

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

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

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821

DESERTERS

JAN. 1944 - FEB. 1945

1028

Mr. [unclear]

Have you
 + been
 + [unclear]

2640

My letter [unclear]
 [unclear]
 [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear]

821

ALLEGED JUGOSLAV DESERTERS

SEE

FILE 396

2639

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

3/84

Handwritten notes: "Handwritten - 7/1/44", "copy of letter to Rome, January 15th 1945", and a signature "for Simon".

Dear Hopkinson,

the Chief of the General Staff, Field Marshal Meese, has already had the opportunity of directly interviewing Admiral Stone, with a view to the 17th, in the service consequences of the Allies' already engaged Italian soldiers who have deserted their units.

It is certainly needless for us to recall the considerations expounded in that letter, on the point of the fundamental principles that could easily be called on in the matter, considerations and principles which have certainly not escaped the Allied Commission. There is, however, a political side of the question which I wish to recall your attention, i.e. on the impression of complete inactivity of the Italian Government which is produced by the injury caused by these desertions and which hinders, thanks to its bad example, the normal recruiting operations and means the discipline of the units.

As it is certainly in the intentions of the Allied Command that the Italian Armed Forces give a fruitful contribution to the war effort that we, on our part, intend to strengthen and extend, I trust that you will be on the opportunity of interesting the competent Military Authorities in order to avoid that these facts should repeat themselves in the future.

I would be grateful if you would mention this point of view to Admiral Stone when I see him next directly.

821

Dear Mr. [unclear],

The Chief of the Central Staff, Field Marshal Messer, has already had the opportunity of directly interviewing Admiral Stone, via letter no 200978/W of December 17th, in the various consequences of the Allies' directness and seeing Italian soldiers who have deserted their units.

It is certainly needless for me to recall the considerations expounded in that letter, or to point out the juridical principles that could easily be called on in the matter, concerning the principles which have generally not escaped the Allied attention. There is, however, a point of view of the question on which I wish to recall your attention, i.e. on the impression of complete impotence of the Italian Government which is produced by the impunity enjoyed by those deserters and which hinders, thanks to the bad example, the normal recruiting operations and hence the discipline of the units.

As it is certainly in the intentions of the Allied Command that the Italian Armed Forces give a fruitful contribution to that way of effort that we, on our part, intend to strengthen and extend, I must, that you see 2633 to me on the opportunity of investigating the concrete Military Authorities in order to avoid that those facts should repeat themselves in the future.

I would be grateful if you would mention this point of view to Admiral Stone, whom I am now writing directly

Mr. H.L. D'A. ROBINSON C.M.G.
 Minister Plenipotentiary
 Vice President A.S.
 Political Section

P.t.c.c.

to in consideration of the fact that Marshal Messe has already informed him in the question, and trust that you will fully understand the spirit of sincere collaboration with which I appeal to your courtesy.

Believe me, Dear Hopkinsen,

Sincerely yours

F. L. [REDACTED]



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

Roma, li 18 GEN 1945

3
84
Caro Hopkinson,

il Capo di Stato Maggiore Generale, maresciallo Messe, ha avuto occasione di interessare direttamente l'ammiraglio Stone, con la sua lettera n. 106978/AV del 17 dicembre u.s., in merito ai seri inconvenienti che derivano dalla diretta assunzione in servizio, da parte di autorità militari alleate, di soldati italiani allontanatisi arbitrariamente dai propri reparti.

Non occorre certamente che Le richiami le considerazioni svolte nella lettera sopra citata, nè che mi rifaccia a quei principi giuridici che potrebbero essere facilmente invocati in questa occasione, considerazioni e principi che certo non sono sfuggiti alla C.A. Vi è tuttavia un aspetto politico della questione su cui desidero richiamare la Sua attenzione: ed è il fatto che l'impunità di cui vengono a godere certi disertori dà l'impressione di una totale impotenza del R.Governo e viene a nuocere, con la forza dell'esempio, al normale svolgimento delle operazioni di leva nonchè alla disciplina dei reparti.

Sig.H.L.d'A.HOPKINSON, C.M.G.
Ministro Plenipotenziario
Vice Presidente C.A.

2637

ROMA

Ora, se è desiderio del Comando Alleato, come lo è certamente, che le forze armate italiane diano un efficace contributo a quello sforzo bellico che noi, da parte nostra, intendiamo estendere e potenziare, io confido che Ella converrà con me che i fatti lamentati devono essere evitati con ogni sforzo e che Ella non mancherà di svolgere il Suo valido interessamento presso i competenti organi militari alleati affinché tali inconvenienti possibilmente non abbiano più a ripetersi.

