

0977

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

785016

ACC

10000 | 132 | 442

CARI

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320.42

CARIBALDI DIVISION

Aug. 1944 - Jan. 1945

COPY

COPY

SECRET

Ref: 8268/60/CCS.

3 February 1945.

Subject: Garibaldi Division.To: G-5 Section,
AFHQ.

I refer to your signal FX.66172 of 10 December, addressed to MEIA, in which you stated that Marshal TITO's HQ would like to evacuate the Garibaldi Division, but that they wished formal application to be made by the Italian authorities through the AC. This formal application has now been made, and the original, together with a translation, is enclosed.

I should be obliged if you would take very early steps to forward the message to Marshal TITO.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Copy to: PA to Acting President
EC to Chief Commissioner
Civil Affairs Section
MEIA.

✓ P. L. M.

Garibaldi Division

Com. in Charge

COPY

2619

The Garibaldi Division
was moved to
7 Mar 45. P. L. M.

820.41

Spaw
SECRET

Ref: 3268/58/008.

29 January 1945.

Subject: Return of Garibaldi Division.

To: Land Forces Sub Commission (MFA).

1. I enclose original and translation of:

(a) Letter from Italian Minister of War to the Chief Commissioner.

(b) Message from Italian Minister of War to Marshal Tito.

2. I refer you to AMHQ signal PX.66172 of 10 December 44 to you, in which AMHQ state that Tito's HQ would like to evacuate the Garibaldi Division, but that they wish formal application to be made by the Italian authorities through the AC. This formal application has now been made in the documents which are enclosed.

3. Will you please take the necessary action, with copy to the Chief of Staff and to the Staff Officer to the Chief Commissioner.

[Signature]
Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.

Copy to: S.O. to C.C.

cc Polsec by office of cc

2618

CopyCopyTranslation

202383/LI

The Minister of War

Rome, 27 January 1945

SUBJECT: Message for Marshal Tito -

To Admiral Stone
Chief Commissioner - A.C. Headquarters
Rome

The Allied Authorities have communicated their deep interest, for which we are most grateful, about the repatriation of the Garibaldi Division, which fought for over a year, and in very difficult circumstances, at the side of the Yugoslav Army.

The Italian Government wants to stress to Marshal Tito the necessary decision of this repatriation.

I shall be most grateful if you will see that Marshal Tito gets the enclosed message

THE MINISTER

s. Alessandro Casati

cc. COS
Polare
CC

2617

e.c.

CopyCopyTranslation

The Minister of War

Rome, 27 January 1945.

To His Excellency Marshal Tito

In the name of the Italian Government, I ask your Excellency for the 'Garibaldi' Division, which fought for over a year at the side of the Yugoslav Army, to be gathered in an adequate locality of embarkation to make its transport to Italy possible.

We had to make this painful decision for the following reasons:

- 1) In the present circumstances, complete impossibility, also for the Allies to send adequate supplies to the division which has already suffered much and lost many men.
- 2) Greater facility for equipping the men now at home, and for finding new employment for the men of the Division on another front, always on the basis of the general war plans against the common enemy.

The ideals for which the fight was begun and conducted in the name of the liberty of nations remain unchanged in spite of the withdrawal of the Garibaldi Division; this is proved by the fact that new democratic Italy remains among her Yugoslav brothers in the fight against barbarity and oppression, through the 'Italia' brigade.

This new Italy feels secure that the blood shed together for redemption will bring forgetfulness upon a past which she denies, and open a new era of mutual comprehension, collaboration and fraternity for the Yugoslav and Italian people.

I ask your Excellency, to let me know when it will be possible for the transport of the Division to take place, so that I may have the necessary means in readiness, and be able to send some personality, entrusted with the repatriation operations, in case your Excellency should agree to this.

I take this opportunity to send you the expression of my very high consideration.

2616

THE MINISTER OF WAR

A. Alessandro Casati

e.c.

C O P YC O P Y

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AT BARI
OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

BARI.

31st December, 1944.

Please see my letter to Hopkinson of the 22nd December.

I have just seen a telegram from Fitzroy Maclean saying that General Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation agree to the evacuation of all personnel of the Garibaldi Division except those under arrest or undergoing trial. They make, however, the condition that the Italian Government makes a precise and direct request to the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation Headquarters for such action.

Apparently such a request is considered necessary in order to prevent future recriminations or charges against Yugoslavs on the grounds of their "Italian brothers in arms being expelled ungraciously".

With regard to officers on trial or under arrest Yugoslavs quote their interpretation of a "Moscow agreement" whereby war criminals may be tried in the country in which their crimes were committed. They intend, therefore, to try and punish all officers who are now being accused of war crimes but are prepared to reconsider these if the Italian Government approach direct the National Committee of Liberation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Henry Hopkinson and to John Clarke.

(Sgd) F.W.DEAKIN

2615

Philip Broad, Esq.,
Office of the Resident Minister
Central Mediterranean.

This
has been
done

[Signature]

826,472

23 December 1944

Ref: F/620.42

In reply to your letter of 22 December about the proposed evacuation of the Garibaldi Division from Yugoslavia the Italian Minister of War has now signed the following formal application for their return:-

"On behalf of the Italian Government the Military Mission to the Italian Army is requested to ask higher authority to propose to Marshal Tito that the Garibaldi Division, which for over a year has fought alongside the valiant Yugoslav Army of Liberation, be moved to Italy for the following reasons:-

- (A) Impossibility of supplying the Division under present circumstances.
- (B) Better facilities for re-equipping and employing the personnel of the Division in accordance with a strategic plan on another front, and always for the same cause."

