Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ACC

10000/136/510

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

10000/136/510

PRISONERS OF WAR, ITALIAN, GENERAL
JUN. - NOV. 1944

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

9001/CC

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 9001 PRISONERS OF WAR, ITALIAN, GENERAL

~~Confidential~~ SECRET FROM: 19 June 44 TO: 30 Nov 44 PART II

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS

This file downgraded to

Confidential

21 pp.

Confidential

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

FILES "A"

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6-1 PRISONERS OF WAR (ITALIAN), GENERAL

SECRET

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
121	Ltr, Alex Kirk	18 Oct 44	Comme. Stone	Death of IPW Sgt DeFelco, killed by guards in US Camp
122	Ltr, Comme Stone IPW/1/220	23 Oct 44	Alex Kirk	Killing of IPW Sgt DeFelco by guards in US Camp.
123	Ltr, Comme. Stone ~~IPW/1/230~~ IPW/1/234	27 Oct 44	CCS, AFHQ	Status of Italian PW as brought up by Bonomi after Dapino-Massa visit to POW camps.
124	Ltr, Comme. Stone IPW/1/227	27 Oct 44	Bonomi	
125	Ltr, Comme. Stone ~~A/GG 383.6-1~~	6 Nov 44	Spofford	Bonomi does not object to transfer of PW from North Africa to Italy
126	Ltr, Campbell IPW/1/23/20	6 Nov 44	High Comm. for PW	Killing of IPW Sgt de Felco and Angelo Bellà by guards.
127	PC (44) 131 Political Com. AFHQ	6 Nov 44	- -	Use of Ital IPW in US custody as service units in Italy.
128	Ltr Bonomi, 2986	9 Nov 44	Stone	Recommend conference to study whole PW question.
129	PC(44) 134 (G5)	13 Nov 44	Political Comm.	Recommend PM be asked present concrete proposals toward solution of PW status question.
129a	PC(44) 32nd Mtg	15 Nov 44		
130	Ltr Campbell IPW/1/260	16 Nov 44	Bonomi	Your suggestion for conference to sutdy PW status question forwarded to SACMED.
131	Ltr AFHQ COS	23 Nov 44	CC, AC	Status of Ital PW as brought up by Bonomi after Dapino-Massa visit.
132	List -			Totals of Ital PW in N.Africa.

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

383.6-1
D of G ACG

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 383.6-1 PRISONERS OF WAR (ITALIAN), GENERAL PART II

SECRET

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
109	Ltr 1001 Bonomi	2 Sep 44	Stone	Gen Vincenzo will make visit to POW's suggested by AFHQ & you.
110	Memo SG 383.6 Doe	3 Sep 44	WMD & IPW SC	Visits to POW camps: fwd to u INCL: Ltr Bonomi 1001 2 Sep, Stone
111	Ltr A/CC 383.6-1 Stone	5 Sep 44	Hq AAI	Release of It POW in Sicily: projected publicity.
112	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	8 Sep 44	Bonomi	Forwarded AFHQ re selection officers Vincenzo Depino & Vittori Massa
113	Memo Slaughter	13 Sep 44	WMD & POW S/C	Release of POW (Lt Busacca, Giuseppe) Incl - Ltr Carr RPS/383.6 8 Sep
114	Ltr Quayle A/CC 383.6-1	14 Sep 44	Col Campbell	Killing of Italian POW by Guard Incl - AFHQ G-5 383.6-8 10 Sep ACC
115	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	30 Sep 44	AFHQ C of S	Apprehension of escaped Italian P.W.'s (Co-operators)
116	Cbl ACC S-349	2 Oct 44	AFHQ	G-5 ltr 383.6 24 Sep Italian POW confirm communicate Ital Govt
117	Ltr A/CC 383.6-1 Stone	2 Oct 44	G-5 AFHQ	Greek & Yugoslav ex-POW & Internees. Inves instigated by ACI
117a	Ltr WMD/11/15	3 Oct 44	Prov Marsh Cran	- Tnx for treatment Ital POW-Messe
118	Ltr IPW/1/17/1 Stone	5 Oct 44	High Comm for POW	Italian POW - General Policy: outline of treatment by US & UK
119	Ltr 2626 Bonomi	5 Oct 44	Stone	Depino & Massa just returned fr visit to POW camps. Foundsthings fine.
119a	Ltr, 2708, Bonomi	8 Oct 44	Stone	
120	Ltr, Campbell IPW/1/9/32	15 Oct 44	Italian Hi Comm for PW	Release of IPW in Sicily - proposed publicity.

SECRET

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DSG ACG

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 2, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

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

PART II

SECRET

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
99	Ltr Gen Gammell	30 Jul 44	A/CC	Complaints Unjust Treatment It POWs
100	Cbl Natousa F 77299	31 Jul 44	AAI, ACC, MMIA	Treatment POWs under Geneva Convention for Ital Troops
101	Cbl AFHQ F77386	31 Jul 44	ACC & AAI	Pol Sub Committee decision release proceed 31 Jul
102	Ltr Campbell 1/139	8 Aug 44	AFHQ G-5	Mistreatment Ital PW by French & British Incl 1 - Ltr Gazzera 526 19 Jul
103	Cbl ACC 1571	9 Aug 44	AFHQ	Request instructions re release
104	Cbl AFHQ F81216	10 Aug 44	ACC & AAI	Resume circumstances release Ital POW's paroled in Sicily
105	Cbl Natousa 36702	12 Aug 44	ACC & AAI	Change in last para F81216
106	Cbl ACC 1896	16 Aug 44	CG NATOUSA	Request nominal rolls paroled PW released Sicily 31 Jul
107	Cbl AAI A110	17 Aug 44	Freedom & ACC	Release fr PW status Carabinieri & Finance Guards
107a	Cbl FX 85761	21 Aug 44	ACC	Rolls POW paroled in Sicily
108	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	28 Aug 44	Bonomi	Status Ital POW interest Ital Govt visit AFHQ & Ital POW Camps see conditions Ital POW App a - AFHQ 3101 of 17 Aug ACC

SECRET

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

D·S G A C G

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

LIST OF PAPERS

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

PART II

SECRET

8—6798

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
84	AFHQ Cbl F70649	10 Jul 44	ACC & AAI	Release POW on parole 31 Jul
85	Ltr Campbell ACC/1/3	11 Jul 44	AFHQ	Mail military POW assigned labor units & transferred to Italy
85a	Cbl Filpot A862	12 Jul 44	Diathree & ACC	Examine implications VIS A VIS loss PW Units & Dilutees
85b	**Cbl Filpot A864**	**12 Jul 44**	**Freedom & ACC**	
86	Ltr Campbell ASC/1/102	14 Jul 44	AFHQ	Ital soldiers employed POW in British West Africa
86a	Cbl AFHQ F72066	14 Jul 44	Filpot & ACC	Incl 1 - Ltr High Comm 463 29 Jun
87	Ltr Campbell ASC/1/3/64	15 Jul 44	AFHQ G-5	State health & welfare & address of Ital POW
88	Ltr Campbell ASC/1/4/45	16 Jul 44	AFHQ G-5	Return personal effects & valuables of POW with 3 Incl
89	Ltr Campbell ASC/1/101	16 Jul 44	AAI	Apprehension Escaped Ital POW (Co-operators)
89a	Cbl AAI A 858	17 Jul 44	ACC	Release British captured POW on parole other than cooperators
90	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	18 Jul 44	HQ AAI	Apprehension of Escaped Ital POW (Co-operators)
90a	Ltr Spofford 383.6	17 Jul 44	ACC	App a - Ref Slip LDD A/CC 383.6 8 Jul with 3 Incls
91	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	18 Jul 44	AFHQ C of S	Complaints of Unjust Treatment of Italian POW
92	Cbl ACC 739	20 Jul 44	AFHQ & AAI	Italians status POW in Sicily in Units & POW Camps on parole
92a	**Cbl ACC 739**	**20 Jul 44**	**AFHQ & AAI**	
93	Ltr Campbell ASC/1/1/209	21 Jul 44	AFHQ	Matter forwarded re Maj Castellano POW in India
93a	**Ltr Gazzera 543**	**20 Jul 44**	**ACC**	Incl 1 - Ltr Gazzera 1383 12 Jul
94	Ltr Campbell ASC/1/12/9	23 Jul 44	AFHQ	Situation of POW in British hands
				Incl 1 - Ltr Gazzera 530 16 Jul
95	Ltr Densmore A/CC 383.6	23 Jul 44	AFHQ C of S	Administrative Procedure Affecting Civilian Internees
96	1st Ind LDD A/CC 383.6	23 Jul 44	AAI	Forwarding for necessary action
96a	Ref Slip CC	26 Jul 44	War Mat Disp	Incl 1 - AFHQ 15 Jul to Chief Comm Italian Prisoners of War
97	**Cbl ACC 1072**	**28 Jul 44**	**AFHQ & AAI**	**No satisfactory scheme worked out with Ital Govt re release PW in labor units**
98	**Ltr Capt Stone**	**28 Jul 44**	**AFHQ G-5**	**Italian Prisoners War - Policy Appa - 558/14/2 22 Jul**

SECRET

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

LIST OF PAPERS

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

SECRET

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
68	Ltr MacFarlane CC/P/402	19 Jun 44	Gen Gazzera	Decisions re action to be taken on 388/POL/C.15 14 Jun
69	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	23 Jun 44	AFHQ G-5	Restitution personnel property to repatriated POWs INCLOSURES: 12 Incls listed on 2nd page ltr
70	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	26 Jun 44	Bonomi	Contents ltr 1890 23 Jun passed to AFHQ
71	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	26 Jun 44	C of S AFHQ	Ital PWs detained by Americans in Region of Biserta Incl 1 - Ltr Gazzera 404 17 Jun
72	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	26 Jun 44	C of S AFHQ	Ital Mil Per detailed as POW App a - Ltr Bonomi 1890 23 Jun FNBM
73	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	28 Jun 44	Gen Gazzera (Wherabouts	Shortages of items Army Store No. 304 POW Camp Egypt
73a	Ltr AFHQ 311.18 G5	28 Jun 44	ACC Ital PW)	App a - Ltr Gammell 25 Jun CC
74	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	1 Jul 44	AFHQ G-5	Killing of Italian POW by Guards
74a	Cbl ACC RPS 47 I	3 Jul 44	ACC FOR LUSH	Incl 1 - Ltr Bonomi 1903 27 Jun ACC
75	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	1 Jul 44	Bonomi	Ltr 1903 27 Jun referred to AFHQ for info
76	Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6	4 Jul 44	Col Valenzano	Location of Corporal Filippo Tocca
77	Ltr Densmore A/CC 383.6	4 Jul 44	AFHQ G-5	Documents missing from POW files at this HQs please supply copies
78	Cbl MMIA AQ1659	8 Jul 44	ACC 1110	~~Republicans & Fascist soldiers considered PW~~
79	Ref Slip A/CC383.6 Densmore	8 Jul 44	Pol Sect	Forwarding correspondence for remarks re Ital POW
79a	Ltr Campbell 1.3.60	6 Jul 44	AFHQ (Ital POW)	Incl 1 - Ltr AAI/3072/A(O) 4 Jul
79b	Ltr Campbell 1.3.61	6 Jul 44	High Comm (POW)	Incl 2 - Ltr AQ/11/1 29 Jun to AAI
79c	Cbl PETBASE 21215	6 Jul 44	AAI, MMIA, ACC	Incl 3 - Ltr AAI/3072/A(O) 25 Jun
80	Ltr AFHQ G-5 383.6-8 'Spofford'	7 Jul 44	HQ ACC A/CC	Killing of Ital POW by Guards with ltrs to 4 Adressees 6 Jul
81	~~Cbl FILPOT-A818~~	~~8 Jul 44~~	~~MMIA & ACC~~ 1110	~~Italians captured fighting with German Forces deemed fascists & segregated accordingly~~
82	Ltr AFHQ G-5 383.6	8 Jul 44	ACC 0127	No copies cables on POW wanted
83	Ltr Campbell ASC/1	10 Jul 44	AFHQ	Hospitalizat on Ital POW in India suffering fr Malaria Incl 1 - Ltr High Comm 1076/Mil/Eic 25 Jun same subject as above
83a	Ltr Gammell	10 Jul 44	ACC	Ital Mil personnel detailed POWs

SECRET

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN NORTH AFRICA

U.S. owned			35172
British owned (not including cooperators)			1331
French held			
French captured	20552		
U.S. owned	3718		
British owned (approx)	15000	total	39270
		total	75773

NND 785015
By NARA Date 3-6-11

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Files POW

FILES A

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SECRET

S.M. to Chief Commissioner (276)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

23 November 1944

SUBJECT: Status of Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394. (123)

1. Your letter of 27 October 1944 forwarding a translation of Premier Bonomi's letter of 8 October 1944, on the above subject, is at hand. (133)

2. It is requested that you will inform Premier Bonomi that the Supreme Allied Commander has learned with gratification of the report made by General Dapino of his visit to Prisoner of War units in ITALY, and of his satisfaction with the conditions which he found. It is requested that you will further indicate to Premier Bonomi the views of the Headquarters along the following lines: The objections raised to the maintenance of Italian Prisoners of War in ITALY in British or American custody at this time are fully appreciated. However, in order to make any change in their status as prisoners of war, it will be necessary to refer the matter to higher authority. Meanwhile, we should be glad to have any suggestions which the Italian Government may wish to advance as to the manner in which the prisoners presently held in this theatre, and which it may be necessary to return to ITALY, can be made available to service units under British and American control and under substantially similar conditions of service.

