Ministry of Marine as appropriate.

2. As previously stated, the intention of the Ministry of Marine to decorate Corporal DURANTE is greatly appreciated.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

Copy to:
2677th Regt (OSS) (Prov).

3427



HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 512

JEN/jh

AG Durante, Peter F. (Mal)

12 December 1944

Subject: Foreign Award.

To: Commanding Officer, Allied Commission, Attn: Navy Sub-Commission,
APO 394.

1. Reference is made to letter from Headquarters Allied Control
Commission, Navy Sub-Commission, 6 October 1944, subject: Proposed Italian
Award to U.S. Army Officer.

2. The Theater Commander has concurred in the acceptance of the for-
eign award indicated by the individual named below:

Name of individual: Cpl Peter F. Durante, 33704332.

Award: Proposed Italian Award.

3. It is requested that a copy of the foreign document announcing
the award be forwarded this headquarters in order that the War Department
may be properly notified in accordance with paragraph 35, AR 600-45, 22
September 1943.

By command of Lieutenant General McNERNEY:

J. E. McNERNEY,
Captain, AGO.,
Asst Adjutant General.

cc to:
CO 257th Regt (CSG) (Prov)

*file
www*

*This has been
done twice before.*

From: I.F.N. Staff Office
To : F.O.L.I - Rome
Date: 27.9.44
Ref.: SM/16400

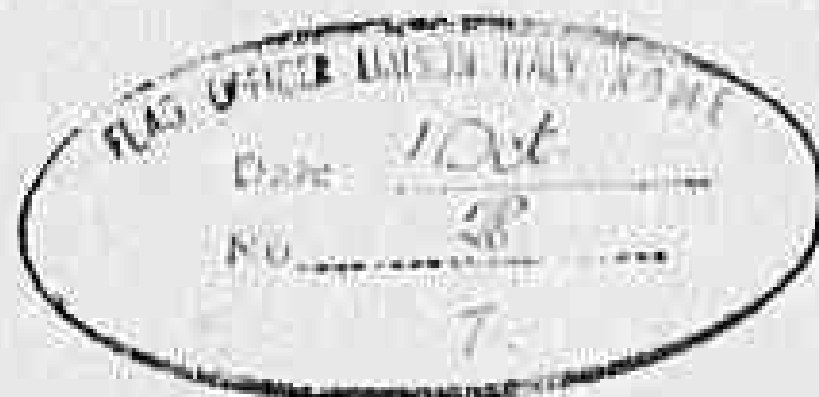
Subject : Awarding of a Decoration.-

- 1) U. S. Army Lt. Peter DURANTI has taken part in several fairly risky operations in Submarines of the Group at Brindisi; your Command knows to which operations I refer, so I will not dwell on the matter.
- 2) For the courage and skill shewn during these operations at sea, the C. Os. and several Officers and men of the Italian Crews have been decorated by this Ministry with the Medal for Military Valour.

As Lt. DURANTI is in the same conditions as the above and has shewn the same fine qualities, I have the intention of decorating him with the Bronze Medal for M. V.

(Sgd) CHIEF OF STAFF

DC/P



3426

MEDITERRANEAN HEADQUARTERS
THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 512

JEM/brh

In reply
refer to

20 November 1944

AG 201-P-Durante, Peter F. (Enl)

Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

To : Commanding Officer, Allied Commission,
Attention: Navy Sub-Commission.

1. Reference is made to your 2d indorsement, 14 November 1944, subject as above, to letter your headquarters, subject: Proposed Italian Award to United States Army Officer, dated 6 October 1944, inclosing letter from the Italian Ministry of Marine, SM/16400 of 27 September 1944 and letter from the Naval Sub-Commission, NSC/940 of 3 October 1944, expressing the intention of decorating Corporal Peter F. Durante (previously referred to as Lieutenant Duranti) with an Italian award.

2. Basic letter and two inclosures, thereto, mentioned above, were not received at this headquarters.

3. It is requested this correspondence, or copies thereof, be forwarded this headquarters so that concurrence in the acceptance of the proposed award by Corporal Durante may be obtained.

