

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

785017

ACC

10000/135/458

POW'S, EX
OCT. 1943 - M

10000/135/458

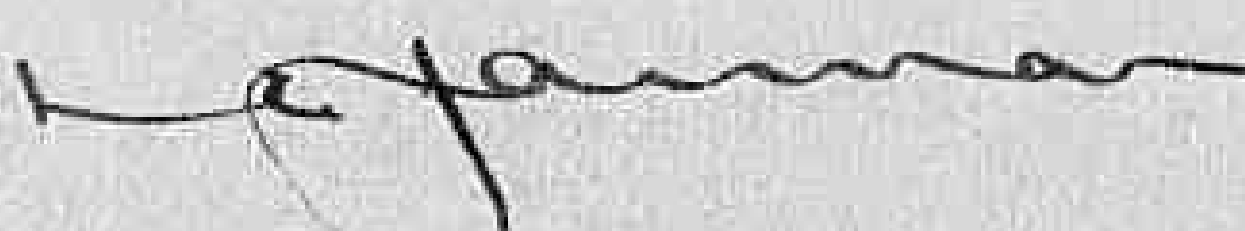
POW'S, EX ALEXANDRIA & ADEN
OCT. 1943 - MAY 1946

MINUTE 3TO AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

Sir,

I am of the opinion that we should side with the Italian Air Ministry.

To do this would not affect the War Effort in the slightest, would not give them a justifiable complaint of lack of faith on our part, and would not unduly antagonise them when we, at some further date, may have to give them greater worries.


 L.E. JARMAN, GR/CAPT.

5th April 1945

4.

2319

A.O.C.

1. Please see Enclosure 49 A. On studying the very large quantity of correspondence on this subject I must say I agree with AED/NE that there is no justification for treating these I.A.F. ex-prisoners differently from normal co-operators, and the criterion for repatriation is presumably whether they are most valuable to the Allied effort by being sent back sooner or later, not how long they were prisoners of war before becoming co-operators.

2. The Minister doesn't make it clear whether non-cooperator prisoners are being repatriated ahead of those he is interceding for. If that were so I think there would be a case against the repatriation scheme.

21 Feb, 46.

 W.N. Brodie Wicar
 S.S.O.

MINUTE SHEET.

-1-

TO: LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION, H.Q. A.C. ROE.
FROM: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, H.Q. A.C. ROE.

At enclosure 22A on this file is a complaint from the Italian Air Ministry as to the treatment of some Volunteer Italian Air Force personnel in Aden. At 24A I referred the matter to Headquarters, Royal Air Force, Middle East.

2. At 26A is the reply from H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., to which answer is attached two other letters having bearing on the subject; Middle East content that the title if Volunteer Italian Air Force is not an official one. I forwarded this letter to the Italian Air Ministry and have now received a lengthy reply at enclosure 29A which deals with the legal status of these people. I must admit that this is far beyond my understanding, and I should be very much obliged if you could inform me whether their claims have any standing or not.

W.A.B. Bowen-Buscalet.

W.A.B. BOWEN-BUSCALET,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

24th February, 1945.

-2-

TO: GROUP CAPTAIN JARMAN.

I am reluctant to drag you into this very lengthy and, to my mind, unnecessary correspondence, but I would like to have your opinion on it. If you refer to minute 1 it will give you a background and will save you time in looking through the file, all the relevant letters, except the most recent one, being already flagged.

2. As you will see from enclosure 32A compared with 30A, H.Q. M.E. do not seem to agree with our Legal experts here. I do not know whether they took any legal advice in framing their reply.

2318

3. However, in paragraph 8 of enclosure 30A you will see that the opinion of the Legal Sub-Commission is that their opinion is not binding on M.E.

4. I feel that if I write a conciliatory letter embodying the points made by M.E., it may do the trick.

W.A.B. Bowen-Buscalet.

W.A.B. BOWEN-BUSCALET,

2. At 26A is the reply from H.Q. to the letter, to which answer is attached two other letters having bearing on the subject; Middle East contend that the title if Volunteer Italian Air Force is not an official one. I forwarded this letter to the Italian Air Ministry and have now received a lengthy reply at enclosure 29A which deals with the legal status of these people. I must admit that this is far beyond my understanding, and I should be very much obliged if you could inform me whether their claims have any standing or not.

24th February, 1945.

W.A.B. Bowen-Buscalet.

