

ACC

10000/135/16

10000/135/16

BALLOON SQUADRONS, IAF
JULY 1944 - JAN. 1945

37A

FROM : ITALIAN AIR MINISTRY
TO : AFSC (through Liaison Office)
DATE : 5th JANUARY 1945
REF. : 2/DPM/3795/AM/1716 Coll

PERSONNEL WITH R.A.F. BALOON SQUADRONS

36A

With reference to letter AFSC/R/3/AIR dated 24th January 1945:

2. As we have already informed you with letter 2/6745/AM-V dated 27th December 1944, the personnel employed by the Baloon Squadrons are on the strength of the Italian Army; therefore we have informed the War Ministry in order that the unsatisfactory state of affairs due to the economical different treatment to the military personnel, who are working with the Baloon Squadrons in Livorno and Ancona, be eliminated.

3. With letter 2/2970/DPM/AM dated 5th February 1945, this Directorate has solicited a reply on the War Ministry with a regard to the supplying of your Sub-Commission.

4. We will forward you any information we will receive from the War Ministry on this question.

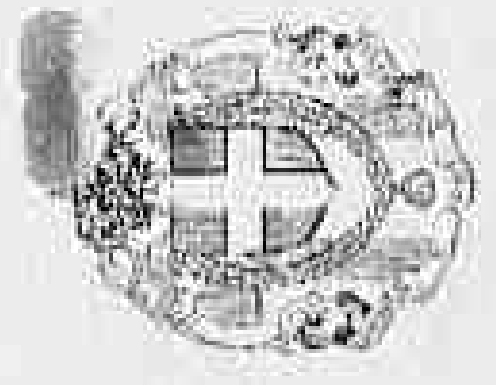
IL DIRETTORE
(Gen P.A. A. AGNESI)

translated by E. Casparini



Mod. 1135

Roma 1945 19 24



Ministro dell'Aeronautica
Direz. Pers. Milit. e Scuole

ALLA SOTTOCOMMISSIONE AERONAUTICA
UTICA - R.O.M.A. -
(tramite Ufficio Colloquio)
R.A. con Alleanza - R.O.M.A. -

Quaranta
Pret. N. 24 / 244 3705 / 1716 828

Risposta al foglio del
Dir. 24

OGGETTO Personale con i Gruppi Aerostieri della R.A.F.

Si fa riferimento al foglio n. AFSC/P/8/AIR in data 24
Gennaio 1945.-

2. Come già comunicato a codesta Sottocommissione con foglio n. 2/6745/AIR-V in data 27 Dicembre 1944, il personale che presta servizio con i Gruppi Aerostieri della R.A.F. appartiene al R. Esercito; perciò la scrivente ha interessato il Ministero della Guerra affinché fossero eliminati gli inconvenienti dovuti alla differenza di trattamento economico tra i militari addetti ai gruppi Aerostieri di Livorno e Ancona.-
3. Con foglio n. 2/2970/PPM/AIR in data 5 febbraio 1945 questa Direzione ha sollecitato il Ministero della Guerra a fornire gli elementi per la risposta a codesta Sottocommissione.-
4. Si fa rinviare di transmettere notizie in merito appena perverranno dal Ministero della Guerra.-

828

IL DIRETTORE
(Generale di R.A. - ALDO AGNESI)

A. Agnesi

Il pannello di controllo per ogni attività con riferimento a tutte le operazioni

1141
Gennaio 1945.-

2. Come già comunicato a codesta Sottocommissione con foglio n. 2/6745/Al-V in data 27 Dicembre 1944, il personale che presta servizio con i Gruppi Aerostieri della R.A.F. appartiene al R. Esercito; perciò la scrivente ha informato il Ministero della Guerra affinché fossero eliminati gli inconvenienti dovuti alla differenza di trattamento economico tra i militari addetti ai Gruppi Aerostieri di Livorno e Ancona.-

3. Con foglio n. 2/6745/Al-V in data 5 Febbraio 1945 questa Direzione ha sollecitato il Ministero della Guerra a fornire gli elementi per la risposta a codesta Sottocommissione.-

4. Si fa riserva di trasmettere notizie in merito appena perverranno dal Ministero della Guerra.-

828

IL DIRETTORE
(Generale di R.A. - Alfredo Agnesi)

A. Agnesi

ET/RO

36A

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, AG. Rome
To : Italian Air Ministry, Directorate of Personnel.
Date : 24th January 1945.
Ref. : AFSC/R/S/AIR.

PERSONNEL WITH RAF BALLOON SQUADRONS

33A

Further to our letters of even reference dated 2nd January 1945 and 18th December 1944 also MAAF Allied Liaison Section letter RA F/4213/ALS dated 16th December, it is requested that this Sub Commission be informed if this question has been referred to Ministry of War as instructed and what action has been taken to rectify these matters by this body if they were responsible.

2. Headquarters MAAF are pressing for information on this subject as unless something is done quickly serious repercussions are likely to result.

Copy to :
HQ MAAF, Allied Liaison Section.


J.G. WHITE, F/827,
AIR VICE MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

35A

From : Air Force Sub Commission, AC, Rome
 To : Allied Liaison Unit HQ MAAP RAF CEF.
 Date : 5th January 1945
 Ref. : AFSC/R/S/AIR.

IAF PERSONNEL EMPLOYED WITH RAF BALLOON SQUADRONS

- 34A

With reference to your MAAP/4213/ALS dated 3rd January 1945, it is notified that a reply on this subject was received from Italian Air Ministry stating that the personnel in question were Italian Army personnel and not Italian Air Force personnel.

2. The reply was not considered satisfactory and this Sub Commission has further requested the Italian Air Ministry to take this up with the Ministry of War and there the matter stands at the moment.
3. Copies of letters concerned are forwarded for information.

