

ACC 10000/125/405

136/PAT.

ITALIAN PATRIOTS IN SOUTH OF FRA

DEC. 1944 - JAN. 1945

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DEC. 1944 - JAN. 1945

Closed: Oct. 20, 1945

FILE
136/PAT
PAT/PAT

MINUTE SHEET No. 13-1

DATE

PAGE

12 Dec. 44

(1)

Col. PAVA:

CONFIDENTIAL

The Finance Sub Commission have asked me to ask you to approach the Italian War Office in regard to the question of Italian Patriots at present in the South of France.

I understand they desire to send a mission to investigate ways and means of bringing them home. Col. JORDANA is to head this mission, and I understand that the War Office want 500,000 French francs made available for the use of the mission.

If you can find out something definite about this proposal from the War Office, the Finance Sub Commission would be grateful.

P. W. Raymond
Raymond

15 Dec 44

(2)

Ex.

I was informed by the War Ministry that the Italian mission that should go to France must pass into Germany following immediately to the occupation of the latter, to collaborate in the repatriation of Italian internees.

It appears though that France is not willing to grant the permit of stay on her national territory to the above Italian Mission.

Consequently the Officers members of the mission should be trained and prepared in Italy, and the request of 500,000 French francs would no longer be necessary.

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P.D. Taggart

Major

15 Dec 44

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Capt. Silby of MMIA, whom I interviewed told me that the matter is not definitely settled and also MMIA is still expecting instructions from General Headquarters.

Officer
C.D.

/mf5.

3376

604

16 JAN Recd 136

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: SD 2099
Date/Time of Origin: JAN 161140

Message Centre No: C/8143
Date Time Rec'd: JAN 161430
Precedence: IMPORTANT

FROM: MMIA
TO: AFHQ INFO ALCOM, IAI LO

SECRET**INFO - ACTION****INFO - ACTION****SECRET.**

Ref your FK 83236 cite FHQCT of 11 January. Agree that IAI and SP team capable of screening Italian Patriots in South FRANCE. Nominal roll and particulars of team will be forwarded to you soonest

INFO - ACTIONDIST

INFO-ACTION PATRIOTS BR
INFO A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
Ccs
POLITICAL SEC
FILE (2)
FLOAT



3375

SECRET

6 JAN 1946

Patriots

CONFIDENTIAL

7117

SUBJECT: Italian Army Screening Agency
for S. France

Land Forces Sub Com. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

TS/G/19

3 Jan 46

TO : A.F.H.Q.

Copy to: H.Q. A.C.

1. The Italian Authorities are concerned about the position of Italian Patriots from Piedmont who have taken refuge in S. France, and it is felt that amongst the large numbers at present held in French territory there are those desirous of joining the Italian Army.

2. No objection would be raised by H.Q. A.C. to the return of such volunteers to Italy provided that all patriots volunteering for service in the Italian Army were screened by an Italian Army Screening Agency.

3. It is recommended that a small screening Agency of about six Italian Officers be sent by the Ministry of War to S. France to screen Italian Patriots volunteers for the Army. These volunteers would be enlisted into the present Italian Army on arrival in Italy.

4. Will you please state if you agree to this proposal.

Copy to: Patriots Branch A.C.
Political Section A.C.

Major General
M.M.I.A.

3374

COPY

656/2/44

No. 126

TOP SECRETBRITISH AMBASSY,
PARIS.

1st December 1944.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that according to reports reaching His Majesty's Government the situation of the patriots in North Italy is becoming increasingly difficult. Owing to the action of the German forces in the Alpine valleys many parties of Italian patriots are being driven across the French frontier. It is desirable, for operational reasons, to maintain these parties near the frontier, and to arm and equip them in order that with the spring they may return to Italy and renew their activities against the Germans. Some assistance has been received from units of the French Forces of the Interior, but in general the policy of the French officials in the area appears to be to arrest these parties of Italians and to despatch them to the interior of France for internment.

2. As Your Excellency may be aware, the British Military authorities concerned have, with the agreement of Headquarters, 6th Army Group, set up an advance headquarters on the French side of the Italian frontier for the purpose of aiding and controlling Italian resistance. Attempts are being made in this way to provide food, clothing and equipment for the Italian patriots, and to succour those who are temporarily forced out of their valleys across the frontier. The Germans do not usually stay in the valleys once they have cleared them, and if the patriots could therefore be maintained and equipped, it might be possible after only a short delay to send them back into their strongholds. It is during this short, temporary stay in France that the support and help of the French authorities is particularly required.

