

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

785016

ACC

10000/132/438

10000 / 132 / 438

820.21

Royal Italian Army

JAN. 1944 - JAN. 1945

C O P Y

ADDRESS TO COMBAT REINFORCEMENTS AT ESANO
BY
Major General L. BROWNING, G.O.C., M.M.I.A.
on 20 Feb 1945

1. As G.O.C. of the Allied Military Mission to the Italian Army, I am glad to have this opportunity to come and see you and talk to you.

You all are destined to go soon to the new Italian Combat Groups which we have formed to help us liberate ITALY and defeat our common enemy. You have an honourable task and I am sure you will fulfill it worthily.

I am glad to see so many Patriots here and I want to congratulate them on the good work they have done for their country and the Allied Cause.

2. A word as regards these Combat Groups.

As you know, they are clothed in British battledress and armed with British equipment -- just the same as the other nations fighting with us, such as the Poles, the Czechs, the Greeks, etc. So you are joining a "family of nations" in this theatre.

This Centre CESANO is the place where reinforcements for Combat are collected and trained before being sent to join Combat Groups.

We have only recently started this Centre and we therefore have not got it fully organized yet. But I know that you realize that we are doing all we can and that, as soldiers, you are prepared to put up with minor discomforts so as to be able to get at our common enemy at the earliest moment. It is my responsibility (under the orders of Field Marshal ALEXANDER) to organize this Centre, to provide rations, to provide British battledress and boots, etc. Owing to transport difficulties and the large number of you people who have come all at once to this centre, we have not been able to put you all straight into British battledress. But it is all on the way and my staff are doing all they can. This battledress comes, of course, from British sources and is handled by us until issued to you.

I may tell you that your Italian Staff are as disappointed as we are that we have not been able to produce all the battledress we want up to now. But you will get it.

3. I want to make two more points. The first is that in the Allied Armies, the Army is above politics. Anyone is entitled to hold any political view he likes, but as soldiers we obey without question the orders of our Ministry of War. The same must be so for any army and it is the principle we work on for the Italian Army. Your Minister of War has also expressed the same view and orders in a circular to the Italian Army. I take no part in politics. I regard every Italian in the Italian Army merely as a soldier.

When you come into the Italian Army (as you are doing now) you must therefore be bound by the rules and regulations of your Ministry of War. As ^{disciplined} soldiers, I am sure you realize that this must be so. The Italian Army has been put operationally at the disposal of Field Marshal ALEXANDER by your Government and so that operationally all orders you get, really emanate, from Field Marshal ALEXANDER.

4. The second point I want to make is this. The British are providing you with arms to fight our common enemy. With the enormous, world wide demand for arms, it is

not easy for us to keep the supply going. We want all the arms that are available. So, if any of you have any British arms (in fact any arms) that you brought here, it is your duty to hand them in at once.

It is of course contrary to your own military law for soldiers (which you are now) to possess any private arms.

I can assure you that the British are providing enough British arms for you to kill all the Germans you want to when you go to the front!

I have told Lt Col MACKAY (my representative here) to collect all private arms from you, so you must hand them in to the place he directs.

5. I want you to realize that I am not speaking only as a Britisher. What I have said are the wishes and orders of your Government also.

My friend here, Signor MARIO PALERMO, Under-Secretary of War, standing here beside me, is proof of this. I am going to ask him to say a few words to you, endorsing my remarks when I have finished.

6. That is all I have to say. Once again my congratulations to you on the spirit in which you have come forward to fight for your country, to liberate it from our common enemy and to end the war as soon as possible.

The dark night is ending and the dawn of a new and brighter world is approaching. You will be doing your part in hastening that dawn.

My best wishes and all good fortune to you all when you go to the front soon ----- and I hope you will kill a lot of Germans!

/s/ L. Browning
Major General
M. M. I. A.

Tel. 478204

23 January 1945

Ref. 6504/1/COS.

SUBJECT: New Liberation Army.

TO : SCAG 5 Army.

1. Reference is made to the first paragraph on page 3 of your Monthly Report for December. This paragraph reads as follows:

"The Communist proposal to form a new Liberation Army has been welcomed enthusiastically by left wing politicians; but it is early yet to predict how many volunteers will join up for combat service."

