

ACC

10000/135/741

000/135/741

HISTORICAL RECORDS
MAR. 1941 - JAN. 1942;
AUG. 1946 - JULY 1947

FROM: AIR COMMODORE A.G. BISHOP, C.B.E., A.F.C.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
AIR FORCES BRANCH,
A F O 794.

17th July, 1947.

DO/AGB/7/11.

Dear

Reference your letter No. C.34710/47/AHB/D.O., dated 2nd July, 1947, I have since spoken on the telephone to Squadron Leader Jacketts about the signal I sent you in reply.

The position is roughly that "R" Day may come any minute; on the other hand it may not.

If it does then the Italians may not allow access; except perhaps on a reciprocal basis.

Even if it does not come things have now gone on for so long that it would be preferable to ask as a favour not as a right; although admittedly it is a request they cannot refuse.

Therefore I can only repeat that, in my opinion, the sooner Mr. Gould comes the better it will be.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J.C. Nerney,
Head of Air Historical Branch,
Air Ministry,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

3228

18A

09.11A.11Z JUL 47

AIR FORCE3 BRANCH, ASTO, MOBI

AIR HENRIQUEZ, LONDON.

UNCLASSIFIED.

17A

CA. 393 (.) FOR AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH (.) YOUR LETTER C/34710/47 DATED 2/7 (.)
IF VISIT TAKES PLACE AFTER RECONSTRUCTION DAY IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ARRANGE ANY
ACCOMMODATION (.) STRONGLY ADVISE IMMEDIATE VISIT (.) THROUGH RELATIONS SO THAT THE
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE (.)

30/11/47.

3227

RECEIVED
RECEIVED, A.F.C.

426

A.C. RICHMOND A/1000

A.C. RICHMOND A/1000

Director

Reference the attached.

- ① If the Treaty has already been ratified when this visit takes place it will naturally not be possible for Mr. Gould to have official access to I.A.F. Records. The matter might possibly be arranged privately through the Italian Int. Section but this would be asking too much in my opinion.
- ② If the Treaty has not been ratified we are entitled to demand access to these records but at such a late stage this would be most ³²²⁶ undesirable. However, in these circumstances

It would be easier to
 arrange the matter unofficially.

SUBJECT: ^{TO} I.A.M.

③ S/Ld. Jacketts visited the I.A.M.

last December by private arrangements
 and met no difficulties but it
 appears that the writer of the present
 letter does not understand the
 different situation ~~between~~ Italy & Germany.

④ I suggest that a reply should
 make the situation clear & that
 Mr. Gould should come here forth
 with when I will ^{try to} arrange for
 him to see as much as possible
 on an unofficial basis. I do not
 recommend that he visits the
 Italian Air Ministry.

9.7.47.

Indirect 58/0
 S.O.

ALLIED COMMISSION
 INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Tel. No.
ABBEY 311, Ext.

From: Mr. J. C. rney, *Head of A.H.B.*

AIR MINISTRY,

WHITEHALL,

LONDON S.W.1.

Ref: C.34710/47/A.H.B./D.O.

2nd July, 1947.

Dear *Air Commodore Bishop*

I am writing to seek your help on a problem associated with the official R.A.F. history.

You will appreciate that the merit of such history will depend to a large extent upon our ability to secure information from ex-enemy sources, on their conduct of the War. Although we have a considerable volume of German documents in this country, there is a great paucity of similar material from the Italian side.

As a result of a visit to Rome by Squadron Leader Jackets of the Air Historical Branch in December, last, it has been ascertained that the Italian Air Force records have been assembled under the control of a Major Petrucci of the Historical Section, Italian Air Ministry. It is understood that the exploitation of such material, however, is very slow owing to staff difficulties.

It has now become a matter of urgent importance that certain information should, if possible, be extracted from these records and it is proposed, after consultation with the Foreign Office, to send a Mr. Gould of the Historical Branch (who speaks Italian) to Rome on the 6th August, to conduct the necessary research.

/In order

Air Commodore A. G. Bishop, C.B.E., A.F.C.,
Air Sub-Section,
Military Section of A.F.H.Q.,
C.M.F.,
Ministerio Delle Corporazione,
Via Vittorio Veneto,
Rome.