This application has been communicated by the Land Forces Sub-Commission to A.F.H.Q. so that we may expect evacuation to take place in the near future.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Broad at Caserta.

Lt. Col. B. Deakin
Office of the Representative of
the British Resident Minister
Bari

2614

S20.42

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AT BARI
OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN,

BARI.

22nd December, 1944.

Dear Hopkinson,

Please see my letter to you of the 10th December regarding the evacuation of the Garibaldi Division from Yugoslavia.

Enquiries now show that the majority of the division are extremely anxious to be evacuated to Italy. As the British troops now operating in Montenegro will shortly be withdrawn, it would be an excellent moment to begin the evacuation of these Italian units. Empty ships are now coming back on maintenance runs in connection with these British troops.

I shall be grateful therefore to know whether the Italian authorities are prepared to make formal application to Marshal Tito for the return of their units in Montenegro, ~~as stated in my letter under~~ reference.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Philip Broad, and Brigadier Maclean's Mission.

Yours truly

Bill Deakin

H. Hopkinson Esq., C.M.G.,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

2613

SECRET

SUBJECT:- Return of GARIBALDI Div to ITALY

Land Forces Sub Com A.C.
(MMIA)
TS/G/31

26 Dec 44

Political Sec A.C.

Attention Mr HOPKINSON.

As requested, herewith are copies of AFHQ signal
F 71668 of 20 Dec and MMIA's reply 6 661 of 23 Dec subject
"Return of GARIBALDI Div to ITALY".

ASU

Major General
MMIA

2612

C O P Y

MESSAGE FORM

FROM MMIA

231820A

TO AFHQ

0.661

TOPSEC

In reply your F 71603 of 20 Dec (*) Following signed by Count
CASATI Minister for War on behalf of Italian Govt quotes (*) on
behalf of the Italian Govt the Military Mission Italian Army is
requested to ask Higher Authority to propose to Marshal TITO that the
GARIBOLDI Div which for over a year has fought alongside the valiant
YUGOSLAV Army of Liberation be moved to ITALY for the following reasons

- (a) impossibility of supplying the Div under present circumstances
- (b) better facilities for re-equipping and employing the personnel
of the Div in accordance with the strategic plan on another
front and always in the common cause

(*) Unquote

PRECEDENCE

IMMEDIATE

AUTHENTICATED

S.M. INGLETON Lt Col

Internal

GOC
2 i.c.
AQ
SL/50

2611

C O P Y

FROM AFHQ SIGNED SAC CITE FHGCT

TO NMIA

201516

F 71662TOP SECRET

Dated 14 Dec your O-650 (*) 1 (*) Request Italian Government be asked to reconsider their decision regarding future of GARIBOLDI Division in MONTENEGRO for following reasons (*) A (*) Question of begging TITO to release Division does not arise as he is already prepared to do so if a normal formal request is made by the Italian Government (*) B (*) Enquiries prove that majority of Division extremely anxious to be evacuated to ITAL (*) C (*) If Italian Government are not prepared to ask formally for return of Division the question of shipping Allied supplies into the BALKANS for the Division cannot be entertained (*)

2 (*) This Headquarters not prepared to order Division to be brought back if Italian Government not prepared to ask for its return (*) 3 (*) As both TITO and Italian Government appear desirous for return of Division it is desired that every effort be made to obtain formal request from Italian Government earliest as shipping is presently available for evacuation to ITALY

2610

PRECEDENCE

IMMEDIATE

*Communicated by Col. Inghel
who will also send copy of A.F.H.D.
reply and his further for the
conferring, again with Italian Army of War.*

FROM: MMIA

TO : AFHQ

0 650

Let Dec 22.
142045A

TOP SECRET

In reply your PX 52625 of 10 Dec (.)

FIRST (.) Italian Government as a whole is unwilling for prestige purposes and post war political reasons to beg TITO to release

CARIBALDI DIV (.) Govt says such a communication as a long term policy would be detrimental to ITALY (.) Govt therefore requests clothing and assistance be sent to BALKANS (.)

SECOND (.) If latter NOT possible, high US officials privately and individually would like CARIBALDI DIV to be repatriated on humanitarian grounds and for local reasons and request Allies to order repeat order DIV to be brought back (.) This view supported by MMIA (.)

THIRD (.) If DIV is NOT repatriated it will be for you to decide whether additional clothing and necessities should be sent to BALKANS (.)
Ann would not be within present Italian Army org and therefore NOT within perview of MMIA

2509

PRECEDENCE IMMEDIATEAUTHENTICATED SELBY, Capt.

820.42

C O P Y

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE INCT

TO : MMIA

INFO: ALCOM

FX 66172SECRET

Dated 14 November our FX 52625 (.)

1. TITO HQ WOULD LIKE CARIBLBI Div evacuated to mainland provided:

- (a) The division wished to return to ITALY (.)
- (b) Formal application made to TITO by the Italian authorities (.)

2. TITO considers div has done well and he does not wish to appear ungrateful (.)

3. Division will be assembled at DURONIA for shipment (.)

4. Suggest Italian authorities make formal application to TITO through yourselves and this HQ for evacuation of div to mainland (.) Arrangements for shipping and disposal will then be made

2008

PASSEDENCE PRIORITY

WS

ACTION: Land Forces (P)
Info: Chief Commissioner
GoS
Patriots Br
C A Sec
Disper & Rep
File

Political Sec
Ref conversation
Mr. Hopkins & Col
England.

Deal with.

St. England
1944

for GOC MIA

21 Dec 44.

0992

G.I.

Please see the
all papers

Journal

W.C.H.
C.D.V.

H. Dec.

Land Forces ^{first} Sat. Commission

may be interested to
see.

