

ACC

10000/136/509

PRIS
JAN

10000/136/509

PRISONERS OF WAR, ITALIAN, GENERAL
JAN. - JUNE 1944

O. M. C. Form 351 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 26, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 - PRISONERS OF WAR (GENERAL)

PART I

Page Ten

SECRET

2-6788

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
63. 64	Ltr Valenzano Ltr Cept Stone	2 Jun 44 7 Jun 44	Capt Stone Gen MacFarlane	Receipt ltr re Toca thanks Messe requests be informed of arrival Italy units Ital Prisoners Incl 1 - Ltr Messe 13404 31 May ACC Incl 2 - Ltr Stone to Messe 7 Jun
65	Ltr Cept Stone PS/16.2 DCC 383.6	10 Jun 44	Civil Censorship Officer, Palermo	Parcels for Ital POW in Germany & French North Africa Incl 1 - Ltr Stone DCC 383.6 10 Jun
66 66a 67	Ltr Gammell Ltr AFHQ AG 383.6 Ltr Gazzera 388/Pol/C.15	7 Jun 44 12 Jun 44 14 Jun 44	MacFarlane Chief Comm MacFarlane	Gen Gazzera's complaint forwarded GHQ MEF re camps in Middle East Dispositions adopted for Ital POW interned in Germany

SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 26, 1948

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 - PRISONERS OF WAR (GENERAL)

Page Nine

SECRET

R-0710

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM-	DATE	TO-	SYNOPSIS
48	Cbl ACC Main M 203 FNMM	17 May 44	AFHQ	Ref Memo CC/G/297 incl Badoglio ltr re Prisoners of War
49	Ltr MacFarlane CC/P/304	18 May 44	Badoglio	Ref 1405 10 May without info re newspapers reports forwarded AFHQ
50	Cbl Main Hq ACC M 206 FNMM	18 May 44	AFHQ	Badoglio pressing for more info re radio & press reports use POW
51	Cbl AFHQ F48059	19 May 44	ACC Main	Inform Gen Gazzera his proposal given consideration by SAC but unable to agree at present
51a	IS Ltr MacFarlane CC/P/303	28 May 44	MacMillan	Proposals re Prisoners of War in Italy
52	Ltr Gen Gazzera 219 Pol	19 May 44	Gen MacFarlane	Delay ltr 4779 fr Council of Ministers President 10 May subject "Patrimony of Ital Youth Organization" explanation of
53	Ltr Chiocci AG 311.23	23 May 44	DSG Rear Hq ACC	Italian Prisoners of War in Allied Control
54	Ltr Spofford G-5 383.6	26 May 44	HQ ACC Chief Comm	Report received Lt Minosi at POW camp Australia of normal health
55	Ltr Capt Stone	25 May 44	Col Valenzano	App a - Ltr MacLachlan G1/B/2218/ A2 May to ACC CMF
55a	Minutes Meeting with Gen Dupino & Maj Cambell	26 May 44		App b - Ltr AIF Admin 10957 2 May App c - Cbl Fatima 1805 4 Jan to Freedom App d - Ltr Valenzano 0055 3 Jan
56	Cbl MMIA SD 799	27 May 44	ACC	Requests Ital Ar personnel must be approved AAI send thru MMIA
57	Ltr Valenzano 1624	28 May 44	Capt Stone	Thanks ltr re Minosi & most cordial greetings
58	Ltr MacFarlane CC 383.6	29 May 44	C OF S AFHQ	Attd ltr fr Ital High Comm for POW please reply re matter
59	Ltr Messe 13403	31 May 44	Gen MacFarlane	Incl I - Ltr Gazzera 293/ASS 17 May Ital laborers captured with the Germans by Allies ex-mil personnel
60	Cbl AFHQ F154359	3 Jun 44	ACC Main	POW dependents allowance
61	Ltr Capt Stone DCC 383.6	1 Jun 44	Valenzano	Re location & news Corporal Filippo Tocca prisoner Tunis
62	Ltr Capt Stone DCC 383.6	1 Jun 44	AFHQ	App a - Ltr Valenzano 1651 29 May Ital POW Corporal Filippo Tocca re his whereabouts
62a	Ltr MacFarlane CC/G/361	2 Jun 44	Kirk & Charles	Innumerable difficult PW cases still unsolved

SECRET

300y

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

G. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 20, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR (GENERAL)

Page Eight

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
38	Ltr AFHQ GI/B/3305/1/A	9 Apr 44	Hq ACC	Ref DCC 383.6 of 30 Mar: complaint re Ballomo. No further action contemplated as normal war crimes procedure being followed.
39	Hq All Arms Italy AAI/3072/A(0)	25 Apr 44	See Dist	Release of Ital POW application of a authority to
40	Ltr MacFarlane CC/G/243	29 Apr 44	Gen Gammell	Treatment Ital prisoners by French Mil Auth in North Africa Incl I - 62 Pol 14 Apr fr Gen Gazzera on same subject as above
41	Cbl Petina Rear 2698	2 May 44	Conson Taranto	AAI decided release Ital POW Sicily be authorized by Distone App a - CC/G/243 28 Apr MacFarlane re POW in camps in Sicily App a Incl - 34 Pol 29 Apr fr Gen Gazzera same subject as above App App b - 26 Apr to DCC same subject as above Arr
42	Ltr MacFarlane CC/P/259	3 May 44	Gen Gammell	Re advising Ital Govt about POW labor units sent to UK
43	HQ AAI AAI/3075/A(0)	3 May 44	HQ ACC	Ref AFHQ Adv Adm Ech Admin Int No. 31 3152/9/A1 21 Feb - redesignations HQ PW Sub-Cm, PW Transits Camps etc.. taken into use
44	Cbl ACC Main M192	12 May 44	AFHQ	Grateful very early reply to my CC/P/259 of 3 May
45	Ltr MacFarlane CC/G/297	15 May 44	AFHQ C of S	Ref ltr CC/G/184 8 Apr re Ital POW in Allied hands App a - Ltr Badoglio to MacFarlane 1405 10 May on same subject App a Incl I - Art in Stars & Stripes of 9 May App a Incl II - Communication by radio London 9 May
46	Cbl Freedom F45375	13 May 44	ACC Main	Transfer Ital PW fr country to country carried out large scale not desirable notify Ital Govt
47	Ltr Gazzera 176	16 May 44	Gen MacFarlane	Concerning Ital Mil personnel Germany detains as Military internees Incl 1 - Memo 15 May fr Gazzera

2608

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 20, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR (GENERAL)

Page Seven

SECRET

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
27	Ltr CC/G/162 MacFarlane	23 Mar 44	Gen Gazzera	Ref Note Verbale #11 of 13 Mar (cf #26 Incl. a/n). Now working on Bari POW unit matter.
28	Ltr CC/G/161 MacFarlane	29 Mar 44	Gen Gazzera	Ref note verbale #9, of 21 Mar (cf Incl to #26 a/n): bad luck on solution of this problem of POW agreement makes solution of prob. of POW in Egypt imposs. just now.
29	Ltr DCC 383.6 Captain Stone	4 Apr 44	GOC Hq #2 Dist	Ref your 220/A of 16 Mar, Jugo-slavs & Czech POW are vetted in the same way as other allied nationals. REFERENCES: 1) Buck slip DCC 30 Mar to Col Young, ref draft of ltr. What is AI set-up? 2) Draft of ltr. 3) Ltr Hq 2 Dist 220/A 16 March 44 to Rear Hq ACC Please inform us on vetting of Poles Czechs etc.
30	Cbl Fatima Rear #2565 Army	2 Apr 44	MMIA	Ref yr AQ/14/3 of 23 Mar: no trace of ltr at Bari & Lt O has not shown up. Apparent difficulty in supplying of planes. This for info.
31	Ltr 39/Ld Gen. Gazzera	1 Apr 44	Gen MacFarlane	REFERENCE: 1) AQ/14/3 of 23 Mar fr MMIA, to ACC Army S/C In reply to CC/G/161 of 29 Mar: If gen. agreement is reached, formation of voluntary units of POW would help greatly.
32	Ltr Badoglio	3 Apr 44	Gen MacFarlane	Any objections to my Easter speech to the troops? Text atchd.
33	Memo 11/1A/AS Lord Stansgate	5 Apr 44	DCC	Suggestions for set procedure for obtaining release of POW.
34	Ltr DCC 383.6 Captain Stone	10 Apr 44	VP Adm Sec	Ref yrs of 5 Apr, herewith procedure of release of POW. Please inform all concerned in your sec.
35	Ltr 47. ASS Gazzera	10 Apr 44	ACC	Easter greetings to POW-Gazzera
36	Cbl Fat Rear 2619	13 Apr 44	Iraddom	Please transmit msg of 47. ASS.
37	Ltr DCC 383.6 EWS	15 Apr 44	Gen. Gazzera	Msg has been transmitted.

SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

G. M. O. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 20, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR

Page Six

SECRET

B-0785

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
				(Cont'd) newspapers & similar material. Gifts will not be addressed to individuals. All arrangements to be made by Italian authorities. Auth for plane haulage to be obtained fr Air Commodore Foster. Necessary to arrange for Allied censorship on consignments. If you let us know where parcels are being collected this will be arranged.
23	Ltr 3797/II Gen Orlando	27 Mar 44	Captain Stone	Ref ltr EWS of 24 March: Resume of arrangements made for getting parcels to POW in Africa. No food. All is within bounds of rules laid down by Gen MacFarlane. Army S-C contacted, air transport being looked into now.
24	Ltr CC/P/163 MacFarlane	29 Mar 44	Gen Robertson	Ital POW now working at Bari port: best to release these from POW status & put them under It govt. If you agree, will approach It HC.
25	Ltr DCC 383.6 Captain Stone	30 Mar 44	CG, AFHQ APO 512 Attn: J.A.G.	Will you please look into the case of Maj Gen Nicola BELLOMO, It, detained as POW criminal. Ref his wife's requests. 1 ENCLOSURES: Ltr of complaint from Mrs Bellomo, saying that he fought the Germans. Ltr ACC/14760/22/PS 28 Mar 44 fr Col. Young: Maj Gen Bellomo is being detained for shooting Brit O. Memo to DCC. Note 23 March Col. Densmore to Col Young: "Please take charge". Here the comments of myself & Col. Berry that you asked for, re attached Notes Verbale. Re (1): matter could be settled if Gazzera would agree to POW agree. Re (2): must be referred to AFHQ. 2 ENCLOSURES: 1) Note Verbale, fr Gazzera, 21 Mar Ital POW in Egypt, with precis. 2) Note Verbale, fr Gazzera, 13 Mar re POW unit at Bari (see ltr 29 Mar)
26	Ltr General Gepp	28 Mar 44	Chief Commissioner	

SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Q. M. G. Form 353 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 23, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383,6 PRISONERS OF WAR

Page Five

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM--	DATE	TO--	SYNOPSIS
16	Ltr Stone	8 Mar 44	AFHQ	Italian Govt has requested address of Lt Sergio Riello, Italian Air Forces. May this info be secured as soon as possible. ENCLOSURE: 1. 1st Ind fr MATOUSA to DCC dtd 13 Mar 44. Giving address of Lt. Sergio Riello, in French custody. Rear Cbl 2480, Allied censor control office Bari stated Ministero di Guerra approved pkgs for POW in N. Africa. Allied Censor Office stated civilians receiving forms to send parcels to POW. Both advised contents your cbl 2480.
17	Cbl Sears 9-8741 McKean	18 Mar 44	Patina - Henderson	Request permission be granted Sig Bellomo & son to interview husband Gen Bellomo. If he is not at your camp, perhaps you may inform her his whereabouts.
18	Ltr Stone	19 Mar 44	Maj Marshall CC 371 POW Camp	Lt Gazzera has been apted High Commissioner for Italian POW. His office will be at Cava Dei Tirreni Brig Dapino will be 2nd in Comd. Office have three Dents (a) Political (b) Military (c) Welfare.
19	Ltr Quin-Smith	19 Mar 44	Ex. Commissioner Main Hq. ACC	Re your ltr 001780 5 Mar, Lt Riello address is "01627, SAIDA#6, Dept. Oran, Algeria". He can be communicated with at this address.
20	Ltr Stone	21 Mar 44	Col. Valenzano	Thanks for your ltr informing Lt Riello's address.
21	Ltr Valenzano	21 Mar 44	Capt Stone	There has been confusion over permission given to you by Gen MacFarlane to send parcels to POW. This has been misinterpreted to be sent to individual POW & have been handed to postoffices for transmission. Permission given is for bulk shipment of gift parcels for Italian POW in N. Africa to be distributed by Italian Liaison Mission in Algiers. No food or clothing to be incld & will be restricted to books, pamphlets,
22	Ltr Stone	24 Mar 44	Gen. Orlando	(Cont'd)

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

O. M. C. Form 163 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 20, 1918**LIST OF PAPERS**File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR

Page Four

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
13	Ltr Col. Valenza- no. 001780	5 Mar 44	Capt. Stone	Request repatriation of Lt Sergio Riello, Italian Air Force. Taken prisoner in Tunisia. If this impossible, at least let his father, a faithful official of this government, know where his son is.
14	Ltr Gen MacFarlan	6 Mar 44	AFHQ-MGS	Re your MGS dtd 17 Jan, attached copies of letter addressed by DGC to Italian Govt & translation of reply. I am advised that as a matter of law the status of co-belligerency, a phrase of undefined legal meaning, does not terminate the war between Allies & Italy & that Italian Govt is entirely within its rights in their reply. I believe little will be gained in endeavoring to persuade the Italian Govt to agree to alter their rights re POW. In absence of instructions I do not propose to pursue matter. ENCLOSURES: 1. Translation of Note Verbale fr Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dtd 25 Feb 44. 2. Ltr fr Stone to Messe dtd 2 Feb. 3004 3. Ltr fr Col. Cripps to CC ACC, dtd 28 Jan. 4. Ltr fr Col. Maxwell to DGC. 5. Staff Minute Sheet from G-1 (Ltr) Hq. MGS AFHQ fr Col. Bardsorf I think procedure for repatriation of Lt Sergio Riello is similar to that proposed in my letter of today to Badoglio, re Col Natale & 2nd Lt Li Voti. Meanwhile I am communicating with AFHQ endeavoring to secure address so that his father may be able to write him by means of reopened mail service.
15	Ltr Stone	8 Mar 44	Col. Valenzano	

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 26, 1918**LIST OF PAPERS**File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR

Page Three

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
9	Cbl Freedom 43454	26 Jan 44	Fatima (Info)	Further to our 3489 dtd 5 Oct release or parole is authorized for Italian prisoners permanent disease or injury not requiring hospitalization or who are infirm & of no further value to war effort. This policy incl Italian POW interned in Allied occupied Italy whose homes are in Sicily or POW interned in Sicily whose homes are Allied occupied Italy, provided each is screened by G-2. Approval of transfer is obtained fr ACMF & transportation is available. Final payroll will be prepared & sent to NOTUSA.
10	Cbl Fargo 582 MacFarlane	28 Jan 44	AFHQ	Badoglio & Messe have pointed to alleged mistreatment to Italian POW under French charge. Grateful if you look into the matter & if allegation unfounded let me have statement to refute them. If true, hope you will take action you think desirable & give me info soonest.
11	Cbl Fatima 2410	28 Feb 44	Freedom-FRAGS	Pass following Msg fr Supreme Command to Italian Military Mission: "Minister Sandalli requests urgent info on approx number Air Force POW in American-British-French camps, detailing locations. By order of Gen Rossi".
12	Cbl VI Sub-Area Q670	29 Feb 44	Fatima	Gen Orlando visiting Salerno March 1 wishes to see CC about parcels for Italian POW in North Africa. Revised proposal is 170,000 parcels with half the food originally proposed. Transport by Italian planes, distribution by Italian Liaison Mission with AFHQ together with Red Cross. Recommend acceptance. He further wants 2 plane loads of ²⁶⁰³ 1 plane load newspaper. Thereafter newspapers fortnightly. Will you arrange interview with CC or DCC?

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 26, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR

Page Two

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
6	Fatima Reer 2056 Cbl Moj Doe	21 Jan 44	Freedom	Re Freedom's 25008, camps in question non under AGC jurisdiction. Suggest Fargo be requested to supply info desired.
7	Ltr Capt Stone	25 Jan 44	AFHQ, NGS	Herewith is translation of ltr fr Badoglio dealing with alleged mistreatment of Italian POW in North Africa by French authorities & civilians. Request info on action taken. ENCLOSURES: Ltr No. 200 fr Badoglio to MacFarlane dtd 18 Jan. Italian O repatriated fr North Africa have related to me the harsh & inhuman treatment used by French authorities & civilians. One O presented me with testimonies fr 8 POW & told me about 58 POW who escaped fr French camp. The French have requested by name the return of the 58 POW. We are faced with two violation of international rules covering POW (1) the responsibility of the Country which capture the POW, Great Br & Amer. (2) Treatment of POW. I appeal to you to bring case before competent authorities re 58 POW who the French want returned & also to look into question of principle Translation of testimonies given by Italian soldiers, dtd 18 Nov. signed by Guido Marcolin. (dup) Re your ltr 18 Jan No. 200, connection with treatment of POW, I bringing matter to attention of authorities concerned.
8	Ltr Stone	22 Jan 44	Badoglio	

3002

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 20, 1949

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6 PRISONERS OF WAR

Page One

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Cbl Freedom 2263	2 Jan 44	Fatima	Re your 1381 dtd 10 Dec, for political reasons supplies for Italian prisoners in German hands in Greece cannot be furnished fr Allied sources as long as blockade prevent similar supplies fr reaching civilians.
2	Cbl Freedom 25008	7 Jan 44	Fatima	Expedite reply to our GI/B/2202/A2 dtd 5 Nov (Flambo's re 3091/6/A2 dtd 9 Nov) subject bombing POW camps in Italy.
3	Cbl Fatima 1899	5 Jan 44	Freedom	No re of your 25008 found, please forward duplicate.
4	Joyce Ltr AFHQ GI/B/2202/ K2	11 Jan 44	AMM	Re Your Cbl 1899 & our 25008, herewith is copy report fr WO asking info re East African Native prisoners killed by bombing while working at PONTESAGNANO. This report was submitted by AFHQ Adv Ech. Submit reply to this Hq with copy to Adv Ech.
5	Ltr Gen. Alberti No. 205/G	18 Jan 44	ACG	<u>COPY:</u> Fr War Office to AFHQ, dtd 11 Jan Re GI03/5144. HM Legation at Berne summarizing report by Swiss Inspector of POW camps dtd 3 Sept 43 stated East African Native prisoners were put to work in aerodromes. Four were killed & sixteen were wounded by bombing. Request local inquiry & report to WO. QMG's central office at this Ministry cannot repatriated 0 fr Tunisia because their inability to account for this period. They said documents are held by American Maj Bos, who escorted them to Italy. Understand he is at Brindisi. Will be appreciated if Commission sends financial statement to this Ministry.

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

Orig. 23 copies of Trans
in Major for 2.0.0.0.0.0.
16/4

TRANSLATION

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

No. 388/Pol/C.15 of prot.

Cava dei Tirreni, 14 June 1944

TO: General Noel Mason MacFarlane
Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission, Naples

Dear General,

Following your kind message communicated to Marshal Mazon while he was in office concerning the dispositions to be adopted for Italian prisoners interned in Germany, and in view of the invasion of Germany, I beg of you to be kind enough to review as soon as you are able the memorandum already submitted for your attention and to fix a date for a conference to decide upon a line of action more suitable to the problem at hand.

Cordially and sincerely,

/s/ P. Gazzera

PIETRO GAZZERA
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Trans - Sgt Shenfield/ejp

(67)

388/Pol/C.15 of prot.
14 June 44

✓ S file/100

388-6
3000
POW Room

TOP SECRET

File A-B

MAG. M.D. 3-10

B 54

COPY No. 2

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512APK/vag
TOP SECRET
By Authority of
SACGT

AG 383.8-3 GAP-0

Initials
Date 12 June 194456-1737
17 JUL 1944SUBJECT: Italian Government's Complaint of Improper Treatment of
Prisoners of War by French

HQ AGC, APO 374

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission

Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 13 June 1944
By

It is desired that you inform the Italian Government, in reply to General GAZZERA'S note of 14 April 1944, that while the United States and British Governments have no responsibility for Italian prisoners of war in French custody, the United States and British Governments will lend their good offices in making representations to the French and will investigate the matter.

By command of General WILSON:

H. V. ROBERTS,
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

Note to Capt. Stone by Ch. Commissioner:-

"Suggest no action unless raised
by Italian Government"

2009

1 July 44

(66)a

AG 383.6-3 GAP-0

12 Jan 44

TOP SECRET

RESTRICTED

COPYALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of Chief of Staff

:::::::::::::::::::::
 :: HQ ACC APO 394 ::
 :: Secy'Gen ::
 :: Rec'd 11 Jun 1945 ::
 :: By H.F.D. ::
 :::::::::::::::::::::

7 June 1944

 DSD 1172
 16 JUN 1944

Dear MacFarlane,

 (58)
 Reference your letter CC 383.6 dated 29 May 1944.

As this matter refers primarily to camps in Middle East, General Gazzera's complaint has been forwarded to CHQ MEF with a request that a reply shall be forwarded to this Headquarters as soon as possible.

No complaints have been received in respect of camps in North Africa, but enquiries are being made with a view to ensuring that adequate stores are available for Italian officers.

Yours ever,

(sgd) JAMES GAMMELL

 J. A. H. GAMMELL
 Lieutenant General
 Chief of Staff

 Chief Commissioner
 Headquarters, Allied Control Commission

 REPRODUCED HQ ACC Secy Gen/hd

RESTRICTED

(66)

7 Dec 44

 ✓
 fli/100

0008

ENS/hjp

In reply refer to:
PS/16.2
DCC 383.6

10 June 1944

DSH 346
11 JUN 1944

SUBJECT: Parcels for Italian POW in Germany and French North Africa
TO : The Civil Censorship Officer, Palermo

Reference the letter transmitted by you to this Commission on behalf of M. George Kuhne of the International Red Cross, will you please pass the enclosed reply to him, and inform him that a copy has also been sent to the I.R.C. delegate for Italy, Dr. Burkhardt.

1 Incl:
Ltr, DCC ACC,
No. DCC 383.6, 10 Jun 44

MILBURY W. STONE
Captain, USMR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

DSG copy

*Both drafts prepared
by JLT, Comms S/C*

(65)

PS/16.2
DCC 383.6
10 Jun 44

file/408

383.6 POW Men.
2007

133/h3p

DSH 345
11 JUN 1944

10 June 1944

DCC 383.6

SUBJECT: Parcels for Italian POW in Germany and French North Africa

TO : M. Georges Kahne, International Red Cross Delegate for Sicily,
Palermo1. Reference your letter of 30 May forwarded to this Commission
by the Civil Censorship Officer at Palermo.2. While fully appreciative of the humanitarian motives which have
prompted your excellent plan for the forwarding of parcels to the Ita-
lian prisoners of war in Germany and French North Africa, and while sym-
pathizing sincerely with the men placed in these unfortunate circumstan-
ces, it is regretted that the export of items of food and clothing can-
not at the moment be permitted from any part of Italy or the Italian
island possessions.3. It is common knowledge that food and clothing are being im-
ported into this country because the quantities available locally are
below that essential to life. While this is the case, exports of these
items cannot be allowed.4. It is suggested that the possibility of making up parcels in
areas outside this theatre might be explored by your Committee; it is
understood that some such arrangement has already been under considera-
tion by members of the International Red Cross, and it would appear
to offer a practicable solution to this urgent and difficult problem.

2096

HARRY W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Deputy Chief Commissionercc: Dr. P. Burckhardt, I.R.C. delegate for Italy,
38 Via Tasso, Naples
N.G.S., A.F.H.Q.

(65) INCL I

DCC 383.6
10 Jun 44

7 June 1944

MEMO TO: General MacFarlane

Subject - attached letter No. 13404 and translation from Marshal Messe requesting that he be informed of the arrival in Italy of units composed of Italian prisoners.

Please note attached acknowledgment wherein it was stated that it was anticipated that the information would be made available.

May I suggest that it be laid on so that Marshal Messe can be informed.

E.W.S.

383.6 POW General
9005

(64)

72 Jun 44

TRANSLATION

SUPREME COMMAND

Mil Post 135, 31st May, 1944

1st Div. - Office of Operations

To the A.C.C.

File No. 13404

DS 1968
7 JUN 1944

Subject: Divisions composed of Italian prisoners employed within national territory.

I have been informed that three pioneer engineering companies (671-676-677), constituted under the direction of the Allied Command with Italian personnel chosen from prisoners, were recently transported to Casoria.

Apart from the moral and juridical questions regarding the employment of divisions of Italian prisoners within national territories, for which negotiations are already being made by the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, I beg the A.C.C. to keep me informed of the arrival in Italy of divisions composed of Italian prisoners.

I hope thus to follow the activities of such divisions and give our co-nationals that moral assistance which it is our duty to give, and which would help to better their state of mind and consequently their efficiency in service.

The Marshal of Italy,
Chief of General Staff,

(Giovanni Messe)

9004

64
Encl 1

13404
21 May 44

P.M.135, 31 maggio 1944

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

I Reparto - Uff. Operazioni

N^o 13404 / Op. di prot.

O G G E T T O : Reparti costituiti con prigionieri italiani impiegati
in territorio nazionale.

Vengo a conoscenza che recentemente sono state trasportate
a Cesoria tre compagnie del genio artigiani (671 - 676 - 677) costi-
tuite a cura del Comando Alleato con personale italiano tratto dai
prigionieri.

A prescindere dalle questioni di ordine morale e giuridico
circa l'impiego dei reparti di prigionieri italiani in territorio
nazionale, per le quali sono già in corso trattative da parte del-
l'Alto Commissario per i prigionieri di guerra, pregherei codesta
Commissione di volermi tenere informato dell'arrivo in Patria di re-
parti costituiti con prigionieri italiani.