For the Theater Commander:

J. E. McCreary
J. E. McCREARY,
Captain, A. G. D.
Asst Adjutant General.

3425

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

N3C/962

6 October 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq, ACC.
To : Adjutant General,
Headquarters, North African Theater of
Operations, APO 534.

Subject: Proposed Italian Award to U.S. Army Officer.

Enclosure: (A) Minister of Marine Ltr SM/16400 of 27
September 1944.
(A) Copy Navy Sub-Commission. Ltr N3C/940 of
3 October 1944, to Ministry of Marine.

1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded herewith for appropriate action.

2. Enclosure (A) from the Italian Ministry of Marine expresses the intention of decorating a U.S. Army officer with an Italian award.

3. Enclosure (B) is a reply to the Ministry of Marine from the Naval Sub-Commission, which requests that the award be withheld until approval has been received from the proper American Commander.

4. Flag Officer Taranto and Adriatic Liaison, Italy, has been requested to supply information regarding the U.S. Army unit to which Lt. DURANTI is attached as well as information concerning the operations in which he has participated. Such information will be communicated to you when received.

5. It is requested that the Navy Sub-Commission, ACC be informed as to the action taken on the proposed award of a decoration to Lieutenant DURANTI so that the Italian Ministry of Marine may be informed.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, ACC.

3424

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

NSC/940

3 October 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq, ACC.
To : Ministry of Marine-Rome.
Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. Your letter SM/16400 of 27 September 1944, in which you express the intention of decorating Lieutenant Peter DURANTI, is greatly appreciated.

2. It is requested that the award to Lieutenant DURANTI not be presented to him until approval has been given by the appropriate U.S. Army Commander. You will be notified when such approval has been received.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, ACC.

3423

COPY

From: I.R.N. Staff Office
To : F.O.L.I.- Rome.
Date: 27.9.44
Ref.: SM/16400

Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. U.S. Army Lt. Peter DURANTI has taken part in several fairly risky operations in Submarine of the Group at Brindisi; your Command knows to which operations I refer, so I will not dwell on the matter.

2. For the courage and skill shown during these operations at sea, the C. Os. and several officers and men of the Italian crews have been decorated by this Ministry with the Medal for Military Valour.

As Lt. DURANTI is in the same conditions as the above and has shown the same fine qualities, I have the intention of decorating him with the Bronze Medal for M.V.

(Sgd) CHIEF OF STAFF.

3422

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/1160W
14 November 1944.

SECOND ENFORCEMENT ON
NATOUA ltr. AG 201-P-Duranti,
Peter of 12 Oct. 1944 in re:
Award.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Headquarters, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, U. S. Army.
Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. Investigation has disclosed that DURANTE is not an officer but a U.S. Army Corporal and that his full name and address is:

Corporal Peter F. DURANTE
Company D, 2677 Regiment
OSS Provisional, U.S. Army.

2. The records of the Flag Officer Taranto and Adriatic Liaison Italy, Taranto (British) indicate that DURANTE participated in missions aboard Italian vessels as follows:

<u>PLACE:</u>	<u>DATE:</u>	<u>VESSEL</u>
(All in Adriatic)		
PESARO 4	21 Jan 1944.	Submarine.
ISTRIA	22 Jan 1944.	Submarine.
COMACCHIO	19 Feb 1944.	Submarine.
COMACCHIO	21 March 1944	Submarine.
CORTELLAZZO	22 March 1944	Submarine.
RIVER ADIGE	23 March 1944	Submarine.
FANO	19 June 1944	Submarine.
COMACCHIO	17 July 1944	MS Boat.

3. As stated in paragraph 5 of the basic correspondence it is requested that the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C. be informed of action taken so that appropriate notification may be given to the Italian Ministry of Marine.

H. W. ZIROLI,
Commander, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, A.C.



Basic: Fr Hq AGO, Navy Sub-Commission, Subj: Proposed Italian Award to
U.S. Army Officer.

