

ACC

10000/124/127

ES
OC

10000/124/127

ESCAPE P.O.W.'s
OCT. 45 - FEB. 46

PK-4

SUBJECT.NUMBER.

German Prisoner Escaped from Capodichino.

1

Italian P.O.W's. Escapee - REGINOLI Emilio.

2

Escaped P.O.W's.

3

Italian P.O.W's. Escape of.

4

Escape of Italian Co-operators.

5

5000

F.O.I.L.

CONFIDENTIAL

N.S.J.

It is suggested that ITALIAN naval ships returning to ITALY from LEV NT and GUNAL AREA should be utilized to capacity for the repatriation of ITALIAN P.O.W. The placing of military guards on board at ports would then appear justified and obviate possible protests. Your 071539 Feb refers.

DTG 081538

HAND 2/3

TOR 081600

RJCD

8.2.46.

REF:- No objection to placing British guards on Italian ships

DIST:- 0 - 4, 13, 15, 17, 21, 25.

PR 4

2236

FOLEM (R) CINC MED SNOLA
NOIO PORT SAID

F.O.I.L.

CONFIDENTIAL

PARAGRAPH 2 OF YOUR 181210Z JANUARY. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO
POLITICAL OBJECTION TO PLACING BRITISH GUARDS ON BOARD ITALIAN SHIPS
IN PORTS CONTROLLED BY THE ALLIED IF SUCH ACTION IS CLEARLY NECESSARY
FOR REASONS OF SECURITY.

DTG 073539 A FEB. 4

I/P H/OX 'C' CR 57 DW/TB A.M.7.2.46

REF:- Italian co-operators getting back to Italy by boarding Italian
destroyers in the Canal or at Haifa

DIST:- 0 - 4, 13, 15, 17, 25, Lt-Orsk. Davies

2235

FOIL (R) C IN C MED SNOLA NOIC PORT SAID

FOILM.
051920

RESTRICTED.
MY 181210 JAN CAN A REPLY BE GIVEN YET PLEASE.

.....051920

Ref. Italian co-operators getting back to Italy by boarding
Italian destroyers.

Dist. 0-5 13 15 18 25 Lt. Cdr. Davies

DATE: 7 Feb 1946
FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY & GIBSON. P/L
TO : NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, U.S. AC.

T OR 0910

MP

6/2

FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION

J. H. Channing
for REAR ADMIRAL

223

FOIL (R) SNOLA NOIC PORT SAID.

C IN C MED.
050935

CONFIDENTIAL

CAN REPLY TO FOLEM'S 181210B JAN NOW BE MADE PLEASE.

*****050935

Ref. Italian co-operators getting back to Italy by boarding
Italian destroyers.

Dist. O-13 15 18 25 Lt. Cdr. Davies

T/P

P/L

TOR 1558/5

MP

6/2

DATE: 6 February 1946
FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY & LIAISON.
TO : NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, P. C.

FORWARDED FOR AP. ACTION

J. H. Thomas
for REAR ADMIRAL.

2233

FOIL (R) CINC MED SNOLA(HAIFA) NOIC PORT SAID

FOIL
181210Z Jan

CONFIDENTIAL

Consistent complaints coming from military that Italian co-operators are getting back to Italy by boarding Italian destroyers in the canal or at Haifa. Searches have failed to find them which proves nothing.

2. The only remaining step to stop this is to have military guards on board Italian ships when in harbours of the Levant or the Canal. Request information whether there is any political objection to this.

3. Med 46/1352/9/1 of 1st Jan. refers.

--181210Z Jan

Dis: 0-5, 13-15, 17, 25, Lt. Col. Davies.

T/F P/L FOR 1006/19

10/1

DATE: 20 January, 1946
FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY
TO: NAVY SUB-COMMISSION

FORWARDED FOR AP ACTION

J. H. Dromas
ADMIRAL

2232

ESCAPE OF ITALIAN S.O. OPERATORS.

(General, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Forces's Letter No. 12537/
AGS dated 31st December, 1945.)

IIa

No. 48/00192/18.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, MEDITERRANEAN.

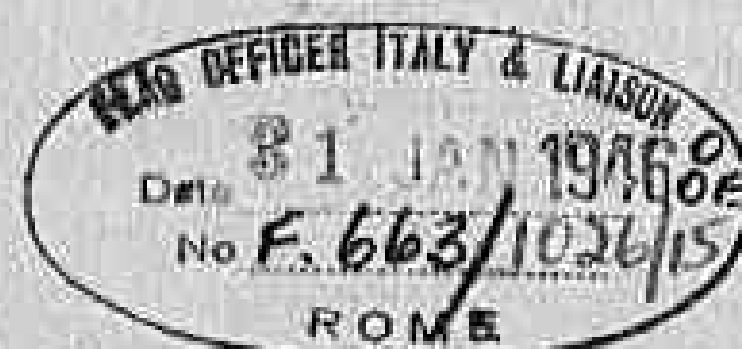
(Copies to:-

The Flag Officer Italy Liaison.

Naval Officer-in-Charge, Canal.

The Senior Naval Officer, Levant Area.)

Forwarded with reference to Flag Officer Levant and
Eastern Mediterranean's 3714/00192/18 of 15th December, and
3801/00192/18 of 28th December, 1945.



J. W. [Signature]
For VICE ADMIRAL

Office of Flag Officer,
Levant and Eastern
Mediterranean.
4th January, 1946.

DATE: 2nd February, 1946.
FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY & LIAISON.
TO: 1 NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, I.Q. VC.

FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION

J. H. [Signature]
For REAR ADMIRAL

2231

Subject:- Escape of Italian Co-operators.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

Tel. Ext 1243.

12687/AG5

Copy to:- 22312

31 Dec. '45.

Flag Officer,
Levant & Eastern Mediterranean.

Receipt is acknowledged of correspondence forwarded under your POLEM 00192/18(a) dated 15th December 1945.

1. It appears that all reasonable measures are being taken to prevent escapes. From the Army point of view the co-operator system makes the prevention of escapes far more difficult and the imposition of further security measures would restrict the use of Italian labour and necessitate the employment of a prohibitive number of guards.

2. Now that the repatriation of Italian co-operators and prisoners of war has been authorized and has in fact started, it may well be that the incentive to escape will be reduced. The employment of Italian warships in assisting in this repatriation should further reduce the temptation of Italian naval personnel to assist in helping escapes.

3. Should escapes continue to take place on an appreciable scale it is proposed to signal Italy giving details of wanted personnel, in order that the ships may be searched on arrival.

4. The Co-operation which you have given in this question is very much appreciated.

H. ? SMYTH,

Brigadier.

for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

223

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Station,
1st January, 1946.