3225

In order that the length of his stay may be limited to a minimum it is ^{considered} advisable that the Italians should be informed well in advance, so that the necessary files may be made immediately available for reference.

I am, therefore, enclosing a list of subjects upon which information is required and venture to ask that this may be handed to the appropriate Italian authority (possibly Major Petrucci) for early action.

Could will be instructed to report, on arrival in Rome, to the Embassy - who have been advised of his mission, but any help you are able to give him, particularly by way of arranging ^{for} accommodation at an R.A.F. transit hotel, or other reasonable place, will be very warmly appreciated.

Yours *min*

Plummer

Am J.A.H.B.

16A
File
 AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION. ALLIED COM. ROME. 19.0845.

AIR MINISTRY. LONDON.

UNCLASSIFIED.

SUGAR EASY CHARLIE SIX FOUR PD YOUR SUGAR EASY CHARLIE SIX ONE ONE THREE
 NOVEMBER REFERS PD THIS HQ QUEEN HAS NO OBJECTION TO VISIT OF SQUADRON
 LEADER LOVE ABLE JACKETS OMA ONE SEVEN THREE TWO TWO TWO OMA TO THE ITALIAN
 AIR FORCE ARCHIVES IF CONSIDERED OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE BY YOUR BRANCH PD

3224

AFSC/1127/IST.

ROUTINE.

INTELLIGENCE.

463.

Sublegat *alt*
 S.H. LEGAT. E/O.

A.C. MERRITT. E/O.

File

154

AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION. ALLIED COMM. ROME.

04.1110 A.

AIR MINISTRY, LONDON. ATTENTION (A.H.B. 6 . WORK STREET)

UNCLASSIFIED.

SIXAR RASTY CHARLES ONE ZERO NINE ED SQUADRON LEADER JACKETS STAYING AT HOTEL
REALE ROME ED PROMELY RETURNING DECEMBER ONE FOUR REPEAT ONE FOUR ED

3223

AFEC/1127/INT.

ROUTINE.

ADMINISTRATION.

A.C. MERRIM. F/O.

490

A.C. MERRIM F/O.

SECRET.

CYPHER MESSAGE.

T. 1448 141-
WL 33087-1-10, 12/41 L.P. (Ldn) Ltd. 11/1954

To—	AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, ROME	Date	2ND DECEMBER	
		Receipt	Despatch	
		Time of 040900	051645	
From—	AIR MINISTRY, LONDON	System		

Serial No. 658

SEC X ?? 2ND DECEMBER CONFIDENTIAL

FOR WING COMMANDER REID FROM NERNEY AHB YOUR 5560 19TH NOVEMBER
SQUADRON LEADER ~~IN~~ L.A. JACKETS ARRIVING ROME APPROXIMATELY
1600 HOURS 3RD DECEMBER. YOUR COOPERATION AND HELP CONSIDER HIS
EXAMINATION OF ITALIAN ???? WOULD BE APPRECIATED. SERVICES OF
???? REQUIRED ???? LETTER FOLLOWS.

ROUTINE

DECYPHERED BY W/O MCEWEN

???? INDICATES CORRUPTIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN QUERIED.
IF CORRECTIONS REQUIRED THEY WILL BE OBTAINED ON REQUEST
FROM YOU. *Reed*

0 3 3 4

??? REQUIRED ??? LETTER FOLLOWS.

ROUTINE

DECYPHERED BY W/O MCEWEN

??? INDICATES CORRUPTIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN QUERIED.
IF CORRECTIONS REQUIRED THEY WILL BE OBTAINED ON REQUEST

FROM YOU.

Handwritten signature

134

Air Forces Sub Commission,
Allied Commission,
Rome.

Ref: AFSC/1127/INT.

5th December, 1946.

Sir,

12 A

I have the honour to refer to your LF.31/46/A.H.B. of 28th November, 1946, and beg to inform you that all necessary arrangements have been made for Squadron Leader Jacketts to visit the Italian Air Ministry Archives.

Arrangements are also being made for an Italian Interpreter to be available for his use.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Paul
(S.M.LEGAT.)
Flight Officer.
for Director,
Air Forces Sub Commission. A.C.
3221

The Under Secretary of State,
Air Ministry.
London, S.W. 1.