2. No previous reference to this subject can be traced and it would be appreciated, therefore, if you would send some further details of the Liberation Army referred to.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Copy to:

Political Section
Civil Affairs Section.
811/COS

2573

P2021

EWS/ajp

A/CC 000.7

23 August 1944

Dear Dr. Visconti Venosta:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter N. 1/201 of August 10, 1944, regarding the publishing of a statement anent an increase in number of, and the furnishing of war equipment to, the Italian Corps of Liberation.

The issue of such a statement is inopportune at this juncture. Permission has not yet been granted and may not be. Therefore, it would be worse to raise morale and then lower it, than to leave things as they are pro tem. As soon as the matter is settled we will let you know. Then, if favourable, a statement such as you propose would be suitable but reference to the size of the increase ("il Corpo Italiano ne risultava raddoppiato in numero e potenza di mezzi") must not be mentioned. Instead, the words "considerably increased" may be used.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Marchese Giovanni Visconti Venosta,
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Rome.

Hq. A.C.C. Sec'y	2372
DISPATCHED	
Date	1130 24/8
Via	
Initials	

c.c. Political Section

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

EWS/hjp

From: Acting Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Letter from Undersecretary of Foreign
Affairs proposing statement re Italian
Corps of Liberation

FILE No. _____

11 August 1944

TO: 2. Political Section (In turn)
1. Army Sub-Commission

May I have your views please with return of attached?

WWS
WILEY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Incl:
Ltr, Undersec of State for Foreign
Affairs, N. 1/201, 10 August 1944

2571

ROUGH TRANSLATION

N. I/201

Rome, August 10th, 1944

Dear Admiral,

As I mentioned to you some time ago, the Italian Government consider it necessary to give publicity to the news, already explicitly mentioned by Prime Minister Churchill in his last speech and by President Bonomi in his statement on foreign policy, concerning the greater efficiency, in number and equipment, to be given to the Italian Corps of Liberation.

I would perhaps be sufficient to issue a short statement, more or less on the following lines :

" Measures and provisions are in course to give greater efficiency, in number and equipment, with the cordial aid of the United Nations, to the Italian Corps of Liberation. These measures and provisions are being carried out as speedily as possible, so that in a very short time the Italian Corps will be doubled in number and war equipment. It will thus represent, on the battlefields and in the most adequate manner, the will and fighting spirit of the Nation. To this work of reorganization of the Italian Corps of Liberation have contributed, and still continue to contribute, in a spirit of true comradeship, the Italian Commands and the Allied High Commands " .

I shall be glad, dear Admiral, if you will kindly submit the above draft statement to the competent Allied Authorities emphasizing the advisability of its publication.

With my kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

sgd. VISCONTI VENOSTA. 2570

Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.
Acting Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

R O M E.

=====

"The issue of such a statement is inopportune at this juncture. Permission has not yet been granted & may not be. Therefore, it would be worse to raise morale & then lower it, than to leave things as they are for now. As soon as the matter is settled we will let you know. Then, if favourable, a statement such as you propose would be suitable BUT reference to the size of the increase (~~sect~~) must not be mentioned. Instead, the words "considerably increased" may be used - or words to that effect!

L. Browning
Maj. Gen

19 Aug

2563

*("il Corpo Italiano ne risulterà raddoppiato in numero e potenza di mezzi.")

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION

31 August 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Chief Commissioner, HQ A.C.C.

SUBJECT: Italian Corps of Liberation.

The Political Section agrees with the view of General Browning who suggests the following reply to Visconti Venosta:

"This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter N. 1/261 of August 10, 1944, regarding the publishing of a statement about an increase in number of, and the furnishing of war equipment to, the Italian Corps of Liberation.

"The issue of such a statement is inopportune at this juncture. Permission has not yet been granted and may not be. Therefore, it would be worse to raise morale and then lower it, than to leave things as they are pro tem. As soon as the matter is settled we will let you know. Then, if favourable, a statement such as you propose would be suitable but reference to the size of the increase ("Il Corpo Italiano ne risultera raddoppiato in numero e potenza di mezzi") must not be mentioned. Instead, the words "considerably increased" may be used."

420

WILLIAM W. SCHUCH
Vice-President, Political Section

2563

The Political Section agrees with the views of General Browning who suggests the following reply to Visconti Venosta:-

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter N. I/201 of August 10, 1944, regarding the publishing of a statement anent an increase in number of, and the furnishing of war equipment to, the Italian Corps of Liberation.