By command of General WILSON:

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

cc. WMD & IPW S/C
for action

(131)

See (136) APPENDIX

HEADQUARTERS 26 NOV 1944

SECRET

HQ AC APO 394
Received 27/11/44.
Log No 1286.

FILES

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Chief of Staff

16 November 1944

Ref. IPW/1/260

To : The President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government

128

I have been directed by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2986 dated 9 Nov. 1944.

for 9005/a

As stated in letter IPW/1/14/17 dated 12 November 1944, your suggestion that a conference be held to study the whole question of Italian Prisoners of War, has been forwarded to the Supreme Allied Commander.

Should the conference asked for be agreed to, all controversial matters in connection with Italian Prisoners of War can then be brought forward for consideration.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

C/S 9002/26/COS
dated 11 Nov 44 refers

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FILES A

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

T O P S E C R E T

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

PC (44) 32nd Meeting
15th November 1944

(179)

8. STATUS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

(Paper No. PC (44) 134)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a paper by G-5 arising out of Conclusion 4(b) of PC (44) 31st Meeting, recommending that the Italian Prime Minister be advised, in reply to his letter of 8 October 1944, that the Supreme Allied Commander would be glad to receive any suggestions which the Italian Government would care to make towards a solution of this problem and that he be further advised that the matter was being referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, together with a draft telegram to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

BRIGADIER GENERAL SPOFFORD SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION OF this matter be deferred until the views of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 (B), who had recently discussed this matter in LONDON and had only just returned, had been ascertained.

MR MACMILLAN thought it would be desirable to arrive at some formule whereby the stigma of prisoner-of-war status was removed for Italian personnel serving in ITALY. He appreciated, however, that this might raise the numbers in the Italian forces above the "ceiling" prescribed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. He pointed out, however, that this was a technical difficulty only since all types of Italian personnel, both those in the Italian forces and all types of prisoners of war, were being maintained by the Allies.

MAJOR GENERAL ROOKS pointed out that the Italian Government's wish to remove all personnel from diluted units into the Italian forces would be unacceptable since this could not be done without considerable prejudice to military operations.

MAJOR GENERAL LEWIS remarked that personnel in diluted units were better paid and fed than those in the Italian forces.

COMMODORE STONE reported that he had now received a letter from the Italian Prime Minister protesting against the move of U.S. controlled Italian prisoners of war to FRANCE. It would be remembered that Signor NONOMI had agreed to this orally and his letter was doubtless written in order to protect himself. A similar letter could also be expected regarding the U.S. controlled Italians now being transferred to ITALY.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Directed that the Prisoners of War Sub Committee set up under Conclusion 8(a) of PC (44) 9th Meeting take Paper No. PC (44) 134 under review in the light of Major General McLeod's discussions in LONDON and that they report further to him on the matter, including in their report proposals for releasing from prisoner-of-war status Italian personnel serving in ITALY.

(179a)

SECRET

* CC 914 NOV 16 1944 3254

A/Q

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

K-412

SECRET

COPY NO 41

PC (44) 134
13th November 1944

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

STATUS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Note by Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

1. The broad issue of the status of Italian prisoners of war is again presented in a letter from Premier Bonomi dated 8 October 1944, which was forwarded to this Headquars by Commodore Stone with a covering letter dated 27 October 1944. Premier Bonomi indicates that the present status of Italian prisoners of war is not satisfactory, and argues that these persons should be returned to Italian command. The Premier maintains strongly that the status of prisoners of war is, under the present circumstances, wholly inconsistent with United Nations declarations concerning the status of ITALY and Italians.

2. The Italian Government has repeatedly protested against the prisoner of war status of Italian nationals in view of the cobelligerent status of the Italian Government, and the matter has been before the Political Committee on several occasions. Marshal Badoglio protested against the continuance of prisoner of war status for Italians on 10 May 1944. On 23 June the protest was substantially repeated by Signor Bonomi. No steps have been taken to meet the grievances of the Italian Government in this regard.

3. It is arguable that the policy of the Combined Chiefs of Staff (set forth in FAN 359 of 5 May) to make use of Italian manpower in Allied hands without the consent of the Italian Government was never intended to apply to the use of Italian prisoners of war in SICILY or the Italian Mainland. Military considerations have so far prevailed over the political considerations involved and the Italian prisoners of war have been utilized in ITALY both in dilution of British units and in Italian PW (cooperator) units. At the present time Italian prisoners of war in U.S. custody are being moved into ITALY, where there have for some time been a substantial number of British "cooperator" units.

9172

4. The arguments of the Italian Government, which were more than merely plausible during the period of cobelligerency, are more telling at a time when full diplomatic representation has been accorded to the Italian Government and in the light of the policies towards ITALY announced during the past month.

5. The objection of the Italian Government was always most pressing with respect to the use of Italian nationals in ITALY and continues to be so. It may be added that the legal position of Italian prisoners of war in ITALY is anomalous and must inevitably remain so while they are in law prisoners of war. The Geneva Convention hardly envisaged that prisoners of war would be held in custody of one nation and used as service troops in ter-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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2172

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6. It is believed that any attempt at a solution of this problem cannot be entirely successful unless the American and British authorities work along closely similar lines, with only such detailed variations as may be required by local conditions.

Sec 1940

HEADQUARTERS 15 NOV 1944 G

17.....

(129)

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

K-412

7. It is therefore recommended that, in reply to Premier Bonomi's letter of 8 October 1944, he be advised that we would be glad to receive any suggestions the Italian Government would care to make towards a solution of this problem, and further advise him that the matter is being referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Draft letter and cable are annexed.

(intd) C.M.S.

NOTE: Shortage of time has prevented co-ordination of this paper, or of the draft letter and cable attached, with the U.S. Political Adviser and the British Resident Minister.

DISTRIBUTION	COPY NO
Supreme Allied Commander	1
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander	2
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean	3-4
Air Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean	5-11
COMNAVNAW	12-13
Chief of Staff	14
Chief Administrative Officer	15
Deputy Chief of Staff	16
U.S. Political Adviser	17-19
British Resident Minister	20-23
Director, PWB	24
Secretary, General Staff	25
G-1 (A)	26
G-1 (B)	27
G-2	28-29
G-3	30-31
G-3 Special Operations	32
G-4 (A)	33
G-4 (B)	34
G-5	35-36
Secretary, IS & PS	37-39
Chief, Liaison Section	40
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission	41
Spares	42-46

9171

cc: Col. Campbell, WDD & IPOW &c
(Less draft letter & cable)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

NOTE: Shortage of time has prevented co-ordination of this paper, or of the draft letter and cable attached, with the U.S. Political Adviser and the British Resident Minister.

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Air Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean	5-11
COMNAVNAV	12-13
Chief of Staff	14
Chief Administrative Officer	15
Deputy Chief of Staff	16
U.S. Political Adviser	17-19
British Resident Minister	20-23
Director, PWB	24
Secretary, General Staff	25
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G-4 (B)	34
G-5	35-36
Secretary, IS & PS	37-39
Chief, Liaison Section	40
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission	41
Spares	42-46

9171

cc: Col Langhlin, WAAF & I Pers s/c
(Head of letter + cable)

(129)

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

DRAFT CABLE K-412

TO: Combined Chiefs of Staff

This is MAF_____

Status of Italian PWs is subject.

1. Premier Bonomi has requested consideration of the status of Italian prisoners of war. The Italian Government takes the position that maintenance in British and U.S. custody of Italian prisoners of war is inconsistent with United Nations declarations concerning ITALY and argues for a return of PW personnel to Italian Command.

2. The recent decision to move Italian PWs in US custody from AFRICA to ITALY in order to release U.S. Service troops for combat duties makes the problem more acute as the position of Italian PWs in ITALY is more anomalous than elsewhere.

3. Premier Bonomi has been advised that this Headquarters would be interested to learn of any concrete proposals the Italian Government may wish to make for making Italian PWs available to Allied forces under substantially similar conditions of service without reduction of manpower, efficiency or control. Premier Bonomi has also been advised that any change in the status of prisoners of war would require your authorisation. 2170

4. Instructions are requested respecting scope of negotiation upon receipt of Italian proposals.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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2170

4. Instructions are requested respecting scope of negotiation upon receipt of Italian proposals.

(129)

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

SECRET

DRAFT MEMORANDUM K-412

SUBJECT : Status of Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.

1. Your letter of 27 October 1944 forwarding a translation of Premier Bonomi's letter of 8 October 1944, on the above subject, is at hand.

2. It is requested that you will inform Premier Bonomi that the Supreme Allied Commander has learned with gratification of the report made by General Dapino of his visit to Prisoner of War units in ITALY, and of his satisfaction with the conditions which he found. It is requested that you will further indicate to Premier Bonomi the views of the Headquarters along the following lines : The objections raised to the maintenance of Italian Prisoners of War in ITALY in British or American custody at this time are fully appreciated. However, in order to make any change in their status as prisoners of war, it will be necessary to refer the matter to higher authority, and steps are now being taken to present the problem to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Meanwhile, we should be glad to have any suggestions which the Italian Government may wish to advance as to the manner in which the prisoners presently held in this theatre, and which it may be necessary to return to ITALY, can be made available to service units under British and American control and under substantially similar conditions of service.

By command of General WILSON:

2169

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

1. Your letter of 27 October 1944 forwarding a translation of Premier Bonomi's letter of 3 October 1944, on the above subject, is at hand.

2. It is requested that you will inform Premier Bonomi that the Supreme Allied Commander has learned with gratification of the report made by General Dapino of his visit to Prisoner of War units in ITALY, and of his satisfaction with the conditions which he found. It is requested that you will further indicate to Premier Bonomi the views of the Headquarters along the following lines : The objections raised to the maintenance of Italian Prisoners of War in ITALY in British or American custody at this time are fully appreciated. However, in order to make any change in their status as prisoners of war, it will be necessary to refer the matter to higher authority, and steps are now being taken to present the problem to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Meanwhile, we should be glad to have any suggestions which the Italian Government may wish to advance as to the manner in which the prisoners presently held in this theatre, and which it may be necessary to return to ITALY, can be made available to service units under British and American control and under substantially similar conditions of service.

By command of General WILSON:

2169

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

(129)

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers

Rome, 9 November 1944

2986

Dear Admiral,

I have noted carefully the points of your communication about the transfer to Italy in the near future of about 3000 Italian prisoners of war, in working units to be employed in the rear of the which are operating here.

This give me great satisfaction, for it means that an important number of Italian soldiers are coming home, and will be able to contribute actively to the common victory.

Nevertheless I deeply regret - as I have often pointed out - that these Italian soldiers too, will fight in their country, near their free fellow combattants, for the same military and political aims, maybe not far from their families, remaining prisoners of war, submitted to a discipline, an Authority, which though they are more than human, are not that of their own country. They would be far more efficient if they resumed their full military personality, and went back to the national army forces.

I hope that all the important problems connected with the Italian prisoners of war, which, to the great anxiety of the Italian nation, are still unsolved, will be resolved by the reunion of the representatives of the Governments, with resolutive powers, the need of which I already pointed out several times.

I shall be most grateful for your help in this matter, and I remain,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ I. Bonomi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission

Trans. M.C.

See 130

9168

128

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

A

Ref: 9002/26/COS

11 November 1944

SUBJECT: Transfer of Italian P.O.W.

TO : Director,
W.M.D. & I.P.O.W. Sub-Commission, A.C.

1. The enclosed original and translation of a letter No. 2986 dated 9 November 1944 from Prime Minister Bonomi to the Chief Commissioner is forwarded to you for your attention and any action which you may consider necessary.

Chief Staff Officer
To the Chief of Staff

Encls

Copy to: Major Queyle.

2157

128

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/21/20

5 November 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Killing of Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

Reference your letter No. 1903 dated 27 June 1944.

1/. The attached reports on the deaths of the under-mentioned Italian Prisoners of War are forwarded:

PW Sergeant DE FALCO, Antonio
PW Carabinieri BELLI, Angelo.

2/. It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of the President of the Council of Ministers.

3/. Information concerning other cases set out in your above-mentioned letter will be furnished on hand when received by this office.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WRD & IPW Sub. Comm.