AG 201-P-Duranti, Peter (Off)
(6 Oct 44)

1st Ind.

CBR/brh

Headquarters, NATOUSA, APO 534, U. S. Army, 12 October 1944.

To: Commanding Officer, Allied Control Commission,
Attention: Navy Sub-Commission.

Request more complete data relative to subject officer as from the
information furnished, this headquarters is unable to identify this person.
According to the official files, there is no United States Army officer by
this name shown in this theater of operations.

For the Theater Commander:

C. B. ROBERTSON,
Major, A. G. D.,
Asst Adj General.

2 Incls: n/c

12 October 1944

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Information regarding DURANTE, and procedure in awarding decoration.

1. Investigation has disclosed that DURANTE is not an officer, but a corporal in the U.S. Army. His full name and address is:

Corporal Peter F. DURANTE,
Comp. D, 2677th Regiment,
C.S.S. Provisional, U.S. Army.

The Headquarters of his office is located at 102 Via Melo, Bari, but Corporal Durante himself is in Brindisi.

2. Lieut. Weir, the Awards and Decoration Officer of the 15th U.S. Army Air Force, in Bari, has informed me that decorations can be accepted by U.S. service personnel only with the consent of the War Department, Washington.

The Italian Government must make a formal request, through channels, for permission to present the award to Corporal Durante.

esw
G. W. POLAND.

Copy to:
Rome.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

NSC/962

6 October 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. ACC.
To : Adjutant General,
Headquarters, North African Theater of Operations,
APO 534.

Subject: Proposed Italian Award to U.S. Army Officer.

Enclosure: (A) Minister of Marine ltr. SM/16400 of 27 September
1944.
(B) Copy Navy Sub-Com. ltr. NSC/940 of 3 October 1944,
to Ministry of Marine.

1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded herewith for appropriate action.
2. Enclosure (A) from the Italian Ministry of Marine expresses the intention of decorating a U.S. Army officer with an Italian award.
3. Enclosure (B) is a reply to the Ministry of Marine from the Naval Sub-Commission, which requests that the award be withheld until approval has been received from the proper American commander.
4. Flag Officer Taranto and Adriatic Liaison, Italy, has been requested to supply information regarding the U.S. Army unit to which Lt. DURANTI is attached as well as information concerning the operations in which he has participated. Such information will be communicated to you when received.
5. It is requested that the Navy Sub-Commission, ACC, be informed as to the action taken on the proposed award of a decoration to Lieutenant DURANTI so that the Italian Ministry of Marine may be informed.



H. W. ZIROLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, ACC.

3420

29 OCT 1944

From: I.R.N. Staff Office
To : F.O.I.I. - Rome
Date: 27.9.44
Ref.: SM/16400

COPY

Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. U.S. Army Lt. Peter DURANTI has taken part in several fairly risky operations in Submarines of the Group at Brindisi; your Command knows to which operations I refer, so I will not dwell on the matter.

2. For the courage and skill shown during these operations at sea, the C.O.s. and several Officers and men of the Italian Crews have been decorated by this Ministry with the Medal for Military Valour.

As Lt. DURANTI is in the same condition as the above and has shown the same fine qualities, I have the intention of decorating him with the Bronze Medal for M.V.

(Sgd) CHIEF OF STAFF.

Original sent to
MTOUSA per
9 12 December.
3419

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

NBC/940

3 October 1944.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. ACC.
To : Ministry of Marine - Rome.
Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. Your letter SM/16400 of 27 September 1944, in which you express the intention of decorating Lieutenant Peter DURANTI, is greatly appreciated.

2. It is requested that the award to Lieutenant DURANTI not be presented to him until approval has been given by the appropriate U.S. Army Commander. You will be notified when such approval has been received.

H. W. TIROLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, ACC.



27 OCT 1944

3418

FLAG OFFICER LIAISON ITALY
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
HEADQUARTERS, ROME

2 October 1944.

No. L 28/1

FLAG OFFICER TARANTO ADRIATIC LIAISON ITALY.

AWARDING OF A DECORATION.