J. C. White
17 Jan 45

J. C. WHITE, E/LT,
 AIR VICE MARSHAL,
 AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

826

33A

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, AC. Rome
To : Italian Air Ministry, Directorate of Personnel.
Date : 2nd January 1945
Ref. : AFSC/R/8/AIR.

PERSONNEL WITH RAF BALLOON SQUADRONS

32A

Receipt is acknowledged of letter 2/6745/AM/V/1353, dated 27th December 1944.

2. The position of Italian Army personnel employed in RAF Balloon Squadrons was set out in detail in this Sub Commission's letter, reference R/7/AIR, dated 30th December 1944, paragraph No. 8.

3. It is therefore felt the matter in question should be taken up by the Air Ministry with the Ministry of War.

825

W. Walton
J. WALTON, S/LDR,
AIR VICE MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

FROM : ITALIAN AIR MINISTRY

TO : AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION
(through Liaison Office)

DATE : 27th DEC. 1944

REF. : 2/6745/AM/V/1353

MILITARY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY R.A.F. UNITS.

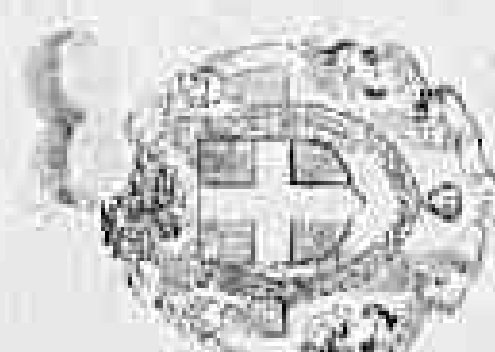
With reference to letter AFSC/E/P/AIR dated 12/12/44 it is pointed out that the personnel of the Balloon Squadron of Leighorn and the other one employed by the 986 Squadron Detachment in Ancona are not on the strength of the I.A.F. but of the I.Army.

The Italian ^{Gen.} Ministry must therefore be informed of what mentioned in Allied Liaison Section, HQ. MAAP letter MAAP/4213/ALS of the 11th Dec. 1944.

PER IL MINISTRO
IL DIRETTORE
(Gen.A. Agnesi)

824





BL

cb

Ministero dell'Aviazione
DIREZ. PERSON. MILIT. E SCUOLE
- 2^a Sezione -

Divisione

Procl. N. 2/6745/AM/17
1353 coll.

OGGETTO : Personale impiegato dalle Unità della R.A.F. -

L'AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION-
Allied Commission -
ROMA
(Tramite Ufficio Collegamento R.A.)
ROMA

27 DIC. 1944

In riferimento al foglio AFSC/P/8/Air in data 12/12/1944 si informa che il personale dei "Billion Squadron" di Livorno e quello impiegato presso il 986° Squadron Detachments in Ancona non appartiene alla R.Aeronautica bensì al R. Uservito.

Perciò quanto è stato riferito dalla Allied Liaison Section Hq, MAAT, CNF con foglio MAAT/4213/ALS dell'11 Dicembre 1944 deve essere fatto presente al Ministero della Guerra, dal quale il personale di cui sopra dipende a tutti gli effetti.

PER IL MINISTRO
IL DIRETTORE
(Generale B.A. - Alfredo AGNESI)
A. Agnesi

823

314

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, AC. Roma

To : Italian Air Ministry, Directorate of personnel.

Date : 18th December 1944

Ref. : AFSC/R/E/AIR.

IAP PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY BALLOON UNITS

Further to this Sub Commission's letter of even reference dated 14th December 1944, herewith copy of further letter on this subject received from Allied Liaison Section, HQ MAFB, giving additional details for your information.

2. Your attention is drawn to the final paragraph of their letter and your confirmation is requested that an immediate investigation will be made into this question, and the necessary adjustment of pay made.

822

J.C. WHITE, P/LT,

AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICE COMMANDING

1148

Further to this Sub Commission's letter of even
reference dated 10th December 1944, herewith copy of
further letter on this subject received from Allied
Liaison Section, HQ MAAP, giving additional details for
your information.

30 A

2. Your attention is drawn to the final Paragraph of
their letter and your confirmation is requested that
an immediate investigation will be made into this
question, and the necessary adjustment of pay made.

822

J. G. White

J.G. WHITE, P/LT,

for AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

Copies to :

Allied Liaison Section, HQ MAAP.

HQ MACAF

To :- Air Forces Sub Commission, Allied Commission Rome.
From :- Allied Liaison Section, H.Q. M.A.A.F. C.M.F.
Date :- 16th December 1944.
Ref :- MAAF/4213/ALS.

30A

Basic pay for Italian Air Force personnel
No 986 Squadron.

28A

1. Further to this Headquarters letter of even reference dated 10th December 1944, on the subject of pay for Balloon Operators at Ancona.
2. Additional details are submitted to you for the information of the Directorate of Personnel, Italian Air Ministry.
 - (a) The morale of the personnel in No 3 Compagnia of 1st Gruppo Aerostieri del Genio, who are working with the Royal Air Force Balloon Unit in Ancona, is adversely affected by their low pay.
 - (b) In July 1944, the basic pay of the other ranks of No 4 Compagnia in Leghorn and the Italian Units in Ancona and forward areas was raised from 9 lire to 45 lire.
 - (c) No 3 Compagnia commenced working in Ancona on or about 26th July. Nevertheless, their pay has never exceeded 9 lire a day.
3. As the strength of No 3 Compagnia has been about forty, the back pay involved is some 200,000 lire. It can only be presumed that, either this money was drawn at source and not passed on to the men entitled to it, or that the Senior Administrative Officers of the Gruppo failed to place the necessary claims for the increase.
4. This Headquarters views with grave concern, this unsatisfactory state of affairs and it is requested that immediate action be taken to rectify the matter by raising the pay to the agreed level of 45 lire a day and refunding the back pay now owing.