Ciò allo scopo di poter seguire l'attività di tali reparti
svolgere presso di essi quell'opera di assistenza morale, doverosa
verso connazionali, e che contribuirebbe a migliorarne le condizio-
ni di spirito ed il rendimento in servizio.



IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe)

OGGETTO : Reparti costituiti con prigionieri italiani impiegati
in territorio nazionale.

Vengo a conoscenza che recentemente sono state trasportate
a Casoria tre compagnie del genio artigiani (671 - 676 - 677) costi-
tuite a cura del Comando Alleato con personale italiano tratto dai
prigionieri.

A prescindere dalle questioni di ordine morale e giuridico
circa l'impiego dei reparti di prigionieri italiani in territorio
nazionale, per le quali sono già in corso trattative da parte del-
l'Alto Commissario per i prigionieri di guerra, pregherei codesta
Commissione di volermi tenere informato dell'arrivo in Patria di re-
parti costituiti con prigionieri italiani.

Ciò allo scopo di poter seguire l'attività di tali reparti
svolgere presso di essi quell'opera di assistenza morale, doverosa
verso connazionali, e che contribuirebbe a migliorarne le condizio-
ni di spirito ed il rendimento in servizio.



IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe)

13404/prot

4404/13

FMG/hjp

DCC 091.711

7 June 1944

D34 338
7 JUN 1944

Dear Marshal Messe:

Your letter No. 13404, MP 135, 31 May 44, relative to "Divisions composed of Italian prisoners employed within national territory", has been forwarded to the Chief Commissioner.

It is anticipated that the information requested will be made available.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USMR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Marshal Messe
Chief of General Staff
Comando Supremo

2092

(64)

Incl 2

DCC 091.711
7 June 44

File



IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE
DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO
DEI MINISTRI

SALERNO 2 GIUGNO 1944

NR. 1759 DI PROT.

DSH 1061
7 JUN 1944

CARO CAPITANO STONE,

HO RICEVUTO LA SUA LETTERA RELATIVA AL
CAPORALMAGGIORE TOCCA FILIPPO E LA RINGRAZIO DEL
LA GENTILE COMUNICAZIONE.

M. Valenzano

IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE DEL
PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI
(TEN. COL. G. VALENZANO)

Valenzano

AL SIGNOR CAPITANO
ELLERY W. STONE
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

NAPOLI

Translation:

"I have received your letter about
Cpl/M TOCCA Filippo and I thank you for
your kind interest."

/s/ Lt. Col. Valenzano

(63)

1759/Prot
2 June 44

Recd - 1100 - 6 June

CONFIDENTIAL

FISH/rj

SF

Ref. CG/3/351.

2nd. June, 1944.

DSM 1150
16 JUN 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO: The Hon. Alexander Kirk.
Sir Noel Charles, Bt., KCMG.

The attached case has been going on for months.

I suggest stalling on it until, if ever, the P.W. situation crystallizes. There are innumerable other more difficult P.W. cases still unsolved.

 NOEL HASON MACFARLANE
 Lieutenant-General,
 Chief Commissioner.

"Attached case" sent in original at C.C.'s instruction, with request that 2nd addressee return to us.

(62) A Ref. G 5, 383.6 of 27 May with enclosures ex. G-5, AFHQ. Subject - Recall of Paroled Prisoners of War by Italian Govt.

28 Jun 44

383.6 POWs General

2993

055-314

DSG File

Suspend to 1 July 44

EMS/hjp

DCC 383.6

1 June 1944

SUBJECT: Italian P.O.W. - Corporal Filippo Tocca

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
(Attention: G-5)

1. Colonel Valenzano, Private Secretary for Marshal Badoglio, has requested the Commission to obtain, if possible, present address and news of Italian Prisoner of War, full-corporal Filippo Tocca, of the 47/32 Compagnia Cannoni (Artillery Company), Grenadiers of Sardinia.

2. Corporal Tocca was taken prisoner in Tunis and in September 1943 he wrote and said he was a prisoner in Egypt.

3. It will be most appreciated if inquiries can be made and information with respect to Corporal Tocca's present address and status given to this Commission.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

2009

383.6 POWS

File/700

(62)

DCC 383.6
1 Jun 44

DSC-315

EMS/hjp

DCC 383.6

1 June 1944

Dear Colonel Valenzano:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1651/Prot of 29 May relative to present location and news of Corporal Filippo Tocco of the 47/32 Compagnia Cannoni (Artillery Company), Grenadiers of Sardinia, who was taken prisoner in Tunis.

A letter has been sent to AFHQ requesting the information. Upon receipt of any news same will be transmitted to you.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Lt. Col. G. Valenzano
The Private Secretary of the
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government

(61)

DCC 383.6
1 June 44

383.6 POW 8m

2008

TRANSLATION

Private Secretariat
Of the President of the Council of Ministers

Salerno 29 May 1944

File No. 1651/Prot.

TO: Capt. Ellery W. Stone,
Allied Control Commission,
Naples.

Dear Captain Stone:

One of my employees has asked me to try and obtain news and the address of his brother, full-corporal Filippo Tocca, of the 47/32 Compagnia Cannoni (Artillery Company)--Grenadeers of Sardinia--who was taken prisoner in Tunis.

In September 1943 he wrote and said he was a prisoner in Egypt.

Since then the brother has had no news of him, and does not know the exact locality where he is held prisoner.

I would be most grateful if you would be so kind as to have inquiries made and provide me with some indications.

I thank you cordially,

The Private Secretary of the
President of the Council of Ministers.

(Lt. Col. G. Valenzano)

/s/ G. Valenzano.

2087

(61) APP A

1651/Prot
29 May 44



SEGRETERIA PARTICOLARE
DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO
DEI MINISTRI

SALERNO 29 MAGGIO 1944.

N° 1651 / prot.

AL SIGNOR CAPITANO
ELLERY W. STONE
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
NAPOLI

CARO CAPITANO STONE,

UN MIO DIPENDENTE MI HA
PREGATO DI INTERESSARMI PER AVER NOTIZIE ED INDIRIZ
ZO DEL FRATELLO, CAPORALMAGGIORE TOCCA FILIPPO DELLA
COMPAGNIA CANNONI 47/32 - COMPAGNIA GRANATIERI DI SARDE
GNA - , CHE CADDE PRIGIONIERO IN TUNISIA.

NEL SETTEMBRE 1943 SCRISSE CHE ERA PRIGIONIE
RO IN EGITTO.

DA TALE DATA IL FRATELLO NON HA PIÙ AVUTO NO
TIZIE, NÉ CONOSCE LA PRECISA LOCALITÀ OVE TROVASI PRI
GIONIERO.

LE SAREI MOLTO GRATO SE, COLLA SUA BEN NOTA
CORTESIA, VOLESSE FAR FARE INDAGINI E FORNIRMI QUALCHE
INDICAZIONE.

LA RINGRAZIO MOLTO.

CORDIALMENTE.-

2086

IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE DEL
PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI
(TEN. COL. G. VALENZANO)

Valenzano

(61)

APP. A

1651/prot
29 mag 44

RESTRICTED

838

ADD MAIN

634 1043
6 JUN 1944

10/03

AFHQ HED SACRED

F54359

JUN031156

RESTRICTED

ROUTING

OTIS/PTGMB

PRISONERS OF WAR DEPARTMENT ALLOCATIONS IN SUBJECT REFERENCE YOUR
5387 DATED 29 MAY 44 REQUEST EARLY INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF
ENQUIRY MENTIONED IN PARA 3 YOUR LETTER 13004/2 OF 8 MARCH 44

ADD DATE

act - 3
ref - D E L
- file
- 7 foot



383.6 POW General

File/900

9085

JUN031156

(60)

RESTRICTED

POW:

F54359
3 Jan 44

TRANSLATION

P.M. 135. 31 May 1944

SUPREME COMMAND
I Unit--Office of Operations

No. 13403 (file)

TO: General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane
President of ACC

SUBJECT: Italian laborers (ex-military personnel) captured with the
Germans by the Allies.

According to information coming from Aversa, in the P.W.B. 326
23 Italians are locked up taken prisoners together with German units.

These prisoners, military personnel at the time of the Armistice,
were at the time captured by the Germans and compelled to go along with
the units as laborers.

Inasmuch as we are dealing with elements who did not belong to
the Republican Army, but were already practically prisoners of the Germans,
before their capture by the Anglo-American troops, I believe that they
should not be considered by the Allies as prisoners of war.

In this connection the Camp Commander would be disposed not to
consider them as such, but he is not authorized to take any decision in
the matter.

On the other hand, the definition of their position is urgent
in view of the forthcoming departure of prisoners of war for the camps
in North Africa.

Complementing the agreement reached in the conference which I
had with you on the 24th inst., I would ask you, dear General, to kindly
arrange so that the individuals who find themselves in the position of
the above mentioned 23 be not considered as prisoners, but placed, as
the other civilians who are gradually liberated, at the disposal of the
Italian Authorities who will proceed as arranged in the mentioned con-
ference.

THE MARSHAL OF ITALY
CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF
(Giovanni Messe)

/s/ G. MESSE

59

13403
31 May 44

Handwritten signature/initials: *[Signature]*

Handwritten: SF 1054 992
3 JUN 1944

Handwritten vertical text: 38716 POW/MIA

P o W

SF /nd

cc 383.6

29 May 1944

MEMORANDUM:

DSH 986
3 JUN 1944

TO: Chief of Staff,
Allied Force Headquarters.

1. The attached translation of a letter from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.
2. I shall be pleased to have your reply regarding this matter.

1 Incl;
Cy ltr fr Gen Gazzera,
293/ASS of 17 May 1944.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

383.6

(58)

cc 383.6
29 May 44

My

File/991

2083

(58)

INC I I

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR P.O.W.

CAVA 17 MAY.

File No. 293/ASS

TO:- A.C.C.

SUBJECT :- SHORTAGES OF ITEMS IN ARMY STORE NO. 304 OF POW
CAMP IN EGYPT.

We are informed that in some PW camps, and particularly those in Egypt (for example, Camp No. 304) the stores are deprived of items of every day use which some Italian officers need very badly, but have not been able to obtain, together with any uniform or material to have a uniform made.

I wish to ask the Commission to kindly look into this matter so that the stores of the camps, in accordance with the precise provisions of article 2 of the Geneva Convention, will be equipped with the necessary material so that the POW can obtain indispensable clothing.

The High Commissioner
(Gen. Pietro GARZERA)

58 Incl I

29 3/ASS
17 May 44

9086



IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE
DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO
DEI MINISTRI

SALERNO 28 MAGGIO 1944.-

N. 1624 DI PROT.

DSH 978
3 JUN 1944

CARO CAPITANO STONE,

LA RINGRAZIO DELLA GENTI-
LE COMUNICAZIONE RELATIVA AL TENENTE ANTONIO MINOSI
E LA SALUTO CORDIALMENTE.-

T. Col. Valenzano

Translation - Sgt Shenfield/lws

"Dear Captain Stone,

"I thank you for your kind letter
concerning Lieut. Antonion MINOSI, and
send you my most cordial greetings. -

/s/ Lt. Col. Valenzano"

AL SIGNOR CAPITANO
ELLERY W. STONE
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
SUA SEDE

(57)

1624
28 May 44

18081
File 400

383.6 For General

RESTRICTED
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

382

TO: ACTION - AGC MAIN FOR BRISTOL INFO - AGC MAIN FOR OFFENSES
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N37/27
FROM: AGC 260000 CLASSIFICATION: RESTRICTED
REFERENCE No: 30 799 PRECEDENCE:
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: MAY 27 1944 OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

DSH 1000
3 JUN 1944

REFERENCE YOUR LTR/18 OF 7 MAY TO BIFFING. RELEASED TWO REVERT TO ITALIAN
MILITARY CONTROL UNDER LETTER AAI/3072/A(6) OF 25 APRIL. ALL REQUESTS FOR
ITALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL MUST BE APPROVED BY AAI. APPRECIATE IF YOU
COMMUNICATE WITH ITALIAN ARMY ONLY THROUGH MIA OR AAI. AWAITING REPLY
OUR NO/2 OF 16 MAY

AGC DIST
(ACT) ITAL REF BY
(INF) ARMY SGLD
DCC
FILE
FLAT

Fullerton
3

HEADQUARTERS 9080
27 MAY 1944
A. C. C.

DATE and Time of RECEIPT MAY 27

Distribution:

50 799
27 May 44

RESTRICTED

ARMY SUB COMMISSION,
 REAR HEADQUARTERS,
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
 AFO 394.

26 May 1944

MINUTES OF A MEETING WITH GENERAL DUPINO, DEPUTY
 HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR P.W. AND MAJOR CAMPBELL
 ARMY SUB COMMISSION.

THE MAIN POINTS RAISED WERE:

Letter Refs.

39 LD dated
 1 Apr. 44.

1. Could a reply now be given to a letter which requested the assignment of Italian Officers P.W. to Troops P.W. Camps in Egypt. I explained that a decision has not yet been given and General Dupino asked if I could press for an answer.

NOTE: May I be informed of the action you wish me to take in regard to this question?

62 POL dated
 14 Apr. 44.

2. Could any information be given regarding the question raised in letter - Subj: "Italian P.W. in the hands of the French"? I explained that the Chief Commissioner had taken action on this question.

116 POL dated
 1 MAY. 44.

3. Could a reply be given regarding records of P.W. asked for from the British and American Governments? The information was urgently required, as their only records were in Rome. What they required was the approximate numbers held in the different countries such as America, India, North Africa, etc.

NOTE: The original letter was passed to the DCC with a note from this office, on 8 May.

4. Complaints from the repatriated P.W. (including senior officers) that money held for and due to them at P.W. Camps was not returned or given to them on leaving the camp. General Dupino expressed the opinion that this was a shocking business and created a very bad impression on the released prisoners, and was the cause of great discontent. I requested General Dupino to report the matter in writing, citing definite cases for investigation.

92 POL date
 not known

5. *Seny* A letter has been sent to the ACC regarding P.W. who have been Colonial Officials and who were not being treated according to their positions. I informed General Dupino that the Political Section was handling his questions.

NOTE: I have spoken to the Political Section regarding the matter.

(55) A

Minutes of a meeting with General Dupino, etc. (Contd).

Letter Refs.

6. A request was made for any information I could give regarding the repatriation of the 25 P.W. named in the first list. The High Commissioner thought that sufficient time has elapsed for them to have arrived in Italy. I suggested that distances was the cause of the delay.

NOTE: I suggest we ask AFHQ for information and will draft a letter if you agree.

7. Question of P.W. in Sicily. Could the Italian Hqs. in Sicily approach No 1 District direct, re the release of special P.W. in P.W. Camps in Sicily.

NOTE: AAI were asked for a decision and a reply has just been received stating that the Italian Army H.Q., Sicily, could go direct to No 1 District. This information has been passed to the High Commissioner for P.W.

8. The release of aged, wounded and sick was discussed. I stated that the question was up for consideration. Release of P.W. on compassionate grounds was also discussed. I explained the position on the basis of AFHQ's last letter stating that only cases of an outstanding nature would be considered.

123 POL dated
2 May, 1944.

I feel that General Dupino is a little depressed with what is being done re Italian P.W.

I would request that I be given a directive or have the policy re P.W. explained to me. I consider that if I am put more fully in the picture there are many minor questions which I could deal with, without worrying higher authority.

28 May Major Campbell working on P.W. file 75
29 " " " " " " 75 9078

100 hrs
28 May (SD)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Date

To From

To From

☒ Dep. Pres. *C.C.*
 Chief of Staff
 A. D. C.
 Secretary
 P. R. O.
 Mil. Sec.
 Comm. Sec.
 Pol. Sec.
 Econ. & Admin. Sec.
 Fin. Sub-Sec.
 Legal Sub-Sec.
 G-2
☒ Army
 Navy
 Air
 P/W
 War Material Disposal
 Displaced Persons
 Industry

Labor
 Education
 Interior
 Public Health
 Public Safety
 Public Utilities
 Agriculture
 AG
 Hq. Comdt.
 Transportation O.
 Supply Officer
 Billeting O.
 Stenographic Section
 File Section

*The attached minutes
 of meeting with General
 DePinas are forwarded.*

J. G. C.
 271700
 20:7
 Returned

Approved

For your information
☒ For comment
 Contents noted
 For necessary action
 For necessary action & return
 For compliance
 For file

28 May

(initials)

EWB/RJS/ejp

256,321

26 MAG 1944

25 May 1944

With reference to your letter No. 0055 of 3 January 1944,
a report has been received that Lieutenant Antonio Minosi,
located at Prisoner of War Camp, Myrtleford, Victoria, Australia
is in a normal state of health.

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Lt. Col. G. Valenzano,
Special Secretary of the Chief of Government,
Italian Government.

383,6 POM 5

2076

55

25 MAY 44

REAR HQ
Dep Sec Gen

SUBJECT:- PW - Miscellaneous Enquiries.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

G1/B/2218/A2.

May 41.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
C.M.F.

- 1805
1. Reference your message 1865 dated 4 January 41.
 2. Forwarded herewith is a letter received from the Australian Army Staff, LONDON, relating to PW Lieut Antonio MIMOSI (47133A).

ME/ALC.

ENCL.(506)

MacLachlan
Capt
M.T. MACLACHLAN,
Jury/Comd.,
for Major-General,
G-1.(P).

9075

(55) APP 1A

G1/B/2218/A2
may

file/201

1024/IN.

BY AIR

Admin. 45/1/2525



AUST. LIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Australia House,

London, W.C.2

Tel.: TEMPLE BAR 1567 Extn. 30

In reply please quote

Aust. H.Q.,
C.H.Q.,
M.B.E.

2nd May, 1944. ✓

With reference to Allied Force H.Q. C1/1/2218/A2 dated 7 Jan 44, forwarding a request on behalf of Marshal Badoglio, as to the welfare of Lieut. Antonio MINOSI, Italian P.W., it is advised that a communication received from the PW Information Bureau, St. Kilda, Australia, reports No. 47133 Lieut. Antonio MINOSI located at PW. Camp, Myrtleford, Victoria, Australia, and in a normal state of health.

Montgomery
Captain.
A.I.F. ADMINISTRATION.

A. F. H. Q.	
Ref.	2218
Date	20 May 44
Time	
E G.I. (British)	

10957
2 May 44

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL
 Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

OUTGOING

HLL/dfo

10/4

1805

041317A

JAN

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

PATINA

FREEDOM

MARSHAL BADOGLIO REQUESTS INFORMATION CONCERNING PRESENT STATUS AND STATE OF HEALTH
 OF LIEUTENANT ANTONIO MIMOSI NUMBER FOUR SEVEN ONE THREE THREE A RPT AIDE PARTEN TO
PRISONER FREE PATINA SIGNED JOICE PARTEN ADDRESS BELIEVED TO BE COMPOUND NUMBER FIVE
 PRISONER OF WAR CAMP ONE HERTLEFORD SHIA AUSTRALIA

AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DON
 Major, A.G.D.
 Secretary of Commission

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - AG
 1 - Diary

2073

(55) APP C

1805
 2 Jan 44

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL
 Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSLATION

SPECIAL SECRETARIAT TO THE
CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

File No. 0055

3 January 1944

To: General Maxwell D. Taylor
Chief of Staff of the
Allied Control Commission

Marshal Badoglio's cooperation has been asked in regard to getting news of
Lt. MIMOSI, Antonio, No. 47133A - Compound No. 5, P.O.W. Camp, Myrtleford
(Australia).

We beg you, general, to give your interest to this matter.

SPECIAL SECRETARY OF THE
CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT
(Lt. Col. G. Valenzano)

Signed

353.81 -

X 101 - Mimosi

2052

(53) DPP D

0055
3 Jan 44

SECRET

HQ ACC, APO 394

Rec: 29 May 1515
By: DFEALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

SF

CWS/OR/jw

G-5: 383.6

26 May 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War in Allied Control.

DSR 968
1 JUN 1944TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394
(Attention: Chief Commissioner)

(45)

Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum CC/G/297 of 15 May 1944, transmitting a letter of Marshal Badoglio, dated 10 May 1944 (File No. 1405). Both communications deal with the utilization of Italian prisoners of war by the British and United States Governments. You are requested to inform Marshal Badoglio that this letter has been brought to the attention of the Supreme Allied Commander, who will no doubt refer it, through the Combined Chiefs of Staff, to the United States and British Governments.

S

CHARLES H. SPOFFORD
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5.

383.6

383.6
General POWOriginal.
Sent by CE 21/5.

(54)

file/497

G-5 383.6

26 May 44

SECRET

TRANSLATION

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Cava del Tirreno, 19 May 1944

N. 219.pol.

Subject: prisoners of war in Italy SF

To: General Noel Mason MacFarlane, Chief of A.C.C., Naples

Dear General,

I thank you for the contents received in ACC letter of 15th inst, ref no. 136, with reference to individual liberation of Italian military men who are still detained as prisoners of war by the Allied authorities in Italy and whose liberation comes under compassionate grounds or military necessities for only the island of Sicily.

However the main general question that I have submitted in my letter no. 66 pol., dated 13th of April, has not been solved, as regards the prisoners of war still detained in Sicily. In their opinion the royal government, for some juridical, political and general reasons have considered urgent and necessary the liberation of all the military men. The military Italian authorities will provide all the necessary measures, military and eventually political, that will be found necessary with a view to obtain the maximum of efficiency, from each one of them in the cooperation with the Allied cause.

It has been noticed, without the necessity of making out a list of names, that according to a plan of individual liberation, as submitted in ACC letter no. 136, an unfair situation will result particularly for officers overaged, who are still fit and whose family are in normal condition.

Also remains unsolved the question of Italian military men detained as prisoners of war, and employed in Italy on behalf of the Allied Forces, and for whom you have reserved further communication in your letter PMW/PJ dated 29.3.44. The total liberation of these Italian military men and their organization immediately after liberation by the Italian military authorities will not also be of any prejudice to the duties they are accomplishing, but would increase their efficiency, whilst from another hand a profitable repercussion of a political and moral order would result on the whole of the Italian population.

I take the liberty, dear General, to note that as far as these Italian military men, who are in Italy, are concerned it seems that there should not be any difficulty of juridical order, as you have mentioned for those who are in the United States or in Great Britain territories, and who will prevent them, there, from the cessation of prisoner of war condition.

I trust that you will be so kind as to obtain a favourable decision to this request.

Would you please accept my hearty respects.

The High Commissioner
(General Pietro Gazzera)

219/POL.
19 May 44

file/por

383.6 POW Sec.

FILE UNDER NO. 383.6 Prisoners of War, General

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

CG/P/303 from MacFarlane to Mr. MacMillan 18 May 1944

- 1. Lloyd has arrived.
- 2. Allied Anti-Inflation Committee appointed
- 3. Glad to hear you're coming
- NB 4. Wired you on PW question.
- NB 5. Sooner or later we will have to tell the Ital Govt what we are doing. Course of action on informing Badoglio depends on what HMG & USG are doing about the matter.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 100 Allied Anti-Inflation Comm.

LWS

INSTRUCTIONS - Under «Synopsis» make brief entry showing date of communication and from whom received and synopsis sufficient to identify the papers. When these index sheets become numerous under a subject they will be entered on the consolidated index sheet and then destroyed.

(5) a

TOP SECRET

ACC MAIN

70/19

AFHQ

F 45029

MAY 19 NPT

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY
CITE FHEAB

DSH 925
25 MAY 1944

PERSONAL FOR LASON, SECRETARIAN.

45 RPP A
Your memo number CC/G/23 dated 20 April. SAC has given careful consideration to General Gazzera's proposals and is at present unable to agree to it owing to operational necessity. Please inform General Gazzera accordingly.

ACC DIST: ACTION - SecyGen (for CC) 2
INFO - File

383
6700W
(Jenny M. Searl)

(51)

F45059
19 May 44

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

M206

SF

GEN MACFARLANE (CHIEF COMM)

18 MAY 1944

TOP SECRET

V. 16

PRIORITY

DSN 281
20 MAG 1944

GEN MACFARLANE

A.F.H.Q.

DURING HIS PRIVATE TALK WITH ME TODAY BADOLLO PREPARED STRONGLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE USE BEING MADE BY THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR PD PAREN TO AFIR FOR HIS BRITISH MINISTER RESIDENT AND AMERICAN POLITICAL ADVISER FROM ACC MAIN FROM MACFARLANE PERSONAL PAREN I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS WITHOUT OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT BUT THAT IN THE COURSE WE MIGHT EXPECT CLARIFICATION

Italian Prisoners of War

20 May 44

RECEIVED

20 MAG 1944

G ACC

M206
18 May 44

TOP SECRET

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

FM/rj

SF

058 877
20 MAG 1944

Ref. CC/R/304.

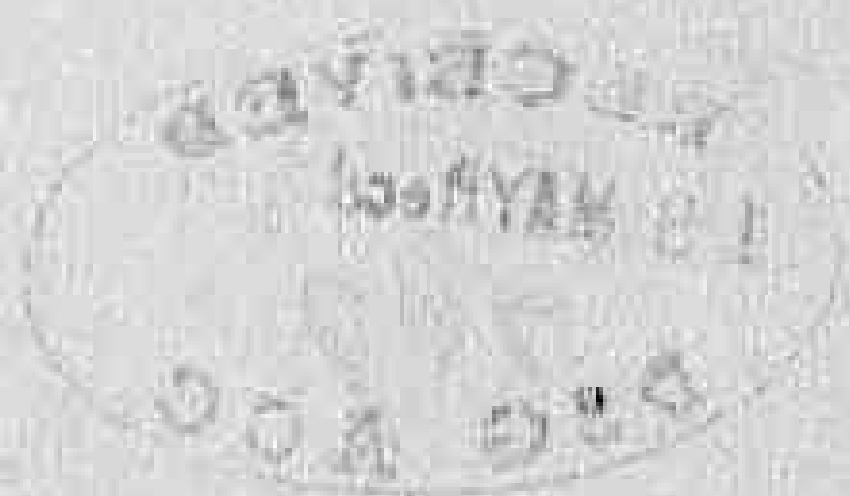
18th. May. 1944.