① Yes - AFHQ

② No

[Signature]
18/12/44

[Signature]
18/12/44

Surely the formal

① application to Marshal Tito will
have to be made through us?

② or is there an Italian mission
in Yugoslavia? *[Signature]* Dec. 17.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN,

A.F.H.Q.

11th December, 1944.

Dear Henry,

With reference to my letter of the 6th December, I write to let you know that the Partisans say that they would like the Garibaldi Division to be evacuated to Italy provided that

- (a) the division wishes to return, and
- (b) formal application is made to Tito by the Italian authorities.

I learn that Marshal Tito considers that the Division has done well and he does not wish to appear ungrateful. The Division is to be assembled at Dubrovnik for shipment. It has been suggested that the Italian authorities should make a formal application to Marshal Tito, after which arrangements for shipping would then be made.

The above information has been repeated in a signal sent by the Supreme Allied Commander to M.M.I.A. on the 10th December.

*Yours wa,**Philip Dwyer*

2607

H.L.D'A. Hopkinson, Esq., C.M.G.
Political Section,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AT BARI
OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

BARI.

10th December, 1944.

Dear Hopkinson

Please see Philip Broad's letter to you of the 10th November regarding the evacuation of Italian troops from Yugoslavia.

Brigadier Maclean's Mission in Belgrade have reported that the General Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation would like the Garibaldi Division to be evacuated from Yugoslavia on condition:

- (1) That the Division wishes to return to Italy, and
- (2) That the Italian authorities should make formal application to Marshal Tito for its return.

I understand that Marshal Tito considers this Division has done well and that he does not wish to appear ungrateful.

The Security authorities have no objection to this evacuation from their point of view.

I should be glad of your views regarding the machinery of application by the Italian authorities to Marshal Tito.

In the meantime, I am asking Brigadier Maclean's Mission in Bari to confirm that the officers and men of this Division wish to return to Italy!

I am sending a copy of this letter to Philip Broad and Maclean's Mission in Bari.

26JS

Yours sincerely

Philip Maclean

H. Hopkinson, Esq., C.M.G.,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN,

A.F.H.Q.

6th December, 1944.

14/46/0

My dear Henry,

When I received your letter of the 27th November (marked # 820.42) I wrote to the Chief of Staff about the question of the evacuation of the Garibaldi Division from Yugoslavia.

I now learn from him that A.F.H.Q. have already been in touch with 37 Military Mission about this matter. They understand that 37 Military Mission have taken up the question of the evacuation of the Division with Partisan General Headquarters and that the evacuation is likely to be agreed. So far, however, no final agreement has been received.

Yours truly,

Philip Dawkins

820.42

Land Forces Sub-Commission

to see

Henry Hopkinson, Esq., C.M.G.,
Headquarters,
Allied Commission,
Political Section,
A.F.O. 394.

Thank you.

820.42

S. H. Hughes

H. C. C. S.
MMA.

8 Dec 44.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED
MISSIONPolitical Section
APO 354Ref: Edo. 42

12th December 1944

With reference to my letter of 27th November about the proposed evacuation of the Garibaldi Division from Yugoslavia to Italy, I enclose a copy of a further letter from the Head of the Land Forces Sub-Commission requesting that arrangements should be made for members of this Division to return through Taranto instead of Bari.

P. Broad, Esq.,
Representative at Bari of the
Resident Minister, Mediterranean Command,
BARI.

2604

Edo. 42

~~SECRET~~

Subject : Repatriation of GARIBALDI Division.

Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.F.I.A.)

TS/G/31.

7 Dec., 44.

To : A/Vice President,
Political Section.

Ref my letter TS/G/31 of 24 Nov, para 2.

1. The arrangements for the reception of Italian evacuees ex BALKANS are proceeding satisfactorily at St ANDREWS Camp, TARANTO and I am consequently anxious for the GARIBALDI Div to arrive at TARANTO and not "BARI or TARANTO" as indicated in my above quoted letter.

2. TRANI Camp, BARI, is being reserved for call-up personnel and could not accept other personnel at present.

L. Brown
Major General.
M.F.I.A.

P.S.

Since writing the above we have heard that we are authorized to keep on the Br camp CR staff at TARANTO till 31 Dec. It will obviously be better to return the Garibaldi Div through that camp which is a going concern rather than add another wing to the "call-up" camp at TRANI.

2603

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref #820.42

27 November 1944

You wrote me from Bari on the 10th of November about the case of evacuating the Garibaldi Division from Yugoslavia to Italy. In case you have not got your letter to Caserta available, I enclose a copy.

I referred the matter to the Land Forces Sub-Commission and I enclose a copy of General Browning's reply. In the circumstances you will no doubt now take the matter up with A.F.M.G. We should be glad to be kept informed of whatever action is taken.

Philip Broad, Esquire
Representative at Bari of the
Resident Minister, Central Mediterranean,
BARI.

2632

820.42

SECRETSUBJECT: Repatriation of CARIBALDI DivisionLAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. IS/G/21
24 Nov 44TO : A/VICE PRESIDENT
POLITICAL SECTIONRe: your letter of 22 Nov regarding Repatriation
of CARIBALDI Div. from MONTENEGRO:-

1. I am all for this both on Military and Political grounds. We can take all suitable men for the Italian Army (Gruppi in particular) and demobilize the rest. Also I feel we should clear all Italians out of the BALKANS and GREECE as soon as possible, to avoid their getting mixed up in possible internal troubles. The Italian Ministry of War entirely agree with my views.
2. We can accept these men either at SAKI or TARANTO, with the same procedure as has recently been laid on for Repatriates from GREECE. i.e. AMIA can use an existing camp at HAWI (capacity 2,500) for reception and screening. AMIA to provide rations and salvaged clothing. Medinal cases to go to civilian hospitals.
3. The orders for the above will, of course, have to be issued by AMIA.