821

(G. Conroy)
Flight Lieutenant,
Air Vice-Marshal,
Chief of Staff, RAF MedME.

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



239

FROM : Air Forces Sub Commission, AC, Rome
TO : Italian Air Ministry, Directorate of Personnel,
for Gen. Agnesi.
Date : 12th December 1944.
Ref. : AFSC/R/8/AIR.

#2843

IAF PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY RAF UNITS

Enclosed is a copy of letter received from Allied Liaison Section, HQ MAAF relative to rates of pay of Italian Air Force Balloon personnel.

2. It is requested that this may be given your attention and an early adjustment made in order that the dissatisfaction being caused may be cleared up.
3. In order that a reply may be given an explanation ^{of} these differences in pay would be appreciated.

J. G. White

J.G. WHITE, F/LT
AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

1151

Enclosed is a copy of letter received from Allied Liaison Section, HQ MAAF relative to rates of pay of Italian Air Force Balloon personnel.

2. It is requested that this may be given your attention and an early adjustment made in order that the dissatisfaction being caused may be cleared up.

3. In order that a reply may be given an explanation of these differences in pay would be appreciated.

J. G. White

J. G. WHITE, P/LT

AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

Copy to :

Allied Liaison Section, HQ MAAF.

From: - Allied Liaison Section, H.Q. M.A.A.P. C.M.F.

To: - Air Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. Rome.

Date: - 11th. December, 1944.

Ref: - WAP/4213/AIS.

28A

Italian Air Force Personnel - No.986 Squadron.

1. The question of rates of pay to the Italian Air Force Balloon personnel has been raised with this Headquarters.
2. It appears that the personnel working with the Balloon Squadron in Leghorn are being paid at the rate of 45 lire per day, but in the case of those employed with No.986 Squadron Detachments at Ancona, the rate of pay being received by these Italians is only 9 lire per day.
3. The difference in the rates of pay is causing dissatisfaction to the Italian personnel at Ancona and is having an adverse effect upon the morale and efficiency of this Unit.
4. It is requested that this matter be investigated with a view to correcting this matter.

Blouroy Ltr.

for (S. CONROY),
Flight Lieutenant,
Wing Commander,
Allied Liaison Section.

819



274

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, ACC. Rome
 To : HQ M.A.A.F. Allied Liaison Section
 HQ 214 Group, Liaison Office
 Army Sub Commission.
 Date : 28th October 1944
 Ref. : AFSC/R/S/Mr.

I.A.F. EMPLOYED BY R.A.F.

Receipt is acknowledged of HQ M.A.A.F. letter 4201/4/ALS dated 20th October 1944.

2. The personnel of the Italian Army who were returned to Guippono M. Caserma Farante on the disbanding of certain R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons are not required by the I.A.F.
3. The whole point of the transfer of Army personnel to the Air Forces was that these personnel had been trained in Balloon Squadron work. The Army had to reduce its ceiling and proposed discharging these Balloon Squadrons personnel, which meant Air Force personnel would have had to be trained to take their place. In order to save waste of time and energy on training new recruits the Air Force decided to accept a transfer of those Army personnel who were employed in R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

Receipt is acknowledged of HQ M.A.A.F. letter 4201/4/ALS
dated 20th October 1944.

2. The personnel of the Italian Army who were returned to
Giulio H. Caserma Taranto on the disbanding of certain R.A.F.
Balloon Squadrons are not required by the I.A.F.

818

3. The whole point of the transfer of Army personnel to the
Air Forces was that these personnel had been trained in Balloon
Squadron work. The Army had to reduce its ceiling and proposed
discharging these Balloon Squadrons personnel, which meant Air
Force personnel would have had to be trained to take their places.
In order to save waste of time and energy on training new recruits
the Air Force decided to accept a transfer of those Army personnel
who were employed in R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

4. If any of the personnel proposed to be so transferred are not
now required in Balloon Squadrons, then the I.A.F. has no useful
employment for them and it is suggested they be discharged as originally
planned by the Army.

Walton

J. WALTON, S/LDR,

SENIOR VICE MARSHAL,

26A

From :- Allied Liaison Section,
H.Q. M.A.A.F. S.M.E.

To :- Military Mission Italian Army, ROME.

Date :- 24th October 1944.

Ref. :- HQAF/EXH/1/AGS.

22423A

1. Reference is made to your letter 57/47 dated 21st Oct. 1944.
2. It is noted that the 440 Italian Army personnel employed in U.S. Balloon Squadrons, have been transferred to the Italian Air Force.
3. As regards the balance of 325 referred to in your letter, investigation has been made by this Section, and it appears that, of the original number (approx. 700) of Italian Army personnel employed in U.S. Balloon Squadrons, many have been discharged by the Italian authorities who are (or were) responsible for their administration.
4. It is not desirable that any addition be made to the total of Italian Army personnel already employed in U.S. Balloon Units.

G. Conway, Jr.

For

G. Conway, P.M.A.,
Air Force Commander,
Allied Liaison Section.

✓ Copy to :- A.F.A.C. A.M.C. ROME (Your sig. 2.9.207 dated 15th Oct. refers)

23A

817



From :- Allied Liaison Section, H.Q. M.A.A.F. C.M.F.

To :- A.P.S.C. A.C.C. ROIE. ✓

Date :- 20th October 1944.

Ref. :- MAAF/4201/4/ALS.

Italian Air Force personnel employed by
M.A.A.F. Units.