Enclosure: (A) IRN Staff Office ltr SM/16400 of 27 September 1944.

1. It is requested that this office be furnished the name of the U.S. Army unit to which Lt. Peter DURANTI is attached as well as appropriate information regarding the operations in which he participated.

2. The information requested above is desired so that it may be forwarded to the proper American Army Commander.

Salvatore
COMMODORE

FLAG OFFICER
TARANTO ADRIATIC
DATE 9 OCT. 1944
NO. L. 28/76

From: I.R.N. Staff Office
To : F.O.L.I. - Rome.
Date: 27.9.44
Ref.: SM/16400

COPY

Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. U.S. Army Lt. Peter DURANTI has taken part in several fairly risky operations in Submarines of the Group at Brindisi; your Command knows to which operations I refer, so I will not dwell on the matter.

2. For the courage and skill shown during these operations at sea, the C. Os. and several Officers and men of the Italian crews have been decorated by this Ministry with the Medal for Military Valour.

As Lt. DURANTI is in the same conditions as the above and has shown the same fine qualities, I have the intention of decorating him with the Bronze Medal for M.V.

(Sgd) CHIEF OF STAFF

3417

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

PSC/1160W
14 November 1944.

SECOND INTERVIEW on
NATOUA ltr. AG 201-P-Duranti,
Peter of 12 Oct. 1944 in re:
Award.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Headquarters, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, U. S. Army.
Subject: Awarding of a Decoration.

1. Investigation has disclosed that DURANTE is not an officer but a U.S. Army Corporal and that his full name and address is:

Corporal Peter F. DURANTE
Company D, 2677 Regiment
OSS Provisional, U.S. Army.

2. The records of the Flag Officer Taranto and Adriatic Liaison Italy, Taranto (British) indicate that DURANTE participated in missions aboard Italian vessels as follows:

<u>PLACE:</u>	<u>DATE:</u>	<u>VESSEL:</u>
(All in Adriatic)		
PESARO 4	21 Jan 1944.	Submarine.
ISTRIA	22 Jan 1944.	Submarine.
COMACCHIO	19 Feb 1944.	Submarine.
COMACCHIO	21 March 1944	Submarine.
CORTELLAZZO	22 March 1944	Submarine.
RIVER ADIGE	23 March 1944	Submarine.
FANO	19 June 1944	Submarine.
COMACCHIO	17 July 1944	MS Boat.

3. As stated in paragraph 5 of the basic correspondence it is requested that the Navy Sub-Commission, A.C. be informed of action taken so that appropriate notification may be given to the Italian Ministry of Marine.

3416415

H. W. ZEROLI,
Commodore, U. S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, A.C.

1 5 3 1

SENIOR U. S. NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER, ITALY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

FILE

Serial 713
File P15

30 August 1944

From: Senior U. S. Naval Liaison Officer, Italy.
To : The Chief of Bureau of Personnel.
Subject: Award of British Decorations to Italian Personnel.
Enclosure: (A) Copy Cinc Med. ltr 5199/Med. 171/11 of 17
August 1944.

1. Enclosure (A) which relates to the award of the
subject decorations is forwarded herewith for information.
Additional data will be furnished when available.

H. W. ZIROLI

Copy to:
COMEIGHTH Fleet.



10 Sep 1944

I

Office of Commander-in-Chief
Mediterranean Station
Allied Force Headquarters

17 August 1944.

5199/Was.171/11

THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY

(Copies to:

Flag Officer, Gibraltar and Mediterranean Approaches
Vice Admiral, Malta and Central Mediterranean
Flag Officer, Levant and Eastern Mediterranean
Flag Officer, Western Mediterranean
Flag Officer, Taranto, Adriatic and Liaison, Italy.
Flag Officer, Taranto, Adriatic and Liaison, Italy, Rome.
Flag Officer, Western Italy.

AWARD OF DECORATIONS TO ITALIAN PERSONNEL.

Be pleased to request Their Lordships to consider the early promulgation of a policy for dealing with the award of British Decorations and Mentions in Despatches to Italian Naval personnel, many of whom have shown outstanding skill and courage in operations on behalf of the Allied cause.

