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PATRIOTS - STATUS

AUG. 1944

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

Patriots Branch

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Received from
17⁰⁰ 10/8/19
J.D.

Items good
M.J. 8⁰⁰ 11/10/19

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

EWS/njp

A/CC 324.5

28 August 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Brigadier M. S. Lush)
Patriot Branch) IN TURN

1. Reference attached draft of letter to H. E. Ivance Bonomi and related correspondence on "Statement Giving Recognition to Italian Patriots".

2. Your comments or concurrence on the attached draft is requested.

W
ELLERY M. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

7 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Ltr fr A/CC, dtd 8 Aug 44
- 2 - Suggested draft of statement submitted by H.E. Bonomi.
- 3 - Ltr fr Adv Hq. AAI, 16/1/G(Ops), dtd 25 Aug 44.
- 4 - Copy of announcement fr Alexander's Hq.
- 5 - Ltr fr Adv Hq. AAI, 16/1/G(Ops), dtd 26 Aug 44
- 6 - Summary of Italian Army's activities
- 7 - Proposed draft of reply to H.E. Bonomi.

Patriot Branch *or* agree.

458

M.S. 11/5/44.

Ning

- 4 SEP Recd

S. J. P.

EWS/def

A/CC 324.5

8 August 1944

Subject: Statement Giving Recognition to Italian Patriots

To : Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy

1. The Prime Minister of the Italian Government, desiring to have the Patriots receive maximum support and avoid being treated as franc tireurs, has proposed that the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, issue a statement of which a draft copy is enclosed.

2. The statement has been coordinated with General Browning of my Army Sub-Commission who feels that on the whole the issuance of such a statement would be helpful, and I recommend that such a statement be issued.

3. General Browning adds, however, and I concur, that it will be also desirable to issue subsequently another statement, paying tribute to the regular Italian Army troops at the front. The last statement issued by you, praising the work of the Italian troops in the offensive which began in May, was very well received by the Italian press and it seems clear that another such statement would also be helpful to the morale of both the Army and the civilian population.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Encl.
Draft of statement.

(C O P Y)

66

The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in Italy has issued the following statement:

1. The Italian Patriots constitute a fighting army under the leadership of Officers and is a part of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Italy.
2. Italian patriots bear their arms openly against the Germans and have received precise instructions to conduct the war against the enemy according to the rules of warfare. They wear a badge which has been duly notified in accordance with international rules. General Alexander considers these troops as one of the forces at present under his command.
3. The status of regular fighting troops as an integral part of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in the war against Germany places them under the protection of International Conventions. Any reprisal that has been, or should henceforth be, exercised against the patriots organizations and the patriots themselves, would, therefore, represent a violation of the rules of warfare which are binding also on Germany. The Allied Chief Command will make every effort in order that the authors of any atrocity committed against troops acting under its orders shall be placed under trial and duly punished.

H. Q., Allied Armies in Italy

Inc 2

4 SEP Read

SECRET

Adv Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy.

16/1/5 (Ops)

25 Aug 44

Subject: Statement Giving Recognition to Italian Patriots.

To: A.G.C.

Reference your A/GC 321.5 dated 8 August.

1. The Commander-in-Chief has given careful consideration to the proposal put forward by the Prime Minister of the Italian Government, but he does not consider that the proposed statement is desirable or could be substantiated. The Patriots do not wear distinctive uniform according to the rules of warfare and do not all bear their arms openly. They cannot be said to have the status of regular fighting troops as an integral part of the Allied Armies in Italy or even of the Italian Regular Army.
2. The Commander-in-Chief greatly appreciates the actions of the Patriots in Northern Italy and the assistance that they are giving to his campaign. Public recognition of their activities in their desire to hasten the liberation of their country from the Nazi-Fascist yoke is given in the ITALIAN COMBATANT broadcasts which emanate from this Headquarters and which give them their instructions.
3. It has already been made clear to the enemy through AM broadcasts that any enemy who takes mass reprisals against the civil population as a result of Patriot activities will be dealt with as war criminals. A copy of the latest broadcast on this subject is attached for your information. This will continually be kept before the enemy through the agency of AM.