7/11/44

1944

1. Reference is made to this Headquarters' letter MAAF/4201/1/ALS. dated 26th September 1944; M.A.A.F. Liaison Officer H.Q. 214 Group letter (para. 2) MAAF/1699/4/Org. dated 11th October 1944, copies of both letters to you; and your signal to this Headquarters of 15th Oct ref. R.O. 207

2. The Italian personnel referred to in MAAF/4201/1/ALS are presumed by this Section, to be Italian Army bodies who were originally intended to be included in the total Army personnel (employed in Balloon Squadrons) to be transferred to the Italian Air Force. It will be seen from this letter under reference that these personnel have been returned to GULF Headquarters in error and instructions were given to Army Sub-Division to hold the personnel pending disposal action by H.Q., M.A.A.F. or your Headquarters.

3. In view of your above quoted signal the position as regards these personnel is that they are not required by the Italian Air Force and therefore they cannot be employed as is suggested in MAAF/1699/4/Org. Para. 2 dated 11th October.

4. It is requested that this be confirmed by your Headquarters and a copy of your letter sent to H.Q., 214 Group (Att M.L.C.)

Henry J. F.

C. Conroy
Flight Lieutenant,
Wing Commander,
Allied Liaison Section.

816

Copy to 214 Group (M.L.C.)

1. Reference is made to this Headquarters' letter IAAF/4201/1/ALS, dated 26th September 1944; I.A.A.F. Liaison Officer H.Q. 214 Group letter (para. 2) IAAF/1699/4/Org. dated 11th October 1944, copies of both letters to you, and your signal to this Headquarters of 15th Oct ref. R.O. 207
2. The Italian personnel referred to in IAAF/4201/1/ALS are presumed by this Section, to be Italian Army bodies who were originally intended to be included in the total Army personnel (employed in Balloon Squadrons) to be transferred to the Italian Air Force. It will be seen from this letter under reference that these personnel have been returned to GURB Headquarters in error and instructions were given to Army Sub-Division to hold the personnel pending disposal action by H.Q., I.A.A.F. or your Headquarters.
3. In view of your above quoted signal the position as regards these personnel is that they are not required by the Italian Air Force and therefore they cannot be employed as is suggested in IAAF/1699/4/Org. Para. 2 dated 11th October.
4. It is requested that this be confirmed by your Headquarters and a copy of your letter sent to H.Q., 214 Group (Att K.I.G.)

Henry J.T.

C. Conroy
Flight Lieutenant,
for Wing Commander,
Allied Liaison Section. 816

Copy to 214 group (att)

23A

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

FROM : AIR VICE CHIEF COMMISSION, A.C.C., MOB
TO : HEADQUARTERS, H.A.A.F., N.A.F.

CONFIDENTIAL P.O. 207 1501 COURTESY 1944
FOR ALLIED LIAISON SECTION (.) SUBJECT IS TRANSFER OF
ITALIAN AIRSTAFF PERSONNEL TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE (.)
UNIT. H.A.A.F. LATER ON/2 OF 1943 OFFICER PARALLEL
THREE (1) (.) THE INVESTIGATION THAT ANY AIRSTAFF
DETACHED THESE EMPLOYED IN ITALIAN SQUADRON IN TRANSFERRED
TO AIR FORCE (.) LAW OFFICERS AND PLANNED OFFICERS
DEPARTED TO SUBSEQUENTLY INDIVIDUAL BE CAPTURED (.)

TO BE RECAPTURED IF SEEN BY V/F

S.C.C. 154105

URGENT IN CODE

W. H. S. 4

J. WATSON, S/DEN,

AIR VICE-CHIEF,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDER

FOR ALLIED REACTION SECTION (.) SUBJECT IS STAFFED BY
 ITALIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE (.)
 REF. M.I.L.A. JUNCTION 81/2 OF 13th OCTOBER 1944
 STAFF (3) (.) NOT INVESTIGATE THAT ANY AIR FORCE PERSONNEL
 DEPARTED THREE PERSONNEL IN ITALIAN SQUADRONE PER TRANSMISSION
 TO AIR FORCE (.) LAW OFFICER AND REACTION OFFICERS
 DEPARTED TO SUPERVISOR PERSONNEL PER COMMAND (.)

TO BE INVESTIGATED IF DATA BY W/R

S.C.O. 154105

INQUIRY INFORMATION

J. HARTON, S/DR,

AIR VICE-MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDER.

815

put copy of this to [illegible]
1/41

22A

SUBJECT: Italian Army personnel employed by MAAF

MILITARY MISSION ITALIAN ARMY
 R O M E
 File No. SD/2
13 Oct 44

TO : HQ MAAF

Copy to: AI
 AFSC HOME
 AFSC BANG
DEPT LO 54 AREA

1. Following the request made in your MAAF/1762/1/ORG of 20 Jul 44, AI, in their 1608/50/36/6(SHL) of 19 Aug 44 instructed this HQ to transfer 23 officers and 742 ORs operating in balloon units under your command from the Italian Army to the Italian Force Ceiling.

2. Your MAAF/4201/1/ALS of 10 Oct 44 shows that only 440 such personnel are under your command.

3. Will you please state:-

(a) the position regarding the balance of 326

(b) if you wish this HQ to endeavour to make up such part of the balance that you cannot account for.

L. M. T. Gledhill
 Maj Gen
 M M I A
St. Col



814

8/11/44

C O P Y .
- - - - -

From : Headquarters, Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force,
R.A.F., C.M.F.
To : Army Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission, C.M.F.
Date : 21st September, 1944.
Ref. : CAF/1019/BAI.

Italian Personnel in Balloon Squadrons.

Certain R.A.F. Balloon Units employing Italian Army personnel who are administered by the Ministero Marina through Guipio Shamanunti Aevic, have been disbanded.

2. The surplus Italian personnel, 8 officers and 70 other ranks, have been sent back to Guipio Headquarters at CASERTA, TARANTO, to await your disposal instructions.

(S'gt.) J.D.O. SHEPPARD, W/C.
for Air Commodore,
Air Officer i/c Administration,
MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED COASTAL AIR FORCE.

Copy to: Allied Liaison Section, H.Q., M.A.A.F., C.M.F.
Air Force Sub Commission, BARI.

