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Nov. - Dec. 1940

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War Material Disposal - Release of War Material
Nov. Dec. 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1944

Ref/ABC/ME/S

The monthly report of this Sub-Commission is divided into two parts:

- Part I - War Materials Disposal.
- Part II - Italian Prisoners of War.

Part I - War Materials Disposal.

1. The channel and Sub-Commission through which all American and British Army Salvage will pass is at the close of 1944 under consideration and a decision early in the New Year has been promised. A number of questions depending on this decision have of necessity been left in abeyance but the actual work on the recovery of material and vehicles has gone ahead without interruption.

2. During the month a number of vehicles were recovered into Rome and 54 vehicles were impounded. Of the 54 vehicles impounded 12 were returned to the Italian War Ministry and 42 were handed over to the IV. Transportation Division. Work on the repair and rehabilitation of these vehicles is in hand and the majority will be back on the road at an early date working in the Rome transport pools and for the War Ministry.

3. Work on the clearing of railroad wagons continued and 9 wagon loads of heavy scrap were disposed of - 6 loaded wagons were detached to firms - and 3 wagon loads of Italian machine-gun parts were collected by the Directorate of Artillery of the Italian War Ministry. The clearance of these wagons has resulted in 50 wagons being made available to movements.

4. The method of procedure for the accounting of surplus property sold was agreed to with the Finance Sub-Commission and the necessary instructions were issued by them.

5. The use of types of German manufacture by vehicles operating in the Rome transport pools came up for consideration. It was agreed that vehicles would no longer be put off the road by confiscating the types but that a report be made to this office and all users of German types be instructed to obtain a permit for the use of such types from this Sub-Commission.

6. As 1944 draws its last hours, unofficial notice was received that the War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission should remain an independent Sub-Commission and as such we advance into 1945.

questions depending on this decision have to be made. It is not possible to make a decision on this question without further investigation.

5. During the month a number of vehicles were recovered into Rome and 54 vehicles were inspected. Of the vehicles inspected 12 were returned to the Italian War Ministry and 42 were handed over to the IV, Transportation Division. Most of the returned vehicles were of the type which are in the hands of the IV, Transportation Division. These vehicles are in the hands of the IV, Transportation Division and are being used for transport purposes and for the IV, Transportation Division.

3. Work on the clearing of railroads was continued and 12 wagons loaded of rough scrap were disposed of - 3 loaded wagons were dispatched to firms - and 5 wagons loaded of Italian machine-gun parts were collected on the Directorate of artillery of the Italian War Ministry. The clearance of these wagons has resulted in 20 wagons being made available for movements.

4. The method of procedure for the accounting of enemy property sold was agreed to with the Finance Sub-Commission and the necessary instructions were issued by them.

5. The use of types of German manufacture by vehicles operating in the Rome-transport pools came up for consideration. It was agreed that vehicles would no longer be put off the road by conflicting the types but that a report be made to this office and all users of German types be instructed to obtain a permit for the use of such types from this Sub-Commission.

6. As 1244 is its last year, unofficial notice was received that the War Material Disposal Sub-Commission should retain an independent Sub-Commission and as such be advanced into 1945.

28.6

II. ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION.

1. This Division of the Sub-Commission continued during December along the lines of established policy.

(a) The repatriation of Italian POW:

- (1) 100 officers, 200 NCOs from Southern France.
- (2) 100 officers, 200 NCOs from Southern France.
- (3) 100 officers, 200 NCOs from Southern France.
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- (100) 100 officers, 200 NCOs from Southern France.

(b) Clearing for payment of final credit balances of repatriated Prisoners of War totalling 4,400,000 lire.

(c) Clearing for payment allotments made by Italian Prisoners of War held in British hands totalling 20,000,000 lire.

(d) Dealing with welfare, policy and other problems which of necessity must have the consideration of this office.

(e) Planning for future repatriation of large numbers of Italian Prisoners of War in such a way as to assist the Armed Forces, economic, and political situation in the country.