L. Brown
Major General
M. M. I. A.

2601

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
ROME

To: Major-General Browning,
Army Sub-Commission,

From: A/Vice-President,
Political Section.

Date: 22nd November 1944

Mr. Broad, who is Mr. Macmillan's representative at Bari, has written to me to say that he has been approached by the British military authorities in that town who deal with Yugoslavia on the question of evacuating a considerable number of Italian troops from Yugoslavia. It is now possible with the opening of the port of Dubrovnik to evacuate practically the whole of the Garibaldi Division now in Montenegro.

2. Before this matter goes any further, Mr. Broad would be glad to know whether the Italian Military authorities have raised the question recently and how far it is desirable that a large body of Italians should be repatriated at this stage.
3. Could you please let me have your views?

2609

~~1971/2/10~~
OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE A BARI
OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER,
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

BARI.

10th November, 1944.

Dear Henry,

I have been approached here by the British military authorities dealing with Yugoslavia on the question of evacuating a considerable number of Italian troops from Yugoslavia. It is now possible, with the opening of the port of Dubrovnik, to evacuate practically the whole of the Garibaldi Division now in Montenegro.

I do not know whether the Italian military authorities have raised this matter recently, nor do I know how far it is desirable that a large body of Italians should be repatriated at this stage. Before the matter goes any further, therefore, I should be glad of your views.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Security authorities here who would be concerned with the checking of any such arrivals.

Yours ever,

Philip Brown

HE.
DHE. (in return).

We sh^d enquire for Browning, I think.

Henry Hopkinson Esq., C.M.G.,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Political Section,
Rome.

2593

15/11/44

Copy/AS

14/1/45

Laird Foran S/C to

Office of the Resident Minister,
Central Mediterranean,
Caserta.

14/46/0

29th December, 1944.

Dear Henry,

I think you would like me to let you know the latest position about the return of the Garibaldi Division to Italy about which Colonel Denkin wrote to you on 10th December.

There was some difficulty in persuading the Italian Government to make an official application to Marshal Tito for the return of these men as they took the line that such a request was undesirable for reasons of prestige and for post-war political reasons.

A.F.H.Q. have now, however, received a request from the Italian Minister for War on behalf of the Italian Government which says: "The Military Mission to the Italian Army is requested on behalf of the Italian Government to ask higher authority to propose to Marshal Tito that the Garibaldi Division should be moved to Italy for two reasons: first, that under present circumstances the supplying of the Division is impossible, and secondly because the mainland of Italy provides better facilities for re-equipping and employing the men of the Division."

A.F.H.Q. have asked 37 Military Mission to ascertain if Tito agrees to the above and if so to report the earliest date on which the Division could be concentrated at Dubrovnik for shipment back to Italy.

A.F.H.Q. have emphasised in their instructions to 37 Military Mission that the withdrawal of the Division should be taken to include all its men including those officers

H.L. d'A. Hopkinson, Esq.

/who

820.42

2593

who have been reported to be under enquiry or trial by the Yugoslav authorities. The Mission have been authorised if necessary to advise Tito that the return of these officers would be without prejudice to their future trial in Italy or through the War Crimes Commission if it should appear that the facts so warrant.

I am sending a similar letter to Colonel Deakin in Bari.

Yours ever,

(sgd.) Philip Broad.

1003

Gaibaldi

H. Caccia Engh.

Before I put this up to A/C
have you any recommendations to make
as to its disposal.

J.A. Quays.
4-8-44.

checked ready

*File
for
7/8*

2597

TRANSLATION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALB/ 00264

Rome, August 4th 1944

HQ ACC. AFO 394
423 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 6 Aug 12 00
By SPR

Dear Admiral,

After the letter no. 00150/2 of July 31st Inst, I take the liberty to draw your attention on the article "What is the Government doing?" which was printed on the daily paper "Unità" of the 2nd Inst., the cutting of which I enclose.

Such an article - which won't fail to interest public opinion - confirms the sad situation in which are the combatants of the Garibaldi Division, and the necessity to relieve their suffering and want without delay.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ R. Prunas

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

Rome

2596

Trans. B.C.

TRANSLATIONWHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?

We received a letter from an Italian soldier who, after having been for three years in the Balkans, had the rare fortune of reaching our Adriatic shore and is now wounded and ill in a military hospital. It is a document of such importance, that it is a duty for us to publish it, or at least its most salient part.

It is possible, with you at least, comrades, to eat bread and wine wine? For eleven months, strong Italian contingents have been fighting with Marshal Tito's heroic army. For eleven months, these soldiers have been leading a life difficult to the Germans in the Balkans. And what has the Government been doing for us, for these our brothers who first raised the flag of resistance and rebellion against Hitlerian oppressors? What is the Italian State doing to-day for these regular troops, the only ones who are still fighting abroad?

You know that when Zagorin's armistice routed our units scattered out of Italy, two of our divisions which were in Yugoslavia, after opposing separately the Germans, got together again and formed what is to-day the Garibaldi division. From that day, in close and brotherly collaboration with Tito's soldiers, our soldiers have fought dozens of fights, have prepared hundreds of ambushes to the nazis and their partisans, have had hundreds of encounters. The seasons change, the trees which were loaded with snow are now loaded with fruit, the heat has taken the place of the frost of last winter, war goes on, but our Government has not had time to think of us, to face the question of systematic supply for this great fighting unit."

