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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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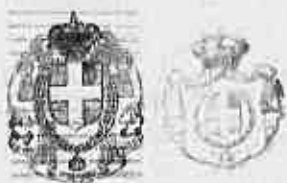
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FRENCH TROOPS - ITALY
July - Oct. 1944



6/48, 348

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

Reference is made to Memorandum n. 6/172/87 of August 7th and to previous correspondence regarding the atrocities committed by French Colonial Troops in Italy. Herewith enclosed is a detailed list on the matter supplied by the Reali Carabinieri and by the Sanitary personnel.

In this connection the Ministry for Foreign Affairs inform that two letters on the matter have been sent to Ambassadors Kirk and Charles on September 19th, 1944. *[Signature]*

Rome, 18th October, 1944.

Encl.



To Dumbay - 02483
[Signature]

SECRET

26 August 1944

A/CC CL4.13

Subject: French Territorial Command in Italy

To: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

1. Below are my comments requested in your G-5: 091.711-6 (France) of 20th August 1944.

2. I cannot, of course, comment on the military reasons put forward for the establishment of a French Territorial Command in Italy, vide II(1) and (2).

3. The maintenance of the prestige of French arms in Italy is a natural desire on the part of the Provisional Government. I can only say that, apart from their acknowledged powers in combat, the French troops recently in this theatre did little to enhance the prestige of their country. Their conduct towards the civil population had already been represented to you and it suffices to say that it brought dishonor on the French and Allied Armies.

4. I cannot believe that it is necessary to provide an armed force to safeguard French interests in Italy. This can be done by the accredited representative on the Advisory Council and to the Allied Control Commission, and any consular representatives which may be provided.

5. The provision of a garrison command, with an honor guard and communication troops in Rome, would appear both unnecessary and contrary to the policy of AAI and AFHQ to reduce the number of Allied troops in Rome to a minimum consistent with security. A small French detachment attached to Rome Area Command would appear to be sufficient to deal with French troops transient through Rome.

6. I cannot comment on the necessity of a communications element in Siena.

7. I would urge in the strongest possible terms that whatever may be decided, the French force should not be composed of French Colonial troops. As has been proved, their presence must lead to disorder and the discredit of the Allied Armies.

Hq. ACC Sec'y Gen.

DISPATCHED

27 Aug 1944

H. S.

JRR

cc: Executive Commissioner
Political SectionELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USMR

Acting Chief Commissioner

2493

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MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
XXVIA ROMA 100 - 00187 ROMA

N° 6/173/87

File

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

POLITICAL SECTION

Further to the Note Verbale n. 5634, dated 8th ult., concerning the behaviour of French Moroccan troops in Italy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs take leave to draw the attention of the Allied Control Commission (Political Section) on the following.

Notwithstanding the representations already made, also by the Italian Supreme Command, with letter n. IO3809, dated 25th June, addressed by Marshal Messe to the A.C.C., the behaviour of Moroccan troops towards the Italian population has not changed. In fact, during the last few days fresh cases of thefts, rape, plunder and shooting have been recorded, as shown in the enclosed list.

Encl.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs feels sure that the Allied and French Commands will appreciate their necessity of reporting once again these acts of violence and of asking that suitable measures be taken in order to avoid the continuance of this state of affairs which, inter alia, cannot but have a serious effect on the Italian population.

ROME, Agost 7th, 1944

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Additional acts of violence committed by French Moroccan troops during May and June last, in the provinces of Frosinone, Littoria and Rome:

Rape.....	22
Murders.....	16
Thefts.....	18 (with arms)

The following cases have been reported since the end of June last in the regions of liberated Tuscany, and particularly in the zones of Leghorn, Siena, Colle Val d'Elsa and Poggibonsi:

Rape.....	54
Murders.....	4
Thefts.....	15 (with arms)

There were two cases of offences against nature; the others were cases of rape on women ranging from 12 to 74 years of age.

Thefts have generally been in respect of money and valuables; in some cases of cattle.

As soon as all the relevant material will be collected, a more complete report on the atrocities committed by Moroccan troops in Tuscany will be forwarded to the Allied Control Commission. *EdH*

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Political Section

RMS/ajp

A/CG 024.13

20 July 1944

SUBJECT: Moroccan Soldiers

23 JUL 1944

TO : Marshal Messe, Chief of the Italian General Staff

1. Reference is made to your letter No. 103605/AV of 15 June and to my A/CG 024.13 of 30 June.
2. This Headquarters has now received the following communication from General Alexander's Headquarters:

"Investigation into this question has already been made by CG FIFTH ARMY and the French Expeditionary Corps.

"Records are not available to support the number of cases alleged, but this is only to be expected, since reports on many of these offenses might not reach the military authorities. From such reports as have been received at this HQ it is clear that there have been a number of cases of bad behaviour by French Colonial troops in the area specified, in spite of drastic measures taken to prevent them.

"The Commander-in-Chief is satisfied that in all cases where the offender was caught and evidence available to convict him, General Juin has taken drastic action, and on several occasions he has enforced the death penalty.

"The Commander-in-Chief has recently addressed a special personal letter to General de Lamoignon, requesting him to take special measures to ensure proper behaviour among the troops now located on the lines of communication. The Commander-in-Chief now hopes that the vigorous action which has been taken will prevent a recurrence of these outrages, which he deplures, as do all the responsible French Authorities."

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EMERY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief Commissioner

o.c. Political Section (3) ✓

Brig. Lush

0839

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

Roma, li

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Caro Caccia,

mi viene segnalato che a Palombara Sabina, località situata fra le provincie di Roma e di Rieti, si é diffusa la notizia che reparti marocchini dovrebbero essere colà inviati a riposare, e che la notizia stessa ha destato vivissimo allarme fra quella popolazione che penserebbe già di allontanarsi per evitare violenze.

Se la notizia fosse esatta, la riputazione guadagnatasi da quelle truppe cogli innumerevoli eccessi perpetrati in ogni parte d'Italia giustificherebbe purtroppo l'allarme che essa ha provocato.

Le sarò grato se Ella vorrà cortesemente interessarsi al riguardo, accertando il fondamento della notizia stessa ed esaminando e-

Signor Harold A. Caccia Esq.
Vice Presidente della Commissione Alleata
Sezione Politica

R o m a

Moroccan Troops
The English Kandakion - Altho' it has been given to Brigadier who is forwarding to GS for at the "What's up?" - meanwhile I have 1600 tonnes no one making inquiries HPC 8/10.

2494

ventualmente la possibilità di chiedere che delle truppe, di cui voglio sperare sia in corso la definitiva partenza dall'Italia, vengano almeno ritirate in altra regione, meno popolata e meno vicina a Roma. Proprio in questi giorni ho fatto pervenire alla Commissione Alleata la dolorosa documentazione delle atrocità commesse da tali truppe.

Mi creda, caro Caccia,

Molto cordiale

R. Fucini

Paraphrase of Telegram Received
from Bern, Switzerland.

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22 Sept 1945

OKR.

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Reference telegram No. 79, dated September 19.

The Italian Minister, after giving me substance of information contained in above-mentioned telegram, spoke of the unfavorable reaction in Northern Italy, and urged that American officers should command French troops. He stated that an unfortunate impression had been created on the Italian resistance movement by the press reports of the possible acquisition of the Island of Elba and of Aosta. The foregoing may be worth your attention, although I have been unable to confirm his statements.

HARRISON

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des