2. The repatriation of 381 Specialists was initiated. These men are required for specific appointments in the Italian Government and for work on the reconstruction of Italy and were requested by:

REQUESTED BY:	NUMBER
Agriculture Sub-Commission	18
ARMQ, G-5	15
Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.	173
Navy Sub-Commission	11
Miscellaneous requests	67
Total	381

3. The policy of transferring as much responsibility as possible to the Italian Government Departments on questions of Prisoners of War continued. Daily contact with the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and the Autonomous Office for War Veteran Soldiers and Repatriated Prisoners of War continued. Thanks to the cooperation re-

(b) Clearing for payment of final credit balances of repatriated prisoners of war to allow 1,400,000 lire.

(c) Clearing for payment of amounts due by Italian prisoners of war held in British hands totaling 20,000,000 lire.

(d) Dealing with welfare, policy and other problems which of necessity must have the consideration of this office.

(e) Planning for future repatriation of large numbers of Italian prisoners of war in such a way as to assist the armed forces, economic, and political situation in the country.

2. The repatriation of 221 specialists was being asked. These men were required for specific appointments in the Italian Government and for work on the reconstruction of Italy and were requested by:

REQUESTED BY:	NUMBER
Agriculture Sub-Commission	10
ENRO, 1-3	12
Italian High Commissioners	173
for Prisoners of War.	11
Italy Sub-Commission	67
Miscellaneous requests	
Total	273

3. The policy of transferring as much responsibility as possible to the Italian Government Department on questions of prisoners of war continued. Daily contact with the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and the Autonomous Office for War Veterans Soldiers and Regrouped Prisoners of War continued. The Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War and Gen. del Gallo, the Italian High Commissioner for War Veterans Soldiers and Regrouped Prisoners of War had been gathered in this direction.

During November and December a total of some 21,000 Italian prisoners of war and soldiers returning from France and the Balkans were received, cured for and dispatched to their homes, under Italian Government auspices assisted by the Land Forces Sub-Commission. This represents a step forward in the handling of repatriated soldiers and Italian Government for the handling of their repatriated soldiers and Prisoners of War.

4. Many religious problems were handled during December. Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa continue to receive 6,000 copies daily of "Psychological Warfare Branch, North Africa Mail". With the assistance of the Italian Red Cross, parcels of suitable books are being obtained and distributed to Prisoners of War and the usual flood of welfare enquiries from families and relatives, both in the form of letters and personal calls at the offices of the Sub-Commission continued during December.

5. The question of the status of Italian Prisoners of War (especially in Italy) was from time to time during the month brought forward by the Italian War Commission. This difficult problem is under consideration and a satisfactory solution regarding those in Italy is looked for in the near future.

6. The Sub-Commission is preparing a plan for the future repatriation of some 300,000 Prisoners of War held by the Allies. The subject of Commissions of their Headquarters and many important Italian Government officials have been interviewed to gain their views on this matter. The plan will provide for the rapid repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War at the cessation of hostilities in such a manner as to best assist the economic situation in Italy. Italy today, with a weak Government and an already badly impoverished economic system is not in a position to receive thousands of Prisoners of War in a mass repatriation without careful planning. A scheme to provide for the repatriation of all Italian Prisoners of War and internmentees in Germany is at present being studied by the Sub-Commission.

3. The Sub-Commission is preparing a plan for the future repatriation of some 500,000 prisoners of war held by the Allies. The chief difficulties of this task are the many important Italian Government officials have been interviewed to gain their views on this matter. The plan will provide for the rapid repatriation of Italian prisoners of war at the cessation of hostilities in such a manner as to best assist the economic situation in Italy. Italy today, with a weak Government and an already badly disorganized economic system is not in a position to receive thousands of prisoners of war in a mass repatriation without capital planning. A scheme to provide for the repatriation of all Italian prisoners of war and internees in Germany is at present being studied by this Sub-Commission.

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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

ALLIED

WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIA PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1944

Ref/ACC/WMD/3

The monthly report of this Sub-Commission is divided into two parts:

- Part I - War Materials Disposal,
Part II - Italian Prisoners of War.

Part I - War Materials Disposal.