Le sarei grato se volesse far cenno di quanto precede all'ammiraglio Stone, cui non ho voluto rivolgermi dato che il maresciallo Messe lo ha già direttamente interessato alla questione e, certo che Ella comprenderà lo spirito di sincera collaborazione con cui ricorro alla Sua cortesia, La prego di credermi, caro Hopkinson, coi migliori saluti

R. Rinaldi

C O P YRESTRICTEDSubject:- Deserters.LAND FORCES SUB COMM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
AQ/11/3To: MINISTRY OF WAR.30 DEC/44

1. It has been reported to M.M.I.A. that upon various occasions, Italian soldiers have seen and even talked to individuals who were known by them to be deserters of the Italian Army.
2. If an Italian soldier sees known deserters living as civilians and also if he knows that the probability of the deserter being apprehended and returned to Military service is small, the Italian soldier is liable to think that he also could desert and suffer no ill consequences.
3. It is desired that you issue the appropriate orders making it mandatory for all Italian military personnel to turn over to the nearest C.C.R. or Military HQ, any person whom they know or believe to be a deserter of the Italian Army.
4. Please furnish M.M.I.A. a copy of your order.

MAJOR GENERAL
M.M.I.A.

2635

C O P Y

Subject:- Allied Employment of deserters and
illegal absentees from the Italian Army.

Lend Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
AQ/11/3
30 Dec/44

H.E. Marshal KESSE, S.M.G.

1. Your a.106978/AV prot of 17 Dec has been passed to me for reply.
2. This matter is well known to both the Minister of War and MMIA. In fact we have been taking action for months past in removing soldiers so employed.
3. Instructions were issued by SAI last summer that the Allies are not to employ deserters from the Italian Army. Considering that soldiers have a civil identification card, it is obviously very difficult, if not impossible, for the Allies to know whether a man is a deserter or not, if in civilian clothes.
4. The matter of a soldier on leave working for the Allies was dealt with in my AQ/8 of Nov 20.
5. All Italian soldiers in uniform employed by the Allies should form part of an established Italian Division and be reported in the strength returns as such. Failure to do this is the fault of the Italian Commanders.
6. I will however represent the matter again the AFHQ.

lh.

Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:- H.E. The Minister of War
(together with a copy of the letter
referred to in para 1 above).

H.Q. A.C.

2635

C O P YU R G E N T

Subject:- Allied Employment of
deserters and illegal
absentees from the
Italian Army.

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

R O M E

10/11/3

30 Dec 44

A.F.H.Q.

1. I forward correspondence sent by Marshal MESSI to Chief Commissioner, A.C. and passed by the latter to me, for action.
2. I attach, for easy reference, copies of correspondence in this connection between H.Q. A.A.I. and myself, together with a copy of the letter I have sent to Marshal MESSI.
3. I think it would be advisable if you would issue a further directive now embracing the whole matter.
4. Apart from its effect on the prestige and authority of the Italian Army, such a directive would be another means of assisting us to get the reinforcements we so badly need and which are not forthcoming owing to circumstances beyond MMIA control.

hh.

Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to:- H.Q. A.C.

2634

COPY

Ref: B252/30/009

Ext: 388.

21 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Italian Military Personnel.
TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission.

1. The attached translations and originals of correspondence received in the Chief Commissioner's Office are forwarded for your action.
2. Will you please take the matter up with AFHQ and, in the meantime, send interim reply to General Mosse on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, with a copy to this Office.

/s/ E.T.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Encls.

Copy to: SO to CC.

2633

C O P YTRANSLATION

THE CHIEF OF STAFF
N. 106978/AV prot
5 encls

P.M.3800, 17 December 1944

Dear Admiral,

the General Staff has been informed that pretty often, Italian soldiers who have left arbitrarily their units have been taken for service by Allied military authorities without the previous authorization of the Italian commands from which these soldiers depend.

The Italian commands are therefore unable to take proceedings against the said soldiers for their desertion.

The Italian Ministries have informed the competent Allied Sub-Commissions which showed comprehension and interest about this problem.

~~EXXME~~ enclose a copy of letter n. 1086 and of letter 1087 of November 7th of the Ministry of Marine and a copy of letter A.Q. B, of November 20, of M.N.I.A.

In spite of these communications and of the action taken by the Allied authorities, there are still cases of Italian soldiers, in regular service, being detained by the allied commands, in contrast to the present regulations.