3. I have the honour, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to request Your Excellency to bring the above considerations to the urgent attention of the French authorities concerned, and to press them to instruct the local French authorities to cooperate with the British Headquarters referred to above, in order that the operations of the latter may be carried out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,

Monsieur le Ministre,
Your Excellency's most obedient, humble Servant.

3373

His Excellency
Monsieur Georges Billault,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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Your Excellency's most obedient, humble Servant.

3373

His Excellency
Monsieur Georges Bidault,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Transmitted by His Majesty's Ambassador at PARIS to His Majesty's Ambassador at ROME, and forwarded by latter to Political Section A.C.

16 Dec. 44.

Original letter seen by Col. Spicer 21 Dec 44.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

Att. 37.

Ref: 49/63/PAT

20 December 1944.

Subject: Italian Patriots Escaped Into France.

To: Political Section.

4

In reply to your memorandum dated 16 December with enclosure.

This Branch is in agreement with the enclosed note from the
Land Forces Sub Commission.

R.G.B. SPICER,
Colonel,
Director,
Patriots Branch.

RGRB/ojl.

Encls. 51A.

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(173)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

Ext. 374

Ref: 49/53/PAT.

16 December 1944.

Subject: Italian Patriots in France.

To: Finance Sub Commission
for attention of Col. GRAFFIETTI.

Col. FAVA, senior Italian Liaison officer to the Patriots Branch, was asked at the Italian Ministry of War about the Italian Mission which the Italian Government hope to send to France to investigate ways and means of bringing patriots back to Italy. Col. FAVA was given to understand that the Mission will be required later to proceed to Germany to supervise the repatriation of Italian labour from Germany. He was given to understand that the French Government is unfavourable to this proposition at the present time, and that the matter was under discussion on a high level.

This afternoon Patriots Branch received a Minute from the Political Section asking for our comments on ^{by Col. FAVA} ~~the~~ ^{despatch} a small screening agency of approximately 5 Italian military personnel to Southern France. It would be the duty of this mission to select patriots who desire to join the Italian Army for repatriation to Italy. The American Legation in GENOA has reported that there are now, especially in the vicinity of AIX LES BAINS, many Italian patriots including some wounded who have escaped from Piedmont.

I hope that this gives you the information which you require. I cannot send you the file, as I must reply to Mr. HORTON's Minute.

P.O. 3371
R.G.B. SPIDER,
Colonel,
Director,
Patriots Branch.

WJS/ejl.

154

m a c.
1 DEC Recd

136

ALLIED ~~CONTROL~~ COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUMSUBJECT: Italian Patriots Escaped into
France.

FILE No.

TO : Patriots Branch

16 December 1944:94

Please see attached telegram from Italian Legation in Bern, including
comments of Land Forces Sub-Commission.

Mr. Hopkinson would appreciate your comments on this matter.

JM Decker
Political Section
2270

Encl

L American 21
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COPY

Political Sec. A.C.

from M.M.I.A.

Ref. att.

Would recommend that we send to South of France a small screening agency of approx. 5 Italian Military personnel to screen (or select) patriots who desire to join our presently constituted Italian Army. Recommend that those selected as suitable be shipped to Italy. No man actually to become a member of Italian Army until documented in this country.

(sgd.) E.M. INGLETON.

for C.O.C. M.M.I.A.

14 Dec. 44.

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COPY

PARAPHRASE of telegram No.242, December 10, 1944, from the American Legation, BERNE, addressed to AMDEL ROME.

No.651 dated December 6 for Italian Foreign Ministry from Magistrati.

News comes from Southern France that many Italian patriots, some wounded included, are there now and especially in vicinity of Enxer Aix Les Bains. They escaped from Piedmont and took refuge there. The nephew of the former Premier, Antonio Giolitti, Commander of the Piedmont patriot division of Piedmont, is with them. He reports that the French military authorities, though having scarcely means for this purpose, are providing food and shelter. Therefore, patriots suggest that the Royal Government examine the possibilities of the creation of an Italian unit for Western Alps, or for their repatriation through Marseilles and Naples.

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