For obvious reasons, we leave out the part dealing with war episodes, giving some still unofficial details, but we will publish the following passage:

Of course, we too realized the difficult situation of the Government. We are the first to know what are how many difficulties interfere with a systematic supply organization, the sea, the steep mountains, the lack of transportation. We know that the Government has but few means and that for this and other reasons, it cannot do what it wants and ought to do. But these difficulties ought to have been tackled. For instance, if the question of the partisans who are fighting on national ground is strictly connected with the plans of the Allied army, and can because of the heterogeneity of the fighting forces, substitute in them reserve and caution, why haven't the allies been made to realize that in our case, they are dealing with perfectly regular troops, and that there is no reason whatever for reserve and caution? Why haven't the Allies been made to see that a direct and regular line of supply, between the Government of Italy and ourselves couldn't harm the common war effort, but would immediately and sensibly benefit the E.F.L.I.?? which, it must be said, is responsible for the supplies of our unit? If the Italian Government hasn't got the necessary means (and yet these means were found, in the past eleven months, for monarchist propaganda), then it might make a public subscription, collect bandages, chinine pills, matches, needles, pins, razor-blades, all the things which can relieve the situation of our brothers who fight with hatred against German oppressors. Goodwill is needed and we are certain that the wor-

wine wine! For eleven months, strong Italian contingents have been fighting with Gershal Tito's heroic army. For eleven months, these soldiers have been making life difficult to the Germans in the "Slovene". And what has the Government been doing for us, for these our brothers who first raised the flag of resistance and rebellion against Italian oppression? What is the Italian State doing to-day for these regular troops, the only ones who are still fighting abroad?

You know that when Yugoslavia's armistice ended our unit's combat out of Italy, two of our divisions which were in Yugoslavia, after opposing everywhere the Germans, got together again and formed what is to-day the Garibaldi division. From that day, in close and brotherly collaboration with Tito's soldiers, our soldiers have fought dozens of fights, have prepared hundreds of ambushes to the Nazis and their partisans, have had hundreds of encounters. The seasons change, the trees which were loaded with snow are now loaded with fruit, the heat has taken the place of the frost of last winter, but our Government has not had time to think of us, to face the question of supplying for this great fighting unit."

For obvious reasons, we leave out the part dealing with war epidemics, giving some still unofficial details, but we will publish the following passage:

Of course, we too realized the difficult situation of the Government. We are the first to know what and how many difficulties interfere with a systematic supply organization, the sea, the steep mountains, the lack of transportation. We know that the Government has but few means and that for this and other reasons, it cannot do what it wants and ought to do. But these difficulties ought to have been tackled. For instance, if the question of the partisans who are fighting on national ground is strictly connected with the plans of the Allied army, and can because of the heterogeneousness of the fighting forces, suscitae in them reserve and caution, why haven't the Allies been made to realize that in our case, they are dealing with perfectly regular troops, and that there is no reason whatever for reserve and caution? Why haven't the Allies been made to see that a direct and regular line of supply, between the Government of Italy and ourselves wouldn't harm the common war effort, but would immediately and sensibly benefit the A.I.I. which, it must be said, is responsible for the supplies of our unit? If the Italian Government hasn't got the necessary means (and yet these means were found, in the last eleven months, for Marxistist propaganda), then it might make a public subscription, collect bandages, crinine pills, matches, needles, pins, razor-blades, all the things which can relieve the situation of our brothers who fight with hatred against German oppressors. Goodwill is needed and we are certain that the working classes at least will answer our call...

The days of racism are over and we are not obliged to give a rosy hue to everything. To-day we may call bread bread and wine wine. Therefore I will tell you that the living conditions that our fighting brothers have to put up with are extremely serious, almost unbearable. Typhic fever has made many victims last winter, and this could have been avoided if our Government had sent in time some cases of serum. Other epidemics penetrate our ranks, where they find a favourable ground because of our soldiers being underfed, and because of their weakness. Faced by so many months of fighting, exhausted and ragged, we have the pride to say that we have fought and still fight shoulder against the Germans, on these devilish stones, shovels like the basculi-buruk....

I believe, comrades, that it is my duty towards the brothers I left there, with your help, to bring to the knowledge of the Italian nation, those details which give but a faint idea of the sufferings they have to endure. Officers and soldiers have well served their country and deserve to be listened to by the authorities and the people. Nowadays, the minister of war is a man during the months of the German occupation in Rome showed he was a patriot. He must take the necessary steps; the people must see so it that he takes the necessary steps.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

w. 15/ 00264

Roma, li 4 AGO, 1944

HQ ASC, APO 394
423 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 16 Aug 1944
By AKR

Caro Ammiraglio,

a seguito della lettera n° 00150/2 del 31 luglio u.s., mi pregio attirare la Sua cortese attenzione sull'articolo "Che cosa fa il Governo?" apparso sul quotidiano "L'Unità" del 2 corr., di cui ad ogni buon fine unisco il ritaglio.

Tale articolo - che certamente non mancherà di interessare l'opinione pubblica - conferma la triste situazione in cui si trovano i combattenti della Divisione Garibaldi, e la necessità di provvedere con ogni possibile urgenza ad alleviarne le sofferenze e i disagi.

Voglio esprimere, caro Ammiraglio, l'espressione dei migliori sentimenti.

R. P. R.

2593

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

R C M A

Che cosa fa il Governo?

Ci è pervenuta, da fonte sicura, la lettera di un militare italiano che, dopo essere stato per tre anni nei Balcani, ha avuto la rara opportunità di raggiungere la nostra sponda adriatica e si trova ora, ferito e malato, in un ospedale militare. E' un documento di tale grandezza che, almeno nella parte saliente, abbiamo il dovere di pubblicare.