*Italian Prisoners
of War*

(45) APP H

Thank you for your letter No. 1405 of May 10th on the subject of Italian prisoners of war.

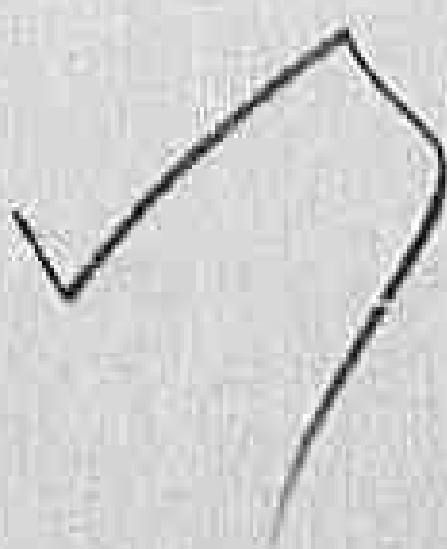
2. I am without official information regarding the reports in newspapers to which you refer and am, therefore, as yet unable to reply to your questions.
3. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Allied Headquarters in Algiers and am hoping for an early reply.



NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

S.E. Marshal Pietro Badoglio,
Il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri.

383.6
2088
DM General



file/700

(49)

cc/c/304
18 May 44

TOP SECRET

E303

SF

17th. May. 1944.

AGC MAIN (GEN MACFARLANE & COHM)

VI6

TOP SECRET

D38 878
20 MAG 1944

GEN MACFARLANE

PRICHTY

A.F.H..

(45)

SUBJECT MY MEMORANDUM NUMBER CHARLIE CHARLIE SLANT GEORGE SLANT TWO NINE SEVEN OF
 FIFTEENTH MAY TO CHIEF OF STATE ENCLOSED LATER FROM RAIOLIO REGARDING PRISONERS OF WAR
 TO PAREN TO AMEL PERSONAL FOR MINISTER FROM AGC MAIN FROM MACFARLANE
 PERSONAL PAPER SEE ALSO TELEGRAM FOR FOUR FIVE THREE SEVEN FIVE TO ME FROM GENERAL
 GARNELL PD PARA TWO PD I HAVE TODAY READ STATEMENT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS BY JAMES ORRICK
 AND ARTICLE ON ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN TIMES OF MAY THREE PD IT IS VERY PUGHABLE
 THAT RAIOLIO WILL FOLLOW UP HIS LETTER WITH A REQUEST FOR VERBAL EXPLANATIONS AND
 DISCUSSIONS PD IN THE MEANTIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABOVE QUOTED TELEGRAM I WILL STALL
 HIM PD PARA THREE PD I HEAR THAT YOU ARE HOPING TO VISIT ITALY AGAIN VERY SHORTLY PD
 I HOPE YOU WILL BRING WITH YOU ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO REABLE MORE CHARLES TO
 REPRESENT THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAG TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PD I AM NATURALLY
 MORE CHARLES FULLY INFORMED OF THE SITUATION PD

M83.6 POW General

Italian Prisoners of War
 ROSE MASON MACFARLANE
 Lieutenant-General.
 Chief Commissioner.

TOP SECRET

file/200

(48)

M203
17 MAY 44

TRANSLATION

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE PRISONERS OF WAR

Cava dei Tirreni
16 May 1944

No. 176/Pol.

TO: GENERAL NOEL MAGFARIANE
Chief of the Allied Control Commission
Naples

DSN 886
20 MAG 1944

My dear General;

H.E. Marshal Messe has informed me in regard to the requests which you have made to him concerning Italian military personnel whom Germany detains as military internees.

A first study of the question has been made in accordance with the directives of the R. Government, and I have prepared the enclosed Memorandum which endeavours to expound the procedures which appear suitable to adopt to attain the ends which you had indicated. I submit it for your consideration and will appreciate if you will arrange a meeting with me to examine the matter and to possibly arrive at the adoption of a line of procedure more suitable to the occasion. With me would come the General attached to Excellency Messe.

Very cordially and sincerely,

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

(General Pietro Gazzera)

/s/ P. Gazzera

1 Incl.

RECEIVED
18 MAY 1944
OFFICE

(47)

176/P01
16 May 44

✓ file/for

382.6
POW General

TRANSLATION

Cava dei Tirreni, 15 May 1944

MEMORANDUM

1. The advance of the Allied troops into Germany and the disorderly conditions which it will bring with it to that country make it necessary to study the method by which the Italian prisoners of war (or military internees, as the Germans wish to consider them) will not only unimpede the Allied operations, but instead bring to bear every possible assistance, pending arrangements for military use within the co-belligerency effort, or eventually for repatriation.

2. Above all, it is necessary to find a way to resume command over the mass of them. The following observations appear in order:

a. According to the data, certainly hardly approximate, in the hands of the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, there are no less than 400,000, of whom it may be assumed there are about 15 to 20 thousand officers of all grades (there appear to be 200 generals). It appears that they are interned in camps situated mainly in the East, and in Poland, Galicia and Austria.

b. It results that the soldiers, being principally employed in agricultural industries and work, live a better life than the officers, who instead are detained in camps with a great lack of food and clothing and subject to strong pressure to go over to the Fascist Republic.

c. Packages of food are being sent from republican fascist Italy to prisoners of war in Germany; from liberated Italy, unfortunately--up to now--nothing. It would be extremely helpful if at the earliest moment, the Allies could send food and clothing to the Italian prisoners of war in Germany as is being done with prisoners of war whom America and the British nation have in Germany.

d. The state of mind of war prisoners, of any country, in any country, must be taken into consideration. Their constant desire is; to be free, to get out of camps, away from barbed wire, even if it is worse outside. As soon as there is some unrest in the country in which they find themselves, they agitate to free themselves. To keep them in camps when it appears possible for them to get out is a difficult task which cannot succeed without firm and persuasive command action. This occurred at the end of the First World War; this has happened with American and British prisoners of war in Italy at the time of the Armistice. The war prisoners would adjust themselves to remain in camp, even if there were a possibility of leaving, if assurance would be given them formally and authoritatively that henceforth they are free soldiers, that their status of war prisoners has come to an end and they must restrain their impatience while awaiting orders for employment or repatriation. It is also necessary that they receive food to compensate for the torturing shortages, and clothing to get back to some semblance of order; their discipline has strong roots in these two factors. If not, they take to looting and rush towards Italy.

3. In view of this, it is necessary to send at the earliest moment with the Allied Forces in Germany, an Italian General;

(47) Incl I
15 May 44

- 2 -

--of high rank, so that he might without hierarchic difficulties command all the Italian military personnel in Germany;

--who has not been connected in any way with the Germans either before or especially during the present war.

General des. d'Armata Claudio Trezzani answers to these two requirements. He is still held as a prisoner of war in the camp of Monticello (Arkansas) in America, prisoner since May, 1941 (Aba Alagi-Italian East Africa).

He should be promptly released and brought to England with a nucleus of Italian officers whom he, himself, could group together from the American camps, where there are so many brave, deserving and most loyal officers of higher and lower rank. The nucleus should comprise:

--a very small number of officers as adjutants of the General;

--some tens of officers for the first cadre of military personnel of the first liberated camps. The additional personnel will then be taken on the spot from the camps as and when liberated.

4. The assignment which the Government would give to the above Italian General might be:

In connection with the operations and according to the aims desired by the higher Allied command, to organize and discipline the Italian military personnel, now war prisoners in Germany, but who would now have to be considered completely free, into controlled units, to prepare for eventual further use at the front or in rear-guard services under orders of Italian officers and non-commissioned officers, or to be repatriated.

It appears that the detailed organizational forms, etc., should be left up to the Italian General, who will act in agreement with the Allied command according to the numerical and qualitative composition of the camps which will be freed, the hierarchal organization which possibly is already existing therein and the tasks to be accomplished.

5. In Germany, there are also many Italian workers (estimated at 400,000) some of whom went voluntarily, others were compelled. They are distributed a little all over the industrial and agricultural areas and up to the present time subjected to fascist organization.

It will be difficult to take them into hand immediately. Upon hearing of the German catastrophe, they will rush towards the Italian borders.

The effective military organization as outlined above can be applied at least partially to them according to regulations to be made on the spot gradually according to the circumstances.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro Gazzera)

/s/ P. Gazzera

- 2 -

SECRET

9551

SECRET

SECRET

MAY 14 0054

MAY 13 1353

F45375

PRGAB

13/14

SECRET

PRIORITY

FREEDOM FROM GENERAL GAMBELL

ACTION

ACC MAIN FOR GENERAL HAGON MAGARIANE

DSH 767
20 MAY 1944

REFERENCE YOUR LETTER CG/P/259 OF 3 MAY. TRANSFER OF ITALIAN PW
FROM 1 COUNTRY TO ANOTHER IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON A LARGE SCALE
AND WORLD WIDE BASIS BOTH BY AMERICANS AND OURSELVES. HAVE
DISCUSSED YOUR PROPOSALS WITH US POLITICAL ADVISER AND RESIDENT
MINISTERS AND DECIDED NOT NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE AT PRESENT TO
NOTIFY SUCH TRANSFER TO THE BADOLLO GOVERNMENT.

ACC DIST

ACTION: SECY GEN 2

INFO : DCC

FILE

RECEIVED

MAY 13 1944

SECRET

SECRET

(46)

F45375

13 MAY 44

383.6 Journal

9001

CC: Office of the Chief of Staff

DSG-853

3/11/44/23

SECRET

SF

Italian POW

Ref. CC/O/297.

15th. May. 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(ATTENTION: Chief of Staff).

1. Reference is made to my memorandum, Do. CC/O/184, of the 8th. April enclosing a communication from the Italian Government regarding Italian prisoners of war in Allied hands, with the request that it should be brought to the attention of the Governments of the United States and British Commonwealth.

2. I have now received a further letter from Marshal Badoglio, copy enclosed, with regard to press reports that the United States and British Governments have made certain arrangements for the utilisation of Italian prisoners of war without previous agreement with the Italian Government and in contravention of the terms of the Geneva Convention. The letter reviews the various developments which have taken place as regards the status of these prisoners of war, including their utilisation in Italy, and concludes by reiterating the following requests, which it is claimed derive from Italian co-belligerent status;

- (a) The Italian soldiers at present detained should all cease to have the status of prisoners, without recourse to a volunteer system, because this is contrary to our basic military law.
- (b) The Italian units which should not be smaller than a battalion, should in law and fact be under the command of Italian officers and non-commissioned officers, and be subject to the rules of Italian discipline (Allied penal code).
- (c) In every territory, Italian units should be commanded by an Italian General, representative of Italian military interests.
- (d) In Italy, all prisoners of war should be immediately liberated.

3. The retention

(45)

CC/O/297
15 May 44

17 May

383,6 POW Summary

- - 2 - -

3. The retention of Italian prisoners of war in Italy is not only of doubtful legality, but is also a potential source of friction and inefficiency, since in the same territory there are Italian units fighting at the front as co-belligerents and, immediately in the rear, other Italian units engaged on lines of communication work who are treated as prisoners.

4. I have already requested information regarding the steps which have been taken by the United States and the British Governments in order that I may be in a position to answer some of the enquiries put to me by the Italian Government.

5. I am sending copies of this communication to Mr. Alexander Kirk and Sir Noel Charles.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

45

TRANSLATION.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT

Salerno, 10 May, 1944.

TO: GENERAL NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Chief of the Allied Control Commission.

File No. 1405.

My dear General,

With your letter of April 8th. last, you informed me that, with reference to our discussions on Italian military personnel still detained as Prisoners of War by the Governments of the United States and the British Commonwealth, you had called the attention of these Governments to the reasons presented by me, which prevented the R. Government from adhering to their point of view in regard to these fundamental principles;

(a) - status of prisoners of war maintained for Italian Military Personnel, notwithstanding the co-belligerency of the Italian People;

(b) - the volunteer enlistment asked of prisoners of war, which would have placed them in conflict with the fundamental Italian military law of general compulsory military service, and with the Italian military penal code, which prevails for prisoners of war even during their imprisonment;

(c) - the command of units which the respect for military pride and honour requires be given, by right and in fact, entirely to Italian officers and non-commissioned officers, if the Italian military personnel are to go along with the military effort, as the Italian People desire;

Now, to my surprise, I understand from the Reports of the "Stars and Stripes" (enclosure 1) and from the London Radio (Enclosure 2) that Italian military personnel are to be organized into special units, commanded in fact by Allied officers, of volunteer workers who would retain their status as prisoners of war.

If this were really so, the Italian R. Government would be confronted, without any prior notice and while negotiations in the matter are still pending, with an accomplished fact which takes no account either of its rights, or of its desires.

It is well to undertake briefly a survey of the situation.

2. - During the month of October last, a Commission of American Officers reported officially to the Italian Prisoner of War Camps in America that the intention existed to establish "an Italian Army of military volunteer workers," created "by direct understanding between the Government of the United States and the Italian Government." It added that "detailed provisions were under study by the Italian and American Staffs." At any rate, the details furnished appeared to promise restitution to the prisoners of their full military character, and the command over the units of the Italian military organization into the hands of Italian officers and non-commissioned officers and with "regula-

45 APPA
1405
10 May 44

2058

TRANSLATION of 1405 dt 0 May 44 from Marshal Badoglio (continued);
 tions and penal code in effect within the R. Italian Army". etc. etc..

Nevertheless, knowing that the concept of "volunteer enlistments" is contrary to the general compulsory military service of our Fatherland; knowing that it is also contrary to the provisions of art. 4 of the Convention (which prescribes that all prisoners of war be treated in the same manner, with distinctions shown only for rank and state of health); and recognizing the necessity, in a matter so grave, for an order by the Italian Government, the senior Italian General was duty bound to call the attention of the American Command to these points. They were taken into consideration by the American Command and submitted to study and editing at Washington, with the assistance of the above General, during the early days of December last, for a project of complete organization, on Italian model, of all prisoners of war. The American Authorities concluded that they had formed the subject of an agreement to be submitted for signature by the Italian and British Governments.

3. - At the beginning of December last, British Headquarters of India informed the prisoner of war camps in India that "an agreement had been signed between the United Powers and the R. Italian Government," on the basis of which "volunteer" units were to be formed, to be used "in every part of the world" and "at the discretion of the Allied Powers"; volunteers, however, who would retain the "status" as prisoners of war.

It would appear that units of this kind were sent from India to Ceylon and Australia; that similar units were sent from South Africa and Kenya to Sierra Leone, to Nigeria, and the Gold Coast.

4. - In North Africa, still on the basis of a self-styled agreement, as referred to above, the Italian prisoners of war were, beginning in November last, similarly regrouped in part into labour companies, commanded in fact by Allied officers. Those - officers and soldiers - who justly insisted upon receiving an order from the Italian Government or who declared themselves unwilling to work on tasks prohibited by the Geneva Convention, were either sent to America as undesirables (and among them are valuable officers and men completely loyal to the legitimate Italian Government), or kept in special camps in North Africa under a much more rigorous treatment than that to which the labour companies are subjected.

Two of the above companies have been sent to Gibraltar. All attend to various tasks, even if explicitly prohibited by the Geneva Convention.

5. - The London Radio last night (enclosure 2) broadcast that something similar has been done in Great Britain. The brief nature of the communication does not permit a detailed study.

6. - From North Africa transfer has been made to Italy, among others, of the following units or personnel, however, always remaining "prisoners of war":

- a company of specialised workers at Bari (697th Italian Pioneer Company) which accomplishes works of various kinds valuable to the war effort;

- in December about 150 officers were sent to Sicily to organise labour companies,

④ APPA

TRANSLATION of 1105 dtd May 14 from Marshal Badoglio (continued);

- early in May, 170 officers were disembarked at Naples, held for a few days in the prison camp at the front at Aversa and then sent to Sicily for the formation of other labor Companies;
- Veterinary officers, to render service to Allied military units, without being liberated from their prisoner status;
- in Sicily there are being organized some units of American military police composed of prisoners, retained as such;
- it also appears that Italian prisoners of war, of origin, rank and branch unspecified, are used here and there in the peninsula with various Allied commands even as servants, cooks, etc. of non-Italian personnel, still remaining as prisoners of war.

7.- Now, all this is in conflict;

(a) - with the actual state of affairs. The consent in general terms given by me to General Eisenhower and my first brief message to the prisoners of war on Oct. 11, 1943, did not authorize at all the formation of units without the agreement of the Italian Command in the determination of the procedures of formation, command, dependency and namely, without due regard for the natural rights of the Italian Nation and for those granted to the Nation's signatories of the Geneva Convention;

(b) - with the Geneva Convention which prescribes (art.2) that prisoners be not exposed to public curiosity, (art.3) their individuality and their honour be protected and (art.31) they be not used for work directly connected with war operations, particularly transport of materials destined for fighting units.

Now, the prisoners of war are not spared from public curiosity when they are sent to their fatherland to work as prisoners of war, bearing the signs and bonds of their captivity, almost as if they were criminals;

Neither their standing as Italian soldiers nor their honour is being respected when, with their status as prisoners of war, tired of long captivity in small camps, or with the prospect of the chance to come somehow to Italy, they are asked to accept participation in units under the orders and the discipline of a foreign nation.

Even less so when they have to do work explicitly prohibited by the Geneva Convention, until such time that the Convention has been forsaken by the Government, the only one which can take such action.

It is sufficient to remember that even during his captivity the Italian soldier must still be considered on duty, subject in every respect to the Italian military penal law (art. 16 and 215 of C.F.G.). Therefore, the prisoner of war cannot act in conflict with the terms of the Geneva Convention, which is a Law adopted by the Italian Government, unless he has been ordered by and has the consent of the Italian Government;

(c) - with the state of co-belligerency of the Italian Government.

APP-A

TRANSLATION of 1405 dtd 1 May 44 from Marshal Badoglio (continued)

Neither the prisoners of war, nor the Italian people can understand how a soldier can be co-belligerent if he is then treated as a prisoner.

Also the comparison made in the American communication as to the slight favours which the Italian military personnel, co-belligerent, are being granted over German prisoners of war, evening, shows the little consideration that is given to the Italian dignity and the Italian effort to cooperate for the common victory.

3. - The history of the agreements proposed by the Allied Governments (January proposals rejected by the Italian Government; proposals of March by General MacFarlane not accepted by the Government and which prompted by submission of the just and conciliatory proposals of April 3, 1944) is too well known to make it necessary for me to recall now the particulars.

Essentially the Italian Government has repeatedly maintained, in its effort to give, also with prisoners of war, its maximum contribution to the co-belligerency, that -

- the Italian soldiers at present detained should all cease to have the status of prisoners, without recourse to a volunteer system, because this is contrary to our basic military law.

- the Italian units which should not be smaller than a battalion, should in law and fact be under the command of Italian officers and non-commissioned officers, and be subject to the rules of Italian discipline (Allied penal code).

- in every territory, Italian units should be commanded by an Italian General, representative of Italian military interests.

- in Italy, all prisoners of war should be immediately liberated.

9. In the light of these considerations, I beg you, dear General, to obtain, with all the urgency required by the importance of this matter, an official declaration by the Allied Governments.

Please consider what I already felt my duty to tell you upon other occasions, namely that a most inescapable moral law binds the R. Government to the protection of the material fate, but even more the dignity and military honour of its sons.

Very cordially yours,

/s/BADOGLIO.

(45) APPA

Incl. No. 1

ITALIAN POWs REORGANIZED

(Stars & Stripes - U.S. Bureau)

NEW YORK, May 8. The late news from the POW front is that Italian prisoners in U.S. camps may now volunteer for special service units organized on a military basis which will aid the Allies "in any duties except actual combat", the War Department announced this weekend.

While still technically leaving the Italians prisoners, the move will leave them more on their honor, and they will receive more privileges than ordinary prisoners. Britain is planning to do the same thing with their English-based prisoners, it was said here.

It's understood that Italian volunteers may be used either in this country or abroad. The arrangement, a War Department spokesman said, "is expected to release thousands of U.S. soldiers for other duties".

Currently there are 50,136 Italians on POW rolls in this country. Most of them were captured in the North African campaign. Italians who volunteer for special service duties and are found "mentally and physically qualified" will be in charge of Italian officers and NCOs, although U.S. officers will be in "ultimate command" and the Italian units will be subject to U.S. military law and regulations.

The Italians' duties, the War Department said, will be freight-handling, general labor and other such tasks. Actually, it was said, Nazi prisoners are being used for such tasks also but under close guard. Italian prisoners will continue to draw 80 cents daily in addition to their subsistence, as prescribed by international law. However, they will get a part of this in cash instead of having to take it all out in PX coupons as ordinary prisoners do.

(Article published in
"Stars & Stripes" of
9 May 1944.)

45 APPRA INCL I

Incl. No. 2

The British Minister of War has announced that numerous Italian prisoners in Great Britain will shortly be mobilized upon their request into military units, commanded by higher British officers, but always under Italian officers and non-commissioned officers, and equipped with the national war flag.

These volunteer combatants will have special treatment compared to those who have declined this offer. In fact, they will be given greater freedom of movement and increased pay.

These provisions, concluded the British Minister of War, refer only to prisoners stationed in Great Britain.

(COMMUNICATION MADE BY RADIO LONDON
at 1630 hours on 9/5/44)

90537

(45) APPA INCL II

RESTRICTED

M192

0515 807
13 MAG 1944

ACC MAIN (GEN MACFARLANE O COMS)

12th. May. 1944.

RESTRICTED

VL6

PRIORITY

GEN MACFARLANE

A.P.H.S.

(42)

GRATEFUL FOR VERY EARLY REPLY PAREN TO AERO PERSONAL FOR GENERAL GASTELL FROM
ACC MAIN FROM MAGFARLANE PERSONAL PAREN TO MY CHARLIE CHARLIE BLANT PETER BLANT
TWO FIVE NINE OF THIRD MAY

cc/P/359 (42)

In DSG file 383.6 Row

See (46) for answer

383.6 POW General

2052

(44)

RECEIVED
MAY 15 1944
O O A D S C

MOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

file/500

RESTRICTED

M192
12 MAY 1944

COPY/EXTRACT

SUBJECT: Control of Escaped Allied PW SECRET

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/3075/A(0)

3 May 44

1. Ref AFHQ Adv Adm Esh Administrative Instruction No. 31 issued under reference 3152/9/A1 dated 21 Feb 44.
2. The following redesignations of HQ PW Sub-Commission, PW Transit Camps etc., will be taken into use forthwith.

(b) Former Designation	(d) New Designation	(e) New Location	(f) Intercam
HQ PW Sub-Commission (PW Repatriation Directorate)	HQ Allied PW Repatriation Unit	Naples	Tel. Naples 17599. Signals; ADNAP for ALLIED PW REPAT UNIT
No. 1 PW Transit Camp	Disbanded	-	-
No 2 PW Transit Camp (PW Collection Camp)	No 2 Allied PW Repatriation Camp	Resina N 3045	Tel. Naples 55409
No 1 PW Distribution HQ	Disbanded	-	-
No 1 PW Distribution HQ Collection Camp	No 1 Det Allied PW Repatriation Unit	Taranto	'X' TRANSIT Camp TARANTO
PW Subcommission Rep	No 2 Det Allied PW Repatriation Unit	Casoli H 2491	c/o 23 Town Major
"	No 3 Det Allied PW Repatriation Unit	Torino di Sangro C 4503	c/o Fwd Det 202 Transit Camp
-	No 4 Det Allied PW Repatriation Unit	Presenzano H 0708	c/o 115 F.M.C.

/s/ ? , Major
forMajor General
Chief Administrative Officer..

TSG/HFL

(43)

AAI/3075/A(0)
3 MAY 44

M

DEPT VCC
RECEIVED

383.6 POW

2051

SECRET

856 722
FBI/DOJ : 5 MAG 1944

SE

Ref. CC/F/259.

3rd. MAY. 1944.

I understand from Brigadier Hillery who came to see me here a couple of days ago that 18 labour units, composed of Italian Prisoner of War personnel, had already been sent to U.K. and that it was probable that more than 20 additional similar units would also be sent.

2. You know all the difficulties that we have had with the Italian Government over this question of Prisoners of War and I have already stressed how greatly it weighs with the Italian Government.

3. I would be glad of guidance in two respects;

(a) Presumably sooner or later the Italian Government will discover that we have sent all these P.W. labour units to U.K.. I do not know if their representatives in Algiers have been officially informed. If this has not been done, I think that from the point of view of good relations between the Italian Government and ourselves it would be advisable for me to inform the Italian Government of the action we are taking.

(b) If it is agreed that I should give this information to the Italian Government I would be glad of the necessary details and any instructions regarding the form in which the communication should be made which the S.A.C. may wish to give me.

Lieut-General James A.H. Gammell, CB, DSO, MC,
Chief of Staff,
Allied Force Headquarters.

NOEL MASON MACPARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

cc/P/259
3 may 44

OUTGOING 4 MAG 1944

NAVY/ESD

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

2698

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

HEAR ACC

CONSON TARANTO

MAY

X 1 7 2 4 / 4 4 2 8
 MY XRAY ONE SEVEN SEVEN ABLE SLAVE FOUR FOUR CHA TWO EIGHT APRIL PD
 TO CONSON TARANTO FROM ACC HEAR FROM NAVY SIGNED WCEP/ALM PD HQ
 AAI HAVE NOT DECIDED THAT RELEASE OF ITALIAN PW IN SICILY MAY BE
 AUTHORIZED BY COMMANDER DISTRICT ONE

AUTHENTICATED:

E. J. ChioCCA
 E. J. CHIOCCA
 CWO USA
 ASST Adj

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - File
- 1 - DGC
- 1 - DCS
- 1 - Navy

DAG YCC

(41)

RECEIVED

2698 U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

2 May 44

2049

FMH/rj

SECRETDSH 702
3 MAG 1944

28th. April, 1944.