(Copy from A.F.S.C. BARI TO A.F.S.C. ROME) ✓

8/AIR

813

19A

From :- Headquarters, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces,
Central Mediterranean Forces.

To :- Army Sub Division Allied Control Commission, C.M.F.

Date :- 26th September 1944.

Ref. :- MAP/1201/1/ALS.

Italian Personnel in Balloon Squadrons.

1. Reference is made to H.Q., Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Forces letter, ref. CAP/1315/1/RAH., dated 21st September addressed to you, copy to this Headquarters.
2. The surplus Italian personnel from certain R.A.F. Balloon Units, 8 officers, 70 other ranks have been returned in error to GHQHQ Headquarters at CASERTA, ITALY.
3. These personnel, originally of the Italian Army, are being transferred to the strength of the Italian Air Force according to A.A.I. instructions. Action has already been commenced to effect their transfer.
4. The personnel referred to in the above quoted letter are to be treated as Air Force personnel. They must not be disposed of to Army Units.
5. Arrangements for this disposal will be made by the A.F.S.C. and this Headquarters and the information passed to you in due course.

*Already notified roll
see my 17A encl
J.W.*

Robinson
C. Conroy P/Lt.,
for Wing Commander,
Allied Liaison Section.

812

Copy to :- A.F.S.C. ROME ✓
H.Q. M.A.C.A.F.



16A
Air Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission, BARI.

AFSC/8/AIR/D.O.

13th September, 1944.

Dear

Walter,

This is to clarify and fill out my telephone conversation relating to manpower.

The move of the I.A.F. to ROME is having the expected result, of slowing up many matters; and, in particular, 'manpower' which affects the whole Air Force and cannot be managed by 4th Z.A.F., who are only part of the whole. Dealing with requests through 4th Z.A.F. gives then a superb opportunity for procrastination, and at the end of a week one receives the answer that they have no men available in 4th Z.A.F. and WE must ask Rome.

There is also the example of M.A.A.F./1762/1/ORG dated 5th September which I return to you herewith. The answer, as I suspected, lies in ROME; as you will see from the attached correspondence. Army Sub-Commission letter D/2 of 31st August, also refers.

Briefly, you have the Italian Air and War Ministries, M.M.I.A. and A.C.C. at hand for any problems, and I feel that any manpower matter can be far more expeditiously and effectively dealt with in the Rome Office.

I am endeavouring to get out a comprehensive instruction on the addressing of letters to I.A.F. Units, so as to cut down some of the very considerable delay caused by writing to Stato Maggiore instead of Ministero or 4th Z.A.F. If this delightful little brochure, profusely illustrated, ever sees the light of day I will send you a copy. The letter I rang you about (to Col. ZAPETTA) was written on 17th August, but was I think sent to 4th Z.A.F.. Despite the provision of another copy it is unlikely that an answer will be received in under a month. This is possibly a good thing, for the squadrons seem to be managing with their own M.F.!

Yours,

811

F.M. Dewy

F.M. DEWY,
GROUP CAPTAIN.

Squadron Leader J. Walton,
Air Forces Sub-Commission

There is also the question of the answer, as I suspected, lies in ROME; as which I return to you herewith. The answer, as I suspected, lies in ROME; as you will see from the attached correspondence. Army Sub-Commission letter D/2 of 31st August, also refers.

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Jords,

811

M. Henry.

F.M. DENTY,
GROUP CAPTAIN.

Squadron Leader J. Walton,
Air Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission, ROME.



P.S. Two Spits. being made available by B.A.F. today, and B.A.F. hopes to produce seven more shortly. Tell HQ.

86

From :- Allied Liaison Section,
H.Q. M.A.A.F. C.M.F.

To :- Air Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.C. ~~XXXX~~ RARI

Date :- 8th. September 1944.

Ref. :- MAF/1762/1/ORG.

1. Reference is made to this Headquarters signal
O.738 dated 25th. August 1944.

2. The Italianised Balloon Squadrons No.977 and
985 are being disbanded, consequently the Italian personnel
requested for these two Squadrons will not now be needed.

Chenoy F.
(G. CHENY) F/MT.
for Squadron Leader,
Allied Liaison Section.

Copy to :- Air Forces Sub Commission A.C.C. ~~XXXX~~ ROME. ✓

S/AR

81



ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

TO: HEADQUARTERS IMAF (R) AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION ROME
FROM: AIR FORCES SUB COM ACC BARI
REFERENCE No: 0.520
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: AUG 16/NET
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 32/19
CLASSIFICATION: NONE
PRECEDENCE: NONE
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE: NONE

6A
AGREE YOUR LETTER 1762/1/OPC. DATED 14TH AUGUST CONCERNING BALLOON SQUADRONS.

ACC DIST

ACTION: AIR FORCE SC (2) 808
INFO: A/CC
FILE (2)
FLOAT



DATE and Time of RECEIPT AUGUST 19/1000

Distribution:

OUTGOING MESSAGE.

FROM: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, ROME.
TO: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, BARI.

CONFIDENTIAL RO.114 16TH AUGUST (.) FOR DENNY FROM
BUSCARLET (.) SUBJECT IS BALLOON SQUADRONS (.)
REFERENCE MAAP LETTER 1762/1/ORG OF 14/8 AGREE TO THE
PROPOSALS (.)

TO BE ENCYIPHERED
IF SENT BY W/T.

T.O.O. 16144CB

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

J. WALTON, S/LDR,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

807

11469.

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, A.C.C. Rome

To : Italian Air Ministry, Rome.

for Col. Gavino

Date : 18th August 1944

Ref. : AFSG/P/P/AIR.

ITALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO I.A.F.

1. It has been agreed that approximately 700 men and 25 officers of the Italian Army now serving with R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons, should be transferred to the Italian Air Force and be included in the 4000 personnel seconded for duty with Allied Air Force Units.