1. The question of the disposal of Allied Commission through which the disposal of all salvage material - collected and offered to the Commission should be disposed of has been the subject of discussion with the Technical Section, the Deputy Chiefs of Staff, and this Sub-Commission.
2. The present position I have made 70 or desired, and it is the opinion of this Sub-Commission that all war material for disposal should come through the channel, i.e., the War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission. A committee should be set up in the Allied Commission to decide priorities and requirements, and to advise as to disposal; should the Italian Government not be able to handle such material it is offered to them, after priorities have been established - it will be necessary to clear dumps by collecting such material in the open market.
3. During November, seventy MT dumper vehicles were recovered, brought to Rome and inspected. Eleven of these vehicles were made available to the Italian Ministry of War and nine were found suitable for repair by private individuals and firms, and were ready for the road will work under the direction of Section 2, Transportation Division.
4. An inspection of all 2000 trucks in the Rome area was carried out and a number of railroad trucks were found loaded with salvages etc. Some of these trucks contained machinery and spare parts were dispatched to factories in accordance with requirements made with the Inventory Sub-Commission - the 2000 trucks of the remainder of the trucks were disposed of on the public market. In this manner some 70 wagons were made available for movement.
5. The Sub-Commission were able to arrange for the return of approximately 1000 German cars to the Technical Section of WMD.
6. A request to produce certain German uniforms and equipment etc. was received through Special Forces, and with the assistance of the Italian Ministry of War the Sub-Commission were able to meet the request.
7. The War Materials Disposal Division during the month of November discussed further with the Italian War Ministry the plans in connection with the formation of the...

1. The question of the agency in Allied Germany is a long one, and it is the disposal of all salvage material - collected and offered to the Government should be disposed of as far as the question of disposal is concerned. The Economic Section, the Industry Section or State, and this Sub-Commission.
2. The present situation is that there is no disposal, and it is the division of the Sub-Commission that all war material for disposal should come through the Economic Section. The War Material Sub-Commission, a proposed agency, is set up in the Allied Commission to decide on the disposal of war material, and to advise as to disposal. As the Italian Government has not yet decided on the disposal of war material, they are not yet in a position to dispose of it. It will be necessary to check the disposal of war material in the open market.
3. The Italian Government has decided that war material should be disposed of through the Italian Ministry of War and Navy. The disposal of war material by private industry, public and private, and when ready for disposal will be under the direction of the Italian Ministry of War and Navy.
4. An inspection of all goods found in the Sub-Commission was carried out and a number of vehicles found to be loaded with salvage material. Some of these vehicles contained machinery and spare parts were dispatched to factories in Germany. The Italian Government has decided to dispose of the remainder of the vehicles in the open market. In this regard some 60 vehicles were made available for disposal.
5. The Sub-Commission was able to arrange for the return of approximately 1000 vehicles to the Economic Section of the Sub-Commission.
6. A request to produce certain German uniforms and equipment etc. was received through the Italian Ministry of War and Navy. The Italian Ministry of War and Navy has decided to produce these items. The question of disposal of salvage and war material is decided.

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Part II - Italian Prisoners of War.

1. The activities of the Italian Prisoners of War Division of the Sub-Commission were divided as follows:
 - (a) Formation of policy with Allied Force Headquarters and Italian authorities regarding the status of Italian Prisoners of War, Finance, Payment of allowances made by co-operatives, and Prisoners of War Welfare.

for over 6 months.

6. The repatriation of Italian prisoners of war during 1945, during the month, including six, and was added from India, Egypt, East and North Africa, and a small number of Naval officers from British States of America. The necessary Italian in connection with the reception of these prisoners of war in Italy, and a small number for the reception of a further 2400 in December were carried out successfully.

7. The number of Italian prisoners of war who repatriation was requested during November, 1945, and were still on the following: 3076 (included 3000 men for Sardinia) from the

different Sub-Commissions in the Allied Commission -

415 from Italian Government Department -

31 from the Italian High Commissioner for Release of War and P from Allied Force Headquarters.

8. The planning with regard to the repatriation of all Italian prisoners of war to Italy has been studied. A member of the Staff of the Italian prisoners of War Division has discussed with heads of Sub-Commissions, members of Italian Government and representatives of the various, the many points arising from the most serious problem. The study is progressing, and it is hoped that the plan will be sufficiently far advanced within the next few to three weeks to enable to begin.

9. The number of staff to the Sub-Commission has undoubtedly helped considerably in the carrying out of the Sub-Commission's duties. However, it has been found that the Sub-Commission may be abolished, or split, therefore the month closes with the award of Distinguished Service Order, heads. Whether it be a full or amputation, but the award will be given and surely, but should it be a full, then may the award be removed finally and forever.

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