Ref. CC/3/ 245.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(ATTENTION: CHIEF OF STAFF)

1. I enclose herewith copy of a letter from General CAZZERA, Italian High Commissioner for P.W....
2. I have had the present situation regarding Italian P.W.s. in P.W. camps in Sicily investigated and there are about 500 officers and 13,000 other ranks in camps at Catania, Syracuse and Palermo, or in hospitals.
3. My personal opinion is that it would be in every way an advantage to us to accede to General CAZZERA's suggestion and release these P.W.s. who would be taken over by the Italian military authorities.
4. I would be glad if you would let me know if you agree in principle, in which case I will go further into the question with the local authorities in Sicily and with the Italian Government.
5. The question of these Prisoners of War in Sicily arose during the recent P.W. agreement discussions and at that time Mr. Macmillan agreed with me that we would do well to cease to hold Italian P.W.s. in liberated Italy. I do not think that the fact that the Italian Government failed to accept the agreement need necessarily affect this question.

NOEL MASON MACMILLAN,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

(41)

APP A

cc/6/243
28 April 44

383.6 POW. Second

TRANSLATION - No. 154 BONANNI

DAVA DEI TIRRENI
MARCH 29, 1944

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

File No. 34. POL.

SUBJECT: Camps for Prisoners of War in Sicily.

TO: A.C.C. SALERNO

In reference to my note No. 11 of the 18th of this month and to my letter No. 1/M of the 28th of the same month, I wish to inform the Commission that the Italian Government has learned that there are still some camps in Sicily holding Italian prisoners of War.

The Italian Government feels that this circumstance is not compatible with the cessation of the status of occupation and the return of the Island to the Sovereignty of the Italian Government; it feels, moreover, that it undermines the prestige and authority of the Government; the people's faith in the government is thereby shaken. The populace cannot understand the reasons for the continuation of the restrictive conditions imposed on these Italian soldiers, particularly at the same time that the privileges of liberty and social justice are granted to the people, and while the status of cobelligerency is being forever developed.

I feel therefore, my duty to call the attention of the Commission to this fact, and ask it to use its authority so that the prisoners of war may be freed and handed to the Italian military authorities.

The service that these Italian prisoners would render eventually can be given, and in a better measure, by regular Italian units formed, whenever necessary, with the same prisoners and employed, like the other Italian troops in the national territory, on a basis of cobelligerency.

My deepest thanks.

The High Commissioner
Gen. Pietro GAZZERA

70/7

(41)

APP A INCL
34 Pol
29 Mar 44

C O P Y

26 April 1944

Subject: PW camps in SICILY.

To: Deputy Chief Commissioner

✓ The attached letter from the High Commissary for PW dated 29 March and translation is forwarded.

As it is a matter of high policy perhaps you might like to deal with it.

I have ascertained that PW camps are located in SICILY as follows: -

- a. Camp 222 Catania (det. 222 Girasole).
- b. Camp 301 Palermo.
- c. Hospitals in:

- (1) 50 Area.
- (2) 71 Garrison Area.
- (3) 40 Div. Area.

The numbers are as follows:

- a. Officers - 516
- b. O.R.s - 12,917
- Total 13,403

1 Incl. as above.

Lt. Col.

3946

④ APP B

26 Apr 44

SECRET

-73

SF
DSH 707
4 MAR 1944

29th. April. 1944.

Ref. 05/G/248.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Lieut-General J.A.W. Gansell, CB, DSO, MC,
Chief of Staff,
Allied Force Headquarters.

1. I enclose a translation of a note from General GAZZERA, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, on the subject of the treatment of Italian prisoners held by French military authorities in North Africa.

2. The object of this note is to bring to our attention the fact that the French Authorities have not carried out their obligations under the Geneva Convention. Certainly if the facts are as stated by the Italian Government there is serious ground for complaint and at least a prima facie case for investigation.

3. General GAZZERA in forwarding this note has explained that this question has already been taken up by the Italian Government officially and unofficially with members of the French Committee of Liberation. As, however, no improvement seems to have taken place, the Italian Government sincerely trust that the Supreme Allied Commander will press the French Authorities to ensure that Italian prisoners are treated in accordance with the humanitarian principles laid down in the Geneva Conference. The Italian Government make this request not only in the virtue of the fact that French forces are under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander, but also that all these Italian prisoners were taken during a campaign conducted by an Allied commander and in many cases by British or American troops before being handed over to the French for custody.

4. A copy of this correspondence is being sent to the American Political Advisor and British Resident Minister.

NOEL MARSH MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

cc/4/248
29 Apr 44
DISTRIBUTION:

American Political Advisor; British Resident Minister.

COPY

The High Commissioner
For Prisoners of War

File No. 62 Pol.

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War held by French Military Authorities.

To: A.C.O. SALEM.

In order to put in evidence the treatment to which tens of thousands of Italian POW are subjected in the hands of the French, I believe it my duty to submit the following to the attention of the A.C.O., in the name of the Royal Government:

- 1 - The condition under which Italian POW, held by the French Military Authorities, were still living in March 1944;
- 2 - The reasons for which the Royal Government believes that Allied Governments should insist that the treatment meted out to the above POW should adhere completely to the regulations set forth by the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929.

1.) EVACUATION.

According to information sent to the Royal Italian Government, Italian soldiers captured in Tunisia by French forces or assigned to them were in many cases forced to reach their destination on foot, even the farthest location (like Constantine camp, a good 600 km. away), and during the trip they were not only deprived of their belongings, including their dearest personal possessions, but were subjected to serious privations (ex: they were forced to drink water from puddles in order to slake their thirst); while those who were taken to destination by railroad were so jammed into the cattle cars that it was impossible for them to lie down.

2.) CAMP.

In the camps they found not only a treatment inferior to that accorded to the troops which were responsible for them, or which had captured them, but they also were treated very harshly. In the camp of Tunis even last month some of the Italian POW were still without shoes and coats, and the rations were insufficient. In the camp of Constantine the absence of clothing, in the month of March, was emphasized because the POW were completely lacking of clothing, as they were of food, which was very little; and the few prisoners who escaped to find refuge in American camps, when returned, were stripped of articles of clothing furnished to them by the Americans, reverting to their original condition.

In the camp of Constantine the living conditions are even sadder yet. The camp, small and so poorly set up that when it rains it is a quagmire. Bedding for the prisoners (even in the infirmary) consists of bare boards or of old straw. Hygienic conditions are pitiful because disinfectants are rare and medical supplies are non-existent, as are hospital provisions. In this camp also, the POW lack shirts and underclothing, and many also lack shoes, while all uniforms and overcoats are reduced to rags. The rations, consisting of carrots and turnips (once in a while a bit of meat),

25 Apr 1944
JEP

Cava dei Tirreni, 14 April 1944

these and of Italian POW are subjected in the hands of the French, I believe it my duty to submit the following to the attention of the A.C.G., in the name of the Royal Government:

- 1 - The condition under which Italian POWs, held by the French Military Authorities, were still living in March 1944;
- 2 - The reasons for which the Royal Government believes that Allied Governments should insist that the treatment meted out to the above POWs should adhere completely to the regulations set forth by the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929.

1.) EVACUATION.

According to information sent to the Royal Italian Government, Italian soldiers captured in Tunisia by French forces or assigned to them were in many cases forced to march their destination on foot, even the farthest location (like Constantine camp, a good 500 km. away), and during the trip they were not only deprived of their belongings, including their dearest personal possessions, but were subjected to serious privations (ex: they were forced to drink water from puddles in order to slake their thirst); while those who were taken to destination by railroad were so jammed into the cattle cars that it was impossible for them to lie down.

2.) CAMPS.

In the camps they found not only a treatment inferior to that accorded to the troops which were responsible for them, or which had captured them, but they also were treated very harshly.

In the camp of Tunis even last month some of the Italian POW were still without shoes and coats, and the rations were insufficient.

In the camp of Garmot the absence of clothing, in the month of March, was emphasized because the POW were completely lacking of clothing, as they were of food, which was very little; and the few prisoners who escaped to find refuge in American camps, when returned, were stripped of articles of clothing furnished to them by the Americans, reverting to their original condition.

In the camp of Constantine the living conditions are even sadder yet. The camp, small and so poorly set up that when it rains it is a quagmire. Bedding for the prisoners (even in the infirmary) consists of bare boards or of old straw. Hygienic conditions are pitiful because disinfectants are rare and medical supplies are non-existent, as are hospital provisions. In this camp also, the POW lack shirts and underclothing, and many also lack shoes, while all uniforms and overcoats are reduced to rags. The rations, consisting of carrots and turnips (once in a while salted fish, very rarely meat) is so much below the basic living needs, that the very larger part of the prisoners are skeletons, devoid of any physical strength and exposed to grave consequences.

In the camp of Guelmel living conditions for our prisoners are so intolerable that they dare to seek refuge in the camp of Constantine in the hope of ameliorating their fate.

The camp of La Kraider, south of Oran: absence of hygienic precautions, lack of medical supplies. Clothing insufficient, especially in regard to shoes and linen; food scarce.

The camp of Mabeck Media: insufficient hygiene, deficiency of rations; food for POW is very little.

(40) Encl. I

3.) EMPLOYMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

Italian POW assigned to some French farmers of French North Africa for working the land are often subjected to hard tasks without regard to hours of work and their physical endurance, and they are treated with little humaneness. Some particulars:

- On the farm of Captein Scott (French), near El Biar, the POW are forced to work from dawn to dusk, get very little food, do not receive pay and when they commit actions that are interpreted as violations they are placed in a cement hoghead and kept there for the length of their punishment. No control has been effected by the Authorities of the camp from which the prisoners were detached, on their living conditions; it was not possible for them to present any grievance.

- On the estate of Princess de Ligne, near Bou Zera, our prisoners are billeted in rooms without glass panes, sleeping on straw, without blankets. They have no shoes, and the little clothing they possess has become very ragged.

On the farm of Mr. Vidal, near Cheraga, the treatment meted out to our prisoners is even worse. The work is hard, food very scarce (a few beans and carrots, and 1 kg. of pasta (spaghetti) per day for 26 prisoners who have to work from dawn to dusk, the punishment very harsh. Corporal-Major Vincent Lo Guinice, who dared to go to a nearby camp to ask for an old shirt against the cold weather, was isolated for five days in an uninhabitable place, although he was suffering from bronchitis.

- At the farm of Tavella Edgard, at Constantine (Gers El Kseir), Private Mario Callotti, because he refused to work after having submitted to harsh treatment, was shut up in a wine cask and received very little air and food from a small aperture on the top.

4.) PUNISHMENTS.

Disciplinary measures in some camps were inhuman up to the end of March.

In camp La Kreider, Sergeant Major Provenzano was handcuffed and made to stay in the sun for ten hours because he defended the right of 51 prisoners under him to be fed; Asello Filippo, a civilian, was kept without food for three days and beaten until his body bled; Obao Tullio, a soldier, lost his speech as a result of the shocks suffered; in some places the POW are even deprived of food as a punishment.

Bodily punishments were inflicted also in camp Kasban Tedla, and are generally meted out in all the other French camps, as it is done to colored troops, as though there were no difference between these and our prisoners, and as if the categorical ban of the Geneva Convention against bodily punishments and in general against any form of cruelty (art. 46) had no weight whatsoever.

I must add that bodily punishments have been inflicted even on a collective scale in some camps. On June 24, 1943 in the French camp La Cagna (Tunisia), because a POW escaped, the whole company of 100 soldiers was exposed to the sun from 0830 to 1900 hours, and were made to stand for 40 minutes and to sit down for 20 minutes alternatively. Two of the company suffered sun-strokes. The commander of the escaped soldier was whipped before the camp commander.

5.) SPIRITUAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

Utterly deficient. Medicine is denied (camp La Cagna), and sometimes hospitalization too. And military chaplains find it very difficult, if not impossible, to fulfill their religious tasks.

On the estate of Princess de Ligne, near Bou Zera, our prisoners are billeted in rooms without glass panes, sleeping on straw, without blankets. They have no shoes, and the little clothing they possess has become very ragged.

On the farm of Mr. Vidal, near Oberigas, the treatment meted out to our prisoners is even worse. The work is hard, food very scarce (a few beans and carrots, and 1 kg. of pasta (spaghetti) per day for 26 prisoners who have to work from dawn to dusk), the punishment very harsh. Corporal-Major Vincent Lo Giudice, who dared to go to a nearby camp to ask for an old shirt against the cold weather, was isolated for five days in an uninhabitable place, although he was suffering from bronchitis.

At the farm of Favella Edgardi, at Constantine (Gara El Kevir), Private Mario Gallotti, because he refused to work after having submitted to harsh treatment, was shut up in a wine cask and received very little air and food from a small aperture on the top.

4.) PUNISHMENTS.

Disciplinary measures in some camps were inhuman up to the end of March.

In camp Le Kreider, Sergeant Major Provenzano was handcuffed and made to stay in the sun for ten hours because he defended the right of 51 prisoners under him to be fed; Asolio Filippo, a civilian, was kept without food for three days and beaten until his body bled; Obco Tullio, a soldier, lost his speech as a result of the shocks suffered; in some places the POW are even deprived of food as a punishment.

Bodily punishments were inflicted also in camp Kasben Tedla, and are generally meted out in all the other French camps, as it is done to colored troops, as though there were no difference between these and our prisoners, and as if the categorical ban of the Geneva Convention against bodily punishments and in general against any form of cruelty (art. 46) had no weight whatsoever.

I must add that bodily punishments have been inflicted even on a collective scale in some camps. On June 24, 1945 in the French camp La Gagna (Tunisia), because a POW escaped, the whole company of 100 soldiers was exposed to the sun from 0830 to 1900 hours, and were made to stand for 40 minutes and to sit down for 20 minutes alternatively. Two of the company suffered sun-strokes. The roommate of the escaped soldier was whipped before the camp commander.

5.) SPIRITUAL AND MEDICAL ABUSAGE.

Utterly deficient. Medicine is denied (camp La Gagna), and sometimes hospitalization too. And military chaplains find it very difficult, if not impossible, to fulfill their religious tasks.

6.) All these facts reflect serious violations of the Geneva Convention of 7 - 27 - 1929 as well as disregard of humanitarian principles. The Government cannot overlook them because it must care for these unfortunate soldiers, and also because it must defend its own prestige, especially today when the status of co-belligerency has placed it by the side of those very powers which have effected the capture of the soldiers and on whose account they are being held.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro Gazzera)

/s/ P. Gazzera

C O P Y

SUBJECT: Release of Italian Prisoners of War.

H.Q. ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
AAI/3072/A(O).

25 Apr 44.

HQ 1 District
HQ 2 District
HQ 3 District

1. Application for release of individual Italian Prisoners of War on other than strong medical or compassionate grounds will no longer be considered, except in SICILY (see para 4 below). All PsW will be so informed.
2. The authority to release Italian PsW on strong medical or compassionate grounds is hereby delegated to Commanders of Districts. Applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by strong supporting evidence to justify release. Authority will not be given until G.S.I.'s approval has been obtained.
3. The power to grant release will be exercised in such a way that Italian PsW are not afforded more favourable treatment than British and American soldiers, serving in the theatre, receive under parallel circumstances.
4. The release of Italian PsW in SICILY may be authorised by Commander 1 District where the services of the PsW concerned are specifically asked for by HQ Allied Control Commission, or the Allied or Italian Military Authorities.
5. In all cases where release is authorised, a copy of the authorisation will be despatched to GHQ 2nd Echelon, ENAF.

6. A nominal return of releases during the previous month will be forwarded to reach this Headquarters by the 4th day of the month following.

7. PsW on release, revert to the status of Italian soldiers. They must therefore, upon release, be handed over to the Italian Military Authorities. In cases of release on compassionate grounds or on account of ill-health, Italian Military Authorities will take such action as is necessary as regards leave, discharge, etc.

In cases where release is granted at request of HQ Allied Control Commission or Allied Military Authority, the authority requesting release will be responsible for arranging with Italian Military Authorities for discharge, and will ensure that personnel so discharged are in fact employed on the particular duties for which their release from PW status was granted.

GGE/JLR

(Signed)

(Lt. Col.)

(For)

Major-General,

on other than strong medical or compassionate grounds will no longer be considered, except in SICILY (see para 4 below). All PsW will be so informed.

2. The authority to release Italian PsW on strong medical or compassionate grounds is hereby delegated to Commanders of Districts. Applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by strong supporting evidence to justify release. Authority will not be given until G.S.I.'s approval has been obtained.
3. The power to grant release will be exercised in such a way that Italian PsW are not afforded more favourable treatment than British and American soldiers, serving in the theatre, receive under parallel circumstances.
4. The release of Italian PsW in SICILY may be authorised by Commander 1 District where the services of the PsW concerned are specifically asked for by HQ Allied Control Commission, or the Allied or Italian Military Authorities.
5. In all cases where release is authorised, a copy of the authorisation will be despatched to GHQ 2nd Echelon, ENAF.
6. A nominal return of releases during the previous month will be forwarded to reach this Headquarters by the 4th day of the month following.
7. PsW on release, revert to the status of Italian soldiers. They must therefore, upon release, be handed over to the Italian Military Authorities. In cases of release on compassionate grounds or on account of ill-health, Italian Military Authorities will take such action as is necessary as regards leave, discharge, etc.

In cases where release is granted at request of HQ Allied Control Commission or Allied Military Authority, the authority requesting release will be responsible for arranging with Italian Military Authorities for discharge, and will ensure that personnel so discharged are in fact employed on the particular duties for which their release from PW status was granted.

GGE/JIR

(Signed)

(Lt. Col.)

(For)

Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to G1 Br, AFHQ.

GHQ 2nd Echelon.

HQ Allied Control Commission.

Army Sub-Commission/ACC

GSL (b) HQ AAI.

G1 (American)

C.G., P.B.S.

(39)
25 Apr 1947
13077/1460

DSN 540
15 APR 1944

8-1542

CONFIDENTIAL. HQ ACC. APO 394

SUBJECT:- Major General Nicola Bellomo.

Rec'd 13 Apr 1944
by [signature]

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

G1/E/3305/1/A3.

9 Apr 44.

HQ Allied Control Commission.

(25)

Reference your DCC 383.6 dated 30 Mar 44 addressed to
Commanding General, AFHQ, APO 512.

It is not considered necessary to take any further action
over the document forwarded by you, as the normal procedure for alleged
War Crimes is being followed in this case.

13 APR 1944
HEADQUARTERS

Copy to:- JA(US)
DJAG(Br)

Major General, DAG.,
G-1 (B).

G. G. Baker
Lt Col.
AFC.

1706

(38)

✓ file/706

DS 224
15 APR 1944

WES/hjp

In reply refer to:
DGC 383.6

15 April 1944

Dear General Gazzera:

Message contained in your letter N. 47.ASS. of 10 April 1944 from General Orlando to Colonels Pettinani and Ruta has been forwarded to AFHQ with a request that it be transmitted.

Yours very truly,

ALFRED W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Generale Pietro Gazzera
L'Alto Commissario
Per i Prigionieri di Guerra
Cava dei Tirreni

6706

File 7906

(37)

15 Apr

RESTRICTED

OUTGOING

13 APR 1944

4719
FJS/ajp

ROUTINE

13 APR 1944

6/13
2619

RESTRICTED

APR

FATIMA REAR

1324118

FREEDOM

GENERAL ORLANDO CMA MINISTER OF WAR FOR ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF
 THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE COULD BE TRANSMITTED PARISH TO FREEDOM FROM FATIMA REAR
SIGNED MORGANLAND PARISH QUOTE TO COL PRETENDANT AND COL RITA CMA CAMP MARCELL
 FOR ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN USA PD I WISH TO EXTEND MY WARM GREETINGS
 FOR A HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND ALL ITALIAN POW IN USA PD SIGNED MINISTER
 ORLANDO UNQUOTE

AUTHENTICATED:

FRANK J. SLAUGHTER,
 Captain, AGD
 Deputy Secretary General.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - DCG ✓
- 1 - CC
- 1 - SC
- 1 - DSG
- 1 - Army Sub-Com.
- 1 - ADJ FILE

RESTRICTED

13 Apr

MO/ma



**L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
PER I PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA**

n. 47.ASS.

OGGETTO : Trasmissione messaggio.

Cava dei Tirrani, 10 aprile 1944

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

S a l e r n o

Sarei grato a codesta onorevole Commissione se volesse com-
piacersi disporre per l'incontro a destinazione del seguente mes-
saggio di S.E. il Ministro della Guerra :

" Ai Colonnelli Pettinow e Ruta

Campo prigionieri di guerra italiani "Manelli" negli Stati
Uniti d'America.

Invio a voi e tutti prigionieri italiani negli Stati Uniti
d'America mio cordiale saluto auguri per Pasqua.

Ministro Orlando "

*I would be very grateful if the
Commission would kindly forward
the following message from the
Min. of War:*

*("To Col. Pettinow and Col. Ruta
Camp Manelli for detail Pres.
of War in USA.*

I wish to extend my warm

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

Manelli

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

Salerno

Sarei grato a codesta onorevole Commissione se volesse com-
piacersi disporre per l'inoltro a destinazione del seguente mes-
saggio di S.E. il Ministro della Guerra :

"" Ai Colonnelli Pettinau e Ruta

Campo prigionieri di guerra italiani "Mameli", negli Stati
Uniti d'America.

Invio a voi e tutti prigionieri italiani negli Stati Uniti
d'America mio cordiale saluto auguri per Pasqua.

Ministro Orlando ""

2028

*It would be very grateful if the
Commission would kindly forward
the following message from the
Min. of War:*

*"To Col. Pettinau and Col. Ruta
Camp Mameli for detail Pres.
of War in U.S.A.*

*I wish to extend my warm
greetings for a Happy Easter
to you and all detail POW
in U.S.A.*

Minister Orlando

(35)

10 apr.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

Orlando

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Date

To From

✓ Dep. -Pres. CC

Chief of Staff

A.D.C.

Secretary

P.R.O.

Mil. Sec.

Comm. Sec.

Pol. Sec.

Econ. & Admin. Sec.

Fin. Sub-Sec.

Legal Sub-Sec.

G-2

✓ Army

Navy

Air

P/W

War Material Disposal

Displaced Persons

Industry

To From

Labor

Education

Interior

Public Health

Public Safety

Public Utilities

Agriculture

AG

Hq. Comdt.

Transportation O.

Supply Officer

Billeting O.

Stenographic Section

File Section

9037

Approved

For your information

✓ For comment

Contents noted

For necessary action

✓ For necessary action & return

For compliance

For file

(initials)

12 Apr 44-

DSH 215
10 APR 1944

ENS/hjp

10 April 1944

In reply refer to:
DCC 323.6

SUBJECT: Prisoner of War, Released

To : Vice President, Administrative Section, Rear Hq. ACC

1. Referring to your letter of 5 April. The following policy will apply:

a. Sub-commissions should only request the return of Prisoners of War in the most exceptional cases.

b. All such requests shall be cleared through this office.

c. Requests which have been approved by this office will then be forwarded to Public Safety for vetting as recommended in your para 7. If the POW is approved by Public Safety for repatriation, the necessary application papers will be prepared for the signature of the DCC.

2. Will you kindly advise all Sub-Commissions in your section.

WILLIAM W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Deputy Chief Commissioner

38216 800
2026

34

10 Apr.

COPY

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

11/1A/AS

5 Apr 44

SUBJECT: Prisoners of War, Releases.

TO : Deputy Chief Commissioner.

1. This is a request for instructions as to how applications for the release of individual prisoners of war should be dealt with. It does not deal with any larger question of general release.
2. The present policy as to the release of POW's is that they will only be released on grounds of health or where their services can be used to further the war effort.
3. When an application is received the views of the Sub-Comm responsible for the class of work which the prisoner is capable of doing decides whether or not his services are required.
4. The decision as to whether or not a release will be made in accordance with the recommendation is the function of the Army Commander holding the prisoner.
5. No precise ruling has been given as to who shall be responsible for co-ordinating the recommendations of Sub-Comms and for forwarding the requests to the Army.
6. There has been an interim decision that Interior should handle this as at that time they were interested in the release of some local government officers, but they do not seem the logical body to deal with the general question.
7. It would seem that before any recommendation is forwarded it would be desirable that some enquiry should be made as to the man's local reputation and party history. If so, the papers in every case should be sent to Public Safety who would thus probably become the most convenient co-ordinating and forwarding authority as all applications will channel to them.
8. The procedure would then be that applications would be submitted to the "using" Sub Comms to say whether or not a prisoners services are required, the papers would then be forward to Public Safety to certify that the man's background has been investigated and is satisfactory and his release is requested. Public Safety would then forward the request to the appropriate Army authority. (All correspondence being conducted on the file of the originating Sub Comm).
9. May a decision as to the procedure to be followed be made please and circulated to all concerned.

STANSCATE,
VP Adm Sec.

Dec ✓

OSM 484
6 APR 1944

Translation

April 3

U R G E N T
: : : : :
: HQ ACC, APO 394
: Secy Gen
: Rec'd 4 Apr 1945
: By HD
: : : : :

The Chief of the Government

Dear General:

For Easter I would like the prisoners to hear my voice.

Naturally, I would deliver the speech which I enclose through the radio of Naples, but it would be the London radio which would have to broadcast it.

Please inform me if you have any objections.

Cordially yours.