Considering this and the need to regularise the matter uniformly, in the interest of the discipline and efficiency of the Italian Army force, I shall be most grateful to you, my dear Admiral, if you could intervene by the Allied Commands and see that they don't take Italian soldiers who have service duties to fulfill.

Truly yours,

s/ The Marshal of Italy
Chief of Staff
G. Messe

ADMIRAL HILERY W. STONE
CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE ALLIED COMMISSION

2632

Trans. e.c.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

SECRET.

30 Nov. '44.

Ref:-Dpr/2/32/DP

SUBJECT:-Yugoslav Deserters.

TO:- G(5) AF. W.

1. This Commission has received a list from the Yugoslav Delegation in Rome of alleged deserters from N.L.A.V. with a request that the Allied Police arrest them and hand them over to N.L.A.V. or alternatively that the Delegation be authorized to arrest them themselves, see copy letter attached.

2. The Delegation has been informed that pending a decision by Higher Authority no person will be handed over to the Delegation nor may the Delegation itself arrest any such persons.

3. The request directly raises a major question of policy as to the status of N.L.A.V. which was originally submitted in this Commission's letter 221/008 dated 11 Nov. '44, and you will observe that Dr Alfandri and his wife (whose case was mentioned in para 9 of the paper prepared by the Civil Affairs Section attached to the letter) are amongst those now sought by N.L.A.V. to be handed over to them.

4. Your early instructions as to the policy to be adopted in this matter will be appreciated.

For the Chief Commissioner.

Enclosed,
No.1 Letter from Yugoslav Delegation

G. R. Lynton
G. R. LYNTON Brig:
VP CA Section
1009 AC.

Copy to:-
Political Section ✓
Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission.

2633

5220

COPY.

SECRETNot

PRISTAVNIŠTVO
STABA RAZE H. O. V.
JUGOSLAVIJE

Dr. P. 55
27 XI 1944

Headquarters
Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission
A.C. 490 394.

Subject: Deserters.

1. Ref conversation Col. Findley - Maj. Koljensic 27 Nov 44.
2. The following is a list of deserters from H.L.A.J. who are at present in Rome under the quoted addresses:

Benjet Franc, 259, Via Marulana (in H.L.A.J. from June till Oct 44)
 Kovaca Milos do do do do
 Hasanovic Vojin, 72, Via Salaria
 Savoljic Branko, 26, Via Aventina
 Tadi Savo do do
 Mandovic Vojislav, 60, Via Venezia (in H.L.A.J. from June till Sept 44)
 Klajic Borivoj, 12, Via Lazio (in H.L.A.J. in Oct 44)
 Novakovic Miro, 77, Via Cencia (in H.L.A.J. for 5 months in H9 and H4)
 Pasovic Miro, Cine Citta
 Luger Zdenko, 127, Via Giulia
 Martinovic Branko, 37 Via S. Maria in Via
 Tori Savo, 82 Via Vignola
 Kovaca Milava, 52 Via Venezia
 Veljkovic Miro, Cine Citta
 Dr Alfandari Rank, Cine Citta (in H.L.A.J. from Nov 43 till Oct 44)
 Dr Alfandari Ivo do do
 Savin Dragutin, 23 Via S. Anofrio (in H.L.A.J. on the Island Vis)

3. It is requested please that Allied Police be ordered arrest the a/n deserters and to hand them over to this Delegation who will forward them to H.O. Base H.L.A.J. for further proceedings.

4. If action in accordance with Para 3 would not be practicable, may this Delegation please be authorized to apprehend them.

2630

Signed Kojensic (unreadable)
THE CHIEF
Major.

5220

SECRET

FC (44) 148
6 December 1944

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

ALLEGED YUGOSLAV DESERTERS

Note by Secretary

1. The Yugoslav Delegation in ROME has expressed to the Allied Commission their desire to obtain custody of certain Yugoslav Nationals residing in ROME, on the grounds that they are deserters from the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation. Some of the persons sought are believed to be in Allied custody in a refugee camp.

2. G-5, with the concurrence of the British Resident Minister, the United States Political Adviser, and G-1 (B), have suggested that the Allied Commission's policy should be:

- a. That proven deserters from the Yugoslav Armed Forces should be apprehended and returned to Yugoslavian military jurisdiction.
 - b. That the liberty of other persons, whose custody might be sought by the Yugoslav authorities for political or other reasons, should be protected.
3. It is considered, therefore, that a procedure should be set up whereby the Yugoslav authorities would be required to set forth certain particulars in regard to each person. This will permit the Allied authorities to screen requests without entering into political issues. It is also thought that the Allied Commission should require notification of a desertion within 60 days of its occurrence.