Med.46/1352/9/1

THE FLAG OFFICER, LEVANT AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

(Copies to: - The Flag Officer, Italy and Liaison
The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area
The Senior Naval Officer, Levant Area)

ESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS.

With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter 3714/02192/18 dated 15th December, 1945, the Italian Minister of Marine has been informed that all Italian ships arriving at a port in Italy from non-Italian ports would be boarded by the Allied Port Security Officers for such security measures as were considered necessary and that all escaped Prisoners of War found on board would be handed over to the Allied Military Authorities.

2. Measures imposed in paragraph 1 above will however become less practicable as more ports in Italy are restored to Italian administration and it is considered, therefore, that the restrictions likely to prove most effective are those referred to as stages (a) (b) and (c) in paragraph 1 of the Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area's letter No. 7005/R.S.67/19 dated 8th December, 1945.

[Handwritten signature]

for ADMIRAL

DATE: 15th January, 1946.
FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY & LIAISON.
TO : NAVY SUB-COMMISSION.

FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION

J. H. Thomas
for ADMIRAL



P/H-4
✓ 2223

ESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS.

(The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area's
 Minute 1, No. 7034/RS.67/49 dated 15th December, 1945.)

II.

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOLEA 3801/00192/18.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
 MEDITERRANEAN.

(Copy to:-

The Flag Officer,
 Italy Liaison.
 The Senior Naval Officer,
 Red Sea and Canal Area.
 The Senior Naval Officer,
 Levant Area.)

Forwarded in continuation of
 Flag Officer, Levant and Eastern Mediterranean's
 3714/00192/18 of 15th December, 1945.

J. W. Josselyn

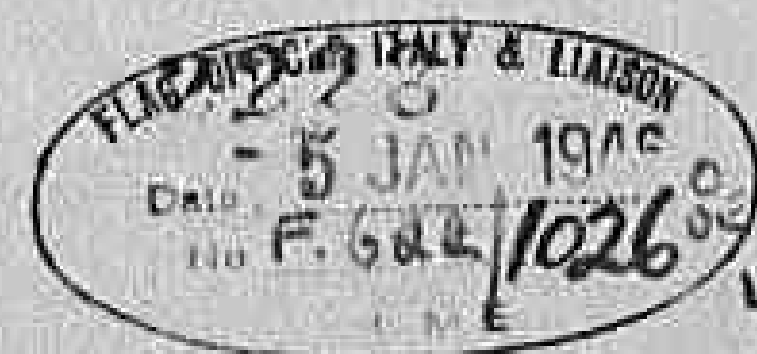
for VICE ADMIRAL.

Office of Flag Officer,
 Levant and Eastern
 Mediterranean.
 28th December, 1945.

DATE: 7th January, 1946
 FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY & LIAISON
 TO : NAVY SUBCOMMISSION, LACAT

FORWARDED FOR ACTION

J. W. Josselyn
 for REAR ADMIRAL



CONFIDENTIAL

TRIPPLICATE

ESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS

FROM: THE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, RED SEA & CANAL AREA.

DATE: 15th December, 1945. No. 7031/R.S. 67/19.

TO: THE FLAG OFFICER, LEVANT & EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

(Copy to: The Senior Naval Officer, Levant Area)

Further to my letter No. 7005/R.S. 67/19 dated 8th December, 1945 regarding the escape of Italian co-operators additional information is now given from recent reports received. Copies of the undermentioned letters are forwarded:-

Report by Sgt. Hoake S.T. No. 8/28/57 dated 2.11.45.

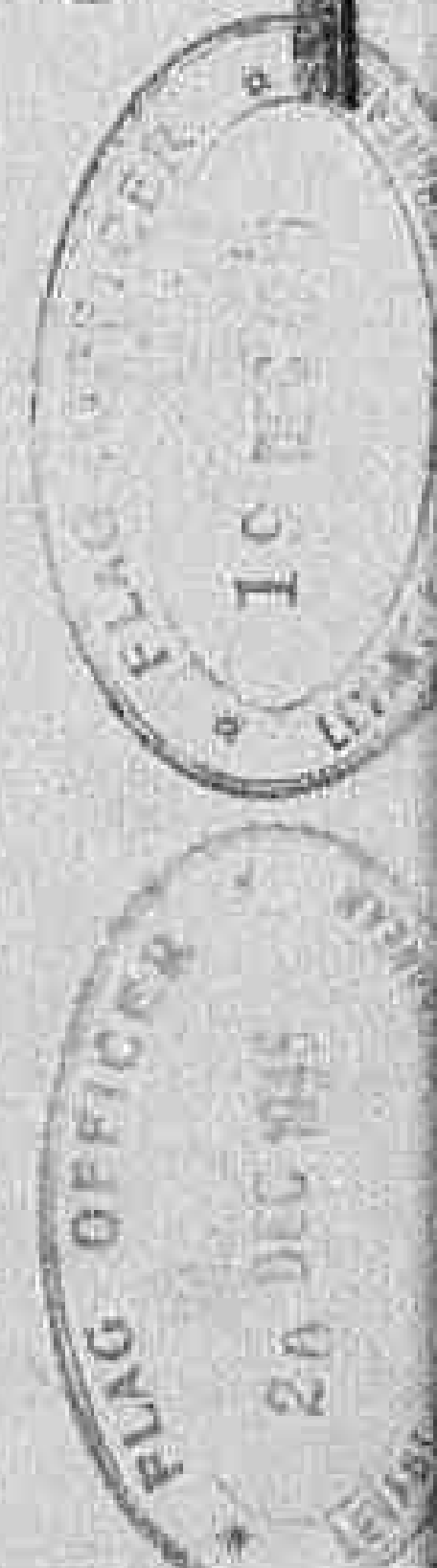
Defence Security Office Canal M.S.P. No. K 5 dated 10.12.45.

2. It is mentioned that the Italian destroyer "FUCILIERS" was searched at Port Said and no escapees were found on board.

3. The Military authorities were approached in accordance with paragraph 6 of your Minute III No. FULEM 00192/18 dated 28th October, 1945 and they now state that the substitution of road transport between Port Said and the Bitter Lakes would not be an effective measure in preventing escapes.

(Sgd) P. H. C. JAMES.

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, RED SEA & CANAL AREA.



9999

TO: THE FLAG OFFICER, LEVANT & EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

(Copy to: The Senior Naval Officer, Levant Area)

Further to my letter No. 7005/AS. 67/19 dated 8th December, 1945 regarding the escape of Italian co-operators additional information is now given from recent reports received. Copies of the undermentioned letters are forwarded:-

Report by Sgt. Noake S.T. No. W/28/57 dated 2.11.45.

Defence Security Office Canal M.E.F. No. K 5 dated 10.12.45.