/s/ BADOGLIO

343.6

2024

✓ 3

File/700

(32)

3 Apr

DSB 46
6 APR 1944

MESSAGE

: HQ ACC, APO 394
 : Sec'y Gen
 : Rec'd 4 Apr 1145
 : By HD

DEAR COMRADES-IN-ARMS ON LAND, ON THE SEA, IN THE SKY:

Your old Marshal is speaking to you, with the affection of the old soldier for his younger co-militants so far in space, but always so close to his heart. And he speaks to send to all of you whom the misfortune of our Fatherland now keeps far from the native soil, in the name of all the Italians, the most cordial Easter Wishes. Wishes for an Easter which means hope for us, who are inspired by the sure faith in the Victory and in the rapid reconstruction of our country, to which we all--you among the first--have offered and want to continue to offer the best that is in us.

Here in the Fatherland, we know well the aspirations of your spirit, the intensity of your affections, the just impatience within you, and we can fully realize your moral sufferings. I know--we all know-- that you have done your duty bravely under the most difficult circumstances, sometimes tragic; we know that you have been almost forgotten for a long time when it seemed that something more should have been done for you. However, under the difficulties of every sort in which our country is struggling, fully intent to give its maximum support to the co-belligerency on the battle front and behind the lines, while it seeks to heal with the help of the Allies some of its deepest wounds, I assure you that every effort is now being made on the part of the government of His Majesty the King to ameliorate your conditions, to regain for you as completely as possible your individuality as Italian soldiers, to give you the certainty that you are always our beloved sons, in whom we recognize the unfortunate combatants, proven by the long anguish of separation, and who will find upon the day of their return the comfort of their sufferings in their beloved families.

The Fatherland will still be in need of your work, but I know that in the fields, thanks to your firm will, your energies have improved, your aims have become clarified, your experiences have been extended and deepened.

Italy has need of willing, serious and firm men. My wish is that you, who are such, may soon return among us, for your loved ones and for our Fatherland.

9093?

TRANSLATION

8 APR 1944

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Cava dei Tirreni, 1 April 1944.

39/13.

Dear General:

I thank you for the communications made per letter Ref. CC/G/161 with respect to the request for assignment of Italian officers, prisoners of war, in the troop camps of Egypt.

In this connection I believe necessary to indicate the following:

1. It is certain that if - as is to be hoped - a general agreement will be reached concerning the prisoners of war, the aim would surely be reached if Italian units will be formed everywhere and with all the prisoners, as is proposed by the R. Italian Government. Instead, this would not be the case if units were composed only of "volunteers", or if in some territories it would not be deemed possible to form such units.
2. The request answers a real necessity - already recognized and practiced in the camps of India and also of America, with excellent results, when Italy was not yet a co-belligerent. Now that Italy is co-belligerent, it appears that there should be no difficulty in carrying out the proposal, if the Italian Government believes it might be useful for the good of the Italian citizens, who at this moment are still detained as prisoners of war, without being harmful, but rather being to the advantage of the detaining Powers.
3. This request does not appear to conflict with the provisions of the Geneva Convention, which does not prescribe separation between officers and troops. It admits, implicitly, to apply to officers the respect owed to rank and age, but not to impede a realization which could instead benefit the mass of the prisoners.
4. Finally, the fact that in the troop camps there will be officers already, would greatly facilitate the hoped-for formation of Italian units with military personnel now prisoners of war, according to what is intended by the agreement which is under consideration.

Respectfully.

/s/ Gen. Pietro Gazzera

31

3536 POW General

5032

✓ file for

U.S. SECRET Equals British SECRET
- OUTGOING

APR 1944

ARMY
G5/MS3/02
2565

APRIL

APRIL

attached

A9/14/3 of 23 MAR

SECRET

ROUTINE

PATINA REAR

MHIA

SUBJECT IS EASTER PARCELS PD REFERENCE YOUR AG BLANT ONE FOUR BLANT
THREE OF TWO THREE MAR PD AIR FORCES SUBCOMMISSION NAPLES STATE
 TODAY BARI HAVE NOT YET SEEN LETTER NOR HAS ITALIAN OFFICER MENTIONED
 IN PARA FOUR SHOWS UP PD TO MHIA FROM PATINA REAR FROM QUINSMITH
SIGNED MACFARLANE PD APPARENTLY THERE WILL BE DIFFICULTY IN SUPPLY
 OF AIRCRAFT PD THIS IS FOR INFORMATION AS DEMAN IS INVESTIGATING

AUTHENTICATED:

E. J. Chiocca
 E. J. CHIOCCA
 CWO, USA
 Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 Army Sub-Comm.
- 1 Dep. Chief Commissioner ✓
- 1 Dep. Sec. Gen.
- 1 AG Files
- 1 Air Forces Sub-Comm.

U.S. SECRET Equals British SECRET

30

COPY

Subject: - Easter Parcels for Italian PW in NORTH AFRICADSB 479
5 APR 1944Army Sub Commission, ACC
Main Bq (SALA)
INQUIRY (LISSEN)
Adm/11/3
22 Mar 44Air Sub Commission,
United Control Commission, UACICopy to: Adv Bq, Army Sub Commission, ACC
SAVED
Ministry of War

1. The Italian Minister for War, General GUARDO has initiated a scheme for sending Easter parcels to Italian PW who are still in N. AFRICA. As he attaches high political and moral importance to the scheme, Minister is taking a personal interest in its development; the scheme has been approved in principle by the Chief Commissioner, A.C.C.
2. On arrival in N. AFRICA the parcels will be distributed to the various camps under arrangements to be made by General CASTELLANO's Mission in ALGERIA.
3. The most urgent requirement is Air Transport. The Ministry of War have stated that if they could have the use of one S - 62 plane per week, starting immediately, the parcels could be ferried across in time for Easter.
4. The Ministry of War states that an Italian Officer has already been nominated to make preliminary enquiries with you, and the Ministry for Air as to the availability of aircraft.

This letter is written to endorse the application for the weekly plane and to request you to give every consideration to the matter; it is realised that operational demands on the Italian machines are great.

BCC/oc

/s/ E. J. Scan
Lt. Col. for
Trig
Army Sub Comm, ACC

7030

See Mr. Stone
to Orlando on 24.4.

22

M 29 M
2

30

23 March

File/198

CONFIDENTIAL

DS 4 1944
4 APR 1944
LWS/hjp

In reply refer to:
DGC 383.6

4 April 1944

SUBJECT: Vetting Prisoners of War

TO : DGC, Hq No. 2 District, Bari

1. Reference your 220/A of 16 March 1944.
2. Yugo-Slavs and Czech P.W. are vetted in the same way as other allied nationals.
3. Czech are dealt with by the Czech Military Mission, 73, Via Abatte Giampa, Bari, (Col. Svoboda) and Royalist Yugo-Slavs by the Royal Military Yugo-Slav Mission, 234 Via Cavouriga Viskonti, Bari. Both these Missions are attached to the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission, Bari (Director Col. Kirkwood). Partisan Yugo-Slavs are vetted by "G" Force, Bari.
4. The policy of enlisting such individuals into their national armies is supervised by the Prisoner of War Sub-Commission, A.A.I. (Col. Robinson, 3, Via Niccola Piccini, Naples - Phone 17599).

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Deputy Chief Commissioner

2029

29

4 Apr.

CONFIDENTIAL

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ROUTING AND WORK SHEET

Each note must be numbered and each space completely filled in. THIS WORK SHEET MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE TO WHICH ATTACHED UNTIL ACTION IS COMPLETED AND THEN FILED WITH FILE COPIES OF COMMUNICATION TO WHICH IT PERTAINS. A line will be the full width of the page under each note.

SUBJECT: Vetting Prisoners of War, File 220/A, Hq #2 District, 16 March 44

NO	DATE	FROM	TO	REMARKS
1	30 Mar 1944	D.C.C.	Col Young, P.S.	1. Reference para 4 attached letter to C.C., Hq #2 District. 2. Captain Stone is not clear on the Prisoner of War Sub-Commission, AAI (Col. Robinson), set up. He was of the opinion that the POW function has been consolidated under Col. Kirkwood. 3. What is the AAI set up? Could you clear this up for the Captain before letter is sent, please. <i>L.D.D.</i> L.D.D.
2	3 Apr 1944	Col. Young	DCC	1. The Prisoner-of-war Sub-Commission (AAI) deals mainly with Allied soldiers who have escaped from German controlled territory and is concerned with their re-enlistment in their national armies. 2. These include British, Jugo-Slavs, Greeks, Poles, Russians and Jugo-Slav Partisans. 3. The main responsibility of this Sub-Commission is to ensure that the escaped Allied prisoner-of-war is returned to his national Army as speedily as possible. It does <u>not</u> deal with civilians but works in close co-operation with our Displaced Persons Sub-Commission. 4. Since the title "Sub-Commission" has led to some confusion with A.C.C. it is about to be re-named. Director - Col. Robinson; Address - Via Nicola Piccini 3, Naples. <i>Algon</i> D.C.F.S.

(30)

C O N F I D E N T I A L~~HEAD~~ HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 3944 April
-29 March 1944

SUBJECT: Vetting Prisoners of War.

TO : Officer Commanding,
HQ No. 2 District,
C.M.F.

- 6/12
1. Reference your 220/A 16 March 1944.
 2. Yugo-Slavs and Czech P.W. are vetted in the same way as other allied nationals.
 3. Czech are dealt with by the Czech Military Mission, 73, Via Abatte Gimma, Bari, (Col. SVOBODA) and Royalist Yugo-Slavs by the Royal Military Yugo-Slav Mission, 234 Via Cagariga Viskonti, Bari.
Both these Missions are attached to the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, Allied Control Commission, Bari (Director Col. Kirkwood)
Partisan Yugo-Slavs are vetted by "S" Force, Bari.
 4. The policy of enlisting such individuals into their national armies is supervised by the Prisoner of War Sub-Commission, A.A.I. (Col. Robinson, 3, Via Nicola Piccini, Naples, - phone 17599)

[Signature]
B. W. STONE
Capt USN
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission

2027
8

29
OK
Type found form
see 29
C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL
21 MAR 1944 2104
D.C.C.SUBJECT: PW - Allied NationalityHQ No. 2 District
CMF

220/A 16 Mar 44

Rear HQ Allied Control Commission

1. In accordance with War Office instructions OC, 207 PW Camp separates German PW into the various nationalities.
2. In the case of Poles, Czechs, and Yugo-Slavs they are asked if they are willing to fight for their national army.
3. If a PW states that he is willing to fight for his national army he is segregated from the other PW, and in the case of Poles is later vetted by officers of the Polish Army.
4. Could this HQ please be informed if a similar vetting procedure exists for Yugo-Slavs and Czechs and if so may we please be put in touch with them.

See 29
See Major Watts
Pine 52094

W. H. L. L. L.
Major-General,
Commander, No. 2 District.

24 March 1944

To: Colonel Young
Public SafetyCan you give me the answer
to paragraph 4 of the attached?E.W.S. *Stone*

(30)

Ref. CC/G/161

TOP SECRET

DS/H 438
30 MAR 1944

FNMA/rj

29th. March, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: General Pietro Gazzera,
High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

FROM: Chief Commissioner.

Handwritten: 266
Handwritten: 7/4/44
Handwritten: 1944

Reference your memorandum No.9 of 21st. March regarding Italian Prisoners of War in Egypt.

2. The situation of which you complain would naturally be remedied if we had been able to reach agreement on the subject of the general agreement regarding Prisoners of War which we have recently been discussing. In the absence of such an agreement it would be contrary to the established policy and to the intentions of the Convention to confine officers in the same camps as soldiers.

Handwritten: 383-6 POW
Handwritten: 9025

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant General,
Chief Commissioner.

Handwritten: 28

Handwritten: 3

Handwritten: file/por

29 Mar

TOP SECRET

Ref. CC/0/162

TOP SECRET

DSJ 440
30 MAR 1944

FMM/rj

29th. March, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: General Pietro Gazzera,
High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

FROM: Chief Commissioner.

Reference your memorandum No.11 of 18th. March.

I wish to inform you that I have taken up at once the question of the Prisoners of War at Bari to which you have referred and I hope to make a further communication on this subject in the immediate future.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

383, 6 pour 8 minutes

209

file/400

✓3

27

29 mar

TOP SECRET

COPY

DS 0457
31 MAR 1944

28 March 1944

Chief Commissioner:

You have asked for my comments and those of Colonel Berry on the attached Notes Verbale from the Italian Government. They are as follows:

1. Note on subject of Italian Prisoners of War in Egypt.

The note complains that the Italian P/W in Egypt are separated from Italian officers whose presence would foster the spirit of co-belligerence. The matter is of course for the British Government's decision, and if a full and detailed reply is to be given must be referred to AFHQ for comments by C-in-C Mideast.

In fact these P/W are working well and there is no question of allowing Italian officers to be placed in the camps, unless the agreement is signed. Officers, who cannot be forced to work, will, unless the men are organized in units as proposed, merely serve to foster disaffection.

If it is desired to give an immediate reply without reference to AFHQ, General Gazzera should be told that this complaint would be remedied if the proposed agreement were signed but that in default of this it would be contrary to the established policy and to the intentions of the convention to confine officers in "other rank" camps.

2. Note on subject of Prisoner of War Unit at Bari.

This is a joint British/American question and must be referred to AFHQ. We consider that the Italian complaint is justified and that Italian P/W cannot be employed as such in territory which has been handed back to Italian jurisdiction. They have been repatriated and the position in which they may be working within Italian jurisdiction and along side the Italian Army is indefensible.

G. C. Gepp
D.P.W.

Note by General MacFarlane in pencil:

Both Italian notes answered. AAI written to as regards solution to No. 2.

NM ----- M
3

No answer to this letter given General Gepp.

Precis of Italian Govt. Prisoners of War Commissary
letter of 21st March.

Abbreviations : - I.G. : Italian Government
G.C. : Geneva Convention

1. Ital. Tps in EGYPT are not "assisted" by their officers, hence there is loss of morale which is helped by ignorance of political situation at home. This lessens their faith in the Allies.
2. Trustees are chosen by P.W. (Art. 43 of G.C.) but however good the M.O.C., lack of officer help is serious
3. G.C. Art. 43 (the only art. dealing with this aspect) though establishing officer camps, does not forbid their assignment to soldiers camps. This is paralleled by the presence of soldiers as orderlies etc in the officers camps.
4. Presence of proportion of officers in soldiers camps fosters spirit of co-belligerency as the increase in morale and knowledge of events, which beforehand (i.e. pre-armistice) might have constituted a danger, will now redound to the credit of the Allied cause and hence is worth of serious consideration.
5. Before the armistice the Allied governments had allowed officers to be present on soldiers camps to maintain discipline; e.g. Gen. Wavell allowed a few officers to command groups in P.W. camps in India. It was also allowed by the Americans in Tennessee and Arkansas. (Writer's personal experience).
6. Will A.C.C. therefore refer the case favourably to the Allied Powers. This request applies particularly to Egypt but generally to other P.W. camps where the same factors apply.

I.G. sets great store on high morale in P.W. even though they are not at present required to assist in actual fighting against the enemy.

23 March.

Lt. Col.

2021

C O P Y

DECLARATION

THE HIGH COMMISSARY FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

No. 9

Cava del Tirreno, 21 March 1944.

VERBAL NOTE

1. - The Royal Italian Government understands that in Prisoners of War Camps in Egypt, Italian soldiers are not assisted by their officers, with the result that there is much disaffection amongst them, disputes, confusion, divisions and difference of opinion regarding the military and social conditions in Italy to-day and of her future fate, all which goes to the detriment of their peace, their moral unity and discipline and the faith they must have regarding the collaboration of Italy with the Allies.

2. - In these camps the choice of a trustee, who in other words is the leader of the camp, is left to the choice of the prisoners themselves (art. 43 of Geneva Convention), and it often occurs that the choice falls on the most enterprising which does not always mean the best, or maybe on the most turbulent; and even in instances where the choice is not dictated by any bias and the one chosen is a serious NCO conscious of his duties, even then the expert guidance of the officer will still be lacking! For our soldiers there is no substitute for the efficient and clever guidance of an officer especially in those questions of life in common when their moral convictions are at stake.

3. - There does not seem to be a clause in the Geneva Convention to forbid the assignment of one or more officers to the soldiers' or ~~for~~ NCOs camps in order to assist in the moral conduct and even for the purpose of upholding order and discipline.

In Article 43 ("in officers' camps," etc.) which is the only article where there might be an indication on the subject, the meaning layed down by the Signatory Powers that Officers POW must be in camps separated from NCOs and troops, has not however an exclusive character in the sense that it does not exclude the possibility of an officer being in an NCOs' camp or with troops. It is obvious that officers camps still remain as such in spite of there being a few ordinary soldiers who might be orderlies, cooks etc; in the same way a troops' POW camp would not change its aspect if there were a few officers to watch over the discipline of the camp.

4. - This assignment would seem all the more necessary now that with the event of the Armistice and co-belligerency the detaining Allied Powers have not to fear any detrimental actions by Italian officers so chosen, actions which would naturally be detrimental to the interest of these same officers. It seems quite clear therefore that what could have seemed dangerous before for the detaining Powers, i.e. that is the affirmation of Italian military discipline, the exalting of military spirit, the care of military education, the formation of soldiers' groups, the encouragement of Italian sentiment and so on, must now be considered as very useful towards the ends of the common cause and therefore the Allied Powers should give it their consideration, consent and encouragement.

5. - Before the Armistice and for some time already both American and British Governments had agreed that in certain territories or at least in certain POW camps officers be present to insure the discipline and moral conduct of their

reads, their moral unity and discipline and the faith they must have regarding the collaboration of Italy with the Allies.

2. - In these camps the choice of a trustee, who in other words is the leader of the camp, is left to the choice of the prisoners themselves (Art. 43 of Geneva Convention), and it often occurs that the choice falls on the most enterprising which does not always mean the best, or maybe on the most turbulent; and even in instances where the choice is not dictated by any bias and the one chosen is a serious NCO conscious of his duties, even then the expert guidance of the officer will still be lacking! For our soldiers there is no substitute for the efficient and clever guidance of an officer especially in those questions of life in common when their moral convictions are at stake.

3. - There does not seem to be a clause in the Geneva Convention to forbid the assignment of one or more officers to the soldiers' or NCOs' camps in order to assist in the moral conduct and even for the purpose of upholding order and discipline.

In Article 43 ("in officers' camps," etc.) which is the only article where there might be an indication on the subject, the meaning layed down by the Signatory Powers that officers' POW must be in camps separated from NCOs and troops, has not however an exclusive character in the sense that it does not exclude the possibility of an officer being in an NCOs' camp or with troops. It is obvious that officers' camps still remain as such in spite of there being a few ordinary soldiers who might be orderlies, cooks etc; in the same way a troops' POW camp would not change its aspect if there were a few officers to watch over the discipline of the camp.

4. - This assignment would seem all the more necessary now that with the event of the Armistice and co-belligerency the detaining Allied Powers have not to fear any detrimental actions by Italian officers so chosen, actions which would naturally be detrimental to the interest of these same officers. It seems quite clear therefore that what could have seemed dangerous before for the detaining Powers, i.e. that in the affirmation of Italian military discipline, the exalting of military spirit, the care of military education, the formation of soldiers' groups, the encouragement of Italian sentiment and so on, must now be considered as very useful towards the ends of the common cause and therefore the Allied Powers should give it their consideration, consent and encouragement.

5. - Before the Armistice and for some time already both American and British Governments had agreed that in certain territories or at least in certain POW camps officers be present to insure the discipline and moral conduct of their troops.

In India up to the end of 1941 on my request Marshall Gwelly consented that a few of our officers be sent to command groups of Italian troops in POW camps to further this beneficial action, and the same was done in America where I myself had the pleasure to bring my request to the camps of Crossville, Tennessee and Monticello, Arkansas.

6. - For the above motives the Italian Royal Government through the High Commissary expresses the wish that the Allied Control Commission will consider favourably this request and obtain a satisfying hearing from the Allied Powers on this subject, as far as possible.

This applies not only to Italian prisoners of war in Egyptian territory who are in this condition, but wherever they may find themselves in other territories.

The Royal Government believes that it is both in the interest of Italy and of the Allied Governments that the military armour of our prisoners of war be not diminished in any way and that they be ready, even morally, to their best ability to contribute to the common cause when the agreements which we hope to reach with the Allied Powers will allow for their employment outside POW Camps, on the war fronts and in military work and services.

The High Commissioner

signed: General Pietro Gazzera

Translators Pool: L.E.2.
22/3/44

COPY

territories.

The Royal Government believes that it is both in the interest of Italy and of the Allied Governments that the military ardour of our prisoners of war be not diminished in any way and that they be ready, even morally, to their best ability to contribute to the common cause when the agreements which we hope to reach with the Allied Powers will allow for their employment outside POW Camps, on the war fronts and in military work and services.

The High Commissioner

Signed: General Pietro Gazzera

Translators Pool: L.E.G.

22/3/44

COPY

26 B

DRAFT

COPY

PRECIS OF "VERBAL NOTE" FROM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DATED 18 MARCH RE USE OF
PRISONERS OF WAR FOR WORK IN ITALY

Abbreviation

I.G. - Italian Government

SF

1. I.G. hear that Pioneer Coy. of POW from North Africa now in King's Italy is working under military. Name: 637 Pioneer Coy. Strength 260. C.O. Capt. Lane; location BARI. Unit forms part of 2nd Pioneer Gp (British). Soldiers well treated and are working well.
2. Presume Allies consider this to be within cobelligerent status. I.G. emphasize however incompatibility between nature of their work and status of POW.
3. POW statute of Geneva Convention forbids use of POW in work directly connected with military ops. but allows certain freedom in choice of work allowed. Submit that work of above unit must be covered by agreement with I.G. according Article 83. Statute clearly lays down that even voluntary work is unacceptable.
4. POW workers in King's Italy are obviously deprived of offices of Protective Power.
5. I.G. has considered agreement of POW to work voluntarily but emphasises such agreement cannot be binding especially as real object must be to get home at any price. This is shown by desertions from the unit!
6. Submit work would not be interfered with if POW were given freedom as soldiers. If POW organised properly in units I.G. would agree to then continuing same work.
7. I.G. emphasise good effect on all if POW were reformed into ordinary units:
 - (a) by removal of feeling of being prisoner in their own country
 - (b) by improvement of discipline and efficiency due to rise in morale.
- 8 No legal difficulties exist as some releases have already been given to individual POW by AFHQ.
9. Appeal for solution based on justice and humanity. POW if freed would work same way as has already been proved by other assistance given by the Army. Their freedom would react favourably on civil population and families of POW, and would show real value of co-belligerency.
10. Above also refers to any POW transferred similarly for work in other territories.

(init) G.W. QS 23 Mar

(20) w

Cava dei Tirreni, 18/3/44

NOTE VERBALE

1. The Italian Government has been informed that a nucleus of Italian Prisoners of War have been transferred from North Africa by the Allied Military authorities into that part of Italian territory which is under the direct administration; they are specialized workers formed into a pioneer company and they attend various jobs concerned directly with military operations under the control of these authorities. This section is located in Bari (637 Italian Pioneer Company); and is formed, it is believed, of about 260 POW, and commanded by a British officer, Captain Lane; it is part of the 2nd Pioneer Group which, it is believed, forms a unit of the British Engineer Corps operating in the Italian War Theatre. We understand that these Italian soldiers are well treated and are working to the full satisfaction of the British who are detaining them; but they are unfortunately, here in their own country, being held under the regime of Prisoners of War.

2. Undoubtedly the decision to use in this way the Italian Prisoners of War taken before the Armistice has been decided by the Allied authorities as a consequence of the co-belligerent status operating between the two countries; the Italian Royal Government is pleased that Italian soldiers are in this way bringing their contribution to the fight against the Common Enemy. At the same time, however, it wishes to attract the attention of the High Commissary for Prisoners of War to the incompatibility which exists between the status of imprisonment of these soldiers and the nature of work they are carrying out, and the way in which they are carrying it out.

3. The statute regarding prisoners of war forbids the detaining power to use prisoners of war in duties which are connected with military operations directly, and through the examples it gives, it reveals and advises a certain amount of amplitude in the judgment of what work can be asked of a prisoner (Art 31 of Geneva Convention). To be enabled, therefore, to legitimately ask a POW to carry out a work connected with military operations, as for example the work of the abovementioned Pioneer Coy in conjunction with military operations of Allied units, it is necessary that first a specific agreement be gone into with the Italian Government in order to obtain its consent in overcoming the restrictive clause (Art 83 of the Convention), which in this instance has not been observed.

And it is superfluous to point out that the limitations are so strictly laid down that the detaining power should not even accept the employment, even when, voluntarily given by the prisoners of war.

4. It must be added that the duty of control and of protection as laid down by the Geneva Convention is rendered impossible in behalf of these Italian POW working under the above conditions, because here in Italy in these territories which are now under the control of the Royal Government of Italy, it is not possible to invoke the protection of the Protective Power, unless one adopted the absurd situation of a Government having to resort in its own "House" to the tutelage of its own direct and primary interests such as are those of POW as Protective Power.

5. The High Commissary has also examined the possibility of these POW having voluntarily accepted to come and work in Italy as prisoners, but it considers it superfluous to submit to the AGCs attention the fact that this voluntary acceptance cannot bind itself reasonably with the immutability of their condition. Though having in mind the prisoners' natural state of mind which becomes an obsession in their wish to return to their country, it is still true that each one of them is ready to give up anything in order to return to his home country and see his family again. Besides we understand that a few of the prisoners of war transferred to Bari, as said above, have already escaped for this reason

theatre. We understand that these Italian soldiers are well treated and are working to the full satisfaction of the British who are detaining them; but they are unfortunately, here in their own country, being held under the regime of Prisoners of War.