4. The Political Committee is invited to advise the Supreme Allied Commander to endorse the above proposals and to authorize the dispatch of the attached draft letter to the Allied Commission.

821
to General G-5 2029
J. H. LASCELLES,
Colonel,
Secretary.

DISTRIBUTION

- Supreme Allied Commander
- Deputy Supreme Allied Commander
- Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean
- Air Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean
- Commander, Eighth Fleet, USN
- Chief of Staff
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Deputy Chief of Staff
- U. S. Political Adviser

COPY NO.

- 1
- 2
- 3-4
- 5-12
- 13-14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18-20

Pol. Sec

K 506

SECRET

COPY NO. 33

1043

1. The Yugoslav Delegation should be expressed to the Commission their desire to obtain custody of certain Yugoslav Nationals residing in ROME, on the grounds that they are deserters from the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation. Some of the persons sought are believed to be in Allied custody in a refugee camp.

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821

to be sent by 2029
J. H. LASCHELLES,
Colonel,
Secretary.

DISTRIBUTION

Supreme Allied Commander	1
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander	2
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean	3-4
Air Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean	5-12
Commander, Eighth Fleet, USN	13-14
Chief of Staff	15
Chief Administrative Officer	16
Deputy Chief of Staff	17
U. S. Political Adviser	18-20
British Resident Minister	21-24
Director, PWB	25
Secretary, General Staff	26
Secretary, IS & PS	27-29
Chief, Liaison Section	30
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission	31-33
G-1 (A)	34
G-1 (B)	35
G-2	36-37
G-3	38-39
G-3 Special Operations	40
G-4 (A)	41
G-4	42
G-5	43-45
Spares	46-50

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

K 506

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Headquarters, Allied Commission,
AFPC 294.

Subject: Alleged Yugoslav Deserters.

1. Under date of 30 November 44 (reference Dpr/2/G2/DP) a letter from Major KCLJENSIC of the Yugoslav Delegation in ROME, on the subject of Yugoslav deserters, was referred to this Headquarters.

2. You should advise Major KCLJENSIC that it will be your policy to assist him in every way in the apprehension of deserters from the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation, but that it will be necessary for him to conform with a procedure similar to that now in use in the Allied Armies. Each individual case will require to be considered separately, with a view to safeguarding the rights of a person whose apprehension is sought.

3. It will therefore be necessary for the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation to establish the identity of each deserter, and, prior to taking any action towards apprehension, you should require that particulars be furnished. This might be set forth in affidavit form as follows:

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| (1) | Name of deserter. |
| (2) | Rank. |
| (3) | Military Unit. |
| (4) | Date of enlistment or induction. |
| (5) | Date and circumstances of desertion. |
| (6) | Probable whereabouts. |

2628

You should also require notification of any desertion within 60 days thereof.

By Command of General WILSON:

from Major KOLJENSIC of the Yugoslav Delegation in ROME, on the subject of Yugoslav deserters, was referred to this Headquarters.

2. You should advise Major KOLJENSIC that it will be your policy to assist him in every way in the apprehension of deserters from the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation, but that it will be necessary for him to conform with a procedure similar to that now in use in the Allied Armies. Each individual case will require to be considered separately, with a view to safeguarding the rights of a person whose apprehension is sought.

3. It will therefore be necessary for the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation to establish the identity of each deserter, and, prior to taking any action towards apprehension, you should require that particulars be furnished. This might be set forth in affidavit form as follows:

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- (2) Rank.
- (3) Military Unit.
- (4) Date of enlistment or induction.
- (5) Date and circumstances of desertion.
- (6) Probable whereabouts.

2628

You should also require notification of any desertion within 60 days thereof.

By Command of General WILSON:

J. A. H. GAMBELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

SUBJECT: Propaganda among SLAV Tps

He
SA

Army Sub Commission ACC
Rear HQ (MMIA)
LEQUILE (LECCE)
I/IO3/B
10 Feb 44

HQ 2 District

copy to: HQ ACC NAPLES (Political Sec)
Army Sub Commission ACC SALERNO
MMIA LO 2 District

1. Further to our I/IO3/A of 27 Jan 44, herewith translation of ITALIAN WAR MINISTRY's letter forwarding to us a third list of 32 SLAV deserters.
2. Will you please make investigations regarding the SLAV propaganda office mentioned in paras # 2 & 3 of the above letter and report the results of your inquiries to this HQ, with copy to above addressees.
3. Nominal roll of the 32 deserters attached for Army Sub Commission only.

