

ACC

10000/135/20

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IAF, BOMBER - TRANSPORT WING  
AUG. 1944 - JAN. 1945

10A

CRYPTIC MESSAGE.

FROM: AIR FORCE SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION, IRE.

TO: AIR FORCE SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION, IRE.

SECRET NA.47 T.O.O 151120A JANUARY 1945 (.)

REQUEST PASS FOLLOWING TO IRE (.)

REASONS (.) FOR CLASIFICATION FROM DECLASSIFIED (.) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS MAKE  
IT NECESSARY WE CONTINUE TO USE ITALIAN AIRCRAFT AS LONG AS WE CAN KEEP  
THEM GOING (.) NECESSARY THROUGHOUT WE CAN MAXIMIZE SPARES IN MIDDLE  
EAST (.) THIS WILL BE AID BY DECISION TO CANCEL SM.82 TRIPS  
TO BOSTON WHICH MUST NOW CONTINUE (.) WILL TRY KEEP THESE TO MINIMUM  
(.) IRE (.)

TO BE SUPPLEMENTED  
IF SENT BY W/T.

PRIORITY: IMPORTANT

*W.A.L. Brown-Furber*

W.A.L. BROWN-FURBER,  
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,  
AIR OFFICE COMBATANT.

*[Handwritten mark]*

*Fuli*

*[Handwritten mark]*

898

10/2/42

AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,

BARI.

AFSC/10/2/11P. ✓

14th September 1944.

Dear

I notice that the Supply Dropers have had several failures within the last few days due to not locating the ground signals. I do not know whether this is due to weather, finger trouble on the part of the Italians, bad briefing or out of date information from Force 333.

It is really not my baby, but if I can do anything to help, please let me, or in my absence Group Captain Denny, know.

Yours

*WB*

Air Commodore L.F. Sinclair, CC, DSO, DFC,  
Headquarters,  
B.A.F.  
C.M.F.

79  
AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,

ROME.

AFSC/R/10/2/AIR.

17th August 1944.

Dear

With further reference to your EAF/S.2280/14/30 of the 11th August 1944 and my letter of even reference dated 15th August, I have now interviewed General Piacentini and he tells me that he has personally been down to Lecce with the object of infusing a better spirit into the Bomber/Transport Squadrons. He tells me that he has given you 30 sorties on the last three nights which is fairly satisfactory. Moreover he himself went on one of the sorties in a Cant.1007 last night which I think you will agree is a good show, and even a better one considering that he flew up here and arrived in Rome before 09.30 today to take part in a Cabinet meeting.

He has replaced the Squadron Commanders of the two Squadrons concerned with younger and more energetic people, and hopes that this will all bear fruit.

He does however wish me to stress the very ancient and dilapidated condition of the aircraft, and the fact that they are doing all the sorties with practically the same aircraft on every occasion that they go out, that is to say that they have no reserves whatever.

Please let me know at once if you have any further complaint.

Yours

*WB*

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Please let me know at once if you have any further complaint.

Yours

*W.S.*

896

Air Commodore L.F. Sinclair, GC, DSO, DFC,  
Headquarters,  
B.A.F. C.M.F.

Copy: Group Captains R.Y. Eccles and F.M. Denny,  
A.F.S.C. A.C.C. Bari Office.

*Notes*

NOTE OF ACTION.

6A  
/

FILE: 10/2/AIR.

DICTATED BY AIR OFFICER COMMANDING ON 21/8/44.

Reference 5A, spoke to General Fiacentini today and insisted on removal of Colonel Sgarlata. He agreed that Sgarlata is unsatisfactory, and that he would replace him at once.

Squadron Leader De Haan interpreted during the conversation.

**SECRET**

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
INCOMING MESSAGE

3392

TO: AIR FORCES SUBCOM ACC ROME

FROM: AIR FORCES SUBCOM ACC BARI

REFERENCE No: 4 897

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: AUG 18

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 59/19

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

PRECEDENCE: IMPORTANT

OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

FOR AVM BUSCALET FROM LIGULIS.

YOUR RA 1<sup>9</sup>26 AUGUST 15. ALL CONCERNED AGREE SCARATA RESPONSIBLE  
 RUSSELL SAYS UNCOOPERATIVE AND DISREPAIRS LET REPORTS ALSO HIS ADVISE,  
 NO PROPER BRIFING AND FLIGTS NOT UP TO MAIL WITH GEN. GENERAL I PRES-  
 SION IS THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO OPERATE. THIS OUTDOOR DENNY'S VISIT  
 WOULD TODAY AND COMETH'S BY CONSIDERED OPINION.

HEADQUARTERS  
 10 AUG 1944  
 A. C. C.

DIST

ACTION - AIR FORCES SC (2)  
 INFO - 4/CC  
 FILE

A 67  
 19/8 89.  
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION



SION IS THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO OPERATE. THIS OUTCOME DEEPLY'S VISIT  
WASCE TODAY AND COURTESY BY CONSIDERED OPINION.