2. Undoubtedly the decision to use in this way the Italian Prisoners of War taken before the Armistice has been decided by the Allied authorities as a consequence of the co-belligerent status operating between the two countries; the Italian Royal Government is pleased that Italian soldiers are in this way bringing their contribution to the fight against the Common Enemy. At the same time, however, it wishes to attract the attention of the High Commissary for Prisoners of War to the incompatibility which exists between the status of imprisonment of these soldiers and the nature of work they are carrying out, and the way in which they are carrying it out.

3. The statute regarding prisoners of war forbids the detaining power to use prisoners of war in duties which are connected with military operations directly, and through the examples it gives, it reveals and advises a certain amount of amplitude in the judgment of what work can be asked of a prisoner (Art 31 of Geneva Convention). To be enabled, therefore, to legitimately ask a POW to carry out a work connected with military operations, as for example the work of the abovementioned Pioneer Coy in conjunction with military operations of Allied units, it is necessary that first a specific agreement be gone into with the Italian Government in order to obtain its consent in overcoming the restrictive clause (Art 83 of the Convention), which in this instance has not been observed.

And it is superfluous to point out that the limitations are so strictly laid down that the detaining power should not even accept the employment, even when, voluntarily given by the prisoners of war.

4. It must be added that the duty of control and of protection as laid down by the Geneva Convention is rendered impossible in behalf of these Italian POW working under the above conditions, because here in Italy in these territories which are now under the control of the Royal Government of Italy, it is not possible to invoke the protection of the Protective Power, unless one adopted the absurd situation of a Government having to resort in its own "House" to the tutelage of its own direct and primary interests such as are those of POW as Protective Power.

5. The High Commissary has also examined the possibility of these POW having voluntarily accepted to come and work in Italy as prisoners, but it considers it superfluous to submit to the ACCs attention the fact that this voluntary acceptance cannot bind itself reasonably with the immutability of their condition. Though having in mind the prisoners' natural state of mind which becomes an obsession in their wish to return to their country, it is still true that each one of them is ready to give up anything in order to return to his home country and see his family again. Besides we understand that a few of the prisoners of war transferred to Bari, as said above, have already escaped for this reason and are not traceable.

6. As long as the work is carried out in the best possible way, which is also in the interest of the Italian State, it is obvious that no harm would arise for the Allies if these prisoners were returned to the full freedom of their personality as Italian soldiers.

Once settled from an administrative point of view, matriculated and enrolled in organic units as layed down by Italian military law and usage, (all undertakings which could be carried out without interrupting the continuity of their work) the Royal Government would be pleased, in compliance with the interests and duties of co-belligerency, to leave these soldiers to continue work for Allied military forces in the same way that many other well-known units of the Italian forces are working at the front and at the rear.

7. The High Commissary thinks it its duty to point out furthermore the beneficial influence on their work which would be created by the return of their military individuality and their formation into proper and well-disciplined Italian military units. This beneficial influence would be two-fold, because

- a) by eliminating the causes of humiliation as prisoners (which are certainly more felt here in their country where they are surrounded by free companions of arms) it would re-awaken in them a feeling of serenity and of dignity;
- b) it would assure a better discipline in their work, as they would have the feeling that they are working also in the interest of their own country and at the wish of their own Government; and owing to this discipline the control of their work will be more efficient and better accepted by them. And it does not seem necessary to underline the beneficial effect which the return of liberty will have on their work, so evident it is.

8. Finally the Italian Government wishes to say that there are no legal difficulties as the POW could be released from imprisonment at any time, and that, furthermore, the motives enhancing the request for their release are determined by our status of co-belligerency with the Allied Nations, and the existing practice which is now being used of releasing all Italian POW which are indicated by us, by name.

9. The Italian Government trusts, therefore, that the competent authorities will consent to give a solution of justice and humanity which it has had the honour to suggest to the question of releasing the Italian POW transferred from Africa and working for the Allied forces.

Included as co-belligerents and free men these Italian soldiers will put in their work, which has already been put to a good test by the Allies, an added and more generous effort which will undoubtedly be very welcome to the friendly military forces and to the population who is very worried at knowing its sons as prisoners near to their homes; it will give them a sense of trust in the justice of the Allies which is necessary to the good working of co-belligerency and to the authority of the Italian Government.

10. The above report refers also to any other groups of Italian POW who have been transferred for the same purpose to the liberated territories in other localities not specified.

THE HIGH COMMISSARY

Signed: Gen. Pietro Gazzera

9017

Translator's Pool, L.E.Z.

21/3/44

at the wish of their own Government; and owing to this discipline the control of their work will be more efficient and better accepted by them. And it does not seem necessary to underline the beneficial effect which the return of liberty will have on their work, so evident it is.

8. Finally the Italian Government wishes to say that there are no legal difficulties as the POW could be released from imprisonment at any time, and that, furthermore, the motives enhancing the request for their release are determined by our status of co-belligerency with the Allied Nations, and the existing practice which is now being used of releasing all Italian POW which are indicated by us, by name.

9. The Italian Government trusts, therefore, that the competent authorities will consent to give a solution of justice and humanity which it has had the honour to suggest to the question of releasing the Italian POW transferred from Africa and working for the Allied forces.

Included as co-belligerents and free men these Italian soldiers will put in their work, which has already been put to a good test by the Allies, an added and more generous effort which will undoubtedly be very welcome to the friendly military forces and to the population who is very worried at knowing its sons as prisoners near to their homes; it will give them a sense of trust in the justice of the Allies which is necessary to the good working of co-belligerency and to the authority of the Italian Government.

10. The above report refers also to any other groups of Italian POW who have been transferred for the same purpose to the liberated territories in other localities not specified.

THE HIGH COMMISSARY

Signed: Gen. Pietro Gazzera

2017

Translator's Pool: L.E.Z.
21/3/44

(26)

CONFIDENTIAL

056183
31 MAR 1944

EKS/hjp

30 March 1944

In reply refer to:
DCC 383.6

SUBJECT: Major General Nicola Bellomo (Italian)

TO : Commanding General, AFHQ, APO 512
(Attention: Judge Advocate General)

1. Reference is made to attached copy of letter with translation from Adele Fischetti, wife of Major General Nicola Bellomo, dated Bari 2 Mar 44, relative to the arrest and detention of General Bellomo, now at POW Camp No. 207 in Bruno Appula.
2. It is understood that General Nicola Bellomo is being detained as a War Criminal, pending trial and is a matter coming within the jurisdiction of the J.A.G., AFHQ.
3. It will be noted that the letter from the General's wife has been directed to a large number of addresses. It has not been acknowledged by the Commission and no action has been taken. Same is being forwarded to you for such action as may be proper.
4. It will be appreciated if we can be informed what action is taken in this matter.

see 38 for

ELBERT W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

9018

1 Incl:
As in para 1 above

CONFIDENTIAL

25
EWS 383.6
30 MAR 1944

file 700

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/14760/22/FS

28 March 1944

SUBJECT: Major Gen. Nicola BELLOMO

TO : Deputy Chief, Commissioner, ACC.

1. Maj. Gen. Nicola BELLOMO has been detained pending trial as a war criminal upon instruction received at A.A.I. from AFHQ and War Office London.
2. It is alleged by witnesses that, following an attempted escape by two British officers, Capt. Playne and Lt. Cook, from an Italian prisoner of war camp of which Gen. BELLOMO was in charge, these officers were brought back before the general and that he personally shot Capt. Playne in cold blood.
3. This information was supplied by Lt. Col. Gibson GSO 1 I (C) A.A.I. who informed that the matter was now being dealt with by J.A.G. Branch AFHQ to whom any correspondence on this matter should be addressed.

A. E. Young

A. E. YOUNG
Colonel.,
Deputy Chief,
Public Safety Sub-Com.

ATZ/hgd

0015

✓ 5

INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT:

FILE No. _____

TO: Colonel Young, Public Safety
(Thru: Administrative Section) ✓

23 March 1944

Captain Stone requests that you take charge of this matter, please.

L. D. Densmore

L. D. DENSMORE
Lt. Col., S.C.
PA to DCC

25
9014

TRANSLATION

Bari 2 March 1944

TO: Chief of the Government Marshal Pietro Badoglio
 Prince of Piedmont
 President of the U.S.A., Franklin D. Roosevelt
 Head of the British Government, Winston Churchill
 Head of the Government of U.S.S.R., Marshal Stalin
 Head of the ACC in Italy
 Chief of General Staff, Marshal Basso
 Chief of Staff of of R. Army, Gen Bexardi
 Minister of War
 " " Navy
 " " Aeronautics
 " " Interior
 " " National Education
 " " Communications
 " " Justice
 " " Finance
 " " Industry, Commerce & Labour
 " " Agriculture & Forests
 " " Public Works
 Rt General Pizio Birelli
 High Commissioner of National Defascitization, Zenithal
 Mayor of New York, Mr. Fiorello La Guardia
 Head of English Police for Military Security
 Head of American Police
 Head of Psychological Warfare Branch
 Provincial Commissioner of ACC, Bari
 Executive Giunta of the Bari Congress of the Anti-Fascist Parties
 Heads of the Anti-Fascist Parties

I wish to bring to light the following facts in reference to the arrest of my husband, Maj. Gen. Nicola Bellomo, by the English Police on January 28, 1944.

From what I gather, he is being charged with allowing or causing the shooting, against international agreements, of two English officers held prisoner in Camp 75 of Torre Fresca: Capt. George Playne was killed and Lt. Rostron H. Cook wounded by the guards on November 30, 1941 while attempting, a record time, to escape. Lt. Cook is able to testify to this.

In connection with a new inquiry into this case, I believe that the one conducted by the Italian Authorities at that time should be considered. Since some of the charges were made anonymously, the Italian General Staff, headed by Gen. Ambrosio, ordered a supplementary inquiry. From this it was found that the incident, however painful and fatal for one of the officers, was a military circumstance wherein my husband and the other Italian officers involved simply performed their duty.

It now seems that not even a copy of the documents concerning this inquiry can be found with the Italian High Commands in the territories occupied by the Allies. Col. Fiore, Head of the Ministry of War, assured my son of this on 30 January 1944. That is, 48 hours after the arrest of my husband. This was also confirmed to my son by the High Command of the IX Army Corps, by the Command of the GROUND Defense of Bari.

These documents, however, should be with the High Command of the IX Army Corps and with the Command of the Ground Defense of Bari. I base this affirmation on explicit statements made by my husband and contained in his correspondence addressed to me from Camp P.O.W. No. 207, in Grumo Appula, where he has hitherto been interned by the English Authorities.

In the name of those sacred principles and human rights for which this war is said to be fought, I request that those documents be sought and shown to the proper English Authorities.

What I have stated will be pertinent in case a new and just inquiry into the actions of my husband in the cited incident will be reopened. It surprises me to see that no account was taken of the fact that my husband fought in the last war on the side of the Allies; that he was always hostile to Fascism; and that, on September 9, 1943, after the Armistice, he was one of the few officers, if not the only one, to throw himself against the Germans.

On September 9, my husband, a sixty-three year old General, commanded a small detachment and attacked the Germans who had begun the destruction of the port installations of Bari. He was wounded several times in the various attacks. During the last attack he received seven wounds from a German grenade which exploded a few meters from him. He was then forced to retire from the battle. These wounds can easily be seen on his forehead, mouth, hands and right thigh. The Germans yielded later to Gen. Melia and Col. Vitucci of the IX Army who imposed the terms of surrender. My husband would have not given the Germans the same terms. I base this on his statement made at that time to the effect that the Germans should have been shot for having fired upon disarmed civilians.

For this small deed the Italians and the Allies owe their thanks, if the port and the city are undamaged. Indeed, it was recognized by the populace through a petition which was to crystallize in the form of a medal of recognition for my husband. This recognition on the part of the city of Bari must have caused much annoyance to the Authorities, and so my husband ordered an investigation by the R. Carabinieri to ascertain that the petition was a spontaneous gesture on the part of the population. Furthermore, this city awarded a recognition for my husband's actions, but a medal for bravery which had been proposed, was never given.

Perhaps such a recognition would have annoyed greatly those generals who, when the Armistice was concluded, ran from the front lines, or surrendered to the enemy without even unloading their pistol on them, or ordered their troops to surrender. But perhaps my husband was trying to recover his purity, since, according to charges made to the English High Command, he had been a lover of fascism and a germanophile.

The fascist career of my husband can be briefly summarized and it is documented in its entirety:

- 1) Naples - 1930-1933 - Clash with Gen. Baistrocchi and the fascist authorities for having purged the Artillery Section of Naples. The firm, Ditta di Transport Elefanti & Mangili was liquidated. Gen Baistrocchi had held interests in this firm, and when he was later appointed Undersecretary of War he transferred my husband to the Benevento District. Documents are with the Army Corps of Naples, but the Prince of Piedmont and Gen. Gazzera can testify to this.
- 2) Rome - August 1935 - Clash with Baistrocchi: My husband proved with a documentary report that the anti-aerial defense organized by the Militia was a bluff. As a reward, he was not promoted to a higher rank. The documents are in Rome. The witness, the present Chief of Staff, Berardi, who was then a Colonel with my husband in the General Staff.
- 3) Bari 1938-1939 - Various clashes with the fascist Federale who prevented my husband from delivering lectures on "Spiritual Disarmament". Witnesses: Attorney Cerri and the President of the University of Bari at that time, Prof. Petrocelli.
- 4) February 11-15 1941 - Clashes with fascist Federali of Salerno, Potenza and Avellino during the attempts to capture of English parachute-troops, because my husband did not include them into the plan of operations. Documents are with the Command of the Difesa Territoriale of Bari.
- 5) Bari - Spring 1943. Clash with Inspector Magrone of the fascist Federation of Bari because my husband had the orders regarding the access of generals into hospital ships that repatriated Italian and English war prisoners rigidly observed. Documents with the High Command of the IX Army.

General Quirino Arsellini, who on the 25 July was put in Command of the former fascist Milita by Marshal Pietro Badoglio, called upon my husband to take the command of the XII Zona Militaria, not because he recognized my husband's fascist leanings.

As a Germanophile my husband has an equally brief and documented answer. As can be seen in documents with the Bari Garrison, my husband held in check the German attempt to requisition buildings and material.

As the Traffic Inspector of the IX Army he opposed the German attempts to control road traffic with their own patrols. One night in Cassanese he personally ordered a guard to leave his post and accompanied him to the German Command which had mounted the guard. Documents are in the file of the IX Army Corps (Transport Section, Maj. Montedoro) and with the 51st Army Corps of Francavilla (Chief of Staff, Col. Gazzini).

A word, limiting myself to documented facts, about my husband's sympathy toward the Allies, since the War of 1915-18, during which he fought on their side, receiving the French Military Cross.

It would be interesting to read my husband's analysis of the war potential of the British Empire, "The Anglo-Egyptian Armed Forces, 1939, on which he delivered lectures to officers in Bari, Aquila and Chieti. This study admonished the complacent fascist strategists and warned them of the great power of the British Empire, and of the technical, economic and military forces at play in the present conflict. Documents are with the IX Army Corps (Office of operations. I have in my possession the draft and illustrations of this study.

In reference to actions pertaining to this war, I recall that my husband directed the capture of the English parachutists who were dropped on the night of February 10-11 1941 in the area of Caposele to disrupt the Aqueduct of the Puglie. During these operations an English Lt and his group killed two Italian civilians. My husband was admonished by the War Ministry for not having ordered the execution of the above-mentioned and was instructed to do so. My husband opposed this decision, bringing to the Ministry's attention the fact that, although they didn't open fire, the Italian civilians were armed and had to be considered belligerents. Witness, Col. Sforza of the Command of the Ground Defense of Bari. The English soldiers were treated by my husband according to international agreements, with chivalry and humanity. The English Authorities may question Maj Fritchard, the Commander of the Parachutists and the lieutenant mentioned above. Documents are with the IX Army Corps (Office of Operations) and with the Command of the Ground Defense of Bari.

My husband was charged with inspecting the prisoner's camps from which very often English officers escaped. He had to adopt security measures, treating the prisoners, however, always with humanity. Air Chief Marshal Owen Tudor Boyd and Lt. Col. Brown must recall his inspections in the camps of Sulmona and Servigliano.

As regards to my husband's human treatment of prisoners during the period he was Inspector, Dr. Pierre Lambert of the International Red Cross of Geneva can bear testimony together with the Nunzio Apostolico put in charge by the Holy See to visit prisoner's camps. Documents are with the Command of the IX Army Corps.

When my husband was still in the hospital after the mentioned incident of Sept 9, he was chosen among 50 generals to take the command of the Piazza

Militare of Bari when this city was in the danger of falling as the last bulwark. My husband, ignoring his physical suffering, went into action maintaining order and frustrating the German assaults. Someone, gifted with an extraordinary sensitivity has observed that my husband was too harsh and lacked form in regrouping soldiers that had gotten lost. But I believe that when it is a question of saving the Nation, a page or two of army regulations can be ignored for the sake of efficiency.

When the English and Americans came he welcomed them with enthusiasm. The following men can bear testimony to the actions of my husband at this time: Major Fraser of the reconnaissance squadron of the Air Borne Brigade with whom my husband fought the Germans side by side. Captain Campbell of the Naval Base; Major Murolo of propaganda; Capt Gresson of the English Army News; Lt Col. Smith of Anti-Aerial Defense; and Gen Trollhope of the 86th Aerea.

Documents relative to the Piazza command are in the office of the Chief of the Commission for the dissolution of the Milita where my husband was arrested on January 28, 1944. Moreover, my husband, upon a request made by Ministry of War, Office of Lt. Gen. Pirio Birelli, was about to complete a report on the Piazza command when he was arrested. This report must be in his possession or with the command of the prisoner's Camp 207 of Grumoin where he is interned. I recommend the reading of that report. What I find strange is the fact that my husband was arrested at the time he was engaged in an activity of difascistization as head of the Commission for the dissolution of the former Fascist Militia. He was appointed to this position by General Quirino Armellini. With the fall of fascism, my husband discharged his office with moderation and justice in order to avoid hostile reactions among those whose only guilt had been to follow a general trend, and above all to avoid unnecessary martyrs to an idea which had never been an idea. His proposals regarding the Militia were more moderate than the actions taken afterwards by the Italian Government. However, as regard military or civil offenses committed by the officers of the Militia, he was justly inexorable, as he would have been with soldiers of the Armed Forces. In fact, traitors and profiteers of the Nation's wealth, were denounced and punished by him. Now all sorts of accusations are made by these individuals directly, anonymously or by the interference of female relatives, as in the case of the ex-Counsel Angrisani, against my husband to the Italian and English Commands.

A recent and amazing anonymous charge is that my husband appropriated the funds of the Milita. Threat of death are unnumberable. The principal accusers are the following individuals who had been denounced by my husband for various crimes, including many attempts to go over to enemy territory, or surrender to the enemy, or desertion before the enemy:

Ex-Counsel Carlo Angrisani
 " Mario Gallardi
 " Senbre Sandarilli
 " Sergente Di Salvi Giovanni,

The crimes of these individuals are serious and documented, yet several have been given temporary freedom and, I have heard it said that some have even been acquitted.

Ex-Counsel Angrisani had already tried to harm my husband with Sland-
erous accusations.

It is strange that these anonymous accusations or undersigned by these individuals have been taken so seriously as to cause the ignominious treat-
ment of my husband.

Recently it was my son's turn. He is a Major of the Air Force Engineers, and at the time of the Armistice he was the technical director of the Air-
plane factory Macchi A. U.S.A. of Foligno he was building a new fighter
plane with exceptional flight and armament qualities. Now my son, who last
September, after having hidden the designs and the parts of the plane
already constructed, crossed the lines and placed himself at the disposal
of the Ministry of Aeronautics, to reactivate, as soon as possible, and in
collaboration with American firms, a new airplane industry, is being accus-
ed of avoiding military duty and engaged in the contraband of rationed goods.

I have furnished facts on the basis of which one can determine if my
husband deserves the treatment he has suffered. I wait to see what decisions
are going to be made in the name of the principles of justice and liberty
for which, so it is said, this war is being fought.

/s/ Adele Fisichetti

Trans/TF/ejp.

2018
0007

CONFIDENTIAL

CC/P/163

383.6

1354 441
30 MAR 1944

FNM/rj

29th. March, 1944.

Ras
The Italian Government brought up the question of the Italian Prisoner of War unit (I believe 637 Italian Pioneer Coy.) now working in the Bari area as part of, I understand, the 2nd. Pioneer Group.

2. As you know, the position of these Prisoners of War is definitely irregular and indeed contrary to the Geneva Convention.

3. At first sight I think that our best solution to this difficulty would be to release these Prisoners of War from P.O.W. status in which case they revert to being Italian military personnel under the orders of the Italian army authorities. At the same time we would ask the Italian High Command to let these men continue as a unit and to carry on as an Italian unit under command of our Pioneer Group but as straight soldiers and no longer as P.O.W.. I think that the Italian High Command would probably gladly agree to this.

4. I would be glad if you would let me have your views as early as possible. If you agree I will approach the Italian High Command. In the meantime I have informed them that the question which they have raised is under immediate consideration.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

Major-General Sir Brian H. Robertson, Bt.,
A.A.I. Administrative Echelon.

27
mar

file/pr

383.6 POW General

9007.

MEMORANDUM

27 March 1944

Subject: Easter Parcels and Pamphlets.

To: Deputy Secretary General.

1. On Lt. Col. Quinsmith's instructions I phoned Army S-C Mein on 22 Mar ref. Easter Pamphlets. They informed me that the matter was in hand between them, the Min of War and Air Commodore Foster, but at that date the pamphlets had not yet been passed. They expected to have the matter tied up soon.

2. Ref. Parcels, we have not been dealing with the matter here, but two docs on the matter, our logs 4215 & 4216 were bucked to DCC on 27 Mar.

/s/ J H Clark
Capt

ARMY SUB COMMISSION

Captain Stone

This is all the correspondence available on the Parcels and Pamphlets for POW's

FRANK J. SLAUGHTER,
Captain, A G D.

70005

(23)

TRANSLATION

No. 117 - 29 Mar 1944 - Sgt Sorisi

P.M. 107 - 27 March 1944

MINISTRY OF WAR

File No. 3797/II

DSM 431
29 MAR 1944

Dear Commander,

My thanks for your letter dated 24 March, and I assure you that the matter referring to packages for Italian Prisoners of War corresponds exactly to the agreements already made with General MacFarlane, as follows:

Supplies shall be sent boxed to the Italian Military Mission in care of Allied Headquarters in Algiers, which shall distribute them among the various concentration camps;

The above supplies shall not include food or clothing, but only books, newspapers, magazines and articles of personal use, such as shaving brushes, soap, safety razors, razor blades, tooth paste, etc.

If some civilians have brought parcels to the Post Offices this is certainly due only to personal initiative, since this Ministry has not issued to any of these offices either orders or information on the subject.

This Ministry will clarify the situation in this matter.

As for the censoring of books, magazines and newspapers we have already contacted the Army Control Sub-Commission (AMCA) of Lequille, which has been informed of the location of collection centers, and of whom has been requested the censorship and supervision of the articles to be put into the parcels.

In regard to air transport, this Ministry has already sent an officer to Bari in order to discuss the matter with the Air Sub-Commission (Air Commodore Foster).

Cordially yours
/s/ Gen Orlando

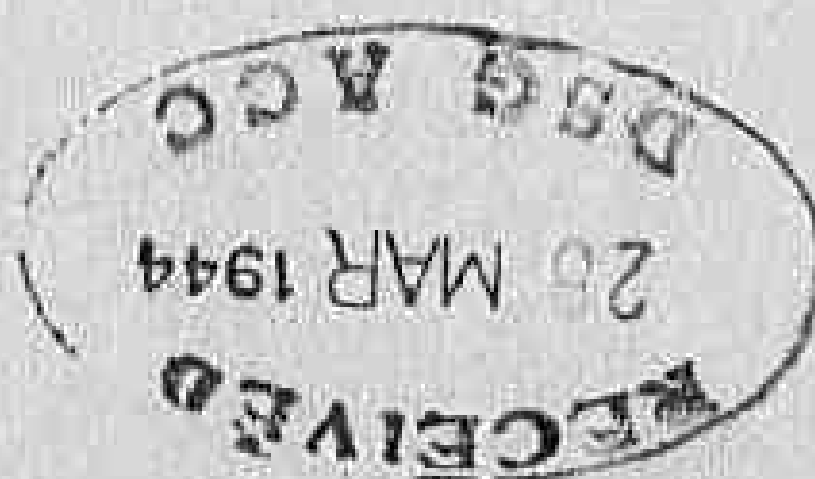
To: Ellery W. Stone
Captain, USMR
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Hq ACC

Capt J. H.
Sent to Capt. Drummond
P.M. 107
Closed mail
2004

File
F.T.S.
1944

(23)

27 March



24 MAR 1944
SF
EWS/hjp

In reply refer to:
DCC 383.6

24 March 1944

Subject: Parcels for Italian Prisoners of War

Dear General Orlando:

There has been some confusion over the permission given to you by Lt. Gen. MacFarlane to send parcels to the Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa. Apparently this has been interpreted as a permission for personal parcels to be sent to individual prisoners, and some parcels have been handed into Post Offices for transmission. This was not intended.

The permission given is for a bulk carriage of gift parcels for the Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa to be made from any suitable place in Italy to the Italian Liaison Mission in Algiers for distribution by them. The parcels may not contain any food or clothing, and will normally be restricted to books, pamphlets, newspapers and similar material. They will not be addressed to individual persons.

All arrangements for collection, transportation and distribution will be made by the Italian authorities, the transportation being made by Italian planes up to a maximum of one plane a fortnight (for the first journey three planes are permitted), authorization for the journeys being obtained from the Air Sub-Commission (Air Commodore Foster), subject to operational availability.

It will be necessary to arrange for Allied censorship on the consignments; if you will let me know where the parcels are being collected, this will be arranged.

Yours very truly,

EMERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

22
His Excellency General Taddeo Orlando
The Under-Secretary of State for War
Italian Government

cc: Air Sub-Commission
Army Sub-Commission
Telecom & Posts Sub-Commission
Censorship Liaison Officer

383.6

24 MAR

Captain Stone.