I- 1447

12A

ARDEY 3411

TELEPHONE:

Extn.

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, AIR MINISTRY,

and the following number quoted:—

Ln. 51/46/A.H.B.



AIR MINISTRY,

LONDON, S.W.1.

23rd November, 1946.

Sir,

With reference to your signal No. 5560 dated 19th November 1946, relative to the inspection of Italian Air Force war documents, I am directed to inform you that arrangements have been made for Squadron Leader L.A. Jacketts to visit Rome during the first week of December.

2. A study of these documents and their evaluation for historical purposes is regarded of very considerable importance in the preparation of the official R.A.F. history of the war, and I am to invite your active co-operation and help in ensuring that Squadron Leader Jacketts may carry out his task with speed and efficiency.

3. I am to ask that the services of an efficient Italian interpreter may be provided for this work.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Plumer
HEAD OF A.H.B.



The Director (Attention Wing Commander Reid),
Air Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission Italy,
Rome.



S.I.O. For favourable action pt. Para 3 may B220
bit difficult unless Hoff Giff is here.
Reply saying we will give all possible help pt. 11/3/12.

11A

AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION. ALLIED COMMISSION. ROME. 04.1910 A

AIR MINISTRY LONDON. ATTENTION (A.H.D. 6 MARK STREET)

UNCLASSIFIED.

SUGAR RABY CHARLES ONE ZERO NINE TO SQUADRON LEADER JACKSON STAYING
AT HOTEL REALE ROMA TO PROBABLY RETURNING DORMER ONE FOUR EIGHT
ONE FOUR TO

3219

AFSC/1427/INT.

ROUTINE.

ADMINISTRATION.

438.

A.C. BERNARD. W/O.

A.C. BERNARD. W/O

10A

AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION. ALLIED COMM. ROME. 19.0845.

AIR MINISTRY. LONDON.

UNCLASSIFIED.

SUGAR EASY CHARLIE SIX FOUR PD YOUR SUGAR EASY CHARLIE SIX ONE ONE THREE
NOVEMBER REFERS PD THIS NOW QUEEN HAS NO OBJECTION TO VISIT OF SQUADRON
LEADER LOVE ABLE JACKETS CMA ONE SEVEN THREE TWO TWO TWO CMA TO THE ITALIAN
AIR FORCE ARCHIVES IF CONSIDERED OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE BY YOUR BRANCH PD

3218

AFSC/1127/INT.

ROUTINE.

INTELLIGENCE.

463.

Barbieri
S.M.LEGAT. FLT/O.

A.C. Merrien
A.C. MERRIEN. F/O.

I. 1434

4/7836

(9A)

6840

59 LROF V HMKK NR T 63/13 A/R T - ADD
 FROM AM LONDON
 TO AFSC AG ROME
 BT

SEC 6113 12/11 UNCLASSIFIED REFERENCE YOUR AFSC/3127/INT OF
 30TH OCTOBER IN VIEW OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE CONSIDERED
 DESIRABLE THAT AN OFFICER OF THIS BRANCH SHOULD VISIT ITALIAN
 ARCHIVES IF NO OBJECTION WOULD YOU PLEASE ARRANGE. INTERPRETER
 REQUIRED. VISITING OFFICER WOULD BE S/LDR L A JACKETS (173222)
 DATE SUGGESTED END OF NOVEMBER

M

BT 121133Z

/KX//////// SENT PR KX

RD NR 63 AT 1130 EAA K



13/11/53 3217

FROM :- AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C. ROME.
TO :- A.H.B. 6 (ENEMY DOCUMENTS SECTION)
AIR MINISTRY, 17, MONCH STREET, S.W.I.
DATE :- 30th OCTOBER, 1946.
REF. :- AFSC/1127/INT.

ITALIAN AIR FORCE RECORDS.

Reference your memo of 7th October, 1946, the Italian Archives are fairly complete and cover the campaigns from June 1940 to September 1943.

However it is rather difficult to give precise details without knowing which general subjects are of interest. If therefore, some idea could be given of the information which is liable to be required we shall be able to give you much better assistance.