1. These men have all been specially trained for their particular work and it was felt it would be foolish to withdraw them & send untrained I.A.F. personnel to do their work.

J. Walton
J. WALTON, S/LDR.

806

A. V. Marshal
AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COM ANDENG.

1665

8A

From:- Headquarters, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, R.A.F., C.M.F.
 To:- Headquarters, Allied Forces in Italy.
 Date:- 17th August 1944.
 Ref:- HAE/1762/1/ORG.

Italian Army Personnel Employed in RAF
 Balloon Squadrons.

Reference is made to your letter 1602/30/70/8(101) of 7th August 1944, and to this Headquarters letter of even reference dated 14th August 1944. — **6A 0 3667A**

2. Air Forces Sub Commission have agreed the proposal outlined therein, and it remains only for you to initiate the necessary action for transfer.
3. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

S. A. Palmer
 26

(S. A. PALMER) S/Mr.
 for, Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer i/c Administration.



*not in
 file*

Copies to:- Air Forces Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, BARI.
 Air Forces Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, ROME. ✓
 Army Sub Commission, ROME.

805

OUTGOING MESSAGE.

FROM: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, ROME.
TO: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, BARI.

CONFIDENTIAL NO.114 16TH AUGUST (.) FOR DENTY FROM
BUSQUANLET (.) SUBJECT IS BALLOON SQUADRONS (.)
REFERENCE MAP LETTER 1762/1/ORG OF 14/8 AGREE TO THE
PROPOSALS (.)

TO BE ENCRYPTED
IF SENT BY W/T.

T.O.C. 161440H

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

J. WALTON, S/LDR,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

804

From: Headquarters, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, M.A.A.F., M.A.F.

To: Air Force Sub Committee,
Allied Central Command, M.A.C.

Date: 15th August 1944.

Ref: M.A.C./1762/1/005.

Italian Army Personnel Employed
in M.A.F. Balloon Units.

Your attention is invited to a letter to this Headquarters from M.A.F., M.A.F., under reference 1605/50/36/2 (M.A.F.) of 7th August 1944, a copy of which was sent to you.

2. This letter deals with the question of those Italian Army personnel at present employed in M.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

3. The position at the moment is as follows:-

(i) At a series of conferences held during the period 9th to 16th of February of this year, it was agreed that the Italian Army should provide 15 officers and 750 other ranks for employment in M.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

(ii) Since that time, an additional 3 officers and 42 other ranks have been provided by the Italian Army.

(iii) On 20th July 1944, a request was made to Headquarters, M.A.F., for a further additional 3 officers and 69 other ranks, for similar employment.

(iv) On 24th July 1944, Headquarters, M.A.F., replied to the effect that (a) no additional Italian Army personnel could be provided, and (b) that it would shortly be necessary for them to withdraw those Italian Army officers and other ranks at present employed with those M.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

(v) On 1st August 1944, Headquarters, M.A.F., was approached with the proposal that, at the present Italian Army personnel employed by the M.A.F. were fully trained in their duties, it was desired to retain their services, and that, if it was necessary for M.A.F. to withdraw these personnel, an arrangement of 800 trained personnel whereby the M.A.F. retained the services of 800 trained personnel and the Italian Air Force replaced them by an equal number of men, for employment in the duties for which M.A.F. required them.

(vi) On 3rd August 1944, the above proposal having been made known to your Headquarters, you replied disagreeing the proposal, and stating that if the Italian Army withdrew the above mentioned Italian officers and other ranks, the responsibility for replacing them rested with the Italian Army. Subsequently, in the course of conversations between Air Vice Marshal Brown-Muesel, Group Captain Perry and Squadron Leader Nelson, of your Headquarters, and

A17

16/8/44

- (i) At a series of conferences held during the period 28th to 16th of February of this year, it was agreed that the Italian Army should provide 15 officers and 700 other ranks for employment in A.A.I. Balloon Squadrons.
- (ii) Since that time, an additional 8 officers and 42 other ranks have been provided by the Italian Army.
- (iii) On 20th July 1944, a request was made to Headquarters, A.A.I., for a further additional 3 officers and 69 other ranks, for similar employment.
- (iv) On 24th July 1944, Headquarters, A.A.I., replied to the effect that (a) no additional Italian Army personnel could be provided, and (b) that it would shortly be necessary for them to withdraw those Italian Army officers and other ranks at present employed with those A.A.I. Balloon Squadrons.
- (v) On 1st August 1944, Headquarters A.A.I. was approached with the proposal that, at the present Italian Army personnel employed by the A.A.I. were fully trained in their duties, it was desired to retain their services, and that, if it was necessary for them, A.A.I., to withdraw these personnel, an arrangement could be effected whereby the A.A.I. retained the services of these trained personnel and the Italian Air Force replaced them by an equal number of men, for employment in the duties for which A.A.I. required them.
- (vi) On 3rd August 1944, the above proposal having been made known to your Headquarters, you replied disapproving the proposal, and stating that if the Italian Army withdrew the above mentioned Italian officers and other ranks, the responsibility for replacing them rested with the Italian Army. Subsequently, in the course of conversations between Air Vice Marshal Bennett-Muscatelli, Group Captain Denay and Squadron Leader Walton, of your Headquarters, and Squadron Leader Palmer of this Headquarters, it was agreed that the matter would be reconsidered.
- (vii) A reply to the proposal mentioned in 3 (v) above has now been received from H.Q. A.A.I., in which they state that they agree to the suggestion that the A.A.I. retain the services of the balloon-trained Italian Army personnel, and that they do not need to have them replaced by Italian Air Force personnel; but, they feel that the Italian Army personnel referred to should be transferred to the Italian Air Force, and held against the Italian Air Force ceiling of 31,000.