As I understand this, the matter has nothing to do with Posts.

It is an agreement between the Chief Commissioner and General Orlando that parcels, not containing food or clothing, may be forwarded by Italian planes to the Italian Liaison Mission in North Africa for distribution by them. Presumably all arrangements for collection, transportation and distribution are being made by the Italian authorities. What about censorship?

If it is intended that individually addressed parcels may be sent by private persons, then permission will have to be got, arrangements made for transport, censorship arranged, etc. No other form of parcel post is at present permitted owing to the difficulties of transportation and censorship.

Presumably in any case it is only intended to apply to North Africa?

V. C. Stone 2903

(2)

(Draft for Capt Stone - to General Orlando)

There has been some confusion over the permission given to you by Lt-Gen. Macfarlane to send parcels to the Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa. Apparently this has been interpreted as a permission for personal parcels to be sent to individual prisoners, and some parcels have been handed into Post Offices for transmission. This was not intended.

The permission given is for a bulk carriage of gift parcels for the Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa to be made from any suitable place in Italy to the Italian Liaison Mission in Algiers for distribution by them. The parcels may not contain any food or clothing, and will normally be restricted to books, pamphlets, newspapers and similar material. They will not be addressed to individual persons.

All arrangements for collection, transportation and distribution will be made by the Italian authorities, the transportation being made by Italian Planes up to a maximum of one plane a fortnight (for the first journey three planes are permitted), authorization for the journeys being obtained from the Air Sub-Commission (Air Commodore Foster), subject to operational availability.

It will be necessary to arrange for Allied censorship on the consignments; if you will let me know where the parcels are being collected, this will be arranged.

Copy to: Air Sub-Commission
Army Sub-Commission
Telecomms and Posts Sub-Commission
Censorship Liaison Officer.

2902

DSW 399
23 MAR 1944

TRANSLATION

Private Secretariat
To the Chief of Government

Selerno, 21 March, 1944

TO: Captain Ellery W. Stone
Allied Control Commission

Dear Captain Stone,

I have received your letter of 21 March 1944,
concerning Lieutenant Riello, and I thank you very much for your kind-
ness.

Very Cordially yours,

/s/ G. Valenzano

The Private Secretary
to the Chief of Government
(G. Valenzano)

Trans - Sgt Shenfield/lws

383.6

S - file 4000 2991

21

21 Mar

1° 850 d. int.



SEGRETERIA PARTICOLARE DEL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

Salerno, lì 21 marzo 1944

AL SIGNOR CAPITANO

ELLERY W. STONE

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

NAPOLI

Caro capitano Stone,

ho ricevuto la sua lettera del 21 marzo c.a.
relativa al tenente RIELLO e la ringrazio assai per
la gentile comunicazione.

Molto cordialmente.-

9900

IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE
DEL CAPO DEL GOVERNO
(Ten.Col.G.Valenzano)

Valenzano

21

DSH 115
21 MAR 1944

WKS/hjp

In reply refer to:
DCC 383.6

21 March 1944

Dear Colonel Valenzano:

With further reference to your letter Nr. 001780 of 5 March and my reply of 8 March, I have this date been informed that the address of Lt. Sergio Riello is:

01627
SATDA #6
Dept. Gran
Algerie

Lt. Riello is a prisoner of war and can be communicated with at the above address.

Yours very truly,

ELIJAH W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Lt. Col. G. Valenzano
The Special Secretary
To the Chief of Government
Italian Government

383.6

ENCLOSURE
H100

20

21 Mar

DSM 381
20 MAR 1944

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

QS/mms

QS128

19 March 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Executive Commissioner, Main HQ. A.C.C., Naples

The following information is forwarded by Army
Sub-Commission Main HQ.:

1. Lt. Gen. GAZZERA (Acting Army Comd) has been
appointed High Commissioner for Italian PW. His office
will be at CAVA DEI TIRRENI, near SALERNO. Brig. DAFINO
will be second-in-command.

2. This office will be in three departments:

- (a) Political.
- (b) Military.
- (c) Welfare.

and will deal with, and act for, all Italian PW every-
where.

QW
Lt. Col.

(G. W. QUINSMITH)
Army Sub-Commission

Copy to: Dep. Chief Commissioner. ✓

(19)

19 Mar

9868

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

DSU 163
20 MAR 1944

19 March 1944

SUBJECT: Interview

TO : Major Marshall
Officer Commanding
371 P.O.W. Camp
PADNLE

1. It would be greatly appreciated if permission could be granted to the bearer of this letter Signora Bellomo and her son to interview her husband General Bellomo who it is understood is an internee in the camp under your command.
2. If General Bellomo is no longer in your camp perhaps you could inform the Signora to which camp he has been transferred.

E. W. STONE.
Capt. USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

283.6

[Handwritten signature]
-DC-10-
DC-10-7

18

19 mar

- INCOMING

/hft

S-8441

MAR 181500A

MAR 191245A

via courier

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

SEARS FROM MCKEAN, DEPUTY CIVIL CENSORSHIP OFFICER
CITE JDSAG-913

FATIMA REAR FOR HENDERSON

Reur cable 2480, Allied censor control officer Bari stated Ministero di Guerra approved packages for ^{POW} in Northern Africa. Allied Censor Control Officer Brindisi stated civilians receiving forms to send parcels to POW. Both advised contents your cable 2480.

Reference cable 2480 from Fatima Rear to IBS:

No such service as referred in your S-8254 either authorized by ACC or known to be handled by Red Cross. TO IBS FOR SEARS FOR MCKEAN CCS FROM FATIMA REAR FROM HENDERSON SIGNED MACKAYLANE. Advise what the suggestion is based on. (Telecommunications and Posts)

- DISTRIBUTION:
- 1 - AG
 - 1 - PSC (info)
 - ✓ 1 - PCC (info)
 - 1 - Telecoms & Posts (action)

Reference cable S-8254 from Sears:

Reports received this headquarters from Allied Censor Control Officers Bari and Brindisi suggesting parcel post to prisoners of war functioning. Has ACC authorized? Are packages handled by Red Cross?

Henderson -

Just did agree
POW packages could be
sent & na - no food no clothing.

17 get copy of.

18 Ma



U.S. CONFIDENTIAL & Equiv. Basis

HQ. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

EWS/hjp

Office of the Deputy Chief Commissioner

A. P. O. 394

In reply refer to:
DCC 014.33

8 March 1944

SUBJECT: Address of Italian Officer Prisoner of War

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

1. The Italian Government has requested that, if possible, it be furnished with the address of Lt. Sergio Riello, Regular Army Officer, Italian Royal Air Forces, whose father is an official of the Government and who desires to communicate with his son. Quoting from the Government's letter, "Up to May 12, 1943, on which date the troops surrendered, he was stationed at airport 62 PM 3700, Tunisia. Indications are that he was made prisoner in Tunisia."

2. May this information be secured as soon as possible.

Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

2505

16

8 am

64

Rec'd
12 MAR 1944
2018

1st Ind.

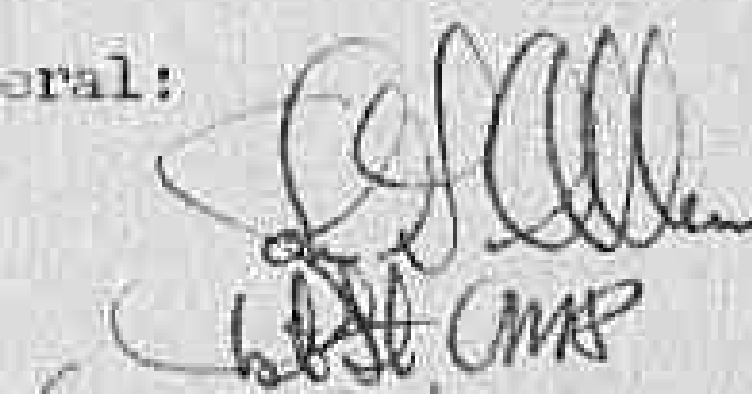
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL, NATOUA, APO 534, 13 March 1944.

TO: Deputy Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.

Lt. Sergio RIELLO is in French custody in North Africa. His address is as follows:

01627,
SAIDA #6,
Dept. Oran,
Algerie.

For the Provost Marshal General:


ROY A. HOUSTON,
Captain, C.M.P.
P.W.I.B., PW Div.

2504

16

054 117
9 MAR 1944

MS/hjp

In reply refer to:
DCC 014.33

8 March 1944

Dear Colonel Valentano:

This is in reply to your letter of 5 March.

I think the procedure to be adopted with respect to the repatriation of Lt. Sergio Riello should be similar to that proposed in my letter of today to Marshal Badoglio with reference to Colonel Natale Leopoldo and 2nd Lieutenant Li Voti Pietro di Giuseppe.

In the meantime, however, I am communicating with Allied Force Headquarters to see if the address of this officer can be secured so that his father may be able to write him by means of the reopened mail service with prisoners of war which has recently been arranged.

Yours very truly,

MILBY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

Lt. Col. G. Valentano
The Special Secretary
To the Chief of Government
Italian Government

014.33
2003
050.03

15

8 March

SF 175-279
10 MAR 1944 DCC

383.6

6 March 1944

Subject: Trial of Prisoners of War.

To: Allied Force Headquarters (Military Government Section)
APO 512

1. Reference your MGS 383.6 dated 17 January 1944, I enclose copies of a letter addressed by the Deputy Chief Commissioner to the Italian Government and a translation of their reply.

2. I am advised that as a matter of law the status of co-belligerency, which is not a phrase of any defined legal meaning, does not in any sense terminate the war between the Allies and Italy and that the Italian Government are entirely within their legal rights and have in fact correctly interpreted the position in their reply.

3. Apart from the foregoing I am of the opinion that little is to be gained by endeavouring to persuade the Italian Government to agree to any alteration in their rights with regard to prisoners of war and in the absence of further instructions I do not propose to pursue the matter.

at this juncture
and as regards
the point now
at issue

WEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant General
Chief Commissioner

383.6

22530

agreement

4-24/900

✓

(14)

383.6 From

6 March

9 MAR 1944

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Administrative Half Section

AMG/383.6/AD.

28 January 1944.

SUBJECT: Trial, Italian Prisoners of War.

TO: Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission,
BRINDISI.

1. The attached correspondence received in the office of Legal Sub-commission is forwarded for appropriate action, as the latter appears to be one for the attention of the Military Section.

/s/ H. R. CRIPPS
H. R. CRIPPS,
Lt. Colonel.

For the Vice President Administrative Half Section

Incls: (2) i. MGS, A.F.H.Q. letter MGS 383.6 dated 17 January 1944. 314
ii. Letter G1/E/2252/A2 dated 15 January 1944.

Received by hand fr Major Thackrah.

2 Feb. /s/ G. W. QUINSMITH

785015

14
AMG/383.6/AD
28 9

COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

ATM/CF/eg

17 January 1944.

MGS 383.6

SUBJECT: Trial of Prisoners of War

TO : Deputy President, Allied Control Commission.

Inclosed is a Staff Minute Sheet from G-1 (Br) at this Headquarters dated 15 January 1944, subject "Prisoners of War-Discipline", pointing out that there is no "protecting power" to which the Allied Forces may give notice of intention to try an Italian prisoner of war, and requesting that the Italian Government be invited to designate an appropriate addressee to which such notice may be sent. The matter is referred to the Allied Control Commission, for appropriate action and report.

/s/ A. T. MAXWELL
Colonel
Acting Chief

Incl:
as above.

9090

14

MGS 383.6
17 Jan

COPY

G1/B/2252/A2

15 Jan 44.

Prisoners of War - Discipline

1. G.I.(B) Mil Gov 15 Jan 1. Para 15 of the "Regulations for the Maintenance of Discipline among Prisoners of War, 1939, provides that, in the event of a charge being brought against a prisoner of war for trial by military court, notification shall be made by the Detaining Power to the "Protecting Power" that a military court has been convened.

A.2.

Sec

44

2. Now that ITALY is a co-belligerent, there is no Protecting Power to whom notification can be made in respect of Italian prisoners of war.

3. Will you please obtain from the Italian Government their wishes as to the body which shall take the place of the Protecting Power for the purpose of Articles 60, 62, 65 and 66 of the International Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War, 1929.

4. We suggest that these functions could conveniently be performed by the Italian Military Mission now in ALGIERS.

/s/ A.S. BARSDORF, Lt.Col.
A.S. BARSDORF, Lt.Col., AAG
for Major General,
G.I.(B).

aws.

9089

2252

(14)

COPY

(Translation)

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI)

NOTE VERBALE

The Italian High Command has forwarded to this Ministry a Note the Allied Control Commission directed to Marshal Messe on February 2nd concerning Italian P.O.W.'s:

10 - In said Note the Allied Control Commission expresses the opinion that in view of the fact that Italy is at present a co-belligerent, the purposes of the Protective Power have come to an end. Consequently, it would not henceforth be feasible to notify to the same Power judicial summons concerning Italian Prisoners of War. The Allied Control Commission therefore requests the Italian Government to state what body they wish should take upon itself the duties attributed so far to the Protective Power by Articles 62, 60, 65 and 66 of the Geneva Convention of July 29, 1929, concerning the treatment of Prisoners of War, and suggests that said duties might be usefully entrusted to the Italian Military Mission in Algiers.

20 - The Royal Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs having carefully examined the matter, wish to state that the point of view according to which, in consideration of Italy's present status of co-belligerency, the Protective Power has no further standing, is undoubtedly the most logical and reasonable one, and, as such, could forthwith be upheld and accepted. However the Italian Government cannot, in the present situation, share such a point of view because of the purport that, up to the present at least, the Allied Powers have attributed to the status of co-belligerency; particularly so, in relation with the statements formulated by the British, American and U.S.S.R. Governments on the occasion of Italy's war declaration to Germany, to the effect that the 'relationship of co-belligerency between the Government of Italy and the United Nations' Governments can not of itself affect the terms recently signed, which retain their full force and can only be adjusted by agreement between the Allied Governments."

Under these circumstances and until the status of co-belligerency should be modified, or a special agreement reached to deal with the problem of Italian Prisoners of War, the Italian Government are of the opinion that the International Convention at Geneva retains its full force.

This opinion is moreover corroborated by the fact that on the one side the Allied Governments have found it necessary to propound a special agreement with the Italian Government for the organization and occupation of Italian Prisoners of War while, on the other, by Article 4 of the provisional scheme of said agreement it is proposed that "the provisions of Geneva of July 29, 1929 concerning P.O.W.'s and dealing with the attribution of the Protective Power and their Representatives are substituted by direct relations between the U.S. Government and the Government of the British Commonwealth on one side and the Italian Government on the other."

This proposal implicitly recognizes that the Geneva Agreement and, consequently, the action of the Protective Power, remain in full force for the time being.

In this connection the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have the honour to draw attention on their Note Verbal handed on January 29 by Marshal Badoglio to the Deputy President of the Allied Control Commission which sets forth the Italian Government's remarks, from a general and particular standpoint, on the above mentioned scheme. These remarks dealt specifically with paragraph 5 and 7 and gave the reasons why the Italian Government are unable to agree in declaring void the provisions of the Geneva Convention and in accepting that both the P.O.W. be deprived of the protection accorded by said Convention and the Italian Government of the possibility of taking whatsoever decision in their regard.

3° - As to the specific proposal that the duties envisaged by articles 60, 62, 65 and 66 of the Geneva Convention be turned over to the Italian Military Mission in Algiers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs desire to call the attention of the Allied Control Commission on the fact that a protection exercised by said Mission, in view of its present organization and limited scope, could not conveniently take the place of the much broader and more efficient protection provided for in the above mentioned paragraphs of the Geneva Convention.

In fact these paragraphs, duly considered in relation to the general provisions of the Agreement, envisage the possibility of direct and continuous contacts, wherever the Prisoners of War may be, between the former and representatives of the Protective Power. Moreover they provide the possibility that the Protective Power should be in a position to exercise its duties in a timely way.

The Italian Military Mission in Algiers, on the other hand, has no such possibilities while its communications are limited to those with the Royal Government.

The Italian Government express therefore the opinion that summons of Italian P.O.W. at a Military Court should be duly notified to the power in charge of Italian interests, until such a moment when, as it is sincerely hoped, all the complex and difficult problem of the P.O.W. shall find its solution in an appropriate agreement between Italy and the Powers concerned, with a view to implementing, with the P.O.W.'s contribution, the Italian war effort in the interest of the common cause.

Salerno, February 25, 1944.

2009
38 47

14

QS/mms

2 February 1944

SUBJECT: Maintenance of Discipline among Prisoners of War.

His Excellency Marshal of Italy Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

Your Excellency:

1. The Commission desires to bring to your attention that in the event of a charge brought against a prisoner of war for trial by a military court, notification has to be made by the Detaining Power to the Protective Power that a court has been convened.

2. It would appear that as Italy is now a co-belligerent, there is no Protecting Power to whom notification can be made in regard to the trial of Italian nationals. The Commission requests that you obtain from the Italian Government their wishes as to which body shall take the place of the Protecting Power as referred to in Articles 60, 62, 65 and 66 of the International Convention of 1929.

3. It has been suggested that these functions could be conveniently performed by the Italian Military Mission now in Algiers.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief of Staff

7088

14

WS-AMS
2 Feb

TRANSLATION

SPECIAL SECRETARIAT OF THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

No. 001780 of Prot.

5 March 1944

TO: Captain Ellery W. Stone,
Allied Control Commission,
Naples.

Dear Captain Stone:

May I enlist your cooperation in the repatriation of Lt Sergio Riello,
Regular Army Officer, Italian Royal Air Forces.

"Up to May 12 1943, on which date the troops surrendered, he was stationed
at airport 62 PM 3700, Tunisia."

We have had no news from him since that time. Indications are that he
was made prisoner in Tunisia."

Please accept my thanks, dear Captain, and I beg of you, were it not pos-
sible to have him repatriated, to at least furnish us with his address,
so that the father, a faithful official of this government, may communi-
cate with him.

2085

Faithfully yours,

The Special Secretary,
To the Chief of Government,
/s/ Lt. Col. G. Valenzano.

Trans/Sgt. Sorisi/sjp.

13

001780

5 drms

NR. 201700 DI 100.



SEGRETERIA PARTICOLARE DEL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

5 MARZO 1944

AL SIGNOR CAPITANO
ELLERY W. STONE
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

NAPOLI

CARO CAPITANO STONE,

LA PREGO DI VOLERSI CORTESEMENTE INTERESSARE PERCHÉ
IL TENENTE IN S.P.E. RIELLO SERGIO, DELLA R.AERONAUTICA, SIA FAT-
TO RIMPATRIARE.-

EGLI FINO AL 12 MAGGIO 1943, DATA IN CUI LE TRUPPE
SI ARRESERO, ERA ALL'AEROPORTO 62 P.M.3700 -TUNISIA-

DA ALLORA NON HA DATO PIÙ SUE NOTIZIE.

RISULTA PERÒ CHE TROVASI PRIGIONIERO IN TUNISIA.

LA RINGRAZIO, CARO CAPITANO, E LA PREGO, QUALORA NON
LE FOSSE PROPRIO POSSIBILE FARLO RIMPATRIARE, FAR CONOSCERE AL-
MENO L'INDIRIZZO, IN MODO CHE IL PADRE, FEDELE
QUESTO GOVERNO, POSSA FAR GIUNGERE SUE NOTIZIE.-

DEVOTI OSSEQUI.

IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE DEL
CAPO DEL GOVERNO
(TEN.COL.G.VALENZANO)

G. Valenzano

AL SIGNOR CAPITANO
ELLERY W. STONE
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

NAPOLI

CARO CAPITANO STONE,

LA PREGO DI VOLERSI CORTESEMENTE INTERESSARE PERCHÉ
IL TENENTE IN S.P.E. RIELLO SERGIO, DELLA R.AERONAUTICA, SIA FAT-
TO RIMPATRIARE. -

EGLI FINO AL 12 MAGGIO 1943, DATA IN CUI LE TRUPPE
SI ARRESERO, ERA ALL'AEROPORTO 62 P.M.3700 -TUNISIA-

DA ALLORA NON HA DATO PIÙ SUE NOTIZIE.
RISULTA PERÒ CHE TROVASI PRIGIONIERO IN TUNISIA.

LA RINGRAZIO, CARO CAPITANO, E LA PREGO, QUALORA NON
LE FOSSE PROPRIO POSSIBILE FARLO RIMPATRIARE, FAR CONOSCERE AL-
MENO L'INDIRIZZO, IN MODO CHE IL PADRE, FEDELE PRIGIONIERO DI
QUESTO GOVERNO, POSSA FAR GIUNGERE SUE NOTIZIE. -

DEVOTI OSSEQUI.

IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE DEL
CAPO DEL GOVERNO
(TEN. COL. G. VALENZANO)

Valenzano

7 Mar 44

1 MAR 1944

• INCOMING

/hft

DE 6 245
5 MAR 1944

1379

IN CLEAR

IMMEDIATE

71 SUB AREA

FATIMA

0670

FEB 291670A

MARCH 010830A

By REL

General Orlando visiting Salerno by road tomorrow March 1st wishes to see Chief Commissioner about gift parcels for Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa. Chief has heard of project. Revised proposals stand at 170,000 parcels containing one half the food originally proposed. Transport by Italian planes to North Africa thence distribution by Italian Liaison Mission now with AFHQ in conjunction with Red Cross. Recommend acceptance. Further he wants to send 2 plane loads of books and 1 plane load of newspapers and there after newspapers fortnightly.

Will you arrange interview with Chief or Deputy Chief?

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - AG
- 1 - DSO (~~action~~) Action
- ✓ 1 - DGC (info)
- 1 - Political Sec (~~action~~) Info.
- 1 - Italian Liaison (action)

302 food 35-40 H
- Fuel
- Lamps
- etc.

1 MAR Recd 0910-1045-

NO food
Books - newspapers
Subject to censorship
& availability of planes

Determined by
Comdt. Force
(4223)

070
15 Feb

MEMORANDUM

D.C.C. had conference with
General Orlando 1530 hours
2 March 44.

5 MAR 1944

DT mly 3/4 with
can Hqd. T. decided
to feed 1/2
got
1200 lbs. + 1000 lbs.
all 900

9000

CONFIDENTIAL

1850
FJS/arr

2/28

2410

FEB

Confidential

PRIORITY

FATIMA

FREEDOM

28/1708

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SUPREME COMMAND TO ITALIAN MILITARY
MISSION PD TO FREEDOM FOR PRISONERS FROM FATIMA SIGNED MACFARLANE PD NUMBER
ONE ONE FOUR THREE THREE SLANT OF PD MINISTER SANDALLI REQUESTS TO BE URGENTLY
INFORMED APPROXIMATE NUMBER AIRFORCE POW AT PRESENT IN ANGLO DASH AMERICAN CAMPS
AND FRENCH NORTH AFRICAN CAMPS DETAILING LOCATIONS PD BY ORDER GENERAL ROSSI

AUTHENTICATED:

FRANK J. SLAUGHTER
Captain, A. G. D.
Deputy Secretary General

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - AG
1 - DCC ✓
1 - DGO
1 - S.G.

copy to [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

file/978

208
208

11

2410

28 Feb

CONFIDENTIAL

29/2/44 0940

COPY

SECRET

PARGO 582

PARGO

28 JANUARY 1944

SECRET

10050 MACFARLANE

ROUTINE

AFIR

From MacFarlane personal. Both Badoglio and Messe have again brought up allegations of bad treatment accorded to Italian PW in French charge in North Africa. Grateful if you would look into this question and if allegations are unfounded let me have a statement with which I can refute them. Otherwise if there is substance in allegations hope you will take any action you think desirable and give me information soonest.

SECRET

(10)

582

289

582-4 PARGO

0000
0000

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

INCOMING

27 JAN 1944 /etc

3/27

13054

Jan 26 1944

Jan 27 1944

SUBJECT

SUBJECT

TRANSFER SIGNED BY REFORMA

OF TRANSFER AND TO THE SAME FOR ACTION; TO AGENT AND FUTURE
 FOR INFO

In furtherance policy expressed during 1943 dated 5 October 1943 author-
 ized is release of parole of Italian prisoners war with permanent disease or
 injury not requiring hospitalization or who are old and infirm and of no fur-
 ther value to Allied war effort. This policy includes Italian prisoners war
 interned in Allied occupied Italy whose homes are in Sicily and Italian prisoners
 war who are interned in Sicily whose homes are in Allied occupied Italy, provided
 each are screened secure by G-2 of Base, approval of transfer of such case is
 obtained from Allied Central Mediterranean Force and transportation is avail-
 able. Final payroll will be prepared and individual records forwarded to HQ
 Release with final statement.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Col State - INFO

1-c/s

9

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

43454

26 9

363.6 -

23 JAN 1944

1847

F

22 January 1944

To His Excellency Marshal Badoglio -

Dear Marshal Badoglio:-

0/1

Replying to your letter of 18 January regarding the treatment of Italian war prisoners, I am bringing this matter to the attention of the authorities concerned.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

HARRY W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief of Staff

3836 -

3839

8

EWS
22 Jan

25 JAN 1944

EMS/no.

1988

In reply refer to:
383.6

25 January 1944

SUBJECT: Treatment of Italian Prisoners of War

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, Military Government Section, APO 512

1. There is forwarded herewith translation of a letter from Marshal Badoglio dealing with alleged mistreatment of Italian prisoners in North Africa by French authorities and civilians.
2. It is requested that this office be advised as to action taken.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:
Transl of ltr fr Marshal Badoglio
File No. 200, 18 January 1944

7

383.6

25 Jan

383.6

[Handwritten signature]

TRANSLATION

THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

18 January 1944

File N. 200 Prot.