S.M. LEGAT, FL/OFF.
for AIR VICE MARSHAL
DIRECTOR
AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION.

3216

file

7A

From: Air Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, Rome.
To: Italian Air Ministry, Rome.
Date: 14th. October, 1946,
Ref: AFSC/1127/INT. ✓

HISTORICAL RECORDS - ITALIAN AIR FORCE.

Further to our AFSC/1127/INT. dated 31st. August, 1946, receipt is acknowledged of the information requested therein which has proved most valuable to the British Air Ministry Historical Section.

2. It would be much appreciated if this Sub-Commission could be given some indication of the fields covered by the Italian Archives and to what extent they are complete.

John
S.M. LEGAT, F1t/O.,
Air Vice-Marshal,
Director, A.F.S.C., A.C.

3215

6A

From:- A.H.B.6. (Enemy Documents Section.)
Air Ministry, 17, Monck Street. S.W.1.
To:- Air Forces Sub-Commission, Allied Commission,
Rome. (Attention W/Cdr. Reid.)
Your Ref:- AFSC/112/7/INT.
Date:- 7th Oct. 1946.

ITALIAN AIR FORCE RECORDS.

Thank you for your memo of the 23rd Sept. and the accompanying material extracted from the Italian Air Force Archives.

This information is of very great interest to this Branch and the detail in which it is given suggests that the I.A.F. records are very complete. Although we hold an extensive library of German documents, very few Italian documents were brought into this country and we shall no doubt have to ask for your assistance with further queries as they arise.

In the meantime it would be of great assistance if you could let us have some indication of the fields covered by the Italian archives and to what extent they are complete. If more convenient to you, this information could be forwarded in Italian.

Hubert F/4.

for Squadron Leader L.A. JACKETS.

3214

From: Air Forces Sub Commission H.Q.A.C. Rome.

To: Air Historical Branch, Air Ministry,

73, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.1

Date: September 23rd 1948.

Ref: AFSC/142/7/INT.

Historical Records I.A.F.

Herewith the information as requested in your memo of August 13th 1948. It is regretted that facilities are not available in this Headquarters to translate the enclosed mass of information.

With reference to para 4 of your enquiry, it has been confirmed that on March 26th 1941, the battleship VITTORIO VENETO was hit at 1513hrs, and the cruiser POLA at 2015hrs, but neither was put out of action. No other units of the Italian fleet suffered in this attack by Royal Air Force Blenheims.

M. Z. REID W/CDR
for AIR VICE MARSHAL
DIRECTOR
AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION.

3213

confirmed that on March 2, 1941, the cruiser POLA at 2615hrs, but VENEZIA was hit at 1515hrs, and the cruiser POLA at 2615hrs, but neither was put out of action. No other units of the Italian Fleet suffered in this attack by Royal Air Force Blenheim.

M. L. REID W/CDR

for AIR VICE MARSHAL

DIRECTOR

AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION.

3213

From : Air Forces Sub Commission. Allied Commission. Rome.
To : Air Historical Branch, Air Ministry, 75, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.1.
Date : 21st September, 1946.
Ref : AFSC/112/7/INT.

HISTORICAL RECORDS - I.A.F.

Reference your memo dated 13th August, and expedite
Signal 17th September, 1946, it is regretted that the information
requested is not yet to hand, but is expected within the next few
days. Energetic action has been taken with the Italian Departments
concerned, and constant reminders made to the appropriate Ministers,
and as stated above, the information required should be available
for transmission shortly.

M.E.
M.E. REID, W/CDR.
AIR VICE MARSHAL.
DIRECTOR.
AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION.

3212

22 LROK V MMXK NR T 46/18 ROUTINE T - ADD

FROM AM LONDON

TO W/CDR REID CAIO AIR SUB DIV ALLIED COMMISSION ROME

BT

SEC 3043 ~~17/9/46 UNCLASSIFIED~~ 17/9/46 UNCLASSIFIED (.) CAN YOU
PLEASE EXPEDITE REPLY TO OUR MEMO (.) DATED 13TH AUGUST ASKING FOR
INFORMATION ON ITALIAN AIR FORCE DOCUMENTS

BT 171756

SENT PR

RD NR 22 AT 0315 JA K K EB

H/6873

9843 QW

3A

3211



From: Air Forces Sub Commission, H.Q. Allied Commission.