1/Cc.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

C O P Y

22 July 1944

1. The report of a Board of Officers which conducted an investigation into the shooting and death of Italian Prisoner of War Sergeant Antonio De Falco, No. 8431, Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Clark, Missouri was filed in this office in August 1943. A thorough and exhaustive investigation was conducted; 17 witnesses were examined requiring four days time.

2. It was reported that the fences between compounds at Camp Clark, Missouri, were so constructed that prisoners of war were able to visit back and forth. There was ill feeling between some Italian prisoners of war in Compound #3 and those in #1 and #2. A camp order had been issued and communicated to all prisoners of war warning them not to crawl through partition fences nor to go into other then their own compound. Despite the order the practice continued. The situation became dangerous after some prisoners of war from compound #3 threatened to beat up some members in compounds #1 and #2 and to burn their barracks. The Commanding Officer in order to enforce his orders caused a machine gun placed so that the field of fire was parallel with the fence between compounds #2 and #3. He issued an order and caused it to be communicated to all prisoners of war that they should not approach nearer then ten feet to the partition fence or they would be fired upon.

3. Commissioned officers directed the placing of the gun, and by means of stakes put in the ground limited the traverse field of fire to ten feet along the fence. Officers tested the limited field of fire by using tracer bullets after the gun was so emplaced. Many prisoners of war watched from a short distance the emplacing and testing of the gun and all were informed of the purpose and intent to use the gun to enforce the order to stay back from the fence and refrain from going to other compounds.

4. About 8:50 p.m. 25 July 1943 Sergeant De Falco, one of the belligerent group, deliberately walked into the restricted zone, looking and moving toward the gun.

(176) / NCL

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5. The Camp Spokesman in filing complaint with the Protecting Power claimed that the prisoner was endeavoring to retrieve a ball and that he had given a signal to the guard indicating his purpose. However at the time of the shooting there were three Privates and a Sergeant at the gun and Major Montgomery was right behind it and Captain Healy was approaching the gun within forty feet of it. Therefore, six men observed the shooting and none of them observed the prisoner make any signal and none of them observed that he was endeavoring to retrieve a ball. He deliberately went directly toward the fence and was clearly within the limits of the zone where he had been instructed not to be. Pfc. John Govdyr, 36,618,027, 360 M.P.E.G. Co., posted as a guard and having been ordered to fire if any prisoner of war approached in the restricted zone, fired a burst of three shots at the prisoner who was hit and, although immediately taken to the hospital where he was given competent medical attention, he died at 6:20 a.m. 26 July 1943.

6. The stakes which limited the course of fire were checked after the shooting and it was found that they were in their original places and had not been moved.

For the Provost Marshal General:

(2nd) Incl

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

16 August 1944

1. The shooting of prisoners of war by guards can be justified only when necessary for the maintenance of security, and then only as a measure of last resort. While commanders must be allowed considerable latitude in exercising discretion in enforcement of disciplin, a rigid order to use machine-guns to enforce a "deadline" against prisoners of war cannot as a matter of international law be condoned in the absence of a showing that such an extreme measure was necessary. In this connection, attention is invited to the fact that such measures are now specifically prohibited in all cases by Prisoner of War Circular No. 4, War Department, 7 January 1944.

2. However, upon informal request by this office subsequent to receipt of the first indorsement, the PWBO (Capt. Fell Ext. 79629) made a further check on the files in this case, revealing further evidence of the purely temporary nature of the mentioned installation, and of the serious provocations leading up to the incident in question. This additional information reveals that De Falco was one of two ringleaders in a company of prisoners who had been trouble makers even before arriving in the United States. Violation of the "no trespass" order was merely part of a general disobedience campaign and effort of Fascists to dominate the other prisoners. Efforts had been made to enforce the order by having the fence patrolled by guards armed only with clubs, but the prisoners threw rocks at the guards, taunted and bullied them, and continued violating the order, their baiting being aided by the length of the fence and by vegetation affording concealment.

3. In view of the special facts of this case, it cannot be said that the Camp Clark commander failed to act with proper discretion. Although the measure was extreme, so were the circumstances which induced the measure. The deliberate and impudent character of the deceased prisoner's conduct in the incident causing his death further forecloses payment of any indemnity.

For the Judge Advocate General:

2163

(126) mcb

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

26 July 1944

1. A board of inquiry consisting of U.S. Army officers was appointed on 31 July 1943, to investigate the facts and incidents leading to the death of Italian Prisoner of War Angelo Belli, subject of the attached complaint. The following is a summary of the findings of the board.

a. The facts discovered and found by the Board sho that at about 0600 on 27 July 1943, the deceased, Angelo Belli, in company with two other prisoners of war, approached the fence of the enclosure in Prisoner of War Camp No. 100 North Africa at a point between Guard Tower 18 and 19 and were bartering with the guard in Tower No. 18 for cigarettes and soap. During this exchange of money for goods there was considerable movement of the prisoners and they went very near or actually to the fence which was posted with a sign written in Italian stating, "It is prohibited to pass this line. The one who passes is considered an attempt to escape and the guard will fire". The guard in Tower No. 19 from a position approximately 550 feet away, noting the prisoners near the fence ordered them to go back and endeavered to signal them by waving to get away from the fence, but the prisoners did not do this, whereupon the guard fired and instantly killed Angelo Belli.

b. The evidence further developed that at the time of the fatal shot the prisoners were engaged in conversation among themselves, dividing the cigarettes which they had secured from the other guard and it is entirely probable that they did not hear the orders of the guard or see him when he signaled them to retreat from the fence. There is no evidence that the prisoners were actually trying to escape; however, from a distance of 550 feet the guard could clearly see that they were at or against the fence which was a strict violation of instructions to the prisoners and all guards had also been instructed to keep the prisoners away from the wire fence.

c. After considering all the evidence the Board found that the deceased met his death as a result of his own misconduct and that the guard, even though he may have used bad judgement in shooting the deceased, his sole motive was the performance of his duty and he was acting in line of duty when he fired the fatal shot.

(120) INCL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

IPW/1/227

27 October 1944

My Dear Mr Prime Minister,

I have studied carefully your letter of 8 October 1944 on the subject of the status of Italian Prisoners of War.

As you know, the matter has been referred to higher authority on previous occasions, but for operational and other reasons a decision to alter or remove Italian Prisoners of War from Prisoner of War status could not be given.

I have again forwarded for consideration the case you have now presented to me regarding the status of Italian Prisoners of War working in Italy.

I shall, in due course, notify you of any decision which is taken.

Yours very truly,

Ellery W Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government, Rome.

Mr Rinks
Sir N C

Prepared by

Lieut.-Colonel,
WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

Copy to: Political Section.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

IPW/1/234

27 October 1944

Subject: Status of Italian Prisoners of War.

To : Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

(119a)

1. The attached translation of a letter received from the Italian Prime Minister is forwarded.

2. The subject matter of this letter has been referred to you on a number of occasions in the past.

3. I have to request that a ruling be given, and that I receive instructions that will put me in a position to answer the points raised by the Italian Prime Minister, and if possible, close this question.

See 124 See 131

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

21-0

Copy to:

G-5, Allied Force Headquarters.

Political Section, H.Q., A.C.C.

Prepared by

H. Rivkin
Sia NC

Lieut.-Colonel,
Director, WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

(123)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

IPW/1/220

23 October 1944

(121)

My Dear Ambassador,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18 October 1944 concerning the deaths of certain Italian Prisoners of War.

I shall convey the information as set forth to the President of the Council of Ministers.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

The Hon. Alexander Kirk,
United States Representative to
Advisory Council for Italy,
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119, ROME.

2449

(121)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

A/cc 670
19/10/44

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Rome, October 18, 1944.

20 per Rec'd

My dear Commodore:

I send you herewith a copy of a communication dated August 31, 1944 from the Acting Secretary of War enclosing a communication addressed by the President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Government to the Allied Control Commission concerning the deaths of certain Italian prisoners of war, one of whom, Sergeant Antonio DeFalco, was in United States custody. There are also enclosed copies of a report concerning Sergeant DeFalco's death prepared by the Office of the Provost Marshal General and of an opinion by the Judge Advocate General concerning the legal aspects of the case.

I should be grateful if you would bring the information set forth in the enclosed communications to the attention of the President of the Council of Ministers.

Sincerely yours,

A. Kirk

Alexander Kirk

Enclosures:
Copy of communication
dated August 31, 1944,
with enclosures.

Commodore Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.,

Acting Chief Commissioner,

Allied Control Commission.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

INFORMATION

'A' Files

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S.Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/9/32

15 October 1944

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Release of Italian Prisoners of War in SICILY.

1/. With reference to the release of 65,000 Italians in Sicily from Prisoner of War Status. It has now been decided that if you so desire you may publish this "A" fact.

2/. In order that there shall not be any misunderstanding regarding the general position of release of Prisoners of War the announcement should be made on the following lines:

"Some 65,000 Italian soldiers in SICILY who were never held in custody as Prisoners of War by the Allied forces, but who for many months past have been working on their own lands and farms without restriction under a parole given to their own officers, have received confirmation from the Allied authorities that they are not considered as Prisoners of War."

The announcement should be made through the official press channels.

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Copy to:
Chief of Staff (2)
Political Section
Public Relations

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Robert S. Meyer Gayle

A/CC 692
LC/10/44

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

LWS/el

From: Major L. W. STEARNS
Office of the Chief of Staff

FILE

SUBJECT: Reply to Prime Minister Bonomi's letter (8 Oct 44) on Italian Prisoners of War

FILE No.

TO: Acting Chief Commissioner

20 October 44 194

Copy of attached translation of Prime Minister Bonomi's letter has been forwarded to Italian Prisoners of War Subcommission for drafting of appropriate reply for the signature of the Acting Chief Commissioner.

L. W. STEARNS
Major, AGD
Office of the Chief of Staff

3 3 3 6 1

6126

119a

See 123

TRANSLATION

No. 2708. Rome, 8th October, 1944

17 OCT Recd

Dear Admiral,

General Dapino, secretary of the High Commissioner for P.W., has largely reported on his visit to the Italian P.W. Units attached to the British army in the areas of Bari, Eboli, Maddaloni, Caserta and Capua. I still appreciate the chances of control that he has been given and the regards that have been paid to him.

These prisoners are effectively treated in conformity with the prescriptions of the Geneva Convention and with a liberal construction of their very spirit. Although General Dapino have seen but nearly a thousand of these fellows, compared with the many thousands employed in Italy in the services with the Allied forces, I am pretty sure that the same treatment is done to all the other Italian P.W.

But this point has never worried the Italian Government, at least as far as its general proceeding is concerned, with reference to the Italian P.W. in American and British hands.

What mostly worries the Italian Government is the "status" of those compatriots of ours. This problem does not respond, as I have repeatedly proved, both juridically and politically, militarily and morally, with the new principles of relationship between Italy and the United Nations, while it is getting more and more serious by the gradual improving of these relationship, now that Italy is in a position to get a better chance of collaborating in the war and a greater independence of Government.. It is not enough, in order to cancel the consequences of this "status", that our prisoners do not wear visible signs of it, nor be they classified "collaborators", or get a daily pass and periodic leaves.

They must be essentially returned to the fulness of their military personality and, therefore, to their national armed forces where they belonged so that their discipline and action may be under control of military and civil laws and italian authorities.

This being in their own country, working with their free camrades for the same military and political exigences, sometimes in the atmosphere of their own land, and still remain at the mercy of the humiliating bond of being a P.W., under the empire of a discipline, a law and an authority that are not national, is for the P.W. almost as if they were bani

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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They must be essentially returned to the fulness of their military personality and, therefore, to their national armed forces where they belonged so that their discipline and action may be under control of military and civil laws and italian authorities.

This being in their own country, working with their free camrades for the same military and political exigences, sometimes in the atmosphere of their own land, and still remain at the mercy of the humiliating bond of being a P.W., under the empire of a discipline, a law and an authority that are not national, is for the P.W. almost as if they were banished from the national collectivity, as if they were outlaws,

119a

cc: Mr. Kirk
for Natl Archs

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

even in those cases where,either for deviation of sensibi= lity or for irregular valuation of their own interest,they do not feel it. It is, however, for the italian nation, a diminution of dignity and prestige deeply felt by.

And he who follows the italian public opinion knows how far the italian people are demanding how can a collaboration to the war of the allies with no limits of subjects or sacri fices take place, if these fondamental reasons of justice and humanity are not considered by the Allies themselves.

Nor have the Allied authorities to worry about loosing the effective collaboration of these units if the P.W. were returned to juridical and military freedom. I can affirm,in fact, that no difficulty would be risen by any italian autho rities neither for leaving these units at the allies'dispo= sal for the same employment, nor to replace them with other gregarious as fit as they are, if any of them should have to be sent home or, for any other reason, removed.

The free italian soldiers attending to similiar job with the Allied forces in Italy are, as it is known, seve= ral ten thousands.

Nor can I believe that the American or British public opinion might be hostile to such a decision.

