

ACC

10000/125/17 ACC/509/PAT

10000/125/17 ACC/509/PAT - PATRIOT ARMS, AND
AMMUNITION
SEPT. 44 - NOV. 44

1 - DEC 1944

HEADQUARTERS II LIND COMMISSION

APO 304

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

PATRIOTS BRANCH.

Ref : 52/PAT.

28 November 1944.

Subject : Arms.

TO : Major DRAKE,
Adv. Det. Patriots Branch,
Florence.FROM : Major Sir P.W. Magnus, Lt.
Patriot Branch,
H.Q., A.C.

Reference your letters of 6 and 17 November,
Ref. 52/709/Pat with enclosures, concerning the
collection of arms.

I have consulted with No. 1 Special Force who
state that, owing to the lack of personnel, they are
unable to collect arms from any dumps.

In the circumstances, the best procedure seems
to be to order the arms to be collected by A.C.
personnel into local dumps, placed under guard,
listed and turned over to Allied Ordnance authorities.
Copies of these lists should be sent to this Branch.

I do not feel that this Branch is really concern-
ed with what happens to the arms after they are collect-
ed and reported to the Allied authorities.

P.W. Magnus

Major.

17 th November 1944

16/503/AT.

ATMS

Major Sir E.M. MAGNUS
Patriot Branch
HQ. AC.

Reference this office letter of even number dated 8 Nov.
and with reference to 8th Army letter No. 3A/200 dated 8 Nov. 44,
copy of which was retained by your office.

Can you now state how this matter stands.

B.L. BRANDE
Patriot Branch
(Advance Detachment)

Patent No 3069

57

134

NOV 6 1944

8 NOV 44

HQ allied commission.

2. At present arms are collected into local dumps, placed under guard and listed. These lists are then sent to G (Ch) G (Ch) and to your HQ. It is suggested that the simplest thing is for the Italian Army to be informed of the location of these dumps by patriot branch and make its own arrangements to collect them.

P. G. Benton Farm

lt. Col, 74,
For group Captain,
officer commanding,
AIG Eighth Army.

286

DATE	INITIALS	
Col. A		
Men. M		
M. E. D.		
W. E. D.		

S.O.M.S. Davies.

We've taken a copy of
this for our file

Bmb.

14 Nov 44

see 121

AOC/509/Pat

8 Nov 44.

Collection of Arms.

G-2 & 3,
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

10#
7d

Further to your communication of 7 Nov 44, reference 139/3, you are quite right when you say that the original arrangement was that arms collected should be handed over to Special Force. The letter I wrote to you however, on the subject, on the 3 Nov 44 was as a result of an instruction received from this department's headquarters in Rome. I have therefore written to Rome today asking them to let us have a directive on the matter immediately. No doubt they will contact U.M.I.A. and H.Q. N° 1 Special Force so that an agreement may be reached.

B.L. DRAKE,
Major, R.A.S.C.
Patriots Branch Adv.Det.

11A
file
8 Nov 44.

ACC/509/Pat

Collection of Arms from Patriots.

Major Sir P.M. Magnus, Bt.,
Patriots Branch,
H.Q. Allied Commission.

Following your communication of the 30 October, reference 52/42/Pat, as I told you in my letter of 3 November I wrote to 5 and 8 Armies requesting them to arrange for the arms to be handed over to the nearest Italian Army depot. As a result of this communication I have received a letter from A-5 Army, copy of which I enclose. Perhaps you would be kind enough to have the matter clarified so that I may be in a position to give them a reply.

D.L. DRAGE,
Major, R.A.S.C.,
Patriot Branch, Adv. Det.

884

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
AMG FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 US. ARMY

7th November, 1944.

109/3

Subject: Collection of Arms.

To: Adv. Det. Patriots Branch.

1. Your letter ACC/509/Cat of 3 November 44 is not understood. Hitherto the directive from H.Q. Allied Commission has been that such arms were urgently required by Special Force and O.S.S. for use by other Patriots and it is not clear what the Army Sub-Commission have to do with it, unless this is a new departure in policy. Please clarify this matter.
2. In the meantime any quantity of useful arms surrendered will continue to be handed over to Special Force as is being done at present.