REMO/11

LIEUT. GENERAL,
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.

455

the rules of warfare and do not all bear their arms openly. They cannot be said to have the status of regular fighting troops as an integral part of the Allied Armies in Italy or even of the Italian Regular Army.

2. The Commander-in-Chief greatly appreciates the actions of the patriots in Northern Italy and the assistance that they are giving to his campaign. Public recognition of their activities in their desire to hasten the liberation of their country from the Nazi-Fascist yoke is given in the ITALIAN GOVERNMENT broadcasts which emanate from this Headquarters and which give them their instructions.

3. It has already been made clear to the enemy through RDS broadcasts that any enemy who takes mass reprisals against the civil population as a result of patriot activities will be dealt with as war criminals. A copy of the latest broadcast on this subject is attached for your information. This will continually be kept before the enemy through the agency of RDS.

ITEM/1:

W. D. D. D.

LIEUT. GENERAL,
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.

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*no
more*

Pub. 3

The following special announcement is made from General Alexander's H.Q:

"As the Germans have been driven northwards the records of atrocities committed by them were considerably increased.

"The records are made by a special branch of the Allied Armies, formed for the purpose of sifting and collecting facts and evidence upon which action will be taken by the Commission for the Investigation and Punishment of War Criminals.

"The list of names of German officers who have given orders and of German soldiers who have obeyed them in carrying out atrocities on Italian civilians is increasing.

"The German Armies in Italy are warned that crimes committed by individuals are being fully documented and justice will be done when the time comes. The following is an extract from the agreement made in Moscow between the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. and which was published on October 30 1943:

'At the time of granting any armistice to any Government which may be set up in Germany those German officers and men and members of the Nazi Party who have been responsible for or have taken a consulting part in atrocities, massacres and executions, will be sent back to the countries where their abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished according to the Laws of these Liberated countries and of Free Governments which will be erected therein.'

"Italian patriots in German Occupied Italy are requested to continue to note all details of atrocities and record units and whenever possible names of officers and men responsible, so that the information may be passed to the Allied troops as the advance continues".

Page 4

- 4 SEP Recd
Full

SUBJECT: Activities of Italian Army

Advance Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy.16/1/G(Ops)26 Aug 44.To: Allied Control Commission

Reference your A/CC 324.5 dated 8 Aug 44.

Attached is a summary of the Italian Army's activities in support of the Allied Armies in Italy. This was given to the Press in Rome on 25 Aug with a request that the World Press and the Italian Press in particular would make full use of it to bring before the public the valuable assistance being rendered by the Italian Army in all spheres of the Allied cause.

Illegible (for)

HEKM/JH.

Lieut General,
Chief of General Staff.

453

Ind-5
(C O P Y)
mzph

SUMMARY OF THE ITALIAN ARMY'S ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

The Italian Army, reorganized after the Armistice under Allied supervision, has assumed more and more responsibility and has rendered increasing assistance to the Allied cause.

Since its formation the troops of the Corps of Italian Liberation have been operating continuously in the Appennine sector of the front under both Fifth and Eighth Armies. CIL fighting alongside Polish troops of Eighth Army have recently taken part in the successful advance through the mountainous country where their pre-war training stood them in good stead from PESCARA to the present front line. The CIL by their fighting qualities and fortitude under the many difficulties they have encountered have earned high praise from Senior Allied Commanders.

Still less has been heard of the valuable assistance rendered by the large number of Italian Administrative troops. All these troops employed in the docks, depots and other supply installations in the rear areas have by their work contributed a great deal to the recent Allied victories. The hard work of these Italian units working for the Allied cause in the rear areas deserves high praise and should be appreciated by the Allied Armies in Italy and by the Italian people themselves. Other troops have been placed under command of Armies and are doing valuable work at railheads and dumps. Many Italian Engineer units are giving valuable assistance in maintaining the roads so vital to the supply of the forward troops. Special mention must also be given to the Italian Pack Mule Companies who have done magnificent work in all kinds of weather often under heavy enemy fire bringing supplies forward to the fighting troops over country impassable to the other forms of transport. Italian morale is rising because the Italian soldier is now conscious of the part he is playing in the liberation of his country.