To: Italian Air Ministry,
(Attention Colonel Remondino).

Date: 31st August, 1946.

Ref: AFSC/1127/INT

Historical Information - Italian Air Force.

Further to the telephone conversation on the above subject on 29th August it is confirmed that the following information is urgently required:

- i) Italian order of battle as at 3rd May 1941 (or as near as possible).
- ii) Italian order of battle in the Mediterranean area as at (or as near as possible to) 18th November 1941.
- iii) Italian a/c losses in the Mediterranean (if possible, under categories of a/c type and cause of loss), for the following periods.

(All dates inclusive).

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|---|----------------|
| a) | 16th June | - | 14th Oct. 1941 |
| b) | 15th Oct. | - | 12th Nov. 1941 |
| c) | 13th Nov. | - | 18th Nov. 1941 |
| d) | 19th Nov. | - | 10th Jan. 1942 |
| e) | 11th Jan. | - | 20th Jan. 1942 |

(or as near as possible to) 15th November 1941
 iii) Italian a/c losses in the Mediterranean (if possible, under categories of a/c type and cause of loss), for the following periods.

(All dates inclusive).

a)	16th June	-	14th Oct. 1941
b)	15th Oct.	-	12th Nov. 1941
c)	13th Nov.	-	18th Nov. 1941
d)	19th Nov.	-	10th Jan. 1942
e)	11th Jan.	-	20th Jan. 1942

321 0

Also anything on Italian air force strength of effort during the above periods.

M. E. Reid

M. E. REID W/CDR
 FOR AIR VICE MARSHAL
 DIRECTOR
 AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION.

I 1371.
1h

From:- Air Historical Branch Air Ministry,
73, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.1.

To:- Wing Commander Reid,
S.I.O., Air Sub. Div.
Allied Commission, ROME.

Date:- 13th August, 1946

This Branch is in urgent need of certain information on the Italian Air Force, and as it does not appear to be obtainable from the small collection of Italian documents held in this country, we should be grateful if you could assist.

A list of the data required is attached, and it would be greatly appreciated if, when replying, you would give the source from which the figures have been obtained, and also give us some indication as to what Italian documents of air historical value (e.g. combat reports, war diaries, statistics of strength and losses) are available in Italy. If necessary, we might then be able to arrange for one of our officers to undertake some research work on the spot.

L.D. Jackson
Flight Lieutenant

3239

- 1 (B)
1. Italian order of battle as at 31 May 1941 (or as near as possible).
 2. Italian order of battle in the Mediterranean as at (or as near as possible to) 18th Nov. 1941 (opening of our offensive).
 3. Italian a/c losses in the Mediterranean (if possible, under categories of a/c type and cause of loss), for the following periods.

(All dates inclusive).

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|---|----------------|
| a) | 16th June | - | 14th Oct. 1941 |
| b) | 15th Oct. | - | 12th Nov. 1941 |
| c) | 13th Nov. | - | 18th Nov. 1941 |
| d) | 19th Nov. | - | 10th Jan. 1942 |
| e) | 11th Jan. | - | 20th Jan. 1942 |

Also anything on Italian air force strength of effort during the above periods. *ie. No. of sorties.*

4. Can it be confirmed from Italian documentary sources whether any appreciable damage was inflicted on Italian cruisers which were attacked by R.A.F. Blenheims on 28th March, 1941, (Battle of Matapan)?

✓ *Spoke Navy Sub Committee when we going details*

Vol 2.

Col. Remondino contacted by phone on 1, 2, 3.

29/8/46 With info.

above periods. ie. No of Letters.

4. Can it be confirmed from Italian documentary sources whether any appreciable damage was inflicted on Italian cruisers which were attacked by R.A.F. Blenheims on 28th March, 1941, (Battle of Matapan)?

✓ Spoke Navy Sub Commission who are giving details.

Ref 3.

Col. Remondino contacted by phone on 1, 2 & 3.

29/8/46 With info.

3208

10 3 5 2