For the Commanding General :

D.R.B. MYNORS,
Major, Scots Guards,
G-2 & 3.,
A.M.C. Fifth Army.

Copy to:

Major Henderson, No 1 Special Force.

883

8 - NOV 1944

HEADQUARTERS
AMG FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

7th November 1944.

109/3

SUBJECT: Collection of Arms.

TO : Adv. Detachment, Patriots Branch.

1. Your letter ACC/509/PAT of 3 November 44 is not understood. Hitherto the directive from H.Q. Allied Commission has been that such arms were urgently required by Special Force and C.S.S. for use by other patriots and it is not clear what the Army Sub-Commission have to do with it, unless this is a new departure in policy. Please clarify this matter.

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For the Commanding General:

D.R.B. Mynors
D.R.B. MYNORS,
Major, Scots Guards,
G-2 & 3.,
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

Copy to:

Major Henderson, No. 1 Special Force.

/hdp

file GA

ACC/500/Pwt

3 Nov 44.

Collection of arms from Patriots.

A.M.C. 5th Army.

It has been requested by the Army Sub-Commission that in future all arms collected from Patriots should be handed in to the nearest Carabinieri Barracks in the first instance, and then handed over by the Carabinieri to the nearest Italian Army depot. The Carabinieri should obtain receipt for the arms handed over which receipt should be forwarded to this office for onward transmission to Army Sub-Commission.

B. L. DRAGE,
Major, A.M.C.
Patriot Branch, Adv.Sec.

1 6 2 5

File

AGC/509/Pat

3 Nov 44.

Collection of Arms from Patriots.

Major Sir Philip Magnus, Bt.,
Patriots Branch,
W.G. A.C.

8A 49A

7A

Further to your communication reference 52/42/Pat
subject Collection of Arms from Patriots, I have in-
structed A. W. L. L. to see that in future arms are
handed in to the nearest Carabinieri depot and finally
handed over to Italian Army depots. I have further-
more instructed that receipts for arms should be for-
warded to this office for onward transmission to you
and thence to the Army Sub-Commission.

B. L. DRAGO,
Major, W.G. A.C.

880

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH
APO 394

2 NOV 1944

30 October 1944.

Ref. 52/42/PAT.

Subject : Collection of Arms from Patriots.

My Dear Ben

1. With further reference to my letter 52/PAT dated 26 Oct. 44. The Army Sub Commission have asked me to write you a note about arms handed in by Patriots. They would be grateful if you could ensure that arms are handed in to the nearest Carabinieri barracks in the first instance. They want the Carabinieri to hand over the arms to the nearest Italian Army depot and the depot should then send a copy of the receipt for arms to the Army Sub Commission for their information.

2. Sorry to bother you with this.

Yours ever
Philip Magnus
Sir Philip MAGNUS Lt.
Major.

Major B.L. DRAGE
Adv Det Patriots Branch.

Copy to Army Sub Commission (for information).

979

AGC/509/Pat

1 Nov 44

Rifles

Major Sir F.M. Magnus;
Patriot Branch,
H.Q. Allied Commission.

Further to your communication reference 52/39/Pat,
subject Rifles, the responsibility with regard to arms
collected and stored in divers dumps is actually that
of No. 1 Special Force.

It is the duty however, of the Patriot Branch,
Advance Detachment, to notify the location of these
dumps from time to time to No. 1 Special Force - this,
in fact, is being done. We are informed, however,
that at the moment No. 1 Special Force do not need
any more arms, and therefore they are being allowed
to remain where they are for the time being.

f *Dr*
B.L. DRAGE,
Major,
Patriot Branch,
Adv. Det.

878

1629

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH
APC 394

12 - NOV 1944

5A

[Signature]

file

Ref: 52/39/PAT

23 Oct 44

Subject: Rifles

To: Major B.J. Drage,
Adv. Det. Patriots Branch.

In reply to your letter ACC/509/PAT dated 21 Oct 44.
I agree that the 200 rifles to which you refer should be handed
over to Col. Dye for the use of the C.S.R.R.