2. It is mentioned that the Italian destroyer "RUCILLIER" was searched at Port Said and no weapons were found on board.

3. The Military authorities were approached in accordance with paragraph 5 of your Minute III No. JULEM 00192/18 dated 28th October, 1945 and they now state that the substitution of road transport between Port Said and the Bitter Lakes would not be an effective measure in preventing escapes.



(Sgd.) P. H. C. JAMES.

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, RED SEA & CANAL AREA.

9924

(5)

ESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS

(The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area's
No. 7005/R.S.67/19 dated 8th December, 1945.)

II.

FOLEM 3714/00192/18.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
MEDITERRANEAN.

(Copy to:-

The Flag Officer,
Italy Liaison.
The Senior Naval Officer,
Red Sea and Canal Area.
The Senior Naval Officer,
Levant Area.)

Forwarded.

2. With reference to paragraph 6
of Minute I, it is requested that this suggestion
may be given due consideration.



for VICE ADMIRAL.

Office of Flag Officer,
Levant and Eastern
Mediterranean.
15th December, 1945.

Enclosures:-

Copy of General Headquarters, Middle East Forces' letter 12687/A(5)(b) of 23rd October, 1945, and
12687/A(5)(b) of 11th December.

DATE: 22 December 1945
FROM: FLAG OFFICER ITALY & LIAISON.
TO : NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, HQ. AC.

FORWARDED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION

J. H. Brown
FOR DEAR ADMIRAL

2223

ESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS

FROM: THE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, RED SEA AND CANAL AREA.
 DATE: 6th December, 1945. No. 7005/R.S.67/49.
 TO: THE FLAG OFFICER, LEVANT AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.
 (copy to: The Senior Naval Officer, Levant Area.)

With reference to your Minute No. POLEM
 OC192/18 of 5th November, 1945, the following appear to
 be the vital stages in the escape of Italian prisoners of war:

- (a) Escape from Prisoner-of-War Camp.
- (b) Embarkation in destroyers in Bitter Lakes.
- or (c) Embarkation in destroyers in Haifa.
- (d) Disembarkation in Italy.

2. The responsibility for the safe custody
 of prisoners of war ashore is a military one, and in this
 respect it is observed that between 12th August and 17th
 September, 1945, 23 evaded their Army guards, of whom 84 are
 still at large. It is not known what improvement is possible
 in the methods at present in force to limit such escapes.

3. As regards their embarkation in ships in the
 Bitter Lakes, I attach correspondence which has taken place
 with the Senior Italian Naval Officer concerning a recent
 incident. The situation is summarised in the last paragraph
 of his letter of 20th November, 1945, namely, that the Italians
 find it repugnant to have to arrest their compatriots and in the
 absence of British representatives it cannot be assured that
 help will not be given. In this connection, paragraph 5 (5)
 below refers.

4. In spite of repeated thorough searches of
 destroyers on passage at Port Said, no escaping prisoner
 of war has ever been found on board a destroyer, a fact
 which indicated that embarkation did not take place in the
 Canal Area.

5. This view appears to be borne out by General
 Headquarters, Middle East Forces: 12687/AG.5(b) of 23rd October,
 1945, from which it seems that Regiroli embarked in Haifa and
 that a branch, if not the headquarters, of the organisation is in
 the vicinity of that port. As to the measures taken there, the Senior
 Naval Officer, Levant Area, remarks as follows:

00192/18 of 5th November, 1945, the following appear to be the vital stages in the escape of Italian prisoners of war:-

- (a) Escape from Prisoner-of-War Camp.
 - (b) Embarkation in destroyer in Bitter Lakes.
 - (c) Embarkation in destroyers in Haifa.
 - (d) Disembarkation in Italy.
2. The responsibility for the safe custody of prisoners of war ashore is a military one, and in this respect it is observed that between 12th August and 17th September, 1945, 93 evaded their Army guards, of whom 81 are still at large. It is not known what improvement is possible in the methods at present in force to limit such escapes.

3. As regards their embarkation in ships in the Bitter Lakes, I attach correspondence which has taken place with the Senior Italian Naval Officer concerning a recent incident. The situation is summarised in the last paragraph of his letter of 26th November, 1945, namely, that the Italians find it repugnant to have to arrest their compatriots and in the absence of British representatives it cannot be assured that help will not be given. In this connection, paragraph 5 (6) below refers.

4. In spite of repeated thorough searches of destroyers on passage at Port Said, no escaping prisoner of war has ever been found on board a destroyer, a fact which indicated that embarkation did not take place in the Canal Area.

5. This view appears to be borne out by General Headquarters, Middle East Forces, 12687/AG.5(b) of 23rd October, 1945, from which it seems that Regiroli embarked in Haifa and that a branch, i.e. not the headquarters, of the organisation is in the vicinity of that port. As to the measures taken there, the Senior Naval Officer, Levant Area remarks as follows:-

"2. Measures are already taken in Haifa Port Area to prevent escaped Italian Co-operators from taking passage on Italian Destroyers, bringing Leave Parties to Haifa, by means of snap searches, General checks and the tightening up on fence patrols to prevent the ingress of these persons, especially when Italian vessels are in the Harbour.

"3. The Port and Marine Division of the Palestine Police Force are informed of all E.T.A.s of Italian ships visiting Haifa.

.....Continued /

- 2 -

LEADER OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS.
(The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area's
7005/R.S. 67/49 of 8th December, 1945.)

"4. All Italian personnel proceeding ashore at Haifa are issued with a special pass by the Port and Marine Police. Passes issued by the Italian authorities are no longer valid; the Police passes only being accepted.

"5. Immediately before departure, every Italian ship is thoroughly searched for Co-operators stowing away with or without the knowledge of members of the crew.

"6. It will, however, be appreciated that it is difficult to apprehend sneaked Prisoners of War, as every facility is afforded to them by their own nationals."

"6. No information is held as to the steps taken to prevent unauthorised landings in Italy, and since (a) and (d) of paragraph 4 above are fundamental to a successful escape, it is for consideration whether further enquiries be made in their respect in view of the preventative measures in force in the Canal and Levant Area."

(Sd.) E.H.S. JAMES.

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER,
RED SEA AND CANAL AREA.

Enclosures

The British Naval Liaison Officer, 5th Italian Battleship Group's Ref 7/45 A of 5th November, 1945.
The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area's HS. 67/49 of 14th November, 1945.
The Commanding Officer, 5th Italian Battleship Group's 505 of 20th November, 1945.

CONF

SECRET

Subject: Attempted Escape of Italian Co-operatorsDefence Security Office,
Canal, MEF
10 Dec. 45.DSO (E) GIC MEF.

Our ref: K.B. U

Copy to SROSCA.

'G' Branch Canal Dist North.

'G' Branch Canal Dist South.

U 1/c 253 F.S.S.