5. It would be appreciated, therefore, if you would advise this Headquarters, as soon as possible, of your agreement to the following:

(1) That the 23 officers and 742 other ranks of the Italian Air Force, presently employed in A. C. F. Balloon Squadron, be transferred to the Italian Air Force, held against the ceiling of 31,000, and continue to be employed in their present duties; and

(2) That the additional 3 officers and 69 other ranks, Italian, required for the same duties, be supplied from the Italian Air Force.

If you agree in the above proposal, it is agreed by this Headquarters that the demobilization of 23 officers and 742 other ranks, to effect the transfer of that number from the Italian Air Force, will offset the availability of Italian Air Force manpower to meet the demand for approximately 30 officers and 1600 other ranks outlined in our letter HAF/1763/3/025 of 14th August 1944; and in this connection, we are content that first priority be given to the A. C. F. Balloon Squadron, and the demands in the above mentioned letter of 4th August 1944 be met as and when the necessary manpower is available. It would be appreciated if you would meet as many of these demands as you can at an early date as is possible.

S. L. R. W.

(S. L. R. W.) Major,
For: Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer in Charge Administration.

Copies to:- External

A. C. F.

H. A. C. F.

Air Force Sub Commission, Allied Central Commission, Rome.

Air Force Sub Commission, Allied Central Commission, Rome.

Internal

Organization 2 (Establishments)

Circulation.

802

FROM : Air Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission, EART.

TO : Headquarters, Mediterranean Allied Air Forces,
R.A.F., G.M.F.

DATE : 3rd August, 1944.

REF. : AFSC/8/AIR. ✓

ITALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN
R.A.F. BALLOON SQUADRONS.

Receipt is acknowledged of HQ. M.A.A.F. letter 1762/1/OPG dated 1st August, 1944, circulated to all formations to whom this letter is distributed.

2. It is desired to point out that in the early days of Italianization of R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons, the policy was laid down that all Italian personnel for this purpose should be drawn from the Italian Army and Italian Navy and not from the Italian Air Force.

3. If Italian Army personnel are being employed in excess of some quota and the Italian Army now wishes to withdraw and replace such personnel i.e. 15 officers and 700 other ranks, it is desired to state the responsibility for the replacement of these men rests on the Italian Navy.

4. The Air Forces Sub-Commission must resist most strongly any attempt to deviate from the long-standing and accepted policy.

5. It is reiterated that the supply of Italian personnel to R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons never has been the responsibility of the Italian Air Force.

W. Denny 801
for F.M. DENNY, G/CAPT.
AIR VICE MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

buted.

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3. If Italian Army personnel are being employed in excess of some quota and the Italian Army now wishes to withdraw and replace such personnel i.e. 15 officers and 700 other ranks, it is desired to state the responsibility for the replacement of these men rests on the Italian Navy.

4. The Air Forces Sub-Commission must resist most strongly any attempt to deviate from the long-standing and accepted policy.

5. It is reiterated that the supply of Italian personnel to R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons never has been the responsibility of the Italian Air Force.

F.M. Denny

801

F.M. DENNY, C/CAPT.
AIR VICE MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

for

DISTRIBUTION: Copies to:-

A.F.H.Q.
Air Forces Sub-Commission, ROME. ✓
M.M.I.A., A.C.C., BARI.
M.M.I.A., A.C.C., ROME. ✓

678.

1177

From :- Headquarters, Mediterranean Allied Air Force,
 To :- Headquarters, Allied armies in Italy,
 Date :- 1st, August 1944,
 Ref. :- HAF/4762/1/384.

ITALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED IN R.A.F.
 BALLOON SQUADRONS.

Reference your letter 1605/50/36/6(SUI) dated 24th, July 1944, and further to this Headquarters letter of even reference dated 20th, July 1944.

2. It is noted that in para. 4 of your above-mentioned letter you refer to the probable necessity of withdrawing the Italian Army personnel at present employed in R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

3. As these personnel are trained in their present duties, and as the training of an equal number of unskilled men would be a somewhat lengthy process, it is desired to retain their services with the Royal Air Force.

4. To this end, therefore, a proposal is put forward by this Headquarters which it is hoped will meet your approval.

5. The proposal is that :

- (a) Those 15 Officers and 700 ORs. of the Italian Army now employed with R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons be retained on their present duties.
- (b) That an equal number of officers and men of the Italian Air Force be made available to the Italian Army, thus equally replacing them ;
- (c) That the additional 44 Officers and 140 ORs. asked for in our previous letter be obtained from the Italian Air Force.

6. In this way, the Italian Army will regain a number of personnel equivalent to those now on loan to the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Air Force retains the services of those men on whom much time and energy has been expended in training them.

7. It would be appreciated if you would give this proposal your approval and inform this Headquarters of your decision.

Dated 20th July 1944.

2. It is noted that in para. 4 of your above-mentioned letter you refer to the probable necessity of withdrawing the Italian Army personnel at present employed in R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

3. As these personnel are trained in their present duties, and as the training of an equal number of untrained men would be a somewhat lengthy process, it is desired to retain their services with the Royal Air Force.

4. To this end, therefore, a proposal is put forward by this Headquarters which it is hoped will meet your approval.

5. The proposal is that:

- (a) Those 15 Officers and 700 OEs. of the Italian Army now employed with R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons be retained on their present duties.
- (b) That an equal number of officers and men of the Italian Air Force be made available to the Italian Army, thus equally replacing them.
- (c) That the additional 41 Officers and 1440 OEs. asked for in our previous letter be obtained from the Italian Air Force.

In this way, the Italian Army will regain a number of personnel equivalent to those now on loan to the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Air Force retains the services of those men on whom much time and money has been expended in training them.

7. It would be appreciated if you would give this proposal your early attention, and inform this Headquarters of your decision.

W. R. R. R.
(S.A. 1000) S/Ar.,
for Air Marshal

D/Air Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Allied Air Forces.