I am not quite clear as to who is responsible for
the patriots' rifles now held in Florence at the Carabinieri
barracks. Since application was made to you for their release
it would appear that you are responsible. Is this in fact the
position?

[Signature]

P.N. Magnus

Sir P.N. MAGNUS,
Major,
Patriots Branch.

[Signature]

21 Oct 44.

ACC/508/Pat

Rifles - former property of Patriots.

Col. C.D. McArthy, C.B.E.
Patriots' Branch,
Headquarters, A.C.C.
C.M.F.

Attached please find a copy of a communication which I have received from Col. E.J. Bye. As you will see in this letter the request for the arms in question was urgent; I took it upon myself to accede to his request and have allowed him to draw 200 rifles from the stock now held in Florence.

In passing I would remind you that I informed you when I was down in Rome that there is a large stock of arms now lying available to No. 1 Special Force here in Florence and in Lucca. Owing to the condition of roads, etc., it is quite impossible to get over to the Adriatic side to get particulars, but I understand that there is a large stock lying over in Rimini also. Captain Glasspool has gone over to see Brigadier Dunlop for a conference when he is taking up the question of Patriot Representative requirements and I am hoping that he will be able to give me some idea of the arms position on his return on Monday or Tuesday.

B.L. DRAGE,
Major, R.A.S.C.

876

HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Safety Division
AFO 394

REF : R.IX/PS/21/9.

12 Oct 44.

SUBJECT: Rifles - former property of Patriots.

TO : Major S.L. Drage,
Patriots Branch,
FLORENCE.

1. Rifles are urgently needed for O.C.R.R. who have rejoined the service in Emilia Region.

2. As such weapons are not readily available from O.C.R.R. sources it would be greatly appreciated if you would agree to 200 rifles, being part of those surrendered by the Patriots in FLORENCE in early September, at present stored in the O.C.R.R. Caserma, FLORENCE, could be handed to Capt. Bond, Assistant Regional Public Safety Officer, Emilia Region, together with a quantity of ammunition, against his receipt.

3. A careful check of these weapons would be kept and they could eventually be returned, if required, by your branch for other urgent purposes.

4. May this request please be granted.

For the Regional Commissioner.

E. J. B. Lt. Col.
E. J. B. Lt. Col.,
Regional Public Safety Officer,
Emilia Region.

RTB/art.

Major DRAGE

2A

These are Prof VOLTERRA's comments
on the question of disarming Patriots.
I do NOT think it worth passing on.

2B

P.H.

16 Sep 44

File
509

T-11-E

officers of Carabinieri etc.). It was possible that an armed minority could be able to oppress a fascist majority and to establish a tyrannical system.

~~For~~ During 22 years it was impossible to Italian people to express his will. Thousand of men were tortured and imprisoned or confined, many were killed, many were obliged to leave their country and to refuge themselves abroad. This struggle of the best part of Italian people against Fascism is almost unknown to strangers. In the democratic countries it is very difficult to have a clear idea of the police system established in Italy by the Fascism and of the life of a person who ~~used~~ refused to submit himself to the fascist system.

New freedom is reestablished in the Italian countries delivered by Allied Forces. But many feared that this freedom can be easily suppressed by a minority who can be armed by the same authorities who gave the arms to the fascists in 1919.

Many police- and ~~also~~ civil officers who served Fascism passionately and persecuted antifascists and patriots are still at their places and sometimes are ~~so~~ employed to disarm patriots. ~~Along of the anti-fascist interest free~~ Their interest is to have fascism again. It is inevitable that patriots are disarmed.

My opinion is that it is very important to give ~~immediate~~ as soon as possible in the delivered countries the assurance to the patriots that fascism is really finished and will never rise again and that the new system established in Italy is

truly a Democratic system.