1. Enclosed is a report on the interrogation of Italian Co-operators who had been absent from 217 (It.) I.C. Group from about 24 Nov 45 until 3 - 4 Dec 45 when they either returned voluntarily to their unit or were arrested.
2. It seems clear from the information secured that a determined attempt was made to use the destroyer which visits the Italian battleships with mail and relief crews as a channel of escape. From the shore to the Destroyer, sub boats and the destroyer's boat have been used without much difficulty.
3. Another interrogation will be carried out when the remaining Italians have been found.
4. When the Destroyer was searched at 1001 said no one was found trying to escape.

(30D) A.B.S. 1-1001 Lt.
for A.B.S.O.

SNDI/BA.

7223

COPY

TRANSMISSION

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

20. 11. 45.

No. 1905.

To: Senior Naval Officer,
Red Sea and Canal Area.

Subject: Escape of Italian Co-operators.

Your ES. 67/19 dated 11 November, 1945, refers.

In accordance with the instructions laid down by the Italian Admiralty, which forbid the taking on board of escaped P.O.s or Co-operators in foreign ports, I have given orders to the effect that the battleships under my Command and the Italian destroyers which periodically come to the Ritter Lake, are on no account to permit personnel other than that belonging to their respective crews on board.

2) I have not given orders to the effect that all boats in the vicinity of the ships may be checked as this task would be rendered particularly difficult by the great number of boats of all kinds, and manned by personnel of all nationalities, which frequently go past or cruise round the ships, and also because our Naval staff do not permit the stopping of foreign craft, or the apprehension of the personnel thereon, unless the said craft be suspected of having hostile intentions which might endanger the ships.

I could therefore only change the above in accordance with detailed orders to that effect from the Italian Admiralty.

3) In the particular case to which your letter refers, the fact that the two groups were actually composed of escaped Italian Co-operators was assumed rather than ascertained, and it was only in view of this supposition that the boats in question were ordered away to frustrate the possibility that some of the men on board them might try to introduce themselves on to the ships.

4) While I assure you that the ships will further enhance their watch so as to render it absolutely impossible for strangers to board them, I also have to ask you to realize that in the specific case of Italian Co-operators, our duty in having to turn away these comrades of ours is hard and distasteful enough to fulfil, and I am confident you will understand that the taking of further measures against them must of needs be repellent to our sense of fairness towards our fellow countrymen.

Your RS 6749 dated 11 November, 1945, refers.

In accordance with the instructions laid down by the Italian Admiralty which forbid the taking on board of escaped P.O.s or Co-operators in foreign ports, I have given orders to the effect that the battleships under my Command and the Italian destroyers which periodically come to the Bitter Lake, are on no account to permit personnel other than that belonging to their respective crews on board.

2) I have not given orders to the effect that all boats in the vicinity of the ships may be checked as this task would be rendered particularly difficult by the great number of boats of all kinds, and manned by personnel of all nationalities, which frequently go past or cruise round the ships, and also because our Naval laws do not permit the stopping of foreign craft, or the apprehension of the personnel thereon, unless the said craft be suspected of having hostile intentions which might endanger the ships.

I could therefore only change the above in accordance with detailed orders so that effect from the Italian Admiralty.

3) In the particular case to which your letter refers, the fact that the two groups were actually composed of escaped Italian Co-operators was assumed rather than ascertained, and it was only in view of this supposition that the boats in question were ordered away to frustrate the possibility that some of the men on board them might try to introduce themselves on to the ships.

4) While I assure you that the ships will further enhance their watch so as to render it absolutely impossible for strangers to board them, I also have to ask you to realize that in the specific case of Italian Co-operators, our duty in having to turn away these comrades of ours is hard and distasteful enough to fulfill, and I am confident you will understand that the taking of further measures against them must of needs be repellent to our sense of fairness towards our fellow countrymen.

(Sgd.) Francesco Minibelli.

Captain,

O.C. Italian Battleship Group.

C O P YESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS.

FROM: THE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, RED SEA AND CANAL AREA,
DATE: 11th November, 1945. No. R.S. 67/49.
TO: THE COMMANDING OFFICER, 9TH ITALIAN BATTLESHIP
GROUP, R.N. VITTORIO VENETO.

It has been reported to me that on the night of Friday, 2nd November, 1945, two parties of Italian Co-operators were discovered approaching I.S. OREA by boat. It is understood that the first party was towed ashore and cast adrift and that the second was turned away.

2. It is requested that you will report why these parties were not apprehended and retained in close custody pending investigation.

3. It is also requested that you will state whether your Standing Orders contain instructions to this effect and if not that they may be amended accordingly forthwith.

(Sgd.) P.H. G. JAMES.

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER,
RED SEA AND CANAL AREA.

CC-1.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS

The following information was secured from the interrogation of 12 Italian Co-operators of 217 (It) P.C. Group after their arrest or voluntary return to their Unit on 3 and 4 Dec 45.

1. From about 26 Nov 45 to 3 Dec 45 at least 40 Italians had succeeded in going aboard the Destroyer anchored beside the Italian battleships. On 2 or 3 Dec 45 the Officer of the watch found some of them hiding and a general search was ordered. All those who were discovered were sent ashore by the Commanding Officer on the 3 and 4 Dec 45. The latter advised them not to try to escape since they were well fed and treated in their units. By going to ITALY they would only cause additional hardship to their families who would have to feed them.

2. Only 2 of the 12 men interrogated admitted to being on the Destroyer, but the stories of the others were so thin and unconvincing that it seemed clear that the majority of them had been among those on the ship, especially as they had nearly all left their unit on the same day and had returned a few hours after the Commanding Officer had had the men put ashore.

3. The experiences of three of the Italians are as follows:-

(a) 475140 Ipo CALLINO, 2648 Coy, left his Unit at 04.30 on 24 Nov 45, and remained in hiding down by the shore until the evening of the 26th, when he contacted some Arabs who took him and another Italian, PANCIONI, to the Destroyer in a small boat. They each paid the Arabs 150 P.T. and were on board the Destroyer within 12 hours. They remained in hiding, being fed each day by a sailor, until 3 Dec, when CALLINO was put ashore with some 40 others at 1600 hours.

(b) 201524 Sold. VOTTA A 2648 Coy, left his unit at 1600 hrs 27 Nov 45 and went straight to PANAMA where he contacted sailors from the Destroyer. He walked about with them for a little while and then went on board their boat with them and was taken out to the Destroyer. He and another man were hidden in the Boiler Room. The Officer of the watch discovered them and they were put ashore at 21.30 hrs on 4 Dec 45. VOTTA was arrested next morning near ISMARA Station.