It is true that American soldiers are fighting, in Ita ly, against some Italian still associated, for deviation of the national feeling, with the German armed forces; but it is either true that, at their side, other italian soldiers are offering, together with the Allies, their lives in the common struggle, while still other italians, in the rear of the common enemy, are facing the greatest dangers, with no rest, shrinking from no sacrifice, to releave the weight of the struggle and to hasten the success of the common cause.

If, both in America and in the United Kingdom, our pri soners' liberty might still be somewhere considered with di= sappointment by the population, for obvious reasons this di= sappointment can't exist (and would never rise) for any kind of liberty given to Italian P.W. in their own country.

Waiting, therefore, for this question to be faced and decided under a general criterium (as we hope it will be do= ne in a conference, here or eslewhere, between representati= ves with full powers), I think that for the duration it would be a very provident act of legality and justice that would prevent a lot of anxieties of the italian people and that would perfectly match with the allied Government's new

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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The free italian soldiers attending to similiar job with the Allied forces in Italy are, as it is known, several ten thousands.

Nor can I believe that the American or British public opinion might be hostile to such a decision.

It is true that American soldiers are fighting, in Italy, against some Italian still associated, for deviation of the national feeling, with the German armed forces; but it is either true that, at their side, other italian soldiers are offering, together with the Allies, their lives in the common struggle, while still other italians, in the rear of the common enemy, are facing the greatest dangers, with no rest, shrinking from no sacrifice, to releave the weight of the struggle and to hasten the success of the common cause.

If, both in America and in the United Kingdom, our prisoners' liberty might still be somewhere considered with disappointment by the population, for obvious reasons this disappointment can't exist (and would never rise) for any kind of liberty given to Italian P.W. in their own country.

Waiting, therefore, for this question to be faced and decided under a general criterium (as we hope it will be done in a conference, here or eslewhere, between representatives with full powers), I think that for the duration it would be a very provident act of legality and justice that would prevent a lot of anxieties of the italian people and that would perfectly match with the allied Government's new

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

orientations as far as Italy is concerned, to return to fulness of freedom all of those P.W. of ours, who are in Italy, their own country.

Recovered by the italian armed forces where they belonged, with no change in their work, they would feel much better, trough it, the interests of their nation; their fatigue would be vivified with a new fervour and the result would be certainly highly appreciated by the authorities under whose employment they are, in particu= lar for its profitable efficiency.

So I beg you, dear Admiral, to give another time your kind consideration and particularly your consent and support for the solution of this grave problem, as we see it.

Cordially

BONOMI

91663

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri

n.2708 Prot.Ris.Segret.Part.

Roma, 8 ottobre 1944

Caro Ammiraglio,

Il Segretario Generale dell'Alto Commissariato dei prigionieri di guerra, Generale Dapino, ha ampiamente riferito circa la visita effettuata ai reparti di prigionieri di guerra italiani che prestano servizio presso l'esercito britannico nelle zone di Bari, Eboli, Maddaloni, Caserta, Capua.

Ringrazio ancora per le possibilità di controllo che gli sono state consentite e per i riguardi che gli sono stati usati.

Il trattamento fatto a questi nostri prigionieri è conforme veramente alle prescrizioni della Convenzione di Ginevra ed anche ad una liberale interpretazione del loro spirito e, sebbene il Generale Dapino abbia potuto vedere soltanto un migliaio circa di questi nostri connazionali in confronto con le parecchie migliaia che sono impiegati in Italia in servizi presso le Forze Armate Alleate, sono convinto che analogo, soddisfacente trattamento sia fatto anche a tutti gli altri nostri prigionieri.

Ma la questione del trattamento non ha mai preoccupato il Governo Italiano per quanto concerne almeno il suo andamento generale e nei riguardi dei prigionieri di guerra italiani che sono in mani britanniche o americane.

Il problema che angustia le Autorità Italiane è quello dello status di questi nostri connazionali che non risponde più, come ho ripetutamente dimostrato, nè giuridicamente, nè politicamente, nè militarmente, nè moralmente alle mutate condizioni dei rapporti fra l'Italia e le Nazioni Alleate e che va aggravandosi a mano a mano che questi rapporti migliorano e che all'Italia viene offerta una maggiore possibilità di collaborazione nella guerra ed una maggiore indipendenza di Governo.

Ammiraglio Ellery W. STONE
Presidente della Commissione Alleata

R O M A

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri

Non basta, per togliere di mezzo questo status, che i nostri prigionieri non portino più visibilmente i segni di esso, nè che siano qualificati "cooperatori" e neanche che possano fruire giornalmente di libera uscita e periodicamente di licenze; bisogna essenzialmente che essi siano restituiti alla pienezza della loro personalità militare e quindi alle forze armate nazionali alle quali appartengono e che la loro disciplina, la loro azione siano regolate dalle leggi militari e civili e dalle Autorità Italiane.

Questo essere in Patria e lavorare dappresso ai propri compagni d'arme liberi per le medesime esigenze militari e politiche, magari nell'atmosfera della propria terra, e rimanere tuttavia alla mercè del vincolo umiliante della prigionia di guerra, sotto l'imperio di una disciplina, di una legge e di una autorità che non sono quelle nazionali, è un poco per i prigionieri di guerra come essere posti al bando della collettività nazionale, come essere messi fuori legge, anche se per deviazioni della sensibilità o per irregolare valutazione delle proprie convenienze, essi individualmente così non sentissero; ed è per lo Stato Italiano una diminuzione molto sentita della propria dignità, del proprio prestigio.

E chi segue l'andamento dell'opinione pubblica italiana sa quanto i cittadini italiani si chiedano come sia possibile far luogo ad una collaborazione senza limiti di oggetto e di sacrifici alla guerra degli Alleati se queste fondamentali ragioni di giustizia e di umanità non vengono tenute in conto dai Governi di questi.

Nè possono preoccuparsi le Autorità Alleate di rimanere prive della materiale collaborazione di questi reparti se i prigionieri di guerra fossero restituiti alla libertà giuridica e militare, perchè certamente nessuna difficoltà avrebbero le Autorità italiane di lasciarli a loro disposizione per il medesimo impiego come di sostituirli con altri gregari non meno idonei quando dovessero essere congedati o per qualsiasi altro motivo allontanati. I militari italiani liberi che attendono a compiti analoghi presso le Forze Armate Alleate in Italia, sono, come è noto, molte diecine di migliaia.

Così non credo che si pensi che possa una simile determinazione essere osteggiata dalla opinione pubblica americana o britannica.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri

E' vero che i soldati americani combattono in Italia anche contro italiani associatisi per deviazione del sentimento nazionale alle forze armate tedesche; ma è anche vero che al loro fianco altri soldati italiani offrono con essi la loro vita nella lotta comune mentre altri italiani a tergo del comune nemico affrontano con spirito di sacrificio che non conosce misura nè tregua i maggiori pericoli per alleviare a quelli il peso della lotta ed affrettare il successo delle armi comuni.

E se in America e nei territori britannici fosse per caso ancora considerata con disappunto dalle popolazioni la libertà dei nostri prigionieri, è ovvio che questo disappunto non avrebbe ragione di essere (e non sorgerebbe), per la libertà che fosse data in Italia ai prigionieri di guerra italiani, trasferiti nel loro paese.

In attesa perciò che questa questione dello status sia affrontata e decisa con criterio generale (come si spera che possa avvenire e presto mediante una conferenza, qui in Italia od altrove, tra rappresentanti muniti di poteri risolutivi in materia) penso sarebbe intanto atto di legalità e di giustizia veramente provvido che toglierebbe di mezzo molte ansie del pubblico italiano e bene si accompagnerebbe ai nuovi orientamenti politici dei Governi Alleati nei confronti dell'Italia, restituire questi nostri prigionieri di guerra che sono qui nel la loro Patria alla pienezza della libertà.

Ricuperati dalle forze armate di appartenenza essi, senza per nulla mutare il loro lavoro, meglio sentirebbero di servire attraverso di esso gli interessi della Patria e vivifiche rebbero indubbiamente la loro fatica di un fervore nuovo che non potrebbe, anche per la sua efficienza redditizia, non essere molto considerato dalle autorità che li impiegano.

Perciò La prego, caro Ammiraglio, di volere consentire ancora una volta a questo grave problema la Sua attenzione e sopratutto il Suo consenso e il Suo appoggio per la soluzione che si chiede.

Cordialmente

Ivanoe Bonomi

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Acc 515 6/10/44

IL PRESIDENTE
DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI

No. 2626-

Roma, 5 October 1944

Dear Admiral Stone:

Brigadier General Vincenzo Dapino and Lieutenant Vittorio Massa have just returned from a trip made to five PW Camps where the Italian prisoners work as co-operators with the Allied Forces.

I thank you sincerely for the assistance given to these Officers and for the courtesies they were shown.

As soon as General Dapino's report of the trip has been completed and examined we will discuss with you some of our observations on this trip. In the meantime I am very pleased to have confirmed something of which I had no doubt - that although our men have the status of prisoners of war, the men of the 5 companies we visited, receive the same treatment as the Allied soldiers receive, with whom they are working to help the war effort.

Accept, Admiral, my most sincere regards.

Prime Minister
BONOMI

2nd 110

Sec 1190

2159

5 Oct 119

740.00119 C.C./3-

A/cc 515 6/10/44

Roma, 5 ottobre 1944

Il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri

No. 2626-

Caro Ammiraglio Stone,

il Generale di brigata Vincenzo Dapino ed il tenente Vittorio Massa sono testè rientrati dal giro di visita ai 5 campi di prigionieri italiani che, quali lavoratori, cooperano in Italia con le Forze Alleate.

Ringrazio sentitamente per le facilitazioni accordate ai detti ufficiali e per le cortesie loro usate.

Appena sarà stato esaminato il rapporto del generale Dapino sulla visita compiuta, saranno eventualmente presentate alcune osservazioni. Per intanto mi è stato molto gradito apprendere - e non ne dubitavo - che prescindendo dal loro status di prigionieri di guerra, i componenti delle 5 compagnie visitate hanno un trattamento analogo a quello dei militari Alleati coi quali contribuiscono allo sforzo bellico.

Accolga, signor Ammiraglio, i miei distinti saluti. 2168

Ivanoe Bonomi

Al signor Ammiraglio
Ellery W. STONE
Presidente della Commissione Alleata di Controllo
Roma

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

del Consiglio dei Ministri

No. 2626-

Caro Ammiraglio Stone,

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Accolga, signor Ammiraglio, i miei distinti saluti. 21.8

Ivanoe Bonomi

Al signor Ammiraglio
Ellery W. STONE
Presidente della Commissione Alleata di Controllo
R o m a

(117)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

~~SECRET~~ RESTRICTED

A/cc 516 6/10/44

"A" File

In reply refer to:
IPW/1/17/1

5 October 1944

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War - General Policy.

To : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

1. The following information with regard to the payment of Italian Prisoners of War Units under the control of United States and British authorities is forwarded for your information.

2. All Italian PW's under the control of U.S. authorities, who have volunteered for and are employed in Italian Service Units are paid at the rate of 80 cents a day for each day of work (40 cents a day while hospitalized in line of duty), plus 10 cents a day gratuitous allowance to enlisted men. From this total there is deducted the amount of post exchange items issued. The resulting net monthly total is deposited to the individual's credit in the U.S. Treasury Trust Fund and entered on the individual's service record. Against this credit, a monthly cash advance is actually paid during the period of internment, on the following scale:

Major & above	2600 Lire
Captain	2400 Lire
1st Lieutenant	2200 Lire
2nd Lieutenant	2000 Lire
Sgt & NCO's above Sgt	900 Lire
Pfc and NCO's below Sgt	600 Lire
Pvt.	500 Lire

2157

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5 Cert

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OCT 1944

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

RESTRICTED

Upon the release or repatriation of a prisoner of war, a certificate is given him outlinging the total amount of credit due to him. This certificate reads as follows:

'This is to certify that _____
Surname First Name Rank ISN
is a prisoner of war in custody of the United States Government from _____ to _____
date of capture Date of release or closing of
_____ has a credit balance of $_____
account

Amount in figures for the period stated, which has been deposited to his account in United States Treasury "Trust Fund 21X916-Deposits, funds of civilian internees and prisoners of war", supported by approved payroll vouchers.'

In accordance with G.P.W., Art. 24, 28, 34, and 77, each liberated PW is thus furnished with the above certificate of credit. Actual deposits are being made in the United States Treasury Trust Fund. This Trust Fund cannot be expended for any other purpose than for which it was established. The credits and actual cash payments made as above are believed greater than corresponding ranks are paid in the Italian Army.

Since no wage scale has been fixed by agreement as noted in GPW, Art. 34, the wage scale of $.80 daily for voluntary labor, (for supervisory labor by officers only), is considered a fair wage, compared to the wages of the Italian Army and the ratio of pay of civilian employees on the same or similar projects.