W.A.B. BOWEN-BUSCALET,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

-2-

TO: GROUP CAPTAIN JARMAN.

I am reluctant to drag you into this very lengthy and, to my mind, unnecessary correspondence, but I would like to have your opinion on it. If you refer to minute 1 it will give you a background and will save you time in looking through the file, all the relevant letters, except the most recent one, being already flagged.

2. As you will see from enclosure 32A compared with 30A, H.Q. M.E. do not seem to agree with our legal experts here. I do not know whether they took any legal advice in framing their reply.

2318

3. However, in paragraph 8 of enclosure 30A you will see that the opinion of the Legal Sub-Commission is that their opinion is not binding on M.E.

4. I feel that if I write a conciliatory letter embodying the points made by M.E., it may do the trick.

3rd April, 1945.

W.A.B. Bowen-Buscalet.

W.A.B. BOWEN-BUSCALET,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

FROM : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C., ROME.
DATE : 27th MAY, 1946.
TO : ITALIAN AIR MINISTRY.
REF. : AFSC/911/2/R.

REPATRIATION OF VOLUNTEER ITALIAN AIR FORCE, ADEN
AND ALEXANDRIA.

Reference our letter AFSC/911/2/R., dated 5th April 1946 and previous correspondence with regard to the Repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War.

2. It will be of interest to you to know that it is estimated that by the end of August 1946 all Italians from the Middle East will be repatriated.

3. As the Army Authorities have given the V.I.A.F. a measure of priority no further delay is anticipated in their repatriation.

W. G. S. Galt
A.C. GALT, S/LDR.
FOR AIR VICE MARSHAL
DIRECTOR
AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C.

55A

From:- Mediterranean Allied Air Committee Secretariat.

To :- Air Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, ROME.

Date:- 22nd May, 1946.

Ref :- MAAC/4206/AFALS.

REPATRIATION OF V. I. A. F. IN ADEN & ALEXANDRIA

52A.

Further to this Secretariat's letter of even reference dated 1st April, 1946, the following information may be of interest to you.

2. Headquarters Royal Air Force, MEDAE, state that the repatriation of Italian Prisoner of War labour is to be speeded up, and it is estimated that all Italians will be repatriated by the end of August, 1946. As the Army authorities have agreed to give V. I. A. F. personnel a small measure of priority, no further delay in their repatriation is anticipated.

On 21.5.46 inform IAFI & refer
to our previous correspondence
with them. PFB 27/5.

Maxwell Fisher.

(MAXWELL FISHER)
Wing Commander
Secretary to The
MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR COMMITTEE



2314

54A

From:- Allied & Foreign Air Liaison Section,
MEDE Detachment, Air Headquarters Italy.

To :- Headquarters No. 218 Group, Royal Air Force.
Copies to : O.2.E., C.M.F.
Air Forces Sub Commission, ALCom, Rome.
A.2. Branch, CHQ (Attention: Capt. BIRD)

Date:- 3rd May, 1946.

Ref :- MEDS/4224/AFALG.

Italian Co-operators - African Employables

Reference is made to your Signal ~~100~~ (P.23) dated 29th April) and further to this Headquarters signal U.15 dated 2nd May, 1946.

2. It is desired to draw your attention to this Headquarters letter MEDS/4225/AFALG dated 6th December, 1945, Paragraph 3 which states :

- When documentation has been completed and in conjunction with Headquarters British Troops North Africa, the co-operators will be handed over to the Army, who will assume future responsibility for movement to Italy etc.

P. Walsley
(P. WALSMLEY)
Squadron Leader,
for Air Vice-Marshal,
Air Officer Commanding,
AIR HEADQUARTERS ITALY.

2312

53 A

From : Air Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. ROME.
To : Italian Air Ministry.
Date : 5th April, 1946.
Ref. : AFSC/911/2/P4.

VOLUNTEER I.A.F. - ADEN AND ALEXANDRIA

Reference our letter AFSC/911/2/P4, dated 23rd February, 1946.

2. Further information has now been received from H.Q., RAF, Medeo. Arrangements are being made for the Volunteer I.A.F. Aden and Alexandria to be transferred to 380 Camp, Fayid, after March 26, 1946.
3. Repatriation will be effected when practical after that date.