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Page-6

1 292

4 SEP Recd

S4B

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

4A

From: Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Italian Government and Patriot
Activities.

FILE NoA/CC.324.5

28 Aug 1944

TO: Brigadier M. S. Lush

1. Reference attached letter from Adv. Hq. AAI, file 16/1/G(Ops),
25 Aug 44, subject as above.
2. Will you see to it that this has appropriate action, please.

Stone
Stone

1 Incl:
as in para 1 above.

Patriot Braid.

Action.

NS/28/8⁴⁵¹

HQ ACC. AP 304

824 Y Gen
Rec'd 26 Aug 44

Bj

Adv Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy.SECRETSubject: Italian Government and Patriot Activities.

16/1/G(Ops)

A.C.C.

25 Aug 44

1. From unofficial reports received at this Headquarters it is apparent that the Italian Government are endeavouring to control Patriot activities in enemy occupied Italy. The Commander-in-Chief wishes to make it quite clear that under existing circumstances this cannot be tolerated.
2. The Commander-in-Chief reserves the right exclusively to direct their operations as hitherto in order to further his campaign.
3. Amongst the Partisans in Italy there is no unified command which takes its orders direct from the Commander-in-Chief. Resistance Groups have been built up either around members of the Italian Army who found themselves in Northern Italy at the time of the Armistice or around active members of various political parties.
4. All Resistance Groups have the common desire to hasten the liberation of their country, and the Allies have provided arms, ammunition and equipment that has been available to enable the groups to play an active part.
5. The organisation set up in your Headquarters to deal with the difficult stage when Patriots pass into liberated Italy is believed to be working well.
6. It must be clearly understood that the Italian Government is granted powers and authority only in those parts of Italy which are turned over from time to time to their jurisdiction.
7. If the Italian Government wish to identify and concern themselves more fully with the Italian Patriots, it is suggested that they concentrate upon the difficult task of moulding the Patriots aspiration into good citizenship so that they may play an active part in the new Italy. It is suggested that this matter falls within the Province of the Minister of the Interior and not of the Minister for War unless the Patriots are absorbed into the Armed Forces.

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Atkinson

LIEUT.-GENERAL,
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.

HSM/1k

History of Italy

Sec. Gen.

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1293

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At Dundering

ESRM/lk

LIEUT.-GENERAL,
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS FRANCE

TO	COLIO	INFO.	ACTION.
	Attachment		
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY	Chk.	
	Major. MAGNUS		
	Major. DRAGE	Seen.	
	Capt. SALVADORI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		

REMARKS. B/F for Col McCarthy

18/8/44

1296

15 AUG 1944 SECRET

84

RS.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

Ex. Com. for 783
Patriots Branch A

EMS/dfe

3

A/CC 324.5

11 August 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Army Sub-Commission
Allied Control Commission

2 A

Reference is made to your letter of 10 August calling my attention
to para 3 of my letter A/CC 324.5 dated 8 August. Little change

1 AB

Thank you for calling this error to my attention. I am writing the
C-in-C, AAI at once requesting that the word "subsequently" be changed
to "simultaneously."

MILFORD W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: Political Section
Ex. Com. for Patriots Branch

ML

AP

34 773

Mr. A.C.C. Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-time 11 Aug 1944
Via 7 Regt
Initials PRK

429

SECRET

1297

SECRET

EWS/dfe

784
3^B

A/CC 324.5

11 August 1944

Subject: Statement Giving Recognition to Italian Patriots

To: Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy

AB.

1. Reference is made to my letter dated 8 August, A/CC 324.5, on the above subject. The second line of para 3 of my letter incorrectly reflects General Browning's views in that the word "subsequently" should read "simultaneously".