In accordance with G.P.W., Art. 23, and in addition to the pay scale outlined above, officers are paid the same amount as the Italian Government would pay them as officers in the Italian Army. All payments made on these conditions must be reimbursed at the end of hostilities by the Italian Government. Accordingly the accounts of Italian officers are credited in addition, as follows:

Major and above	$40.00 per month
Captains	$30.00 per month
Lieutenants	$20.00 per month

Credits given to Italian PW's as wages for work are not reimbursable by the Italian Government and are not considered in the same light as "pay" as construed in this article. The monthly allowance of $3.00 (10¢ per day) to each enlisted man is gratuitous and is, therefore, not reimbursable by the Italian Government.

(118)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

RESTRICTED

3. The conditions of employment of PW's under the control of the U.S. authorities who have volunteered for and are employed in Italian Service Units are equal in all respects to the conditions of employment of American Service Troops. Italian PW's work six days a week, not more than 10 hours a day, on the same projects as our service troops, and their conditions of living are also exactly the same. Where facilities in the area are available, pyramidal tents and improvised cots are given to the Italian Service Unit personnel. A modified United States ration, more palatable to Italians (increased ration of starches), is furnished. Even with the shortage of critical items for recreation and athletics, is has been possible to issue sizeable quantities to Italian Service Units. Wherever possible and practicable passes have been issued.

4. Italian PW's under the control of the British authorities are paid as follows:

Credit Accounts are maintained for all PW's who receive the privilege of drawing a proportion of these credits in cash. There are facilities for the remittance of sums from credits to their dependants.

The following are the rates of pay in force for Combatant PW's

COMBATANT OFFICERS

RANK	Monthly rate of pay to be credited			Maximum amount which may be expended from pay or issued in cash for any one month.	
(1)	(2)			(3)	
	L	S.	d.	EQUIVALENT Francs	Lire
Colonel	22	4	6	1,450	2,900
Lt. Colonel	19	8	11	1,350	2,700
Major	18	1	2	1,300	2,600
Captain	15	5	7	1,200	2,400
Lieutenant	13	3	11	1.100	2,200
2nd Lieut.	10	8	4	1.000	2,000

OTHER RANKS (Weekly)

RANK	According to skill and proficiency		Proportion allowed in cash. EQUIVALENT
Warrant Officers	14/-	12/6	250 Lire
NCO's Sjt & above	12/- to 13/6	11/3	225 "
NCO's below rank of Sjt.	10/6 to 9/-	8/9	175 "
Privates	10/- to 7/6	7/6	150 "

Rates of pay for protected officers are somewhat higher.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

On release each PW is given a certificate of credit outstanding to his account. Under a War Office Instruction the payment of these credit balances will be the responsibility of the Italian Government. The Italian Government has agreed to immediate payment of some or all of these credits to dependents nominated by co-operators themselves (instead of to PW on release) and many have already taken advantage of this scheme.

5. Where Italian PW's are held by the British authorities their treatment is similar to that afforded British Troops, as far as possible, and in no case do working hours exceed those of British Troops. They are clothed in British uniforms and fed on a special ration scale. (The scale of the latter is not quite the same as the British Army Field Service Ration Scale, but compares more than favourably with that of the Italian Army). A free issue of cigarettes is included. Passes are granted permitting co-operators to leave quarters unescorted for recreational purposes, but in NORTH AFRICA this is subject to the concurrence of the Local French Authorities. All co-operators on Italian soil are allowed up to one sleeping pass out per week, and in addition leave periods up to seven days are granted (on full pay and rations) during which men are allowed to go to their home addresses in Allied occupied ITALY. Facilities exist for recreation and for them to purchase Canteen supplies, e.g. chocolate, cigarettes, etc., in the same manner as for British Troops.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Prepared by
Lt. Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

2154

(15) Copy to A/C.C.

Despatched 6/10/44.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

A/cc 491
6/10/44

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S.Army
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

WMD/11/15

3 October 1944

4 OCT Recd

To: Colonel Ralph Wilthamuth,
Provost Marshal, ORAN.

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War.

The attached translation of a letter received from Marshal Messe, Italian Chief of Staff, is forwarded.

The expression of appreciation by Marshal Messe of the treatment of Italian Prisoners of War is received by me with pleasure, and is helpful in the handling of this sometimes difficult and delicate question "the status of Italian Prisoners of War".

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Director WMD & IPW Sub. Comm.

Encl.
Ltr. fr Marshal Messe.

(117) Ck copy & blue to Staff. ✓
HQ A.C.C.
3 Oct

FILE
File 4P

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

A/cc 49
6/10/44

TRANSLATION

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

P.M. 151, 1 October 1944

15420/Op.

Dear Captain Stone,

I recently had news from Colonel Bruno, detached from the General Staff to the C.B.S. - Italian Service Unites in Oran, about the contingent of Italian prisoners of war who will be employed in the auxiliary units with the 7th American Army.

I learnt with great pleasure that these troops are very well treated from every point of view (especially those of the region of Oran).

I shall be very grateful if you will kindly thank for me the American officer in charge of the Oran organization, Provost Marshal, Colonel RALPH ALTHAMUTH.

I hope that the question of the prisoner 'status' of the Italian personnel will soon be solved; meanwhile I am very glad of the good news which I mentioned to you, and which I wanted you to know well knowing your kind interest for tasse Italians.

THE MARSHAL OF ITALY
CHIEF OF STAFF
(Giovanni Messe)

/s/ G. Messe

Captain Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner of the
Allied Control Commission
R O M E

3245

(117) a Trans. EC.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

EWS/lmn

Dear Marshal Messe,

I thank you for your letter of 1 October regarding Italian Prisoners of War who will be employed in auxiliary units with the 7th American Army.

I am pleased to know that you are satisfied with the treatment of these Prisoners of War, and will have pleasure in forwarding your message of thanks to Colonel Ralph Wilthamuth.

Very truly yours,

ELLERY W. STONE
Capt, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Marshal Messe,
Chief of Italian General Staff,
Stato Maggiore Generale.

2151

Copy to Chief of Staff, ✓
HQ A.C.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ENC.

AFHQ/CC 383.6-1

2 October 1944

SUBJECT: Greek and Yugoslav ex-Prisoners of War and Internees

TO : G-5, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

1. The Yugoslav and Greek representatives to the Advisory Council have raised with the Allied Control Commission the desirability of investigating the manner in which the Italian authorities treated their nationals who were prisoners of war or were interned in Italy after Italy had gone to war with them. In the case of the Yugoslavs this is a particularly serious question which they believe affects some eighty to ninety thousand Yugoslav nationals or more. They have accordingly set up a special section of the Yugoslav Delegation to the Advisory Council to see what can be done about collecting evidence and they have asked the Allied Control Commission whether representatives from this section can be given facilities to interrogate not only the Yugoslav displaced persons themselves, but also to inspect the different concentration camps, prisons and jails that were used by the Italians and to investigate the Italian authorities concerned, i.e., ministries, questores, prefetti, Chiefs of police, etc. The object of the investigation would be:

a. To obtain and check information about individuals.

b. To obtain evidence which may later be useful for any trials which may take place to deal with war criminals.

c. To obtain evidence in cases where compensation may later be claimed for maltreatment.

2. While this Commission naturally sympathises with the attitude of the Yugoslav and Greek representatives, it appears essential:

a. That any investigation made should be made on behalf of the nationals of all United Nations, and not merely for the Yugoslavs and Greeks alone, although the latter may be the nations principally affected, and

b. That such investigations should be conducted under the control of Allied officers as otherwise such investigations may tend to become too inquisitional.

383.6-1 (2) 1944 2150

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

In principle, and at the proper time, it would seem desirable therefore to set up some Commission to make the proper investigations on behalf of all nationals of the United Nations in collaboration with the present Italian Government.

3. This Commission is, however, of the opinion that the present is not the proper time for making such investigation. In the first place, it would seem that such a Commission would have to be coordinated with the work of the Allied War Crimes Commission sitting in London. Secondly, this Headquarters has no officers who could be spared to undertake this important work. Thirdly, it is the opinion of this Headquarters that an investigation of the type envisaged by the Greek and Yugoslav authorities would be both prolonged and detailed, calling for the examination of witnesses, the production of records and reports and so on, and such investigation might in some localities seriously disrupt the work of the Italian administration: this cannot be tolerated while hostilities are proceeding on Italian soil. In this connection it must be remembered that in most areas of liberated Italy the civil administration is understaffed, and in the course of the next few weeks this situation will get worse rather than better as epuration proceeds and personnel are drawn from southern regions in preparation for duty in the more heavily populated centres in the north.

4. This matter is accordingly submitted for the decision of SACMED with the recommendation that this Commission should reply to the Greek and Yugoslav representatives that while the Allies are sympathetic to their requests, the matter cannot be considered while hostilities continue on Italian soil.

5. If contrary to the recommendation of this Commission SACMED directs that an investigation should be made forthwith, may such investigation please be organised and staffed by AFHQ since this Commission as stated above has not sufficient officers for the operation.

2149

ELBERT H. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

A.428

Hq ACC Sec Gen
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 3 OCT 1944
Via A.G. 0950
Initials EH.

FILES

(117)

cc: C of S
~~Admin~~ EA Sec.
Pol. Sec.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HQ ACC. APO 394
457 Sec' X Gen.
Rec'd 1 Oct 1944
By

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

30 Sep 44

11/13/45

SUBJECT : Greek and Yugoslav ex Prisoners of War and Internees.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

I submit herewith the draft of a letter on the request to be permitted to enquire into the treatment of prisoners of war which I recommend should, if you approve, be despatched to AFHQ.

approved by Political Section + Executive Committee. The draft has been

G.K. Urquhart, Brigadier,
for V I Admin Section

Ext. 469
SHW/mt

(117)

21 / 1892

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HC
125

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:- GREEK AND YUGOSLAV EX PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES

TO:- (1) Political Sub-Commission

(2) Executive Commissioner.

1

Reference attached document.

I enclose draft for your comments for submission to the Acting Chief Commissioner.

Jagree
My alterations are purely drafting & pencil
DR/26/9.

G.R. UPJOHN. Brigadier.
V.P. Admin. Section.

25.9.44.

I should add: "If for reasons of our relations with our Allies it is considered not possible to further off in this manner, we trust that any investigation that is authorized should be organised by A.F.H.Q., since this Commission, as stated above, has not got sufficient in the theatre officers who could be spared for it. (1678)

(117)

JTAC 26/9.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

AFHQ

HQ ACC

S-349

2 OCT

SECRET
PRIORITY
ACTING CHIEF COMM.

Q-53886,624

SECRET PD YOUR LETTER GEORGE FIVE THREE EIGHT THREE POINT SIX OF TWO FOUR SEPTEMBER CMA SUBJECT CLN ITALIAN POW PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE FIVE FROM HQ ACC FROM STONE PERSONAL PAREN ALTHOUGH YOUR LETTER IS CLASSIFIED SECRET PLEASE CONFIRM THAT ITS CONTENTS MAY BE COMMUNICATED TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

AUTHENTICATED:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

2146

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 2 - OCT 1944
Via Signals 1630
CM
Initials

(116)

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

EWB/1mm

30 September 1944

A/CC 383.6

SUBJECT: Apprehension of escaped Italian Ps.W.(Co-operators)

TO : Chief of Staff,
Allied Force Headquarters

The attached translation of letter No.6973/M/I/C/2/B dated 22 September 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

1. The case referred to brings up the question of what is the policy with regard to Italian Prisoners of War from co-operator units who proceed on leave, or absent themselves from the unit to which they are attached and do not return.

2. It is pointed out that the question of the Italian Government handing over, or helping in any way in the arrest of an Italian Prisoner of War who has absented himself and who claims he has escaped, opens up all sorts of political questions, and of course leaves the Italian Government open to attacks in the Press and elsewhere.

3. The question of the import into Italy of considerable numbers of Italian Prisoners of War was referred to this Headquarters by Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy in their letter No. AAI/3072/A(O) dated 4 July 1944, to which I replied by letters AGC/1/101 dated 16 July 1944 and A/CC 383.6 dated 18 July 1944 - (copies of correspondence attached.)

4. Since writing the letters above referred to, I have received no instructions which set out the policy to be adopted, or any information which I could pass to the Italian Government showing the action contemplated with regard to the reclaiming of Italian Prisoners of War who absented themselves or refused to return to the units with which they had been working.

5. A clear statement or directive on this question is requested.

115

FILES A B

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Drafted by WMD&IPW Sub-Com.

DISPATCHED 30 SEP 44 BY:

C O P Y

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW — 22 September 1944

FILE NO. 6973/M/I/C/2/B — TO: A.C.C. R O M E.

SUBJECT: 2nd Lt. Roberto CARDANO.

2nd Lt. Roberto CARDANO, Italian Officer and PW, was assigned to a group of Italian PW workers, which travelled through Naples in July or in the first days of August 1944. The above was given permission to visit his family, and, after leaving his unit, escaped and did not return to it.