With copies to:
1. HQ, R.A.F. (with copy of this letter) 1/10/44. 20th July 44.
2. HQ, R.A.F. (with copy of this letter) 1/10/44. 16th July 44.
3. HQ, R.A.F. (with copy of this letter) 1/10/44. 16th July 44.

1/10/44. 16th July 44.
1/10/44. 16th July 44.
1/10/44. 16th July 44.

SECRET

CONF.

Subject :- Italian Army personnel employed by the Air Force.

Headquarters
Allied Armies in Italy
1605/50/36/ (SDI)

24 July 1944.

MA.A.P.

1. Ref. MAP/1762/1/ORG. of 20 July, the following units of the Italian Army are operating under your command :-

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>	at para. 3 your letter.
<u>Quadrone 372</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>700</u>	
One bn 372 Inf Regt	18	426	BARLETTA
107 Btg Territoriale	26	160	AAPC SAN SEVERO
Total	59	1288	

2. The ceiling of the Italian Army has been decided by AFHQ at a figure less than that required to meet the tasks of AAI. No provision has been, or can be, made in that ceiling for units for the Air Force. The views of AAI have already been expressed in AAI SD 1214 of 8 Jul, AAI G4 of 11 Jul, AAI SD 1258 of 11 Jul, and AAI SD 1469 of 19 Jul.

3. In a memo of 11 Jul signed by the Chief of Staff AFHQ, AAI was informed that the ceiling of the Italian Army Air Force has been fixed at 22,000. Any question affecting the Air Force ceiling or the provision of Italian Army personnel for the Air Force is a matter for AFHQ and not for AAI.

4. It will shortly be necessary to withdraw the Italian Army personnel mentioned at para 1 above. If you desire to retain this personnel or to increase their numbers, the matter should be referred by you to AFHQ.

General
Commander-in-Chief

Copy to : AFHQ }
 : MEIA }
 : 1310 }

One in 3/2
Inf Regt

107 Btg
Territoriale

	18	428	BARLETTA
	26	160	AAPC SAN SEVERO
	59	1288	
Total			

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4. It will shortly be necessary to withdraw the Italian Army personnel mentioned at para 1 above. If you desire to retain this personnel or to increase their numbers, the matter should be referred by you to AFHQ.

General
Commander-in-Chief

Copy to : AFHQ
 MIA
 DCAO
 A
 Q

With copy of MAAP/1762/1/ORG. d.d. of 20 Jul, 44.

15X.

From :- Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Forces.
To :- Headquarters Allied Armies in Italy
Copy to : R.A.F. Allied Control Commission.
Date :- 20th July 1944.
Ref. :- MAP/1762/1/Grp.

Italian personnel employed in R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

As a result of arrangements made in February this year, certain personnel of the Italian Navy and Army were made available for service in the R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

2. These arrangements were effected by a series of conferences on February 9th, 1944 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 16th, which were attended by representatives of the R.A.F. and the Allied Control Commission, as well as by certain Italian Staff Officers, among whom were General MATTEI, Capt. RUI and Capt. D'ADDATO.

3. It was finally agreed to make available a figure of 15 Officers and 500 Other Ranks for service in these Squadrons, in order to release R.A.F. manpower for other theatres of war. This figure was subsequently increased to 15 Officers and 700 Other Ranks.

4. Since then, R.A.F. Balloon Squadron commitments have considerably increased and it is now desired to increase the number of Italian service personnel employed by them to a total of 26 Officers 841 Other Ranks an increase of 11 Officers, 141 Other Ranks over our previous allotment. Of this figure, 8 Officers, 42 Other Ranks are already held in addition to the 15 Officers, 700 Other Ranks previously allotted.

5. It would be appreciated therefore, if you would authorise the increased number of 26 Officers, 841 Other Ranks and arrange to provide the necessary additional 3 Officers, 59 Other Ranks and notify this Headquarters accordingly. 798

6. If trained balloon operators are not readily available, the R.A.F. is prepared to undertake all necessary training for the service personnel to be provided.

7. In view of the pressing nature of this commitment, entailed by the rapid increase of territory to be covered, it would be appreciated if you would give this matter your earliest attention.

As a result of arrangements made in February this year, certain personnel of the Italian Navy and Army were made available for service in the R.A.F. Balloon Squadrons.

2. These arrangements were effected by a series of conferences on February 9th, 1944 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 16th, which were attended by representatives of the R.A.F. and the Allied Central Commission, as well as by certain Italian Staff Officers, among whom were General MARTINI, Capt. RUI and Capt. D'ALBINO.

3. It was finally agreed to make available a figure of 15 Officers and 500 Other Ranks for service in these Squadrons, in order to release R.A.F. manpower for other theatres of war. This figure was subsequently increased to 15 Officers and 700 Other Ranks.

4. Since then, R.A.F. Balloon Squadron commitments have considerably increased and it is now desired to increase the number of Italian service personnel employed by them to a total of 26 Officers and 844 Other Ranks an increase of 11 Officers, 111 Other Ranks over our previous allotment. Of this figure, 8 Officers, 42 Other Ranks are already held in addition to the 15 Officers, 700 Other Ranks previously allotted.

5. It would be appreciated therefore, if you would authorize the increased number of 26 Officers, 844 Other Ranks and arrange to provide the necessary additional 5 Officers, 62 Other Ranks and notify this Headquarters accordingly.

798

6. If trained balloon Operators are not readily available, the R.A.F. is prepared to undertake all necessary training for the service personnel to be provided.

7. In view of the pressing nature of this commitment, entailed by the rapid increase of territory to be covered, it would be appreciated if you would give this matter your earliest attention.

(S.A. PALMER) 5/12/44.
for Air Marshal

D/Air Commander-in-Chief
Mediterranean Allied Air Forces.

1183