HEADQUARTERS  
10 AUG 1944  
A. C. C.

DIST

ACTION - AIR FORCES SG (2)  
INFO - J/CC  
FILE

767  
19/8 83

DATE and Time of RECEIPT AUG 19 15 153

Distribution:

**SECRET**

OUTGOING MESSAGE.

3A

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

SECRET RA.112 16TH AUGUST (.) FOR ECCELS FROM BUSCARLET  
(.) PLEASE CONTACT AIR COMMODORE SINCLAIR AND ASK HIM TO SHOW  
YOU HIS S.2200/4/50 OF AUGUST 11TH (.) SUSPECT THIS IS MORE  
TROUBLE WITH SCARLATA (.) YOU OR DENNY SHOULD VISIT LECCE AND  
GET FIRST HAND OPINION FROM RUSSELL ON THIS (.) IF HONEST  
OPINION IS THAT SCARLATA IS THE ROOT OF TROUBLE I WILL INSIST  
THAT HE GOES (.) SIGNAL ME YOUR VIEWS (.)

TO BE ENCRYPTED  
IF SENT BY W/T.

T.O.O. 161040B  
PRIORITY: IMPORTANT.

*W.A.B. Buscarlet*  
W.A.B. BOWEN-BUSCARLET,  
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,  
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

893

*Rome*

2A

AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,

ROME.

AFSS/10/2/AIR.

15th August 1944.

Dear

With reference to your BAE/S.2280/4/SO of 11th August 1944, this has only just caught up with me.

I am very glad that you wrote to me about the slackness at Lecce as for a long time I have felt very much the same as C.C. 334 Wing seems to think, and have been continuously plugging it with the Italian Air Ministry. In my view the trouble lies with the Colonel Commanding the Station who has got his finger well and truly in. I have tried repeatedly to get him changed, and I think this should provide sufficient ammunition for me to do so.

You must, however, remember the extremely rickety condition of these aircraft. I don't know whether you have ever examined them at close quarters, but it is really rather a wonder that they fly at all. There is also the consideration that quite a large proportion of their rather small number of SM.82's has been diverted to the ferrying of Spitfires from Vis, (I do not know how much of this has been done, but one of the aircraft was laid up for some time for macking up purposes,) and our commitment as regards ferrying equipment and "C" stores for the Baltimores in from Algiers.

However I do think that they are not putting their backs into the job, and I am sending a copy of this letter, together with a copy of my own to Eccles and Denny at Bari to ask them to take it up at once as strongly as possible. Meantime if the Minister turns up in Rome towards the end of this week, as I think he is going to, I shall raise it again with him.

By the way you will remember that we only fly them on the Supply Dropping missions on moonlit nights. I am only too anxious to help B.A.F. in every way I possibly can, and you can be assured that I will push the thing as hard as I can from here. I am afraid that I am stuck in Rome for some time now as we are having our big A.U.C. Conference on Tuesday week, which always takes a few days, so that I shall probably miss two of your Friday meetings. Please apologise to the A.O.C. for me.

has only just caught up with me.

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Yours  
*W.F.*

Air Commodore L.F.G. Sinclair, GC, DSO, DFC,  
Headquarters,  
B.A.F. C.M.F.

Copy: Group Captains R.I. Eccles and F.A. Penny,  
A.F.S.C. A.C.C. Bari Office.

SECRET.

1A

BAR/S .2280/4/50

Headquarters, Balkan Air Force,

C.M.F.

11th August 1944

Dear A.V.M

I have just received a very frank letter from O.G. No. 334 Wing criticizing the manner in which the Italian transport units at LECCO are carrying out their duties. It appears from this that they have no great liking for the job and that they are lacking in determination in carrying out supply dropping under bad weather conditions.

I have checked the tonnage they dropped in July which consisted of 140 tons nett out of an allotment of 150 tons. The other units of No. 334 Wing dropped nearly double their allotment. So far this month they have only succeeded in dropping 27 tons, and I am informed that they have cancelled for weather on several nights when the remaining aircraft of No. 334 Wing have carried out missions without difficulty. **891**

I would be grateful for your views on this matter as we are getting pushed for meeting our commitments in Yugoslavia owing to requirements in Poland and Italy and due to the fact that No. 60 Transport Group have lost 50% of their navigators which has drastically reduced their effort.

If we can only urge the Italians to get going a bit harder it would help us out a lot, and I must say I find it a bit discouraging at a time like this to receive such outspoken decrying of the Italian effort.

Yours P. ...

10/2/44

Dear A.V.M

I have just received a very frank letter from C.C. No. 334 Wing criticizing the manner in which the Italian transport units at LUCC are carrying out their duties. It appears from this that they have no great liking for the job and that they are lacking in determination in carrying out supply dropping under bad weather conditions.

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Yours Sincerely *Finlay*

A.V.M., Bowen-Buscarlet, CBE., DFC.,  
Air Forces Sub-Commission,  
Allied Control Commission,  
BARI.

1291