(c) Sold. RUBBO Georgi 386664, 2648 Coy, left his Unit on 24 Nov 45 with another Italian named COLONNO from whom he parted. On the 28th NOV 45 and one or two others each gave 50 P.T. to Arab boatmen to take them out to the Destroyer. When they reached it, some sailors would not let them go aboard. On the 5 Dec 45 he put on blue overalls (which he said he had brought with him) and borrowed an Italian naval hat from a sailor. He was arrested trying to get on to PANAMA wharf.

2. Only 2 of the 12 men interrogated admitted to being on the Destroyer, but the stories of the others were so thin and unconvincing that it seemed clear that the majority of them had been among those on the ship, especially as they had nearly all left their unit on the same day and had returned a few hours after the Commanding Officer had had the men put ashore.

3.

The experiences of three of the Italians are as follows:-

- (a) 275140 Ipo CHILINO, 2648 Coy, left his unit at 04.30 on 24 Nov 45, and remained in hiding down by the shore until the evening of the 26th, when he contacted some Arabs who took him and another Italian, FANCIONI, to the Destroyer in a small boat. They each paid the Arabs 150 P.T. and were on board the Destroyer within 14 hours. They remained in hiding, being fed each day by a sailor, until 3 Dec, when CHILINO was put ashore with some 40 others at 1600 hours.
- (b) 201584 sold. VOPIA A 2648 Coy, left his unit at 1600 hrs 27 Nov 45 and went straight to FANARA where he contacted sailors from the Destroyer. He walked about with them for a little while and then went on board their boat with them and was taken out to the Destroyer. He and another man were hidden in the Boiler Room. The Officer of the Watch discovered them and they were put ashore at 21.30 hrs on 4 Dec 45. VOPIA was arrested next morning near LOMALLA station.
- (c) Sold. MOUTSO Georgi 386604, 2648 Coy, left his unit on 24 Nov 45 with another Italian named CORONEC from whom he parted. On the 28th MOUTSO and one or two others each gave 50 P.T. to Arab boatmen to take them out to the Destroyer. When they reached it, some sailors would not let them go aboard. On the 5 Dec 45 he put on blue overalls (which he said he had brought with him) and borrowed an Italian naval hat from a sailor. He was arrested trying to get on to FANARA wharf.

(38D)

W.D. LANCET Lt.
for A.D.S.C.

EDL/HMA

20 Nov 45

ESCAPES - ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

(General Headquarters, Middle East Forces
12687/AG.5(b) of 23rd October, 1945.)

II

SECRET

FOLEM 00192/18

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER,
RED SEA AND CANAL AREA.
SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER,
LEVANT AREA.

(Copy to each)

For information.

(Signed) J.W. JOSELYN
for VICE ADMIRAL

Office of Flag Officer,
Levant and Eastern
Mediterranean.
5th November, 1945.

2213

COPY

From: British Naval Liaison Officer,
9th Italian Expeditionary Group.

To: The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea and Canal Area.

Date: 25 November, 1941. 15.45 A. ✓

Subject: Attempted Escape by Italian Co-operators.

Further to my signal T.O.G. 041077 B, I submit herewith a report covering the attempted escape by Co-operators.

2) At about 0650 hours on Saturday, 23rd November, the Officer of the watch reported to me that two lots of Co-operators had attempted to reach the destroyer during the dawn hours. The first consisted of men in a small "pinnace". They were intercepted near the ship, fired upon and cast adrift. The second lot, three men in a paddle canoe, were turned away whilst still some distance from the ship. On being satisfied that no attempts were on board the destroyer, I allowed her to proceed at 0730 hours.

3) Whilst below in the forenoon, at approximately 1135 hours, I was able to report in person, to the Commanding Officer, 70 Submarine and to the D.A.P.M., of the attempted escape, the action taken by the ship, and that I had fully allowed the destroyer to sail, being satisfied the ship was clear of escapes. Both these officers expressed themselves pleased with the action taken.

4) I had informed the C.P.M. Post previously of the destroyer's data of sailing, and local military authorities admit that the precautions taken to prevent theft of boats from 1200s must have been inadequate.

5) In order that the regularity of the destroyer's time of sailing may be varied, it is requested whether you will have any objection to the ship sailing at night. It is considered by the Group's Senior Officer and myself that this measure would meet the calculations of any would be escapes.

Part of to my signal T.O.O. 041057 B, I submit herewith a report covering the attempted escape by Co-Operation.

2) At about 0650 hours on Saturday, 3rd November, the officer of the watch reported to me that two lots of Co-Operation had attempted to take the destroyer during the dawn hours. The first consisted of two men in a small "Pelagos". They were intercepted near the ship, both imprisoned and sent ashore. The second lot, three men in a small canoe, were turned away whilst still some distance from the ship. On being satisfied that no storeys were on board the destroyer, I allowed her to proceed at 0730 hours.

Whilst ashore in the morning, at approximately 1135 hours, I received a report, in person, to the Commanding Officer, 70 Sub-area and to the D.A.P.M., of the attempted escape, the action taken by the ship, and that I had only allowed the destroyer to sail, being satisfied the ship was clear of escapees. Both these officers expressed themselves pleased with the action taken.

4) I had informed the C.I.M. Post previously of the destroyers date of sailing, and local military authorities admit that the precautions taken to prevent theft of boats from the ship must have been inadequate.

5) In order that the regularity of the destroyers date of sailing may be varied, it is requested whether you would have any objection to the ship sailing at night.

It is suggested by the Group's Senior Officer and myself that this measure would meet the calculations of any would be escapees.

(Sgd.) J.M. HUTTON.

B.M.L.O.

Subject: Italian Co-operators found on
S.S. LAVORO.

COPY

Sgt. Adams J.T.
8/28/57
2 Nov 58

To: O. i/c 224 F.S. Section, I.C.

1. As this ship has been suspected on previous occasions of attempting to embark Italian Co-operators, when it became known that she was due in Suez, arrangements were made to keep a special watch on the ship. O.C. 216 Group HQ was asked to keep a special check on all personnel and report to this section immediately if any were found to be missing. On arrival in Suez, the ship was visited by this section's Shipping H.C.O. and the Master warned of the consequences should he assist any Italian Co-operators to stow away on the vessel.
2. S.S. LAVORO sailed for Italy on the morning of 13 Oct. at 07.00 Hrs. and Hq. 216 Group telephoned this section to say that 2 Italians were missing from Noli Call that morning and that 1 Italian who worked at C.M.P. Suez, had also been reported missing - names QUINICO A, SIMONATO A and CAPONE A. F.S. paid a visit to 216 Group, Hq. and details of the missing men were taken. A.D.S.C. was telephoned with a view to a search of the ship being made at Port Said. A.D.S.C. later stated that the agents had already reported 5 stowaways on board and a search was being arranged when ship arrived in Port Said.
3. On 16 Oct 45 a report was received from H. 216 Group, that 5 Italians had been found on the S.S. LAVORO and had been taken into custody by C.M.P., Port Said. All the Italians belonged to 216 Group.
4. The names of the 5 Italians concerned are:-

475721.	Cpl. GIGLIO Salvatore.
318461.	Capone Antonio (Merchant Seaman)
202503.	Bold. QUINICO Antonio.
199269.	Sold. SIMONATO Angelo.
249184.	Cpl. Major TORINO N.
5. These men were brought back to 216 Group on 18 Oct. for trial.