A few days later the unit embarked.

The Allied Police, having been entrusted with this case, arrested CARDANO and handed him over to the Military Command of Campania, which released him and intends to clarify his situation and to assign him to one of its units.

The A.C.C. know, that the provisions of the Geneva Convention recognize not only the right of the PW to escape for the purpose of joining his own national armed forces, but also assert that he is not to be called to task after a successful escape and after having already joined the above mentioned forces. This means that, because of his reentrance into the ranks, the PW ceases immediately to be considered as such and, therefore, is no longer subjected to the authority of the Detaining Power nor is he any longer limited in his actions by the provisions of the Geneva Convention; he also can neither be considered still under the rule of the first, nor dependent upon the second, provided that he has not been captured again in battle.

It seems, therefore, to the Italian Authorities, that 2nd Lt. CARDANO, having returned to the jurisdiction of Italian Authorities (Military Command of Campania), which has disposed of his case as it has seen fit, could not be arrested again by the Allied Police, which has consigned him to these Authorities. Because of this very fact, 2nd Lt. CARDANO ceased to be a PW and, therefore, could not become such again as a result of his second arrest.

I beg to point out the fact that the second arrest of the above and his transfer to an internment camp, so that he may be sent to Algeria, is certainly prejudicial from a moral and material standpoint.

The Italian Authorities, therefore, will be grateful to the A.C.C. if it will kindly investigate to which internment camp Lt. CARDANO has been sent. If possible, an order may be given that he be released and put at the disposal of the Military Command of Campania even though infortunately he be sent to Algeria.

The High Commissioner

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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The High Commissioner
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

A/CC 383.6 EWS/hjp

18 July 1944

SUBJECT: Apprehension of escaped Italian POW (Co-operators)

TO : Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy.

1/. This in reply to your letter of 4 July, AAI/3072/A (o) on the above subject.

2/. This subject and the copies of letters forwarded with your letter were discussed with the Supreme Allied Commander at AFHQ Adv on July 11th.

3/. I recommended that the 10,000 POW should not be sent to Italy because of the grave political questions which ti would raise. The subject was discussed on July 12th by the Supreme Allied Commander and the Head of MMIA.

4/. It is my understanding that as a result of these discussions it is not now planned to bring these 10,000 POW to Italy.

KELLER W STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

ASC/1/101
15 July 1944

TO: Allied Armies in Italy.

SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW (Co-operators)

Reference your AAI/3072/A(O) of 4 July 1944.

1/. It is understood that when this question was discussed with General Sir Maitland Wilson and Captain STONE a few days ago, it was decided that new instructions would be issued in regard to this matter.

2/. No action will now be taken until further instructions are received.

For the Chief Commissioner:

(Sgd) J.A.CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Army Sub-Commission

2142

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

SECRET

SUBJECT:- Apprehension of Escaped Italian POW (Co-operators).

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/3072/A(O).

4 July 44

HQ. A.C.C.

1. Copy of this HQ letter of even number dated 25 Jun 44, addressed to Army Sub-Commission ACC, is forwarded, together with a copy of General Browning's reply.

2. Will you please consider the question and approach the Italian Government in accordance with para 6 of the first quoted letter.

XXXXXXXXXX
Col.
for Brigadier,
D.A.G.

2441.

TW/IY.

COPY

SECRET

SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW (Co-operators).

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main Hq (MMIA)
LEQUILE (LECCE)
AQ/11/1.
23 June 44.

H.Q. AAI

Your AAI/3072/A(O) dated 25 June -

1. I agree in general with your letter as above.

2. The position of P of W is anomalous and no solution has been come to by the Allied Government, I understand that the Italian Government will NOT "play" and so no "fomula" is likely to be produced. But this is a matter for ACC do advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

3. The following are some ideas on this subject:-

(a) P of W have for long past been used for work for the Allies in organized units with better privileges than the ordinary Italian soldier. They are thus unlikely to desert permanently.

(b) We need this manpower, particulary if the Italian Army ceiling is reduced to 447,300 as proposed by AFHQ.

(c) Therefore we must take these 10,000 P of W and do the best we can with them. If they slip off to see their families and do not come back under a fortnight, we tell CC.RR. If they come back we say and do nothing.

If CC.RR. picks them up, those of non-military age are demobilised, those of military age are enrolled in the Army - without punishment for deserting, except to demand back their P of W uniforms, We must hope they will not desert, but if they do, we can do nothing about it, except as above.

(d) We must treat them as they have been treated in NORTH AFRICA, but try and keep them separate from other Italian troops.

(e) Presumably they would only be used for labour and not (armed) Guard duties.

4. The above are only my personal ideas. I think it is really a political matter which should be advised [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Your AAI/3072/A(G) dated 25 June -

1. I agree in general with your letter as above.

2. The position of P of W is anomalous and no solution has been come to by the Allied Government, I understand that the Italian Government will NOT "play" and so no "formula" is likely to be produced. But this is a matter for ACC do advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

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(d) We must treat them as they have been treated in NORTH AFRICA, but try and keep them separate from other Italian troops.

(e) Presumably they would only be used for labour and not (armed) Guard duties.

4. The above are only my personal ideas. I think it is really a political matter which should be advised on by A.C.C. I know General MAC FARLANE made many efforts to achieve a solution which failed due to factors outside his control.

(Sgd) L. BROWNING
Major General
Army Sub Comm. A.C.C.

tvs.LB

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

C O P Y

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped Italian P.W. (Co-operators)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
CMF
25 Jun 44
AAI/8072/A(O)

Army Sub-Commission,
ACC.

Reference AG 383.6 dated 30 May 44 from CG PBS.

1. AFHQ intend shortly to import into ITALY 10,000 Italian PW who can play a vital part in the maintenance of this Force. As carefully organized and equipped units they are of far greater value to us than equivalent units of the Italian Army. On this basis, our policy must be to keep these PW units intact.

2. When the 10,000 PW are imported there will be a natural tendency for personnel to desert un order to visit their families and for other reasons. The only deterrent which the system of the PBS applies is the fact that on apprehension the absconder rejoins the Italian Army with its lower standard of living. This penalty is not sufficiently hard to prevent desertion.

3. Presumably deserters within the demobilization categories would not be returned to the Italian Army and would be demobilized on apprehension.

4. In view of the forogoing, the arrangements in force as described in PBS letter quoted above are not acceptable.

5. The status of Italian PW employed in formed units by the Allied Forces is now officially described as "Co-operator". They are employed in the same manner as other units of the Italian Army and, therefore, cannot be regarded in a true sense as PW. That being so, the argument by CG Italian Forces in Campania that the international military code obliges an officer to assist in the escape of PW of his own nationality must be interpreted in a broader sense in view of the abnormal state of affairs in ITALY and the employment of these units in conjunction with the Italian Army as stated above.

6. It is considered that the matter should be taken up with the Italian Government, in order that they may produce a formula by which the scruples of their officers are satisfied and the deserters returned to the units in which they are employed, as it is only by the co-operation of the Police, Military Authorities and Carabinieri that deserts can be apprehended.

...let us have your views.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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7. Will you please consider the matter and let us have your views.

(Sgd) T.Walch.Col.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

TW/JD
Copy to G(SD)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

JAQ/ajp

A/CC 383.6-1

14 September 1944

Subject: Killing of Italian POW by Guard

To : Lt. Col. J. A. Campbell,
Director WED & IPOW Sub-Commission

1. Copy of G-5: 383.6-8 letter from AFHQ, dated 10 September, and enclosure are attached for your information.

2. Please put up for the Acting Chief Commissioner's signature appropriate reply to H. E. Bonomi's letter No. 1903 di prot, dated 27 June 44. Your draft should have the concurrance of the Political Section and the Legal Sub-Commission.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Chief Staff Officer

2 Incls:
as in para 1 above.
Plus Ltr No. 1903 di prot, fr Bonomi.

(74) A-21

2128

383.6-1

FILES (A)

SN 208

Hq A.C.C. - Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date - Time 15 Sept 1600
Via Smagh
Initials DKR

(114)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SEC. GEN.

8465

A/CC

A 281

19 SEP 1944

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CW/AHB/iacc

G-5: 383.6-3

10 September 1944

HQ A.C.S. APO 394
171
13 Sept 1020
DKR

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoner of War by Guard.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394

(74)

1. On 7 Jul 1944, you requested information on the above subject, which we are endeavouring to obtain for you. (Your file No. A/CC 383.6)

2. Information has been received respecting P.W. Angelo Baldi, number 21 on the Italian Government's list. Copy of information furnished by G-1 AGS is forwarded to you herewith.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

Charles Fairman

CHARLES FAIRMAN,
Lt. Colonel, JAGD,
Legal Advisor.

Incl: as above.

9127

(114) INCL 1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

File No AG 201-P-Carab, Angelo Belli (Italian PW).

SUBJECT: Killing Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

2.	G-1 SOS	G-1 NATO	26 July 1944	1. A board of inquiry consisting of U.S.Army officers was appointed on 31 July 1943, to investigate the facts and incidents leading to the death of Italian Prisoner of War Angelo Belli, subject of the attached complaint. The following is a summary of the findings of the board.

a. The facts discovered and found by the Board show that at about 0600 on 27 July 1943, the deceased, Angelo Belli, in company with two other prisoners of war, approached the fence of the enclosure in Prisoner of War Camp No. 100 North Africa at a point between Guard Tower 12 and 19 and were bartering with the guard in Tower No. 18 for cigarettes and soap. During this exchange of money for goods there was considerable movement of the prisoners and they went very near or actually to the fence which was posted with a sign written in Italian stating: "It is prohibited to pass this line. The one who passes is considered an attempt to escape and the guard will fire". The guard in Tower No. 19 from a position approximately 550 feet away, noting the prisoners near the fence ordered them to go back and endeavered to signal them by waving to get away from the fence, but the prisoners did not do this, whereupon the guard fired and instantly killed Angelo Belli.

b. The evidence further developed that at the time of the fatal shot the prioners were engaged in conversation among themselves, dividing the cigarettes which they had secured from the other guard and it is entirely probable that they did not hear the orders of the guard or see him when he signaled them to retreat from the fence. There is no evidence that the prisoners were actually trying to escape; however, from a distance of 550 feet the guard could clearly see that they were at or against the fence which was a strict violation of instructions to the prisoners and all guards had also been instructed to keep the prisoners away from the wire fence.

c. After considering all the evidence the Board found that the deceased met his death as a result of his own misconduct and that the guard, even though he may have used bad judgement in shooting the deceased, his sole motive was the performance of his duty and he was acting in line of duty when he fired the fatal shot.

/s/ R. F? ALBERT,
/t/ R. F. ALBERT,
Colonel, GSC,
A.C.of S,G-1.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner

Release of Prisoner of War

MMD & POW Sub-Commission, Hq ACC 13 September 4

The attached letter reference the release of Lt. Busacca, Giuseppe is forwarded to you for necessary action and direct reply to writer of basic letter.

F.J.S.
FRANCIS J. SLOGHTER
Captain, A.G.D.

383.201

Hq ACC - Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date - Time 14 SEP 1944
via Msgr 1450
Initials mgb

383.6-1

FILES (A) B

(113)

21 Sep

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO. 394

(Public Safety Division)

FILE No: RPS/383.6. DATE September 8th, 1944

SUBJECT: Release of Prisoner of War,-
Lt. BuSACCA giuseppe

TO: Provost Marshal General, NATOUSA
THRU Secretary General A.C.C.Headquarters.

Reference your letter of 22nd August 1944 (383.6 SSPMG.)

1. The application for release of above named, previously sent you by H.Q. 56 Area, is now recommended by A.C.C.

2. Will you please inform us if repatration can be arranged.

(s) ? ?

for M. CARR
Brigadier
Regional Commissioner

2197

(13) Incl

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ZAC/Items

N/OC 383.6

8 September 1944

(109)

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In acknowledging your letter N.10010 of 2 September 1944 let me add that I have forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters the names of those officers you selected.

The visit to Allied Force Headquarters and those localities where Prisoners of War are stationed in Italy should take place very shortly.

As soon as this Headquarters receives the itinerary from Allied Force Headquarters, General Dapino Vincenzo and Lieutenant Massa Vittorio will be notified.

Yours very truly,

KILLEY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

(112)

Prepared by J.A. Campbell
Lieut.-Colonel,
WMD & IPW Sub-Commission.

2144

FILES

S-J-125

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 9 Sept 1130
VIA 7th.
Init. S DRR.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

KMS/hjp

5 September 1944

A/CC 383.6-1

SUBJECT: Release of Italian Prisoners of War in Sicily

TO : Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy

1. Reference your letter AAI/3074/21/A(C) dated 16 August 1944.

2. The Italian Government have made strong representation to me for permission to announce to the public the fact that 65,000 Italian prisoners of war have been released in Sicily.