« E' possibile, almeno con voi, compagni, chiamare pane il pane e vino il vino? Sono undici mesi che forti contingenti italiani si battono accanto all'esercito eroico del Maresciallo Tito. Sono undici mesi che questi soldati danno filo da torcere ai tedeschi nei Balcani. E che cosa ha fatto finora il Governo per noi, per questi nostri fratelli che primi hanno alzato la bandiera della resistenza e della rivolta contro gli oppressori hitleriani? Che cosa fa oggi lo Stato italiano per queste sue truppe regolari che sono le uniche che ancora si battono strenuamente oltre i confini della Patria? »

Voi sapete che quando l'armistizio di Badoglio mise allo sbaraglio le nostre unità dislocate fuori d'Italia, due nostre divisioni che si trovavano in Jugoslavia, dopo essersi separatamente opposte ai tedeschi, si ricongiunsero e formarono quella che oggi è la divisione « Garibaldi ». Da quel giorno i nostri soldati, in collaborazione strettissima, fraterna, con i soldati di Tito, hanno sostenuto declive e declive di combattimenti, hanno teso centinaia di imboscate ai nazisti ed al loro accanimento, hanno avuto centinaia di scontri. Le stagioni mutano, gli alberi che erano coperti di neve danno oggi i loro frutti, la canicola si è alternata al gelo di quest'inverno, la guerra continua, ma il nostro Governo non ha avuto il tempo di occuparsi di noi, di affrontare la questione del rifornimento sistematico e ordinato di questa sua grande unità combattente... »

Tralasciamo, per ovvie ragioni, la parte in cui si discorre di particolari di guerra e si danno alcuni dati non ancora ufficiali, riproduciamo da questa lettera appassionata il brano seguente:

« Certo, anche noi laggiù ci siamo resi conto della difficile situazione in cui versa il Governo. Noi siamo i primi a conoscere quali e quante difficoltà si frappongano ad un sistematico rifornimento, il mare che c'è di mezzo, le montagne asperissime, la povertà dei mezzi di trasporto. Anche noi ci rendiamo conto che il Governo ha scarsi mezzi e che, per questa e per altre ragioni, non può fare tutto quello che vorrebbe e dovrebbe. Ma queste difficoltà devono essere rimosse. Ad esempio: se la questione dei partigiani che si battono sul suolo metropolitano è connessa strettamente ai piani operativi dell'esercito alleato e, per la

boscato al mare ed al loro acco-
liti, hanno avuto centinaia di scon-
tri. Le stagioni mutano, gli alberi
che erano coperti di neve danno
oggi i loro frutti, la canicola si è
alternata al gelo di quest'inverno, la
guerra continua, ma il nostro Go-
verno non ha avuto il tempo di oc-
cuparsi di noi, di affrontare la que-
stione del rifornimento sistematico
e ordinato di questa sua grande uni-
tà combattente...

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se la questione dei partigiani che
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eterogeneità stessa delle forze com-
battenti, può suscitare in essi qual-
che riserva e qualche cautela, perchè
non si è fatto ben presente agli Al-
leati che nel caso nostro, invece, si
tratta di truppe regolari, regolaris-
sime, e quindi non v'è ragione al-
cuna di siffatte riserve e cautele?
Perchè non si è fatto presente agli
Alleati che una linea di rifornimen-
to, diretta e regolare, tra il Gover-
no italiano e noi, non soltanto non
danneggerebbe lo sforzo bellico co-
mune, ma porterebbe un immediato
e sensibile beneficio all'E.P.I., sul
quale, è bene dirlo, grava finoggi
tutto il peso dei rifornimenti a que-
sta nostra unità? Se il Governo ita-
liano non ha i mezzi adeguati (ep-
pure questi mezzi, per la propaga-
nda monarchica, si sono trovati lar-
gamente in questi undici mesi!) eb-
bene, si provveda con una pubblica
sottoscrizione, si raccolgano almeno
nelle case benedette, pasticche di chi-
nino, fiammiferi, aghi, spilli, lame
da rasoio, tutto quanto può allevia-
re le condizioni di vita di questi
nostri fratelli che si battono con
edio indomito contro gli oppressori
tedeschi. Buona volontà occorre e noi
siamo sicuri che, la classe operaia
almeno, risponderà all'appello...

...Il tempo del fascismo è passato
ed è trascorsa pure l'obbligatorietà
di dipinger tutto a colori di rosa.
Oggi noi possiamo chiamare pane il
pane e vino il vino. Vi dirò adun-
que che le condizioni di vita in cui
si battono i nostri fratelli laggiù so-
no gravissime, pressochè insosteni-
bili. Il tifo petecchiale quest'inverno
ha falciato molte vite umane e que-
sto si sarebbe potuto evitare se il
nostro Governo avesse inviato a tem-
po qualche cassetta di siero-vaccino.
Altre epidemie si infiltrano subdole
tra le nostre file e trovano terreno
favorevole per la denutrizione dei
nostri soldati, per lo stato di debili-
tamento organico in cui essi si tro-
vano. Prostrati da lunghi mesi di
lotta, esauriti, spossati, con gli abiti
invernalini, noi abbiamo l'orgoglio