2217

A copy of the statement made by the Master of S.S. LAVORO states that he reported the matter to the Pilot and the shipping authorities when he discovered the men on board. He also stated that the men left Port Tewfik for the ship in an Arab boat.

O.C. 216 Group Hq. informed me that, at their trial, the men stated they went aboard in one of the ship's boats.

On 7 Oct 45, and HQ. 216 Group telephoned this section to say that 2 Italians were missing from Roll Call that morning and that 1 Italian who worked at C.M.F. Suez, had also been reported missing - names QUIRICO A, SILEMANTO A and CARLOS A. F.S. paid a visit to 216 Group, HQ, and details of the missing men were taken. A.D.S.C. was telephoned with a view to a search of the ship being made at Port Said. A.D.S.C. later stated that the Agents had already reported 5 stowaways on board and a search was being arranged when ship arrived in Port Said.

3. On 16 Oct 45 a report was received from H. A. 216 Group, that 5 Italians had been found on the C.S. LAVARO and had been taken into custody by C.M.F., Port Said. All the Italians belonged to 216 Group.

4. The names of the 5 Italians concerned are:-

475721.	Cpl. GIULIO Salvatore.
318461.	Carlo Antonio (Merchant Seaman)
202503.	Sold. GIULIO Antonio.
199269.	Sold. SILEMANTO Angelo.
249184.	Cpl. Major TULLIO N.

These men were brought back to 216 Group on 19 Oct 45, for trial.

5. A copy of the statement made by the Master of S.S. LAVARO stated that he reported the matter to the Pilot and the shipping authorities when he discovered the men on board. He also stated that the men left Port Tewfik for the ship in an Arab boat.

C.C. 216 Group HQ, informed us that, at their trial, the men stated they went aboard in one of the ship's boats.

(CSD) S. HOARE. Sgt.

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/2016
4 April 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Flag Officer Taranto Adriatic and Liaison, Italy. (Taranto)
Subject: Italian Prisoners of War - Escape of.
Enclosure: (A) Copy AFHQ ltr 383.6 (It) of 12 January 1945.
(B) Copy AFHQ ltr 383.6 (It) of 31 March 1945.

1. With reference to FOTALI secret letter T.A. 1027/206 of 30 January 1945, enclosures (A) and (B), in connection with the escape of Italian Prisoners of War from French custody, are forwarded herewith for information.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN

REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.



5 APR 1945

Page 12-113

2213 + 215

(4)

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Liaison Section

383.6 (It)

✓ 31 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Escape of Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission, HQ Allied Commission, APO #394, U. S. Army.

Ref NSC/1262 of 8 Dec 1944 and NSC/1922 of 22 Mar 45.

1. Your NSC/1262 was passed to the offices of the US Pol Ad and Brit Res Min for their comments. Their opinion was that any dispute in such matters between Italy and France should be taken up directly between them - in this case by the French representative in Rome with the Italian Government.

2. A letter was therefore dispatched on 13 Jan (copy attached) by this Section to the French Military Mission to AHC. It is much regretted that owing to an oversight a copy of this letter was not sent to you at the same time.

Incl:
Copy of Ltr 383.6 (It) of
12 Jan 45 to Fr Mil Mis

JRE/ps

F. G. Beaumont-Nesbitt
F. G. BEAUMONT-NESBITT,
Major General,
Chief of Section. 1223

2215

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

SECRET
S-E-C-R-E-T

NSC/1922
22 March 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Allied Force Headquarters.
Subject: Escaped Italian Prisoners of War.
Reference: (a) Navy Sub-Com. AC, secret 1st endorsement
NSC/1282 of 8 December 1944.
1. A reply to reference (a) would be appreciated.

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

Copy to:
CINC-MED.
FOITALI.



26 MAR 1945

2913

7

21 March 1945.

Subject: Escaped Prisoners of War.

Reference: (a) FOTALI ltr T.A. 1027/206 of 30 January 1945.
(b) CINC-MED 4500/180/35 of 18 Feb. 1945.
(c) FOTALI Dispatch 052008A of March.
(d) Navy Sub-Com. ltr NSC/1282 of 8 Dec. 1944.

1. FOTALI in reference (a) made recommendations to CINC-MED as to measures to be taken in connection with escaped Italian Prisoners of War. Paragraph 2 thereof recommended that subject to the approval of CINC-MED, the Ministry of Marine be asked to cancel Ministry of Marine dispatch No. B.1362 of 21 August 1944, which informed Italian Naval Commands that escaped Italian Prisoners of War are to be harbored by the Italian Navy and after return to National territory, cannot be retaken, except in action. Paragraph 4 of reference (a) made specific recommendations to be carried out by Allied authorities to prevent the escape of Italian Prisoners of War.

2. CINC-MED in reference (b) disapproved paragraph 4(i) of reference (a) and directed that the Ministry of Marine be informed that further instances of escape by Italian Prisoners of War being smuggled by Italian warships, will result in the action recommended being ordered. It was further stated that action would be taken by AFHQ to implement the recommendations made in paragraphs 4(ii) and (iii).

3. FOTALI in reference (c) advises that the Ministry of Marine has been informed verbally, in accordance with reference (b), but wishes to be informed officially, in writing, and requests that FOTALI, Rome, take the necessary action.

4. The status of co-belligerency has not been extended to Italian Prisoners of War captured before the Armistice. They are maintained in POW camps and repatriated only when in the interests of the Allied war effort. Articles 50, 51 and 52 of the Geneva Convention recognized the right of Prisoners of War to escape. Article 50 provides that escaped Prisoners of War who are retaken before being able to return to their own army or to leave the territory occupied by the army which captured them, shall be liable only to disciplinary punishment. It is further provided that they may again be taken prisoners and shall not be liable to any punishment on account of their previous flight. Article 51 provides that after an attempted or accomplished escape, the comrades of the escaped, who assisted in the escape, may incur disciplinary punishment on this account.

5. As indicated in reference (d), it is evident that the Ministry of Marine considers that, with respect to Prisoners of War, the status of co-belligerency does not exist between the Allied Nations and the Italian Government. Under this interpretation, the Ministry apparently considers

that the Italian Navy is justified in assisting Prisoners of War to escape and in harboring them after escape. Under this condition the Allied Nations are justified in taking any and all measures which may be necessary to prevent the escape of Italian Prisoners of War and to re-capture such prisoners after escape. The insistence of the Minister in requesting that he be informed officially with respect to the instructions contained in reference (b), indicate that the Ministry is prepared to make an issue over this point of International Law.

6. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the attached proposed draft to the Ministry of Marine are in conformity with reference (b). They support the right of the Allied Nations to take such action as may be necessary to prevent the escape of Italian Prisoners of War. Paragraph 3 of the proposed draft directs the Ministry of Marine to cancel existing orders directing that escaped Prisoners of War be harbored and issue an order directing that they be delivered to Allied authorities. It is certain that the Italian Navy will not ^{respect} this order, whether it is in violation of the Geneva Convention with respect to Prisoners of War, is a matter for interpretation.

7. In any event, the specific recommendations made in paragraph 2 of reference (a), that the Minister be directed to cancel Naval dispatch No. B 1362 of 21 August 1944, was not specifically approved by SINC-MED in reference (b).

8. In view of the above, it is considered that the instructions issued to the Ministry of Marine be strictly in accordance with reference (b), which relates only to those measures which may be taken by the Allied Nations to prevent the escape of Italian Prisoners of War and not include instructions which cannot be issued to a hostile nation and enforced.

9. In the event the Italian Navy of its own volition continues to condone and assist Italian Prisoners of War in escaping, it is conceivable that the provisions of paragraph 1(E) of the Cunningham Agreement, which provides that the extent to which the terms of the Armistice are modified, are dependent upon the extent and effectiveness of Italian cooperation, might be invoked.

2213

C O P Y

C O P Y

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Liaison Section

383.6 (IT)

12 January 1945

SUBJECT: Escaped Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : French Military Mission, AFHQ.

1. On 5 Oct 44, French General Directorate of POW requested Rear Liaison Section in Algiers to assist in tracing the undermentioned four French owned Italian prisoners of war who had escaped from French Air Force Camp at Maison Blanche, Algiers:

Belli, Roberto
Lapica, Carlo
Grimaudo, Egenio
Signorini, Luigi

2. It has been found that these now have returned to Italy. Attached copy of letter from Italian authorities.

3. It is suggested that further action in this matter be taken up direct with the Italian Government by the French representative in Rome.

JAS/ps

Incl:
Ltr 998/70

F. G. BEAUMONT-NESBITT,
Major General,
Chief of Section

2211

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub Commission AFO 394

file

NSC/2461.
24th May, 1945.

From: Navy Sub Commission, Hq., Allied Commission.
To: Ministry of Marine, Rome.

Subject: Escaped Prisoners of War.

With reference to your letter 782/U.T., dated 7th May, 1945, it is not intended to take any further steps regarding the escaped personnel as it is felt that the attitude of the Ministry in condoning assistance afforded by Italian Warships was contrary to the spirit of the Armistice Terms.



(Sgd) G. L. WARREN

REAR ADMIRAL,
CHIEF, NAVY SUB COMMISSION

25 MAY 1945

FD-4

3

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)

To : N.S.C. - Rome

Date: 7 May '45. (Received for translation 11 May '45)

Ref.: 782/U.T.

Subject: P.O.W. Escaped from Bizerte.

N.S.C. is aware of the vicissitudes of 63 in N° Italian P.O.W. who escaped from Camps in Bizerte, disembarked at Taranto on 28 Jan. from "SIRIO" and "ORSA", and who were later handed over to the British Army at the request of Admiral MORGAN.

Our N°616/U.T. of 13th ulto. to F.O.L.I. also refers.

2. Apart from what is laid down in Art.50 of the Geneva Convention to the effect that it is International law that an escaped P.O.W. who reaches his native soil automatically ceases to be a P.O.W. and cannot be taken prisoner again except in battle, there is a communication from Taranto in which I am informed that Admiral Morgan cannot - even if he wished - interpose his good offices to obtain the release of these prisoners (who, as you are aware, were put aboard Italian Torpedo craft from Ships manned by Royal Naval personnel) because it appears that the matter rests with the British Army.

The 63 in N° P.O.W. are at present detained in Camp "R" at S.Andrea at the disposal of A.F.H.Q.

3. In view of the above and agreements reached between N.S.C. and my Chief of Cabinet Capt. BASLINI, at the meeting on 1st inst., I shall be glad if you will request Allied Authorities concerned to set free the 63 P.O.W. in question.

(Sgd) THE MINISTER

2203

DG/P.



PE/gi

Mod.39

Roma 7 Maggio 1945

Ministero della Marina

GABINETTO
UFFICIO TRATTATI

Al NAVY SUB COMMISSION

R O M A

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA - ROMA

Prot. N° 782/UT. Allegati

ARGOMENTO: Prigionieri di guerra evasi da Biserta.

Sono note a codesta N.S.C. le vicende dei 63 prigionieri di guerra italiani fuggiti dai campi di Biserta, sbarcati a Taranto il 28 gennaio dal "Sirio" e dall'"Orsa" e dati poi in consegna all'esercito britannico per desiderio dell'Amm. Morgan.

Anche a questo avvenimento si ricollega il dispaccio 616/UT in data 13 aprile diretto da questo Ministero al F.O.L.I.

2°)-

Indipendentemente da quanto previsto dalla Convenzione di Ginevra, art.50 per il quale è legge internazionale che il prigioniero di guerra evaso e che tocca il suolo nazionale cessa ipso-fatto di essere prigioniero di guerra e non può essere ripreso se non in combattimento, sta la comunicazione pervenuta giorni or sono da Taranto con la quale mi si informa che l'Ammiraglio Morgan non può - anche volendo - interporre i propri buoni uffici per la liberazione dei prigionieri (che, come noto, furono portati a bordo delle siluranti italiane da imbarcazione inglese armata da marinai della Marina Britannica) in quanto sembra che la questione sia di competenza dell'esercito britannico.

I 63 prigionieri sono attualmente rinchiusi nel campo "R" di S.Andrea a disposizione del A.F.H.Q.

3°)-

In relazione a quanto sopra ed agli accordi intervenuti tra cotesta N.S.C. ed il mio Capo di Gabinetto C.te Baslini, nella riunione del 1° maggio u.s., prego voler richiedere alle competenti Autorità Alleate la liberazione dei 63 prigionieri di guerra, oggetto del presente dispaccio.

2203

IL MINISTRO

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR ESCAPEE - REGIROLI, EMILIO.
(The Commander in Chief, Mediterranean Station's
Minute II No. Med.45/1352/9/1, dated 19th November
1945).

III.

No. F.O.I.L. 1026/11.

THE NAVY SUB COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

For information and any action
considered desirable in view of paragraph 3 of
the enclosure to Minute I.

Richard L. Liden

ROME,
1st December, 1945.

for REAR ADMIRAL.