2. Until a ruling is received it is intended to collect and retain all such recommendations in my office.

Signed: J.H.L. MORGAN.

For A.D.P. R. & L.

G-C-P-V

file 3414
ML

1533

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

NSC/626

28 July 1944

Minister of Marine:

Please accept our heartiest congratulations on the excellent work done by Midshipmen Andrea di ANGELIS and Francesco BERLINGERI.

COMMODORE

M
Answered/Comm. and action
3413

File No.
#15

UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
NORTHWEST AFRICAN WATERS

Serial: 3388

23 MAY 1944

From: Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.
To: Headquarters Naval Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission, APO #394, U. S. Army.

Subject: Proposed award of Italian Military Medal to TAYLOR, Walter, Jr., 291 80 67, Etc, U. S. Navy.

Reference: (a) Your ltr HSC/AGS/12 of 31 Mar 44.
(b) Public Law 671, approved 20 July 42.
(c) SecNav ltr of 7 Mar 44, para. 18.

1. Reference (b), which is quoted in reference (c), authorizes officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States, during the present war and for one year thereafter, to accept from the governments of cobelligerent nations or the other American republics such decorations, orders, medals and emblems, as may be tendered them, and which are conferred by such governments upon members of their own military forces.

2. In accordance therewith, the subject man may accept the proposed award.

H. K. HEWITT

Copy to:
SonUSNavOF-Italy.

Original forwarded to Sonnav

I
3412
80 MAY 1944

REARHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
NAVAL SUB-COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394

HSC/ACC/12

31 March, 1944

To : Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.

Via : Senior U.S. Naval Officer, Italy.

Subject : Walter TAYLOR, Sea. 1/c U.S.N. Serial No. 291 60 67 ,
Award of Italian Medal.Enc : (A) Original Italian Comando Supremo Ltr No 120 of 12 March,
w/c translation.(B) Original Italian Sundry Affairs Office Ltr No 90606/AV
of 19 March, w/c translation.

1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded for a determination as to whether Walter TAYLOR, Sea. 1/c U.S.N. properly can accept the Italian Bronze Medal for Military Bravery, "in the field", awarded to him by the Italian Government.

2. It is reported that the act for which the award was made occurred while TAYLOR was attached to the U.S.S. EXETER at Bari, Italy.

R. St. John Butler,
Comdr. U.S. Navy.
Member Naval Sub-Commission

Copy to:

Supers
C.O. USS S. EXETER

3411

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ACTION SHEET

211500.

Date

Suspense

FROM	TO
Chief Commissioner	
Deputy Chief Commissioner	
Secretary General	
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION	
Economic Section	
Reg. Control & M.G. Section	
Political Section	
Interior Sub-Commission	
Public Safety Sub-Commission	
Public Health Sub-Commission	
Property Control Sub-Comm.	
Legal Sub-Commission	
Education Sub-Commission	
Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives	
Navy Sub-Commission	
✓ Land Forces Sub-Commission	
AIR	
Telecommunications & Posts	
War Material Disposal S.G.	
PRO	
Liaison Section	
Finance Sub-Commission	
G-1	
G-4	
Adjutant General	
Files	
Personnel	
Publications	
Message Centre	
Missellaneous	
Pool of Interpreters	
Archives & Ref. Library	
Cable	
HQ. Commandant	
Sub-Commission	

FOR:

Signature
Remarks/Recommendation
Information only
Approval/Disapproval
Appropriation to Action
Investigation & Report

Deputy Chief Commissioner
 Secretary General
 ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION
 Economic Section
 Reg. Control & M.G. Section
 Political Section
 Interior Sub-Commission
 Public Safety Sub-Commission
 Public Health Sub-Commission
 Property Control Sub-Comm.
 Legal Sub-Commission.
 Education Sub-Commission
 Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives
 NAVY Sub-Commission
 Land Forces Sub-Commission ✓
 AIR
 Telecommunications & Posts
 War Material Disposal S.C.
 PRO
 Liaison Section
 Finance Sub-Commission
 G-1
 G-4
 Adjutant General
 Files
 Personnel
 Publications
 Message Centre
 Miscellaneous
 Pool of Interpreters
 Archives & Ref. Library
 Galleries
 HQ, Commandant
 Sub-Commission