sono essere rimossi. I compagni che se la questione dei partigiani che si battono sul suolo metropolitano e connessa altrettanto ai piani operativi dell'esercito alleato e, per la eterogeneità stessa delle forze combattenti, può suscitare in essi qualche riserva e qualche cautela, perchè non si è fatto ben presente agli Alleati che nel caso nostro, invece, si tratta di truppe regolari, regolariissime, e quindi non v'è ragione alcuna di siffatte riserve e cautele? Perchè non si è fatto presente agli Alleati che una linea di rifornimenti, diretta e regolare, tra il Governo italiano e noi, non soltanto non danneggerebbe lo sforzo bellico comune, ma porterebbe un immediato e sensibile beneficio all'E.P.L.I., sul quale, è bene dirlo, grava finoggi tutto il peso dei rifornimenti a questa nostra unità? Se il Governo italiano non ha i mezzi adeguati (eppure questi mezzi, per la propaganda monarchica, si sono trovati largamente in questi undici mesi) e, bene, si provveda con una pubblica sottoscrizione, si raccolgano almeno nelle case benedette, pasticche di chinino, fiammiferi, aghi, spilli, lame da rasoio, tutto quanto può alleviare le condizioni di vita di questi nostri fratelli che si battono con cilio indomito contro gli oppressori tedeschi. Buona volontà occorre e noi siamo sicuri che, la classe operaia almeno, risponderà all'appello...

...Il tempo del fascismo è passato ed è trascorsa pure l'obbligatorietà di dipinger tutto a colori di rosa. Oggi noi possiamo chiamare pane il pane e vino il vino. Vi dirò adunque che le condizioni di vita in cui si battono i nostri fratelli laggiù sono gravissime, pressochè insostenibili. Il tifo petecchiale quest'inverno ha falciato molte vite umane e questo si sarebbe potuto evitare se il nostro Governo avesse inviato a tempo qualche cassetta di siero-vaccino. Altre epidemie si infiltrano subdole tra le nostre file e trovano terreno favorevole per la denutrizione dei nostri soldati, per lo stato di debilitamento organico in cui essi si trovano. Prostrati da lunghi mesi di lotta, esauriti, spossati, con gli abiti a brandelli, noi abbiamo l'orgoglio di dire che, contro i tedeschi e contro gli accoliti loro, abbiamo combattuto e combattiamo a piedi nudi su quelle pietre del diavolo, scari, dico, come i basibuzza...

...Io credo, compagno, che sia obbligo mio verso i fratelli che ho lasciato laggiù portare, per tuo tramite, a conoscenza della nazione italiana questi particolari che danno soltanto una pallida idea delle sofferenze a cui essi sono sottoposti. Ufficiali e soldati, tutti hanno ben meritato dalla Patria ed hanno il diritto alla vigile attenzione delle autorità e del popolo. Il ministro della guerra è oggi un uomo il quale ha dimostrato, durante i mesi di occupazione tedesca a Roma, di essere un patriota. Egli deve provvedere il popolo deve far pressione, provveda.

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abbia determinato in essi uno stato d'animo nuovo nei confronti delle masse popolari in generale e dei militanti del partito comunista e socialista in particolare.

Dobbiamo constatare, però, che questo non è davvero il caso di un gran numero di carabinieri (ufficiali, sottufficiali e militi): quei carabinieri, cioè, che non hanno vissuto un periodo di lotta comune col popolo e che sono passati tranquillamente dal servire con zelo la dittatura fascista al servizio dell'attuale Governo democratico.

Il passaggio, per una buona parte di costoro, è stato così lieve che essi non si sono nemmeno accorti del cambiamento di regime. E continuano come prima!

Sul piano politico, certi ufficiali e sottufficiali dei carabinieri si sono resi conto d'una agitazione monarchica quanto mai inopportuna e per di più indebita, poiché trattasi d'un corpo armato pagato dal popolo, per servizio del popolo, e che perciò non può essere — e non deve essere — lo strumento d'una azione politica qualsiasi. Noi siamo rigorosamente fedeli all' politica esposta dal compagno Togliatti, in nome del nostro Partito, e rinviamo la soluzione e l'affiancamento del problema istituzionale a dopo la vittoria, poiché noi continueremo a tenere sul primissimo piano il problema dell'unione di tutte le forze possibili per la guerra di liberazione nazionale. Ma la tregua dev'essere osservata da tutti ed in particolare dai corpi armati. Speriamo che la recente circolare del nuovo Comandante in capo dei carabinieri, ispirata a concetti alquanto analoghi a quelli da noi espressi, ottenga qualche risultato.

Sul piano della legalità democratica, invece, le cose vanno ancora peggio. In molti piccoli e medi comuni, a cominciare da quelli della provincia di Roma e da quelle circostanti, dove certi marescialli e brigadieri dei carabinieri continuano a fare il bello ed il cattivo tempo, certuni di questi signori si abbandonano a gesti di violenza e di sopraffazione illegale, che non hanno nulla da invidiare alle spedizioni punitive delle squadre d'urto di deprecata memoria. Ed è molto strano che nel momento in cui si debbono giustamente punire i vecchi squadristi per loro delitti passati, si debbano lasciare a piede libero quei marescialli e carabinieri che osano abbandonarsi ancor oggi a delitti analoghi.

In alcuni comuni della provincia di Roma, dei marescialli coi rispettivi carabinieri hanno invaso delle sedi del Partito Comunista e le hanno devastate e chiuse, minacciando ed anche picchiando i pochi compagni presenti. Dalla Puglia ci si segnalano gesti simili. Un maresciallo esegue degli arresti arbitrari, insulta e fa picchiare coloro che dichiarano di essere comunisti e poi — non avendo un motivo legale per tenerli in carcere — si decide finalmente a rilasciarli, dopo giorni e settimane di detenzione e di maltrattamenti, senza averli potuti denunciare all'autorità giudiziaria.

La frequenza di questi « casi » ci avverte che non si tratta soltanto di qualche pazzo rilasciato finora a sfuggire al manicomio, ma rivela piuttosto una tendenza alquanto diffusa nella « benemerita ».