27/4/46

A. G. Salter

A. G. SALTER, S/LDR.,
AIR VICE MARSHAL,
DIRECTOR,
AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION.

2311

52A

From. Mediterranean Allied Air Committee
 To. Air Forces Sub Commission, Allied Commission, Rome.
 Date. 1st April 1946.
 Ref. MEDME/4206/ALS

50A

Volunteer I.A.F. - Aden & Alexandria.

AIR FORCES MID-ORIENT, MED COMMISSION,
ROME.

AFSC/944/2/Pa.

23rd February, 1946.

5012

FROM: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION, ROM.

TO: M.A.A.C. SECRETARIAT.

DATE: 23RD FEBRUARY, 1946.

REF: AFSC/911/2/R.

49A.

The contents of your MAC/1206/APAIS dated the 18th February 1946 are noted.

2. I would be glad if arrangements could be made with Headquarters MND/128 to give the personnel of the so-called Volunteer Italian Air Force a small measure of priority over other Co-operators and Prisoners of War in North Africa as a friendly gesture to the Italian Government. In this connection the Italian Air Ministry have been persistently worrying us for a long period on as high a level as they have been able to take.

3. In practice this request would mean shipping the V.I.A.F. just before the other personnel when arrangements are made for their repatriation from Alexandria and Aden.

J.D. 25/2
Org. 12/10
S.I.O. 12/10
S.S.O.


I.E. BROOKE,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
DIRECTOR,
AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION.

2305

49A

From : Mediterranean Allied Air Committee Secretariat.
To : Air Forces Sub- Commission, Allied Commission, ROME.
Date : 18th February, 1946.
Ref : MAAC/4206/AFALS.

48A

AIR FORCES COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION,
ROME.

AFSC/911/2/H.

6th February, 1946.

FROM: A FOREIGN SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION, ROME.
TO: M.A.A.C. SECRETARIAT.
DATE: 3RD JANUARY, 1946.
REF: AFSC/911/2/P.

I.A.P. VOLUNTEERS IN EGY



IL MINISTRO DELL'AERONAUTICA

rated of course-that the date of their repatriation is not even foreseen in bold and broad lines. It is easy to see the consequences involved in the mind of men yet embittered by so many misfortunes

44A

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, Rome
To : Italian Air Ministry
Date : 21st November 1945
Ref : AFSC/911/2/P4

I.A.F. VOLUNTEERS - ADEN AND ALEXANDRIA</

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, Rome
To : M.A.A.C.
Date : 21st November 1945
Ref : APSC/911/2/P4

VOLUNTEER I.A.F. - ADEN AND ALESSANDRIA

42A

From :- Mediterranean Allied Air Committee Secretariat.
 To :- Air Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, ROME.
 Date :- 16th November, 1945.
 Ref :- MEDME/4206/ALS.

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

TO: H.Q. LEAVE A.L.S.

DATE: 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1945.



MINISTERO AERONAUTICA
GABINETTO DEL MINISTRO

Segreteria

FROM: AIR ITALY SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION, ROME.

TO: ITALIAN AIR MINISTRY.
CABINETTO DEL MINISTRO SEGRETARIA.

DATE: 7TH JUNE,

37h

FROM: A.T. CES SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION, ROSE.

TO: HEADQUARTERS,
R.A.F. MIDDLE EAST.

36A

AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION, MIDDLE COMMISSION,
ROME.

2nd May, 1945.

AFSC/

349

FROM: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION, ROME.

TO: HEADQUARTERS, ROYAL AIR FORCE,
MIDDLE EAST.

DATE: 6TH APRIL, 1945.

REF: AFSC/911/2/24.

and for maintaining the morale of the Italian Air Force which is engaged in active support of the Allied operations in Italy.

2. I can assure you that the Italian Air Force feels very strongly about this rather small detachment of roughly 100 men who are in Aden and Alexandria who originally agreed to become members of the so-called V.I.A.F. The circumstances under which they were accepted are known to all in the Air Ministry and the Italian Air Force.

Prisoners of War who would not consent to perform work contrary to Article 31 of the Geneva Convention.

Para. 6 :

The V.I.A.F. when working for the R.A.F. in East Africa had no special task in any way different from the tasks they are now carrying out as Co-operators.

Para. 8 :</

FROM: AIR FORCES SUB-COMMISSION,
ALLIED COMMISSION, ROME.

TO: HEADQUARTERS,
ROYAL AIR FORCE,
MIDDLE EAST.

DATE: 8TH MARCH, 1945.