2. I should be grateful if this correction is made on my original letter.

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USMA
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: Army Sub-Commission
Political Section
Executive Commissioner for
Patriots Branch
Files A B

324 784

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 11 Aug 1515
VIA 174 9. magu.
THRU 15 BKR

608

SECRET

COPY.

SUBJECT Patriots - Status.

Army Sub Commission (MMIA)
H.Q., A.C.C.
R O M E .

G/19
5 Aug 44.

Captain Ellery W. STONE,
U.S.N.R.
Deputy Chief Commissioner,
A.C.C.

1. This proposed statement would certainly tend to raise the morale of the Patriots and give them a certain (doubtful) "cover" against being shot out of hand as franc-tireurs by the Germans. To this extent it would do good.
2. The danger in issuing it is that: -
 - (a) When we reach a patriot band in our advances, it might consider that it has a right to be kept on as a formed band. This is contrary to existing policy and disillusionment or an accusation of double-dealing against the Allies might ensue. This might be serious in areas where patriots are said to be numerous, such as MILAN.
 - (b) It gives another "puff" to the patriots and focusses Italian eyes on them rather than on the Regular Italian Army, which has been much more valuable. I think to the Allied war effort.
3. The matter is for decision by A.A.I. of course, but on the whole I think it is worth issuing the statement (excluding the words in brackets) BUT:
 - (a) I would like to see a "cry up" of the Regular Italian Army issued simultaneously.
 - (b) I think the Italian Govt should be informed that our policy as regards ceiling etc of the Regular Italian Army will NOT be changed as a result of the issue of the statement, even if we overrun all ITALY.

true copy, 2.c.

Sgd:

L. BROWNING.
Major General. 6-7
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

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two copy. 2. c.

Sgt:

L. BROWNING.
Major General. 1467
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

Handwritten signature

11 AUG Recd

SUBJ: Patriot - Statue.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Army Sub Commission, M.M.I.A.
H.C., A.C.C.

NOTE.

9/19

10 AUG 1944

To: Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

1. I have your A/CC 524.5 dated 8 August and I must draw attention to your para. 5.

2. In my G/19 dated 5 Aug I said that I recommended the issue of a statement paying tribute to the "regular Italian Army simultaneously." This appears in your para. 5 as "the regular Italian Army troops at the front subsequently." This is very different. The vast majority of the regular Italian Army is not at the front but doing work in rear areas which is exceedingly valuable. These troops should not be left out of the statement. Moreover, the issue of the Italian Army statement separately would have nothing like the same effect as an issue simultaneously.

3. Would you therefore please (the C.-in.-C. accordingly at once in order that he may know my actual views before he gives any decision in the matter.

trs.LB.

copy to: Political Section A.C.C.
Patriot Branch A.C.C.

Major General,
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

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Yrs. L.B.

R. Browning
Major General,
Army Staff Corps, A.C.C.

copy to: Political Section A.C.C.
Patriot Branch A.C.C.

4.6

10 AUG Recd

Executive Commissioner
for Patriots Branch
EWS/afe

A/CC 324.5.

15/8/55

8 August 1944

Subject: Statement Giving Recognition to Italian Patriots

To: Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy

1. The Prime Minister of the Italian Government, desiring to have the Patriots receive maximum support and avoid being treated as franc tireurs, has proposed that the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, issue a statement of which a draft copy is enclosed.

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3. General Browning adds, however, and I concur, that it will be also desirable to issue subsequently another statement, paying tribute to the regular Italian Army troops at the front. The last statement issued by you, praising the work of the Italian troops in the offensive which began in May, was very well received by the Italian press and it seems clear that another such statement would also be helpful to the morale of both the Army and the civilian population.

ELDERY W. STONE
Captain, USMR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Encl.
Draft of statement

cc: Army S/C
Pol. Sec.
Ex. Com. for Patriots' Branch

hew
415

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 9 Aug 1400
Via 144 9 mag
OKR

The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in Italy has issued the following statement:

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H.Q., Allied Armies in Italy

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