TO GENERAL MASSEN MAC FARLANE
CHIEF OF ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Dear General MacFarlane:

Many Italian officers who have been repatriated from North Africa have made known to me the harsh and often inhuman treatment that the French authorities and civilians have used against Italian war prisoners in their hands.

One of them presented to me the following accounts of 8 Italian war prisoners, part of a group of 58 soldiers who escaped from French camps and who found refuge in American camps.

French authorities have asked the return, by name, of the 58 prisoners, and it is easy to imagine to what treatment they would be subjected, if they were to be handed over.

We are faced with two patent violations of the rules of International Law covering prisoners of war:

- the first, which gives responsibility for prisoners of war to the country which captured them, in this case either Great Britain or the United States;
- the second, which establishes strict rules for treatment of prisoners of war, all openly violated by the French.

I appeal, dear General, to your sense of humanity, so that you may kindly bring this question before competent authorities so as to take up the specific case of the 58 prisoners of war which the French want back, and also to look into the relative question of principle.

Very cordially,

/s/ BADOGLIO

Sgt Scrisi, Translator

200 B

10 Jan

25 JAN 1944

2601

a
8
3
6
1

2578

23 JAN 1945

2664

TRANSLATION
(copy)

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS - CASE No. 131

18 November 1945

Among the prisoners of Camp 131 there are 38 soldiers, each of whom has spent 5 months under French authorities or civilian directors, and who now--their return being requested by the French, by name--have firmly refused to move, trembling with the sorrowful memories of abuses suffered, of dangers traversed, of hunger.

They all declare in unison that they prefer to face any fate and incur any punishment, rather than see again the French guards and civilians under whose vigilance and threats they worked for 5 months, finally being able to flee.

Single cases are here under reported. We say, for the remainder, put forth a general function, which briefly is summed up in these terms:

A)- Absolutely inhuman moral treatment. Continuous use of the phrase "Shitty Italians" -- "Cowards who stepped up in the back and stripped us of everything" --, besides the evil and repeated imprecations against France, of which form of government every soldier is held guilty.

B)- Pitiful sanitary conditions: lodgings in the open or in stables among the cattle, lack of water and of anti-parasitic and antiseptic means, of dispensaries.

C)- Insufficient and unhealthy rations, absolute lack of clothing, work often lengthened to 14 hours.

D)- Coercing and punishment methods not conceivable by civilized minds and human heart.

Individual Cases

1)- Sergeant Major Walter GALE

"I was captured by the Americans in Tunisia on 15/5/43 and taken to Camp 128. From here I was sent with labor companies to work under French soldiers and civilians. Assigned to threshing machines, I worked 14 hours per day; rations very scarce, I slept in the open or in the stables among the cattle; I was deprived of extra clothing and blankets (except one), because upon leaving Camp 128 we were told that at our destination they would equip us adequately, and instead we were stripped of the little we still had.

At Oran I worked at the railroad warehouse 9 hours per day. At Oran I was imprisoned because two soldiers had refused to proceed to their place of work, not being able to keep on their feet on account of malnutrition: in prison I slept 7 days on the cement floor. 150 grams of bread, we were not allowed out even for body needs which had to be satisfied in the prison

itself. I bless the day I was able, at the risk of my life, to flee."

2)- Corporal Major Paolo FORMIDA

"I was captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43. As part of a labor company given over to the French, during the transit to TIAHET Camp, I descended from the train with others to fill my water bottle (permission had been given), and because I delayed getting in line, I was hit in the head with a rifle butt by a native soldier (Marocchino).

I became unconscious and was sent to the hospital, where I regained consciousness after six days. My wound was 14 centimeters long by 4 centimeters wide. I remained in hospital 33 days. Dismissed, I walked to a barracks, under Arab guard. Very heavy manual labor for about ten hours per day. Food: a loaf of bread, 1 kilogram, for 5 or 6 persons, one spoonful of carrots and.....nothing else. I don't remember ever having had hot soup."

3)- Private Lorenzo BIANCHI

"I was captured by the British in Tunisia on 12/5/43, sent to work under the French. I was conducted about 300 kilometers toward the interior. Two days and two nights of travel without any food at all. Arrived at destination, one night in the open, although we had no blankets. The next day we got the first injection and they forced us to work, notwithstanding the very high fever everyone got. I voiced my inability due to my state of health, and they put me in prison. A native soldier broke in and tried to do me violence. (Translator's note: Sodomy is implied). At my cries a Moroccan non-commissioned officer appeared and sent me back to billet where I started to work until a request for laborers came from Oran. Thus ended the sad episode of IMPRISONMENT."

At Oran treatment was no better: unshod, always pushed by rifle butts and spit upon on all occasions, insulted, poorly fed; but IMPRISONMENT remains unforgettable for the cruelties I was subjected to.

I would ask to return there without prior notice with an American officer: I am certain that conditions are unchanged. Intervening for the others, one cannot think without shuddering about the fate of those unfortunate Italians who have remained there and whom it would be humane to ultimately liberate."

4)- Corporal Major Piero FILIPPONI

I was captured by the Americans on 11/5/43 and taken to the camp at CHANEY.

Thence I was sent to the French, near SIDI BEL-ABES, under a Mr. SCIVALL. Enormous labor, insufficient food. Only think that for 40 men, Mr. SCIVALL assigned 4 litres of oil to last 45 days.

I complained, asked to see regulations and to speak with the gendarmes. He answered: "I'm the only one to read regulations and to see the gendarmes." Next day I was put in prison as an instigator. I was there 8 days with 10 other men-Rations: 120 grams of bread daily, and nothing else. From prison

I was sent to ST. BAISS DU TELAT, where, at my request, I was questioned by a French officer. He was surprised at my tale; stated he would see into the situation. I awaited and still await the results. From ST. BAISS I was sent to LAKHINE, where I contracted malaria. New order to move, which I was forced to follow, contrary to the express opinion of the dispensary, since my health did not permit me to travel.

I arrived near Camp 129, and--as my fever was even with me and none of the native soldiers had any intention of taking care of me--one day I secretly went to the dispensary of Camp 129, with two other comrades, who had profited, as I did, of a rest hour. I was visited by a doctor who gave me a thorough examination, giving me medicine and telling all three of us to return the following day. As I returned to our enclosure I was overtaken by a native soldier and by the civilian for whom I worked. Though feverish, I was thrown to the ground and beaten several times with the butt of a rifle and pricked with the bayonet. On the gendarme's order I was sent back to the hospital to apprehend the third man who was delayed at the dispensary; the native soldier was about to repeat the same treatment I had suffered, but was stopped immediately and energetically by an American officer.

A short time later I was sent back to LAKHINE."

5)- Artilleryman Giuseppe TONDA

"I was captured by the Americans in Tunisia on 11/5/43. Included in a labor company, sent to the French. Was sent to about 6 kilometer from Oran. I will not dwell on general living conditions; I will only remark that when we were on sick call we were marched--no matter what the fever and our condition--to the Oran dispensary, on foot (12 kilometers, round trip). Once, as I was feverish, I straggled a meter behind the sick column, and a native soldier came up to me: I was slapped, beaten with the butt of his rifle repeatedly, spit upon, and my back was hit so violently that for many days I was in pain. I have also suffered the nocturnal visit of a native soldier who wanted to do me violence, only by my cries, which called to my aid the comrade who slept in the hut with me, was I able to resist the madman."

6)- Corporal Giusto ZENGA

"I was captured in Tunisia by the Americans on 12/5/43. Turned over to the French, because of an accident during work, I entered the hospital at BORDJ, where I remained for 29 days.

More than once, notwithstanding my poor state of health, I was slapped and beaten while I lay in bed, unable to move."

7)- Private Luigi VERGILLI

"I was captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43. Assigned to a labor company under the French, I worked in Oran, on the high-temperature furnaces. My only chest protection was a sack shirt, clothed with which I passed from the extreme heat of the chamber to the outside shop, at the risk of my health, which the insufficient rations did not tend to improve. Rations: 500 grams of bread, a few beans and even fewer lentils, an onion. Always the same. I do not remember having had hot soup once. I was once

20 JAN 1944

given a three-day rest because I had 40 degree fever (about 104-105 degrees Fahrenheit--Transl.); because of a general complaint by all of us, we were sent to prison--a sick man and myself--but not the others, for too work had to be done.....

Prison rations: 150 grams of bread; two boulettes, one litre of water. On the second day in prison, despite the fact that my fever was still very high, I was beaten with rifle butt and bayonet, and led to my place of work; at night I was led back to prison. Finally, one night a doctor came, saw my weakened condition and ordered 5 days of absolute rest for me. Next morning I was taken out of prison by force and obliged to work. I still had 40 degree fever.

8)- Private GLOVE of RUSSIA

"Captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43 and sent to work under the French. I was under native soldier guard. One night, one of them came into my sleeping quarters and threw me on the bed, with the purpose of committing violence upon me. I just about escaped him, with the help of some comrades."

9)- Portuguese Prisoner BARROCO

I was captured by the Americans in Tunisia on 8/4/43, and a short time later was sent to the French. I am not talking about myself, my life was no more painful than that of the others; rather, I wish to name two comrades-at-arms whose unfortunate end I witnessed. How many times we reminisced about our dangers during the war, fighting openly and with arms; now I have the memory of two men whom suffering and cruelty lost them to their families and to their country:

A)- Sapper MASSARI--taken ill during work and sent to the dispensary, remained there 3 days. Rations: one cooked onion and 150 grams of bread. Released and returned to work, after 4 days MASSARI got worse; 2 more days at the dispensary, and thence to Military Hospital at CHILBERT, where he died after 3 days.

B)- Private MALBONNET--at the Military Hospital of CHILBERT for fracture to the left foot. 3 days in bed, then died because of insufficient food, because of hygienic conditions in the premises. I took part at his funeral: we were 5 comrades, who wished to render homage to the deceased, a priest, nobody else.

As in the case of MASSARI, he was interred in a grave which we had dug.

Now two headstones record the passing of two human creatures, and to us, who were comrades in misfortune, many cruelties perpetrated upon us by man."

10)- Corporal Major Angelo FIDELLI--also captured in Tunisia by the Americans--states that at PERLEOT, where they stopped one night on the way to their place of work, under native soldier guard, he and his comrades were overcome by force of arms and stripped even of their shoes

The above reported cases are part of a general picture that permits no exception, for there is not one of these 58 soldiers who has not something

25 JAN 1944
2664

very serious to disclose.

We invoke American Command intervention in their favor, in order that the French request may not be complied with.

We do not wish to stress the question of law, in virtue of which Italian fighting men, who were captured by American forces, ask to remain under their jurisdiction.

but it is--aside from any other consideration and appeal to comply with international regulations--a principle of humanity which demands for full and prompt intervention.

We wish to avoid that 52 men, and other eventual ones, be treated like animals, in the hands of people that make themselves individual judges for whatever crimes committed, and who act in manner which civilized peoples cannot tolerate.

The Commanding Colonel

/s/ GUIDO MARCOLIN

(7)

Sgt. Sorisi - Transl.
20/1/44

20 Nov 1944

TRANSLATION
(copy)

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS - CAMP No. 131

18 November 1943

Among the prisoners of Camp 131 there are 58 soldiers, each of whom has spent 5 months under French authorities or civilian directors, and who now--their return being requested by the French, by name--have firmly refused to move, travelling with the sorrowful memories of abuses suffered, of dangers traversed, of hunger.

They all declare in unison that they prefer to face any fate and incur any punishment, rather than see again the French guards and civilians under whose vigilance and threats they worked for 5 months, finally being able to flee.

Single cases are here under report. We say, for the remainder, put forth a general question, which briefly is summed up in these terms:

A)- Absolutely inhuman moral treatment. Continuous use of the phrases "Shitty Italians"--"Cowards who stabbed us in the back and stripped us of everything"--, besides the evil and repeated imprecations against Fascism, of which form of government every soldier is held guilty.

B)- Rpitiful sanitary conditions: lodgings in the open or in stables among the cattle, lack of water and of anti-parasitic and antiseptic means, of dispensaries.

C)- Insufficient and unhealthy rations, absolute lack of clothing, work often lengthened to 14 hours.

D)- Coercing and punishment methods not conceivable by civilized minds and human heart.

Individual Cases

1)- Corporal Major Walter GILLES

"I was captured by the Americans in Tunisia on 15/5/43 and taken to Camp 128. From here I was sent with labor companies to work under French soldiers and civilians. Assigned to threshing machines, I worked 14 hours per day; rations very scarce. I slept in the open or in the stables among the cattle; I was deprived of extra clothing and blankets (except one), because upon leaving Camp 128 we were told that at our destination they would equip us adequately, and instead we were stripped of the little we still had.

At Oran I worked at the railroad warehouse: 9 hours per day. At Oran I was imprisoned because two soldiers had refused to proceed to their place of work, not being able to keep on their feet on account of malnutrition: in prison I slept 7 days on the cement floor. 150 grams of bread, we were not allowed out even for body needs which had to be satisfied in the prison

25 JAN 1944

itself. I bless the day I was able, at the risk of my life, to flee."

2)- General Major Isacio BARRAL

"I was captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43. As part of a labor company given over to the French. During the transit to Maktub Camp, I descended from the train with others to fill my water bottle (permission had been given), and because I delayed getting in line, I was hit in the head with a rifle butt by a native soldier (Moroccan)."

I became unconscious and was sent to the hospital, where I regained consciousness after six days. My wound was 14 centimeters long by 4 centimeters wide. I remained in hospital 33 days. Discharged, I moved to a barracks, under Arab guard. Very heavy manual labor for about ten hours per day. Food: a loaf of bread, 1 kilogram, for 5 or 6 persons. One spoonful of carrots and.....nothing else. I don't remember ever having had hot soup."

3)- Private Lorenzo BARRAL

"I was captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43, sent to work under the French. I was conducted about 300 kilometers toward the interior. Two days and two nights of travel without any food at all. Arrived at destination, one night in the open, although we had no blankets. The next day we got the first influenza and they forced us to work, notwithstanding the very high fever everyone got. I voiced my inability due to my state of health, and they put me in prison. A native soldier broke in and tried to do me violence. (Translator's note: Soldier is implied). At my cries a Moroccan non-commissioned officer appeared and sent me back to billet where I started to work until a request for laborers came from Urum. Thus ended the sad episode of BARRAL."

At Urum treatment was no better: washed, always pushed by rifle butts and spit upon on all occasions, insulted, poorly fed; but BARRAL remains unforgettable for the cruelties I was subjected to.

I would not return there without prior notice with an American officer: I am certain that conditions are unchanged. Intervening for the others, one cannot think without shuddering about the fate of those unfortunate Italians who have remained there and whom it would be useless to ultimately liberate."

4)- General Major Mario BARRAL

I was captured by the Americans on 11/5/43 and taken to the camp at CHERRY."

Thence I was sent to the French, near 101 AIR-ABES, under a Mr. CEVAL. Spent some labor, insufficient food. Only think that for 10 men, Mr. CEVAL assigned 4 litres of oil to last 15 days. I complained, asked to see regulations and to speak with the gendarmes. He answered: "I'm the only one to read regulations and to see the gendarmes." Next day I was put in prison as an instigator. I was there 8 days with 10 other men-nations: 120 grams of bread daily, and nothing else. From prison

25 JAN 1944

2668

I was sent to ST. BARBE DU TELLER, where, at my request, I was questioned by a French officer. He was surprised at my tale; stated he would see into the situation. I awaited and still await the results. From ST. BARBE I was sent to LAKHEDRA, where I contracted malaria. New order to move, which I was forced to follow, contrary to the express opinion of the dispensary, since my health did not permit me to travel.

I arrived near Camp 129, and--as my fever was even with me and none of the native soldiers had any intention of taking care of me--one day I secretly went to the dispensary of Camp 129, with two other comrades, who had profited, as I did, of a rest hour. I was visited by a doctor who gave me a thorough examination, giving me medicine and telling all three of us to return the following day. As I returned to our enclosure I was overtaken by a native soldier and by the civilian for whom I worked. Though feverish, I was thrown to the ground and beaten several times with the butt of a rifle and pricked with the bayonet. On the gendarme's order I was sent back to the hospital to apprehend the third man who was delayed at the dispensary; the native soldier was about to repeat the same treatment I had suffered, but was stopped immediately and energetically by our American officer.

A short time later I was sent back to LAKHEDRA.

5)- Artilleryman Giuseppe FORZA

"I was captured by the Americans in Tunisia on 11/5/43. Included in a labor company, sent to the French. Was sent to about 6 kilometer from Oren. I will not dwell on general living conditions; I will only remark that when we went on sick call we were marched--no matter what the fever and our condition--to the Oren dispensary, on foot (12 kilometers, round trip). Once, as I was feverish, I straggled a meter behind the sick column, and a native soldier came up to me: I was slapped, beaten with the butt of his rifle repeatedly, spit upon, and my back was hit so violently that for many days I was in pain. I have also suffered the posthumous visit of a native soldier who wanted to do me violence, only by my cries, which called to my aid the comrade who slept in the hut with me, as I able to resist the madman."

6)- Corporal Gasto FORZA

I was captured in Tunisia by the Americans on 12/5/43. Turned over to the French, because of an accident during work, I entered the hospital at ELIDA, where I remained for 29 days.

More than once, notwithstanding my poor state of health, I was slapped and beaten while I lay in bed, unable to move."

7)- Private Luigi VERBULLI

"I was captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43. Assigned to a labor company under the French, I worked in Oren, on the high-temperature furnaces. My only chest protection was a sack shirt, clothed with which I passed from the extreme heat of the chamber to the outside shop, at the risk of my health, which the insufficient rations did not tend to improve. Rations: 500 grams of bread, a few beans and even fewer lentils, an onion. Always the same. I do not remember having had hot soup once. I was once

given a three-day rest because I had 40 degree fever (about 104-105 degrees Fahrenheit--transl.); because of a general complaint by all of us, we were sent to prison--a sick man and myself--but not the others, for the work had to be done.....

Prison rations: 150 grams of bread, two tomatoes, one litre of water. On the second day in prison, despite the fact that my fever was still very high, I was beaten with rifle butt and bayonet, and led to my place of work; at night I was led back to prison. Finally, one night a doctor came, saw my weakened condition and ordered 5 days of absolute rest for me. Next morning I was taken out of prison by force and obliged to work: I still had 40 degree fever.

8)- Private Giovanni MURINO

"Captured by the British in Tunisia on 11/5/43 and sent to work under the French, I was under native soldier guard. One night, one of them came into my sleeping quarters and threw me on the bed, with the purpose of committing violence upon me. I just about escaped him, with the help of some comrades."

9)- Corporal Primo MASSARA

I was captured by the Americans in Tunisia on 8/4/43, and a short time later was sent to the French. I am not talking about myself; my life was no more painful than that of the others; rather, I wish to name two comrades-at-arms whose unfortunate end I witnessed. How many times we reminisced about our dangers during the war, fighting openly and with arms; now I have the memory of two men whom suffering and cruelty lost them to their families and to their country:

a)- Sapper MASSARA--taken ill during work and sent to the dispensary, remained there 3 days. Rations: one cooked onion and 150 grams of bread. Released and returned to work, after 4 days MASSARA got worse; 3 more days at the dispensary, and thence to Military Hospital at CHIARET, where he died after 3 days.

b)- Private MALUSARDI--at the Military Hospital of CHIARET for fracture to the left foot. 3 days in bed, then died because of insufficient food, because of hygienic conditions in the premises. I took part at his funeral: we were 5 comrades, who wished to render homage to the deceased, a priest, nobody else.

As in the case of MASSARA, he was interred in a grave which we had dug.

Now two headstones record the passing of two human creatures, and to us, who were comrades in misfortune, many cruelties perpetrated upon us by man."

10)- Corporal Major Angelo FRIBLI--also captured in Tunisia by the Americans--states that at PERIGOT, where they stopped one night on the way to their place of work, under native soldier guard, he and his comrades were overcome by force of arms and stripped even of their shoes

The above reported cases are part of a general picture that permits no exception, for there is not one of these 58 soldiers who has not something

25 JAN 1944

very serious to disclose.

We invoke American Command intervention in their favor, in order that the French request may not be complied with.

We do not wish to stress the question of law, in virtue of which Italian fighting men, who were captured by American forces, ask to remain under their jurisdiction.

But it is--aside from any other consideration and appeal to comply with international regulations--a principle of humanity which clamors for full and prompt intervention.

We wish to avoid that 58 men, and other eventual ones, be treated like animals, in the hands of people who make themselves individual judges for whatever crimes committed, and who act in a manner which civilized peoples cannot tolerate.

The Commanding Colonel

/s/ GUIDO MARCOLIN

U. S. RESTRICTED
 Equals British RESTRICTED

215.7 1944
 1745
 CHAIRING

100/000

4/21

2056

JAN 21/11/07

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

REMARKS OF THE CASES REPORTED PREVIOUSLY NUMBER TWO FIVE ZERO ZERO ZERO OF SEVEN
 JANUARY AND FIVE ZERO ONE EIGHT ZERO ZERO OF SEVEN JANUARY BOTH REPORTED UNDER NAME
TO INTERVIEW WITH THE AGENT FROM THE AREA UNDER INVESTIGATION NAME CASES IN QUESTION
 NOT IN INTERVIEW UNDER AGENT JURISDICTION NO SUBJECT NAME BE INQUIRED TO SUPPLY
 INFORMATION DESIRED

AUTHENTICATED

ROBERT E. DOE
 Major, A.C.D.
 Secretary of Commission

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - AG
 1 - Darcy

6

2056

21/11/07

U. S. RESTRICTED
 Equals British RESTRICTED

MINISTRY FOR WAR
CABINET
Liaison Office for Allied Commission

No. 205/c

January 18, 1944

Subject: Italian Officers, ex-POW in Tunisia
TO ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

~~Captain Collins:~~

~~We have no information
on the point~~

~~884~~

The Quartermaster General's central office at this Ministry cannot make the necessary payments to Italian officers repatriated from Tunisia for their period of imprisonment because they are not able to produce statements of accountability either of debit or credit, for this period.

Said officers state that these documents are held by an American Major Bos, who escorted them back to Italy; we understand he is at present in Brindisi.

As it is urgent to settle the administrative position of these officers, it would be appreciated if the Commission would have these financial statements forwarded to this Ministry.

GENERAL ALBERTI
(signed)

*Consent to
Major Bos*

Al

9511

(5)

205/c

18 Jan

383.6-

329V

Col. Fish ←
Please see
me at Dis.

Stone
Supper ref
to AMG
matter does
not appear
to concern
ACC

Cable to Jiske
Freedom - 21 Jan.

4 JAN 1944

1943

SUBJECT:-Bombing of PW Camps in Italy.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

G1/B/2202/A2.

Allied Military Mission.

11 Jan 44.

1. Reference your cable 1899 of 9 Jan 44 in reply to this Headquarters' 25008 of 7 Jan 44.
2. Herewith copy report from War Office (DPW) asking for information regarding East African Native Prisoners who were killed by bombing whilst working in aerodromes at PONTECAGNANO.
3. This report was forwarded to you by AFHQ Adv Adm Echelon under cover of letter 3091/6/A2 dated 9 Nov 43. Will you please submit your reply direct to this Headquarters with copy to AFHQ Adv Adm Echelon.

answering her.

Encl.

RTS.

Copy to:- AFHQ Adv Adm Echelon.

~~X-X~~

COPY.

Bombing of Prisoner of War

MICROGRAM SERVICE

Subject: Camps in Italy.

L/54/241

Ref. and Date 0103/5144 (F.W.2a).

Registry, War Office.

From War Office (D.P.W.)

To AFHQ (FHLIA), Algiers.

1. H.M. Legation at Berne, summarising a report by Swiss Inspectors of Prisoner of War Camps dated 3rd September, 1943, state that East African native prisoners were brought from Camp 66 (CAPUA) to work on aerodromes particularly at PONTECAGNANO. Four were killed and sixteen were wounded by bombing.
2. You are requested to institute local inquiries as to those killed and to report to War Office (Directorate of Prisoners of War).

(Sgd) H.T. PHILLINSON, Lt. Col.,
A.A.G.

for Director of Prisoners of War.

16th October, 1943.

G1/B1220742

11 gr-

U. S. RESTRICTED

Equals British RESTRICTED

1898 (9 Jan)
OUTGOING

RED/msr

9/09

1899

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

JAN 09/12/04

FATIMA

FREEDOM RPTD FLAMBO

NO RECORD OF REFERENCE MENTIONED IN YOUR CABLE NUMBER TWO FIVE ZERO ZERO
EIGHT OF SEVEN JANUARY PD TO FREEDOM RPTD FI'LEO FROM FATIMA STORED
PD FILED FORWARD INFLUENCE COPY

AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DOE
Major, A.G.D.
Secretary of Commission

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - AG
1 - Diary
1 - Maj Doe

262
1000

U. S. RESTRICTED
Equals British RESTRICTED

(3)

1899

9 Jan

58 JAN 1944
1424
- INCOMING

/mm

N 23/7

25008

JAN 071050A

JAN 071729A

IN THE CLEAR

ROUTINE

FREEDOM

FATIMA RPTD FLAMBO

Please expedite reply to our 01/B/2202/A2 dated 5 November 1943 passed on to
you by Flambo reference 3091/6/A2 dated 9 November 1943 subject bombing of
P.W. camps in Italy.

DISTRIBUTION:

2 - AG Files
1 - Diary

2001

(2)

25008

72

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

- INCOMING

5 JAN 1944

1140
/4413

SECRET

ROUTINE

PRIORITY

FATIMA

B/3

2263

JAN 021501A

JAN 030502A

Reference your 1381 of 10 December. For political reasons supplies for Italian prisoners of war in German hands in Greece cannot be made available from Allied sources so long as the Allied blockade prevents such supplies from reaching Greek civilian population.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - General Taylor (INFO)

3536-

①

2263

U. S. SECRET
 Equals British SECRET

1601