Se i signori marescialli ed i loro uomini immaginano che migliaia e migliaia di militanti comunisti abbiano sfrontato eroicamente il carcere, il confino, l'esilio, la morte,

leggi e quelli da noi espressi, ot-
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migliaia di militanti comunisti ab-
biano affrontato apertamente il car-
cere, il confino, l'esilio, la morte,
lottando tenacemente contro il fa-
scismo, che decine e centinaia di
migliaia di comunisti siano all'avar-
suardia della guerra partigiana di
liberazione unitamente per permet-
tere a loro signori di perpetuare co-
modamente il fascismo, si sbaglia-
no di grosso!

I fatti qui appena accennati, sa-
ranno documentati alle autorità
competenti. I marescialli, ufficiali e
militi riconosciuti colpevoli, debbo-
no essere cacciati via dall'Arma, ar-
restati e processati, affinché l'Ar-
ma possa essere veramente al ser-
vizio del popolo e del regime de-
mocratico che il popolo italiano vuol
costruirsi. Il regime democratico si-
gnifica innanzi tutto legalità e ri-
spetto dei diritti e delle libertà del
popolo, specialmente da parte dei
Corpi armati.

Nel siamo certi che la parte più
sana e patriottica dei carabinieri,
tutti coloro che nell'Arma non di-
mentano di essere figli del popolo
e di dovere condividere in ogni
caso il destino, saranno fra i primi
ed esordiranno alla nostra protesta e
a denunciare i colpevoli, facché
questo è il mezzo migliore per evi-
tare che le colpe di alcuni ricada-
no su tutti. E, con le colpe, le con-
seguenze inevitabili!

GIUSEPPE DI VITTORIO

I tedeschi razziano il raccolto nell'Italia occupata

NUOVA YORK, 1. — Un recente
dispedito da Berna al Times
Nuova York informa che, nell'Ita-
lia occupata, le Autorità tedesche
e neo-fasciste hanno ordinato di
provvedere immediatamente al rac-
colto, ed aggiunge che i nazisti in-
tendono prenderne più della metà
per inviarlo in Germania.

...di miliziani comunisti ab-
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migliaia di comunisti erano all'avan-
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I fatti qui appena accennati, su-
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costruire. E regime democratico si-
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popolo, specialmente da parte dei
Carpi armati.

Nel siamo certi che la parte più
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tutti coloro che nell'Arma non di-
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e di doverne condividere in ogni
caso il destino, saranno fra i primi
ad associarsi alla nostra protesta e
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CICSEPPE DI VITTORIO

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per inviarlo in Germania.

Conferenza delle quattro potenze per la pace nel dopoguerra

WASHINGTON, 1. — Il Sottose-
gretario americano agli esteri Ed-
ward Stettinius, ha annunciato oggi
che il 14 agosto avrà inizio a Wa-
shington una conferenza delle quat-
tro potenze per discutere le orga-
nizzazioni di pace e di sicurezza
del dopoguerra.

Ripresa del lavoro al Poligrafico dello Stato

Il Poligrafico dello Stato si va
rianimando. I due stabilimenti di
piazza Verdi e di via Pier Cappo-
ni hanno già ripreso il lavoro e
così pure ha ripreso la sua at-
tività la cartiera di Foggia.

Una Mostra d'arte a Palazzo Venezia

Una importantissima Mostra dei
capolavori della pittura italiana del
Rinascimento sarà prossimamente
inaugurata nelle sale del Palazzo
Venezia.

L'esposizione, che comprenderà 50
quadri provenienti dai Musei di
Napoli, di Montecassino e di Roma,
durerà circa due mesi e l'incasso
sarà devoluto ad opere assisten-
ziali.

SUBJECT: CARIBALDI Legion - North Africa.

S - C B E I

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C. *[initials]*
Main HQ MIA.

ROME.

6/30

2 Aug 44.

QUARTERS

3 AUG 1944

His Excellency,
General BERARDI
S.M.R.E.

copy to: Political Section, A.C.C.

Political Section, A.C.C. has recently handed me over certain papers in connection with the above, saying, rightly, that it is no concern of theirs.

Apparently since early in March discussions have been proceeding with a view to Col. PAMELLA going to ALGERIA to organise a CARIBALDI Legion there out of Prisoners of War. The idea apparently was that this Legion should be organised in NORTH AFRICA and brought over to Italy to be incorporated in the official Italian Army.

It appears also that Comendo Supremo were concerned in this though I gather from you that you had nothing to do with it.

Apart from the fact that this personnel in NORTH AFRICA is P.O.W., the whole business is highly irregular. No "private armies" are permitted under any circumstances.

The only Italian Army recognised by the Allies in Italy is the official new Italian Army.

Please therefore take steps forthwith to ensure that no further action is taken as regards this CARIBALDI Legion which, if in process of formation, will be dissolved forthwith.

The Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which was also mixed up in this business, is telling Col. PAMELLA to explain the whole situation to you and you will now know how to act.

2591

d. Bramm

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

POLITICAL SECTION

6447

820

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tvs.LB.
A.C.C.Major General,
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.*L. Browning*



Nr. 6/74/31

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

Further to Memorandum N. 6/49/20 dated July 27th, 1944, - concerning the reincorporation in the Caribaldi Division of the survivors of the III Brigade-, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs should be grateful if the Allied Authorities would kindly take into consideration the possibility of providing for the repatriation, with the least possible delay, of the sick and wounded men of the said Brigade. *Colb.*

2593

Rome, July 30th, 1944.

*Roberti informed Aug. 7, matter in hands
of military authorities.
WMS*

Return

File

Army Sub-Commission
has no jurisdiction
over activities of Italian
troops in Balkans, nor are
the resulting problems within
ASC Terms of reference etc.

2580