2207

PH-4

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR ESCAPEE - SCID
REINOLLI ETILIO.

(General Headquarters, Central Mediterranean
Forces' letter No. 3161/A2 of 5th November,
1945.)

II

Med. 45/1352/9/1
THE FLAG OFFICER, ITALY AND LIAISON.

Forwarded for information.



MEDITERRANEAN,
19th November, 1945. for ADMIRAL

H.B. having

SUBJECT: Italian PW Escapee.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES.

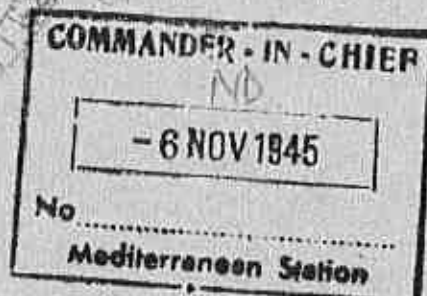
Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean.

3161/A2.

5 Nov 45.

Sold. REGIROLI, Emilio

The attached GHQ MEF letter 12687/AG5(b) of 24 Oct is forwarded for your information.



G.H. Davies
(G.H. DAVIES) Captain,
S/Captain,
for Major-General,
DAG.

7203

COPY

Subject:- Italian PW Escapes -
Sold REGIROLI Emilio,
58, Viale Bligny, Milano.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

12687/AG5(b).
Copy to 9707

24 Oct 45.

General Headquarters,
Central Mediterranean Forces.

1. The above named Italian soldier escaped from 2649 Italian Coy, MEF on 28 May 45.
2. Letters written by REGIROLI bearing the above address have been intercepted in the ME. In these letters which are addressed to other Italian PW still held in ME Camps REGIROLI states that he has managed to escape and reach Italy and encourages other PW to take similar action.
3. Contained in the instructions given in his letters for other PW to escape, particular reference was made to the Italian destroyer "ARDIENTOSO" and to an Italian named ORIENTE who would be on board the destroyer and who would "arrange everything".
4. Appropriate action has been taken in the ME to counter any attempts by PW to escape by the means suggested in REGIROLI's letters, and it would be appreciated if necessary action could be taken for the apprehension of REGIROLI in Italy.
5. Since REGIROLI was held on ME strength, may be please be notified if and when he is recaptured so that PSIB and PW accounts Office, ME, can effect the necessary adjustments to records regarding his location and Pay Account.

(Signed) ?????? Lt Col
AAC for

General,
Commander in Chief.

2205

Subject:- Escapes - Italian PW.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
MIDDLE EAST FORCE.
(21 Feb 1945)

"A" Branch, ETC.
"A" Branch, ETP & MJ.

12687/AG5 (b).
COPY to 2707

Copy to:- RN GHQ ME.
SIME.

23 Oct 45.

PW Sold. REGIROLI Emilio.
50, Viale Bligny, Milano, Italy.

1. The above named Italian soldier escaped from 2649 Italian Coy on 28 May 45, and appears to have reached Italy.

2. The following are translated extracts of letters written by REGIROLI to Italian PW still held in the Middle East.

(a) Letter addressed to 36580 Sold RINALDI Fernando,
2654 Italian Coy -

"You will be surprised at receiving this letter. Yes! I really am home again! I escaped and if you had turned up in ISMAILIYEH you would be here with me now. I shall probably come and fetch you if, as I hope, you are still in TEL-EL-KEBIR. I have been home for three months now."

(b) Letter addressed to 204205 C/M POLLI Aldo,
2611 Italian Coy -

"And now pay careful attention to what I am going to say. If you are anywhere in the neighbourhood of CAIPIA, (HAIFA?), you must manage to find out the date of arrival of the Italian Destroyer 'ARDIENTOSO'. ORFED is on board the destroyer. Escape, all three of you, without hesitation, and if you manage to reach the destroyer, you are as good as in Italy. It stops there for two days, to replenish its stocks, and it calls at CAIPIA about every two months. Here they regularize your positions and settle everything. Be brave. The police cannot come on board and will not even attempt to. Bring all you can

2202

1. The above named Italian soldier escaped from 249 Italian Coy on 28 May 45, and appears to have reached Italy.

2. The following are translated extracts of letters written by REGIROLI to Italian PW still held in the Middle East.

(a) Letter addressed to 36580 Sold RINALDI Fernando, 2654 Italian Coy -

"You will be surprised at receiving this letter. Yes! I really am home again! I escaped and if you had turned up in ISMAILIYEH you would be here with me now. I shall probably come and fetch you if, as I hope, you are still in TEL-EL-KEBIR. I have been home for three months now."

(b) Letter addressed to 204205 C/M POLLI Aldo, 2611 Italian Coy -

"And now pay careful attention to what I am going to say. If you are anywhere in the neighbourhood of CAIPIA, (HAIFA?), you must manage to find out the date of arrival of the Italian Destroyer 'ARDIMENTOSO'. ORSINI is on board the destroyer. Escape, all three of you, without hesitation, and if you manage to reach the destroyer, you are as good as in Italy. It stops there for two days, to replenish it's stocks, and it calls at CAIPIA about every two months. Here they regularize your positions and settle everything. Be brave. The police cannot come on board and will not even attempt to. Bring all you can along with you. ORSINI will see to everything. A fortnight after you have read this you will perhaps be in ITALY. It is no use waiting for repatriation, that is still far away."

3. Since REGIROLI is encouraging other PW to escape from ME Camps the above information is forwarded to assist in the apprehension of such PW who may attempt to escape by the means suggested in REGIROLI's letters.

(Signed) Maj-Gen
DAC.

2

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE
To : MARISARDEGNA
Date: 15th November 1945

Hand Message. No. Marina 31425

With reference to your signal O P 907: German
prisoner escaped from Capodichino is to be given into
custody of R.A.F. Headquarters Elmas. *63. Stigmy Post*

Sgd. DE COURTEN

171515

(Copy to MARISTAT for N.S.C.)

GGE/P.

①

PK-4

2203

MODULARIO
M. N. 401

Mon. 153-bis



MINISTERO DELLA MARINA

MESSAGGIO IN CHIARO IN PARTENZA
GABINETTO A.S.

15 NOV. 1945

UFFICIO

Roma, li

PA PA PA ODD OD	NUMERO	PAROLE	DATA	ORE	TRASMETTENTE	VIA	PROT. DI CONTR.

Qualifica Ufficiale

MARISARDEGNA

MARINA 31425..... Riferimento vostro tele
O P 907 (alt) Prigioniero tedesco evaso
Capodichino sia consegnato al Comando
Inglese R.A.F. Elmas

DE COURTES 171515

MARISTAT : p. conoscenza
NAVY SUB-COMMISSION : per estensione

2203

URGENZA URGENZA

1640