C. J. [Signature]

Brig
Army Sub Comm ACC

GSH

TRANSLATION

SUBJECT:= Desertions of soldiers of YUGOSLAV origin (ALLOGLOTTI)

M M I A (LESQUILLE)

ITALIAN War Ministry

1364/II

Ref 8.2.1.

7 Feb 44

Further to our 996/II of 30 Jan 44, herewith a third list of deserters.

We inform you that in BARI Via VITTORIO VENETO, 32, there is an office which is engaged in propagandist activity among the ALLOGLOTTI, and in favour of the partisans.

It seems that this office, in addition to acquiring adherents among a/m soldiers sends them instructions about leaving their units and reporting to a location, not exactly defined, about 3 km from BARI, where they are enrolled and given Allied uniforms; this is done to allow them immunity from the CARABINIERI and patrols.

signed

Gen

ALIBERTI

2625

SUBJECT: VALCOVICK GiuseppeR E S T R I C T E D

Army Sub Commission A.C.C.
 Main H.Q. (MMIA)
 LEGHILE (LECCE)
 I/103/T
 17 APR 44

War Ministry

Copy to: Adv HQ Army Sub Comm ACC SALERNO (Army Sub Comm)
 Political Section ACC Rear HQ (Adv HQ letter)
 Displaced Persons SC RARI (S244 of 13 Apr)
 (44 refers)

Ref your 2502/11 of 2 Mar 44, subject as above.

1. We are instructed that normal action against VALCOVICK as an offender against ITALIAN laws is in order.
2. It is requested that you notify us of the action you take in his respect.
3. Para 1 of our I/103/T of 7 Apr 44 need not now be complied with.

CGL.

W. H. ...
 for Maj Gen,
 Army Sub Comm A.C.C.

821
 505-Valcovick

2625

1049

NEAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COM. COMMISSION

GS/mms

13 April 1944

GS244

SUBJECT: Disposal of VALCOVICK Giuseppe.

TO : Army Sub-Commission, A.C.C. Main HQ (MMA)
LHQ (LHCE).

Reference your I/103/T of 7 April and your
I/103/Y of 8 April on the above subject.

The Political Section, A.C.C. have been informed
that this man is not in possession of a Yugoslav pas-
port. They state that in view of the circumstances of his
arrest, there does not appear to be any particular "poli-
tical" aspect in the case.

Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, MARI, have
also been contacted and they state that the Partisan Com-
mittee are fully aware that A.C.C. will give no countenance
to recruitment of Yugoslavs from the Italian Army. They
are aware of the circumstances of VALCOVICK's arrest and
cannot see their way to interfere in the matter.

It is therefore considered that normal action by
the Italians against VALCOVICK as an offender against
their laws is in order. ~~It is suggested that the~~
~~circumstances that have led to his arrest should be~~
~~dealt with as a matter of course, the case should~~
~~not rest on the side of harshness.~~

Lt. Col.

(Sgd) (G. V. QUINSMITH)
Army Sub-Commission
Advanced Headquarters

Copy to:
Political Section. ✓
Displaced Persons SC., Bari.

262

1050

Message

c5 Feb 44

From to Prussia:

Red Cross will transmit insignia of Ital.
soldiers fighting in S. Italy to German authorities.

FILED: 562

52

2623

Letter

5 April 1944

Pearson to Caccia:

Yugoslav sailor who deserted from the Italian Navy. We decided not to intervene, etc.

FILED: 505-PEARSON

891
/

2623

C O P Y

APPLICATION BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR SURRENDER
OF A NAVAL DESERTER *(Yugoslav)*

(From File V.120/44 of Administrative Section)

We have discussed this question with the Chief Commissioner, who wishes it to be clearly understood that this is not one in which we should get involved. In principle the Allied Control Commission cannot admit the right of any member of the Italian Armed Forces to desert and must request Allied Liaison Officers with Yugoslav forces to do what they can to discourage such desertion and make this position clear to the Yugoslav authorities. But, as said above, it is not a question in which we should intervene, that is beyond expressing this point of view clearly to Allied Liaison Officers with the Yugoslav forces.

/s/ H.A.C.

/s/ S.R.

Political Section,
A.C.C.
4.3.44

C O P Y

821