3. I am of opinion that the permission asked for should be granted, always with the proviso that it will in no way affect the co-operator prisoners of war now working in Sicily.

4. It is therefore suggested that permission be given to the Italian Government to publish the plain facts and your approval to the following statement being made public is requested:

"The Allies have formally released in Sicily 65,000 Italians from Prisoner of War status. These Italians have been working on their own land and farms for many months."

5. It is requested that an early decision be given so that the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War can be informed of our wishes in regard to this matter.

Harold R. Hobbs
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Communications Officer

Drafted by: Lt. Col. Campbell
WMD & IPOW S/C

FILES
Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
5 Sept 1800
HQ,
NAF

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

KJN/hd

Secretary General

109

SC 383.6

Visits to POW Camps

5 September 4

War Materials Disposal & Italian PW
Sub-Commission

The attached letter, No. 1001, from Prime Minister Bonomi, is referred to you for action. Letter referred to by Bonomi is our A/CC 383.6 dated 28 August 1944, of which you have already received a copy.

108

ROBERT E. DUN
Major, A.G.D.
Secretary General

1 Incl:
Bonomi's ltr 1001 of 2 Sept 44

(110)

3 Sept

Hq ACC | Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
4 Sept 1100
Time.
Date.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION

A 139
4 SEP 1944

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Rome, 2 September 1944

n. 1001

HQ ACC, APO 394
Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 3 Sept 1070
By ....

108

Dear Captain,

Thank you very much for the initiative that you had.

The visit of the places where the Italian Prisoners of war are employed in Italy, and that of their working and living conditions will help better to enlighten the Government about the importance of the questions related with the Prisoners of War which are now to be dealt with.

Brigadier General Dapino Vincenzo, Secretary General of the Alto Commissariato of Prisoners of war, and Lieutenant Massa Vittorio, interpreter, have been delegated for the visit.

The Sub-Commission in charge of the organisation of the visit will be able to communicate directly to these two officers the itinerary which will be settled and the modalities of the journey.

Sincerely Yours,

/s/ Ivanoe Bonomi

Captain U.S.N.R.
Ellery W. Stone
Acting Chief Commissioner
Allied Control Commission
R o m e

2130

FILES A B

104

Trans. E. C.

2 Sept

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

EW3/ajp

A/GC 383.6

28 August 1944

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am of opinion that until the status of Italian prisoners of war is decided it might be of interest to the Italian Government to send representatives to visit Allied Force Headquarters and localities where Italian prisoners of war are employed in Italy, so that you can inspect and see for yourself the conditions under which Italian prisoners of war are utilized.

In this connection, I extend to you an invitation to send such representatives as you wish to Allied Force Headquarters and the localities where prisoners of war are stationed in Italy.

On receipt of your reply, which if you accept should include the names of those you wish to send, an itinerary will be drawn up at Allied Force Headquarters which I shall forward to you in due course. It is anticipated that the visit should not last longer than four or five days.

Yours very truly,

2c 108 APP A

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

2129

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
The President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

108

FILES A-B

c.c. WMD & IPW Sub-Com.
General Taggera

Hq A C C · Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date Time 28 Aug 1700
hrs.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION JAC/mms
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

27 August 1944

A/CC 383.6

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am of opinion that until the Status of Italian Prisoners of War is decided it might be of interest to the Italian Government to send representatives to visit Allied Force Headquarters and localities where Italian Prisoners of War are employed so that you can inspect and see for yourself the conditions under which Italian Prisoners of War are utilized.

In this connection, I extend to you an invitation to send such representatives as you wish to Allied Force Headquarters and the localities where Prisoners of War are stationed.

On receipt of your reply, which if you accept should include the names of those you wish to send, an itinerary will be drawn up at Allied Force Headquarters which I shall forward to you in due course. It is anticipated that the visit should not last longer than four or five days.

Yours very truly,

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

2198

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
The President of Council of Ministers
Italian Government

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

SUBJECT: Employment of Italian PW in Italy.

A 6/6
30 AUG 1944

Allied Force Headquarters.
CR/3101/G1(Br).
17 Aug. 1944

98
APP A

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission (Army Sub-Commission).

1. Reference your letter of 28 July 44 enclosing memo 558/Pol/14/2 of 22 July 44 from the Italian High Commissioner and previous correspondence. It is felt that there is some misunderstanding regarding the employment of Italian PW in Italy.

2. In order that the Allied policy may be fully understood an invitation is extended through you to the appropriate Italian Military authorities to visit this Headquarters and localities where Italian PW are employed.

3. It is hoped that a representative from the Allied Control Commission will accompany the Italian authorities on their visit, the purpose of which is to enable all concerned to see forthemselves the conditions under which Italian PW are utilized under British Command in Italy.

4. On receipt of your reply, which should include the names of the visitors an itinerary will be drawn up and forwarded to you. It is anticipated that the visit should not last longer than four or five days.

5. For your information it is not at present intended to reopen negotiations with the Italian Government on the status of prisoners of war. The purpose of the invitation to the Italian representatives is simply to study and report to the Italian Government on the prevailing conditions of Italian prisoners of war employed in Italy.

M.W.M. MACLEOD, Brigadier,
A.D.A.G.(O).
for Major General
DAG, G.1(Br).

108
APP A

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

3537

ACTION CG ACC, CG AAI INFO: CG SOS NATOUSA, CG PBS, CG MAAF.

53/21

SECRET
ROUTINE
CITE NAGAP

SIGNED CG NATOUSA
FX 85761

AUG 211704B

106

RESPONSIVE TO YOUR 1896, 16 AUGUST. NOMINAL ROLLS OF PAROLED ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN SICILY NOT AVAILABLE. AMGOT IN SICILY RETAINED A COPY OF EACH PAROLE ISSUED WHICH CONTAINED DETAILED INFORMATION ON EACH PAROLEE. FOR PURPOSES REQUESTED IN YOUR CABLE DESIRE THAT AMG COPIES OF PAROLES BE DELIVERED TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN LIEU OF NOMINAL ROLLS PT DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ALL CONCERNED IS AUTHORISED. INCLUDE THIS HQ AS INFORMATION ADDRESSEE ON INTERCHANGE OF ACTIONS.

ACC Dist
Action: W.M.A. & I. Adv (2)
Inf: A/cc
File
Float

(107a)

SECRET

21 Aug.

AUG 212355B

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

3274

[redacted] ACC

AAI

A119

AUG 27/1944

109/17

[redacted] SECRET

EXCHANGE

ATTN: [redacted]

A 2266
22 AUG 1944

REFERENCE YOUR FX 83119 OF 7. STATE IF INTENDED TO RELEASE FROM PW STATUS CARABINIERI AND FINANCE GUARDS ON ARRIVAL THIS COUNTRY

Ref

(Inf) (Info) copy of this to
USFET
Security
Admin Sec
File
First Indorsement

383.6 POW Germany
X-014.13

(107)

SECRET

AUGUST 13/0815

File A 1274

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

A 2245
21 AUG 1944

CG NATOUSA

SECRET
PRIORITY

W.M.D. & IPW SC

AGO

ONE EIGHT NINE SIX
ONE SIX
AUGUST

REFERENCE YOUR SIGNAL NUMBER FX EIGHT ONE TWO ONE SIX OF ONE ONE AUGUST AND NUMBER LX THREE SIX METER ZERO TWO OF ONE THREE AUGUST PAREN TO CG NATOUSA FROM AGO PAREN PD IT IS REQUESTED THAT NOMINAL ROLLS OF PAROLED PW IN SICILY RELEASED AS AT THREE ONE JULY BE FORWARDED PD IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE THESE PARTICULARS SO THAT THOSE MEN DUE FOR MILITARY SERVICE CAN BE DRAFTED AS NECESSARY AND THAT DESERTERS FROM ITALIAN NAVY MAY BE DEALT WITH

Files AFHQ

1st Lt MONTANT

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ALLIED SECRET COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

2962

15 AUG 1944

TO: CG NATOUSA INFO AAI ACC GOC NORTH AFRICA DISTRICT OC 56 BRITISH DISTRICT

FROM: SOS NATOUSASIGNED LARKIN

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 34/13

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

PRECEDENCE: NONE

REFERENCE No: EX-36702

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE SSGCT 451

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: AUG 12

A 2182

HQ ASC, APO 324

595

Date 13 Aug 1300

By DPC

15 AUG 1944

Ref reference

MAKING REFERENCE TO NATOUSA CABLE EX-81216, DATED 10 AUGUST. LAST PARAGRAPH OF ABOVE MENTIONED CABLE IS IN ERROR. AS THE FOLLOWING ITALIAN POW UNITS ARE PRESENTLY IN SICILY: 7625 QM TRUCK [illegible] 1 PLATOON, 7627 QM BAKERY COMPANY; 7646 QM SERVICE COMPANY. THE ABOVE UNITS ARE ATTACHED TOUNITED STATES NAVY AND WILL REMAIN SICILY INDEFINITELY

HEADQUARTERS 17 AUG 1944 A.C.C.

AG (US)	3)	ACTION	DCMG	1
A	2)		G(SD)	6
DCAO	3		Q	2
DAG	1		ACC (L)	4

ACC DIST

INFO - ACTION W.M.D. &POW (2)
INFO SEC GEN
ADMIN SEC
C A BR
POL SEC
A/CC
FILE (2)
FLOAT

2162

Files AG 370.05

(105)

DATE and Time of RECEIPT AUG 13

Distribution:

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

2797

Sec'y Gen

HQ ACC, APO 394
547 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 11 Aug 1430
By Sig Ctr, C/J

TO: ACC, INFO CG AAI, CG SOS NATO, GOC NORTH AFRICA DIST, CO 56 AREA

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 9/11

FROM: FREEDOM SIGNED CG NATOUSA

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: FX 81216

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: AUG 1011308

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE: NAGAP FHCOS

A 2114
12 AUG 1944

PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS SAC THE FOLLOWING RESUME IS MADE OF CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO THE RELEASE OF ITALIAN POW'S PAROLED IN SICILY: BY CABLE MAF 712 30TH MAY 44 A MESSAGE WAS DESPATCHED TO COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFFS STATING APPROXIMATELY 62,000 USA CAPTURES AND 3250 BRITISH CAPTURES HAS BEEN PAROLED IN SICILY. MOST OF THEM SICILIAN AND THEY ENGAGED AGRICULTURAL WORK. IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO THE COMBINED COS BY SAC THAT THEY BE RELEASED BECAUSE OF THEIR DOUBTFUL ASSISTANCE TO THE WAR EFFORT AS POW OR AS PAROLES IN THAT THEY HAD NEVER BEEN ORGANIZED INTO WORK UNITS NOR HAD THEY EVER HAD ANY STATUS IN FACT EXCEPT AS POW. IN ADDITION NUMEROUS AND CONTINUOUS CASES WERE ARISING AS TO THEIR STATUS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAFT INTO THE ITALIAN ARMY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRIAL OF CASUAL CRIMES AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ECONOMIC CONDITION AND MEDICAL SERVICES. SO LONG AS THE TRANSFERRING (?) FROM BASE SECTION WAS IN EXISTENCE THESE PROBLEMS WERE MET BY THE LOCAL COMMANDER OR INDEFINITE CASES REFERRED ALLIED FORCE HQ FOR DECISION. IN BOTH INSTANCES IT WAS WASTEFUL OF ADMINISTRATIVE TIME AND EFFORT. BY CABLE FAN 369 COMBINED COS'S REQUESTED AN AMDT AUTHORIZING ACTION TO MAKE RELEASE AS PRESENTED TO YOU IN OUR FX 70649 16 JULY. ACTUALLY NONE THIS PERSONNEL HAD EVER BEEN REPORTED TO THE PROTECTIVE POWER AND THE INTER-NATIONAL RED CROSS AS POW. THEIR PAROLE WAS GIVEN TO THEIR OWN ITALIAN OFFICERS AND THEY WERE FURNISHED WITH SLIPS OF PAPER SHOWING THAT THEY WERE PAROLED

(84)

(104)

DATE and Time of RECEIPT .....

Distribution:

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

(2)

TO: ACC, INTO CG AAI, CG SCS NATO, COC NORTH AFRICA DIST, OC 56 AREA 6/10, 6/11

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 9/11

FROM: FREEDOM SIGNED CG NATOUSA

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: FX 81216

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: AUG 101130B

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE: NAGAI FHCOS

FOR. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN IN THIS PAPER US FOR YEARS (7) TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES THEY ARE CIVILIANS PURSUING THEIR NORMAL CIVILIANS CONSUMPTION AND CONSTITUTING NO MEAN ENEMY POPULATION. THESE PAROLED PRISONERS WERE RELEASED 31 JULY. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT WHETHER YOU REPORT THE RELEASE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT NOW OR LATER. ALL ITALIAN POW SERVICE UNITS IN SICILY HAVE BEEN MOVED OR ARE IN PROCESS MOVEMENT OUT OF SICILY.