FOR:
 Signature
 Remarks/Recommendation
 Information only
 Approval/Disapproval
 Approval to Action
 Investigation & Report
 Dispatch
 Return to Admin. Section

REMARKS: Can you forward to
 the sailors community in
 France. Request by per letter
 dated with C.S. or I am not
 we will have presentation of
 the receipt of the
 certificate award in order.
 W.A.S.
 U.S.S. EXTRICHTE
 Mr. Jones Section

2/4/44

To Land Forces

(1) Sub-Commission

Dear Mr. de

31 March copy attached

Butler

(1) Navy Sec.

Government you will forward to

the Navy Department

of the Navy Department

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

for the Navy

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Translation - Army Sub-Commission - 21 March, 1944 - No. 72 - Sgt. Silvio

Supreme Command
Sunday Affairs Office

P.M. 151, 19 March 1944

To: ACC - A.P.O. 394

File No. 90605/AV. - Encl. 1

SUBJECT: Award for Military Bravery.

His Excellency, the Chief of General Staff, has awarded to Seaman 1/c Walter TAYLOR - Serial No. 291.80.67 - of the United States Navy, the bronze medal for Military Bravery "in the field", as an acknowledgement of his brave action in successfully saving the life of an Italian soldier who was about to drown.

We are enclosing the original document, signed by the Chief of General Staff, begging you to deliver it to the awardee, who has already received news of the award and the number of the certificate, through the IX Army Corps Command.

By Command:

The Chief Department General

/S/ (Silvio Rossi)

Peri. 1/10/44 2/10/44
Chieduto per il conferimento

S. T. 4/4 1/10/44
10/1/44

3410

U.S.S. EXTRICATE

Encl. 1 - Army Sub-Commission - Translation No. 72

Supreme Command

we

Marshal of Italy
Giovanni Messe
Chief of General Staff

Under the terms of Art. 1 of proclamation No. 1710, dated
8 September, 1943, of the Supreme Commander

HAVE AWARDED

to Seaman I/C Walter TAYLOR, of the United States
Navy, born at Crawfordville, Indiana, on 22 September
1922, the

Bronze Medal For Military Bravery "IN THE FIELD"
for the following reason:

"Having noticed that two Italian soldiers, engaged
in port service, had fallen into the sea and were
in serious danger of drowning, without regard to
grave personal risk, he dived to their rescue, and
after repeated efforts he was successful in bringing
them to safety."

Salerno, 5 March 1944

3409

By the Supreme Command - 12 March 1944

Sgt. Sciala - Transl.

/s/ Giovanni Messe

- C O P Y -

RHC/wv

6TH PORT HEADQUARTERS
TRANSPORTATION CORPS
OFFICE OF PORT COMMANDANT
APO 765, U.S. ARMY

20 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Act of Gallantry.

TO: Signor Serranto Franco, 100, Via Porto, Salerno, Italy.

THRU: Assistant Port Commandant in charge of Satellite Ports.

1. It has been recorded at this office that on the 19th day of February 1944, that you instant and courageous action at Salerno, Italy, saved the life of Private Lloyd Darling of the British Army.

2. When a truck driven by Private Darling plunged off the ramp of a lighter into 30 feet of water and Private Darling failed to free himself from the vehicle, you did without hesitation and regard for your own safety, dive into the water and with great presence of mind free the driver from the truck and assist him to safety.

3. Your action in this emergency proves that you are imbued with the traits of character which exist only in the bravest of soldiers.

4. I congratulate you on your action and extend my deepest personal appreciation for your voluntary service which saved the life of an Allied Soldier.

(Signed.)

R. H. CLARKSON
Colonel, T.C.,
Commanding.

cc
Allied Control Commission.