No give this assurance it is necessary:

first: to take the greatest care in the choice of ~~men~~ men who shall be immediately appointed to the administrative posts in the liberated countries. It is advisable to let choose these men by the Committees of the "Liberazione Nazionale", (who ~~has been~~ are formed always by representative men of all parties), or, at least, to take always the advice of these Committees. The choice of a man who is not popular can give a very bad impression to the partisans. It is advisable that in Romagna (where regionalism is deeply felt) the administrative posts shall be always given to persons born in this region.

second: ~~it is~~ to choose very diligently the police officers and men and to remove immediately all of them who are been fascists and particularly them who were employed against antifascists and, under the Nazi domination, against patriots. In some countries of North Italy in the first days the police-service can be assured by the partisans themselves. In some cases it is advisable to choose for the ~~public~~ police-service only the "carabinieri" who had been ~~partisans~~ ^{imprisoned and} partisans.

third: to ~~confine~~ ^{imprison} immediately all the fascists who can be dangerous, all the persons who had collaborated with Nazis, all spies etc. The names of these men shall be given by the Committees of

FIRENZE,

Amministrazione:
FIRENZE - Via Riccaoli, 8

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second: it is to choose very diligently the police officers and men and to remove immediately all of them who are seen fascists and particularly them who were employed against antifascists and, under the Nazi domination, against patriots. In some countries of North Italy in the first days the police-service can be covered by the partisans themselves. In some cases it is advisable to choose for the police-service only the "carabinieri" who had been partisans.

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Amministrazione:
FIRENZE - Via Riccio, 8

Firenze,

ITALIANO = VIKKRAZZANO
GREVE CHIANTICA

³
"Liberation Nationale" or by the partisans themselves and shall
be selected by some eminent ~~antifascist~~ antifascist persons.
This action, if is made immediately by Allied Forces, is very
important to give assurance to the partisans.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PATRIOT BRANCH
Adv. Detachment
APO.394

Ref. AGC/509/PAT

15 Sept. 1944

SUBJECT: HANDING IN OF ARMS PATRIOTS

TO : COL. C.D. McCARTHY
Patriot Branch
Head Quarters A.C.C.

Sir,

Since I left you on Wednesday, you will have had ample time in which to digest the report covering the Patriots situation in Florence rendered by Col. Bye.-

On returning to Florence I decided that it would be as well to study the position more closely and find out the real reason why the Patriots have not handed in their arms.

I had a conference with the following individuals, Sig. Caravaglia, Vice Commandant of the Potente Division, and Count Meoni, Chief of General Staff of the Arno Division and I have come to the following conclusion:

That the main reason why arms were not handed in is because quite 80% of the Patriots in this area are inclined to communism and I am of the opinion that the demand by the Allied Authorities to hand in arms was anticipated.

In this connection I would refer you to a discourse given on this very subject by Free Radio Milan which, as you know, is sponsored by B. the other reason which is quite minor is that there has been to my mind a certain lack of discretion in the way these people have been handled.

Patriot leaders of the Potente Arno Divisions who I talked to, told me quite definitely that, they resented that orders to disarm were given generally to the Patriots instead of being given through the leaders and I do feel that greater cooperation would have been experienced had we dealt summarily through the leaders.

I am convinced now that it is almost an impossible task to collect the arms in this area at this late date. Signor Caravaglia in fact told me that as his division had been disbanded his members has all gone to their homes and that it would be quite impossible for him to do anything about it.

This may or may not be true, but in any case that is the position to-day.

I feel that this problem is extremely serious for the following reasons.

It will be all known to bands North of the line that the local divisions here have not handed in their arms, and, what is more, seem to be getting away with it. If a vacuum owing to the trend military operations is created in the North and the patriots show the same reluctance to disarm, a most serious situation may arise which would be quite beyond the powers of C.A.O.'s etc., to handle.

In conclusion, as difficult as it may be, or shall we say dangerous, I do feel that these people should be told something about the Allied intention with regard to the future government of Italy, because I am convinced that it is mainly the political issue which represents the seat of the trouble.

I am quite certain that although to all intents and purposes the patriot bands have been disbanded, that there is in existence a secret order and plan whereby these bands would be re-mustered on reception of a pre-arranged signal.

F.L. DRAGE

MAJOR

Patriots Branch

Adv. Detachment

17

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