#

SECRET
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE



TO: ALGERIA, INFO TO FAIRBANKS, ACC SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 4/27
 FROM: RENDON, SEC SAC CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
 REFERENCE No: 351002 PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: MAY 26 1944 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/44 WIGBT

FOLLOWS PARAPHRASE OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO AMERICAN RE-
 SIDENT MINISTER IN ALGIERS. "FIRST ITALIAN CORPS OF LIBERATION HAS BEEN
 FORMED SO STATES A REUTERS DISPATCH IN THE MOSCOW PRESS AND FURTHER
 STATES A DETACHMENT WHICH HAS FOUGHT WITH THE ALLIES SINCE DECEMBER 8
 AND RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE FROM GENERAL CLARK IS ITS NUCLEUS. AT
 PRESENT IT IS SAID THE GROUP NUMBERS SEVERAL BATTALIONS OF THE ITALIAN
 REGULAR ARMY. YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED AS THE DEPARTMENT
 HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORT HERE." PARA. IT IS REQUESTED
 THAT YOU CONFIRM OR DENY THE VERITY OF THE DISPATCH AND INDICATE THE
 LINES ALONG WHICH THE REPLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE WORDED
 HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT WE NEITHER WISH TO EMBARRASS FURTHER
 THE BADOLLO GOVERNMENT OR ARGUE PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME BY OUR
 FAILURE TO MAKE FULL USE OF ITALIAN TROOPS

ACC DIST

AF - SECY Gen

Dice

Pol Sect

Amg Sec (Hera)

DATE and Time of RECEIPT MAY 27 0033

Distribution:

SECRET

1st - Amg S.C. Sec
(Recd)

File
Plot

2566

Ref. CC/G/36.

~~C~~ IDENTIAL*Political Section*

FIRM/rj

2nd. February, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Brigadier Duchesne,
Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission,
BRINDISI.

1. Please inform Marshal Messe that no demobilisation of Italian Army personnel can be permitted except in excess of the ceiling laid down for the Italian Army.
2. The only exceptions to this ruling are as follows. -
 - (a) Personnel may be demobilised up to the numbers who may be taken into the Italian Army from the normal annual intake from annual classes.
 - (b) Although demobilisation in accordance with the above ruling will not be permitted, leave may be granted at his discretion provided that the total ration strength does not fall at any time below a figure to be agreed between him and the Land Forces Sub-Commission. In this connection it is recognised that seasonal leave to assist in agriculture (i.e. during the sowing season or during the harvest) may be given as generously as the situation at the time permits.
 - (c) In cases where individual personnel are urgently required for pivotal positions in industry for the direct prosecution of the war effort, these again may be demobilised with the concurrence of the Land Forces Sub-Commission.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner.

For info.

2565

0945

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

785016

From. OS+I

To Political Section

For information

+ retention -

Received 24.01

file
SB

27. Jan. 44.

0948

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

EXPERIMENTAL DETACHMENT G-3
A.P.O. 5L2, A.F.H.Q.

Naples, January 17, 1944.

To: Advance Detachment, AFHQ
From: Experimental Detachment G-3
Subject: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MILITARY COMMANDER - (Report
No. 118 - File No. 114)

We are attaching hereto a report on information we have received concerning the above subject. Although we cannot vouch for the absolute truthfulness of the information we feel it is of sufficient importance to transmit to you for any investigation you may want to make of it.

Col. J. Passanasi, Captain, USMC
Commanding Officer

Attn. (1)

820
505 - Base, Hawaii
610

2564

0947

785016

AFHQ
Hq
Feb.
for

SECRET

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
NORTH AFRICAN THEATRE

Naples, January 17, 1944

To: Colonel E.J.P. Glavin, Commanding
- O.S.S. North African Theatre, Algiers
Whitney H. Shephardson, Director, S.I., Washington
Earl Brennan, Chief, Italian Section, S.I., Washington

From: Vincent Gasparino

Subject: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MILITARY COMMANDE - R118-711X

It has been ascertained that in the Officers and Men-come home at the Army C command (Corpo d'Armata) of Campania (Palazzo Salerno in Naples) there is being handed to the officers who frequent the mess a form which contains, among other questions, this one: "Are you in favor of the monarchy?" Some officers who refused to answer the question have been invited to discontinue their frequenting the mess. The form is distributed by order of General Basso.

January 18, 1944.

Vincent Gasparino
Chief, Italian Section, S.I.
Mediterranean Area

2563