*Forward to the War Office
J. H. H. H.*

3408

COPY -

6TH PORT HEADQUARTERS
TRANSPORTATION CORPS
OFFICE OF PORT COMMANDANT
APO 765, U. S. ARMY

20 Marzo 1944.

Oggetto: Atto di coraggio

Al Signor SERSANTO Franco, Via Porto, 100, SALERNO.

1. E' stato registrato in questo Ufficio che il giorno 19 Febbraio 1944 la vostra istantanea e coraggiosa azione in SALERNO, Italia, salvo' la vita di Private Lloyd Darling dell' esercito inglese.

2. Quando un automezzo guidato da Private Darling cadde da una gabazza in 30 piedi d'acqua e il Private Darling stava per soccombere per liberare se stesso dal veicolo, Voi senza esitazione e riguardo per la Vostra incolumita' Vi tuffaste in acqua e con grande spirito d'intelligenza liberaste il conduttore dall'automezzo e lo assisteste per la salvezza.

3. La Vostra azione in questa emergenza prova che Voi siete dotato di tratti di carattere che esistono solo nei piu' bravi soldati.

4. Mi congratulo per la Vostra azione ed estendo la mia piu' profonda personale stima per il Vostro volontario atto che salvo' la vita di un soldato alleato.

(Firmato) R.H. CLARKSON
Colonnello, T.C.
Comandante.

3407

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
NAVAL SUB-COMMISSION
A.F.C. 394

31 March, 1944

WEC/ASG/12

To : Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.
Via : Senior U.S. Naval Officer, Italy.
Subject : Walter TAYLOR, Sea. 1/c U.S.N. Serial No. 291 80 67 ,
Award of Italian Medal.
Enc : (A) Original Italian Comando Supremo Ltr No 129 of 12 March,
w/c translation.
(B) Original Italian Sundry Affairs Office Ltr No 90805/AV
of 19 March, w/c translation.

1. Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded for a determination as to whether Walter TAYLOR, Sea. 1/c U.S.N. properly can accept the Italian Bronze Medal for Military Bravery, "In the Field", awarded to him by the Italian Government.

2. It is reported that the act for which the award was made occurred while TAYLOR was attached to the U.S.S. EXETER ICATE at Bari, Italy.

H. St. John Butler,
Comdr. U.S. Navy.
Member Naval Sub-Commission

Copy to:

Superior
U.S. U.S.S. EXETER

File copy.

105/44

3406

COPY.

Supreme Command.

WE
MARSHAL OF ITALY.
GIOVANNI MESSSE
Chief of General Staff.

Under the terms of Art. I of Proclamation No 1710 dated
8th September 1943, of the Supreme Commander,

HAVE AWARDED

to Seaman 1/C WALTER TAYLOR of the United States Navy, born
at Greafordville, INDIANA, on 22 September 1922, the

BRONZE MEDAL FOR MILITARY BRAVERY "IN THE FIELD"
for the following reason:

" Having noticed that two Italian Soldiers, engaged in Port
service, had fallen into the sea and were in serious danger of
drowning, without regard to grave personal risk, he dived to
their rescue, and after repeated efforts, he was successful
in bringing them to safety.

SANERNO 5th March 1944.

By the Supreme Command - 12th March 1944.

Sgd: GIOVANNI MESSSE.

3405

Copy.

Supreme Command
Sundry Affairs Office.

File No 90605/AV - Part I.

Subject : Award for Military Bravery.

His Excellency the Chief of General Staff, has awarded to
Seaman I/O WALTER TAYLOR, Serial number 291.80.67 of the
United States Navy, the Bronze Medal for Military Bravery "in
the field", as an acknowledgment of his brave action in success-
fully saving the life of an Italian soldier who was about to
drown.

We are enclosing the original document, signed by the
Chief of General Staff, begging you to deliver it to the awardee,
who has already received news of the award and the number of the
certificate, through the IX Army group Command.

By Command,
The Chief Department General.
Sgd: SILVIO ROSSI.

3404

1547