AC: US 3)
A 2) JOINT ACTION
ECAO 3
EAC 1
DCAC 1
G(SD) 6
0 2
ACC (1) 4

ACC DIST

(ACT) WMD S. I POW 2
(INF) SECY GEN
ADMIN SEC
CA BR
POL. SEC
A/CC
FILE 2
FLOAT

2121

HEADQUARTERS
11 AUG 1944
A. C. C.

DATE and Time of RECEIPT AUG 111025B

Distribution:

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

AFHQ

ACC

A-2170

14 AUG 1944

SECRET
ROUTINE

ONE FIVE SEVEN ONE

NINE AUGUST

ACTING CHIEFCOMM.
PAFMIS W.M.D. & IPW SC PAF

FX 7 7 3 8 6

REFERENCE YOUR FX SEVEN SEVEN THREE EIGHT SIX DATED THREE ONE JULY PAREN TO AFHQ FROM ACC PAREN PD REQUEST THAT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS RE RELEASE BE FORWARDED EARLIEST POSSIBLE

Q

3336 PCM

2120

Files (DMP) 700

1st Lt. MONTANT

W.M.D. & IPW S.C.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB COMMISSION

HQ ACC, APO 394
526 Sec'y Gen. 1 cpy
Rec'd 1400 10/8
By ...

IPW/1/139

8 August 1944

12 AUG 1944

To: ~~G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters.~~

Subject: Mistreatment of Italian PW by French and British.

1/. Forwarded herewith is translation of letter No. 526/Pol/C.2 dated 19 July from Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, subject as above.

2/. Concerning the complaints of mistreatment by the French authorities, your attention is directed to the High Commissioner's letter No. 62/Pol dated 14 April which was forwarded to AFHQ, Chief of Staff, under cover of ACC letter No. GC/G/248 dated 29 April, which was answered by AFHQ letter file AG 383.6-3 GAP-O dated 12 June, in which it was stated that AFHQ would use its offices to investigate conditions in French Camps for Italian Prisoners of War.

3/. Please supply such information as is available so that I may reply to the High Commissioner on this subject and if possible answer the charges made in the letter attached.

(102)

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
W.M.D. & I.PW S.C.

Encl.
Ltr No. 526/Pol/C.2
dated 19 July.

COPY TO: - SEC'Y GEN'L -

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW
File No. 526/Pol/C.2

ROME 19 July 1944
TO: A.C.C., ROME

SUBJECT: Italian PW camp held by French and English authorities in Tunis.

Referring to my letter No. 62/Pol. dated 14 April. I believe it to be my duty to submit to the attention of this Commission, in behalf of my Government, the following facts that I know only now.

1. Regarding the Italian prisoners in the French concentration camps in Tunisia.

ZAGHOUAN DEPOT XVII
SOUSSE
ONDOUILE ET D'EL ONDIANE
BIZERTE DEPOT XV
RUMADIA
LAVERIE

As to these camps, there is a complaint because of the lack of equipment and the bad postal service. It seems that the prisoners of war are clothed so badly as to deprive them of their self pride and necessary confort. In the camp of OEDOUILE at D'EL ONDIANE the conditions are absolutely inadequate:

a) The sanitary conditions are insufficient.
b) The billets are without light and beds.
c) The food is scarce.
d) The equipment poor and soap is lacking.
e) The straw is wet and odorous.

We have complaints from a small camp of 60 PW in the harbor of Carrieres where they are isolated without help and comfort.

2 PW camp 205 of KASBAR BAID under the British authority. The Italian PW are with German PW and the conditions of life are not according to the regulations of Art. 10 of the Geneva Convention.

I hope that this Commission will call the attention of the proper authorities so paragraph 9,10,11,12 of the Geneva Convention so as to improve thereby conditions of the PW.

I thank your Commission and I pray that you will let me know the steps taken.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

115

102 Incl I

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ALLIED SECRET CONTROL COMMISSION

2048

INCOMING MESSAGE

TO: HQ ACC INFO TO MAIN AAI RPT AAI TO LT COL CHAPPELL

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 55/31

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED EISENHOWER FROM BRIGADIER ELSWORTHY

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: FX 77386

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JULY 31/1611

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: SITE: FCAB

Ref reference (97) - file 383.6

A 2036

7 AUG 1944

REFERENCE YOUR 1072 OF 28 JULY. SUBJECT DISCUSSED AT POLITICAL SUB COMMITTEE. DECISION REACHED THAT RELEASE MUST PROCEED ON 31 JULY. INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF CONVEYING TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THE FACT THAT RELEASE HAS TAKEN PLACE WILL BE ISSUED TO YOU AFTER SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDERS POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAS CONSIDERED THE MATTER

ACC DIST

ACTION WMD & I POW SC

INFO A/CC
POL SEC
FILE (2)
FLOAT

2117

5

files (HQ) A-2036

101

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JULY 31/2145

Distribution:

FX 77386
31/2145/44

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

A-1972

AAI; ACC; MMIA; AFHQ REAR FOR LIAISON SECT ON ALL ACTION

CG SIGNED NATOUSA

FX 77299

JULY 31/1318

24/01

SECRET

PRIORITY

CITE: NAGAP

RETURN WITHOUT ACTION MEMORANDUM FROM G1 DIVISION NATOUSA DATED 12 JULY 1944. SUBJECT TREATMENT AS PRISONERS OF WAR UNDER GENEVA CONVENTION FOR ITALIAN TROOPS IN ROYAL ITALIAN ARMY AND NORTHERN ITALIAN ARMY. SOLELY FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THIS MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION OF COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE DESIRES THAT NO APPROACH IN THE MATTER BE MADE TO FOREIGN AUTHORITIES PENDING DECISION OF COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF.

ACC DIST

Action -WMD & 1 POW
Info A/CC
File (2)
Float
Pol Section

(C O P Y)

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

C O P Y

TELEGRAM 6, July 27, TO ITALIAN LEGATION AT BERNE, SWITZERLAND, FROM ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Your are instructed to hand to International Red Cross official reply of Royal Government giving most emphatic assurance of observance by Italy of International War Laws, although International Red Cross telegram mentioned in your 2059 concerning International obligations of belligerents was not received by us. You will word reply in appropriate terms. As suggested in your telegram, you will stress German violations of war laws together with any other points you should deem it pertinent to emphasize.

PRUNAS

2145

(100) APO A

Above telegram dispatched 30 January 1944.

/s/ Donald M. Decker
Political Section.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

TELEGRAM 185, July 29, TO ITALIAN LEGATION AT BERNE, SWITZERLAND, FROM ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

International Red Cross Committee Delegate, M. Pradervant, has communicated to the President of the Council, Bonomi, that the Central Red Cross Committee desires to receive from the Italian Government an official communications confirming that Republican Italian Prisoners of War captured by Italian Armed Forces are considered Prisoners of War.

According to this delegate, this communication could effectively be used by the Central Committee for obtaining equal recognition toward Italian Military Personnel at present interned in Germany.

With reference also to my telegram No. 6 of 27 January, Your Excellency is asked to give formal assurance in the sense desired.

TELEGRAM 507, July 29, TO ITALIAN EMBASSY AT MADRID, SPAIN, FROM ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

From more and more sources this Ministry continues to learn of the increasingly serious situation of our military and civilian internees in Germany. It becomes urgent therefore to intensify the initiative of Italians abroad to speed up the work already being done by the delegations of the International Red Cross. Dispatches should contain above all medicines, food, and clothing. Packages should all be sent to the central seat of the International Red Cross to be subsequently sent to Germany.

Will your Excellency please take steps in this sense and transmit similar instructions to the Italian Representatives at Berne, Buenos Aires and Lisbon, who should do their utmost as soon as possible to begin this helpful activity and in particular with regard to resulting organizations which can be obtained in the heart of each community of Italians abroad and arrangements for transport through International Red Cross.

2114

Above telegrams dispatched 31 July 1944.

(100) APP B

/s/ Donald M. Decker
Political Section

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

HQ ACC, APO 394
383 Secy Gen
Recd 4 Aug 0940
By D R R

A 1987

30 July 1944

SUBJECT: Complaints of Unjust Treatment of Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

(91)

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum on the above subject dated 18 July 1944.

2. This Headquarters is, of course, very much aware of the concern which the prisoner of war question is causing the Italian Government, and complaints such as you have cited are given the most scrupulous investigation. You will appreciate that such scrupulous investigation takes time and in consequence entails delay in the transmission of final replies.

3. You may rest assured that questions of this nature have always been, and will continue to be, considered in this Headquarters as matters of policy rather than of minor administrative interest.

By command of General WILSON:

/s/ Lowell D. Rooke ?
for
J. A. F. GAMBELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

Copies to:
G-1(A)
G-1(B)
British Resident Minister
U.S. Political Adviser

2113.

Copy to War Materials Disposal & Italian PW S/C.

Files (A) B

(99)

30 Jul 44

COPY

Files A113/706

G-5, POW Section

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

JAG/rac

28 July 1944

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War - General Policy

30 JUL 1944

To : Allied Force Headquarters, G-5 Section, APO 512.

1. The attached translation of letter 558/POL/14/2 dated 22 July, from General Gazzera, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War, is forwarded.

2. In forwarding this letter, I would again point out that the position in regard to Italian PW continues to cause embarrassment to the Italian Government.

3. I do not wish to over stress the point, but I am of opinion that it would be preferable to notify the Italian Government precisely what is being done, rather than leave them to find out for themselves, or have pointed out to them by their repatriated PW as is the case at present.

4. Articles have, within the past few days, appeared in the Italian press on the question of PW, and why they should still be considered as such when their brothers fight alongside the Allies. Further, certain papers have started to attack General Gazzera, and, unless a solution of one kind or another to the PW problem can be found at a very early date, Gazzera may well resign or be forced into doing so by the attacks made against him and the position in which he finds himself.

5. Gazzera has stated that his position is becoming untenable, and while he understands there are reasons for all that is being done, he may be left with no alternative but to resign, unless he is put in a position to explain to his Government - so that they in turn may explain to the Italian people - what is happening with their PW and reasons why the Allied manpower situation makes it necessary to proceed as we are doing for the benefit of the war effort.

6. I trust that I may receive instructions on this question, which will enable me to go to the Italian Government with advice which will assist in relieving them from this embarrassment, which may easily turn into a political crisis for them.

(18)

Original given to
Col Spofford by Lt Col Campbell
28 July 44.

Files AD 413

KILLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION

Rome, 22 July 1944

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

File No. 558/Pol/14/2

TO: A.C.C., ROME

SUBJECT: Payment of the credits of PW during the time of their captivity

As is known, the President of the Council has asked through his letters No. 1405 of May 5, 1944, and No. 1890 of June 23, 1944, for official and exact informations about the units which the Allied authorities appear to have formed with Italian soldiers held as PW in British or American countries, into special labour units, even without consulting the R. Italian Government about it.

But up till now we only had informations by privatee or through the wireless and the Allies News about all this. Now we had news by Italians from N. Africa that these units have been formed without the approval of the R. Italian Government. Not only this, but the local Allied authorities appear to have, by an absolutely one-sided criterion, published administrative dispositions for the economical treatment of the soldiers who make part of the units. Among others there seems to be one disposition which says:

"The Italian Government is responsible for the payment of the Credits of the Italian PW's at the moment of their liberation."

As it was already several times my duty to inform you in other circumstances that the R. Italian Government could not accept, if really it has been emanated, the one-sided interpretation of the Articles 77, 24, 23, 34 of the Convention of Geneva of July 27th, 1929. Those Articles prescribe that before their liberation the PWs should be satisfied in the payment of all their credits by the detaining power and this in the currency in which his credit has matured, unless the PW himself accepts payment in another currency.

This same Convention fixes in Art. 34 that the compensations for the work done by the PW should be to the charge of the detaining power. Then therefore the Government of the National the PW belongs to, should not have to make any reimbursement. Still, presisding entering into the merit of the formation of the labour units, waiting for the Allied authorities to answer the demand of informations asked for by H.E. the President of the Council, neither the above mentioned administrative dispositions nor all the others of the same nature fixed without any agreements with the R. Italian Government, can be recognized as being legal by that same government. Therefore it is my duty to declare this here most explicitly so as to avoid the rising of misunderstandings, now that the service of the remission of money by PW to persons in Italy is slowly rebeginning.

HIGH COMMISSIONER
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

(48) ADP 47

558/Pol/14/2
22 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

0 A 1910
29 JUL 1944

TO: AFHQ (ACTION) AAI (INFO)

FROM: HQ ACC SIGNED CAMPBELL

REFERENCE NO: ONE ZERO SEVEN TWO

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JULY 2014.00

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTRE NO:

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE

OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

42

7 3 9

REF OUR SEVEN THREE NINE OF TWENTY JULY [redacted] AND LETTER WITH BRIGADIER ELSWORTHY AT PILOT B) AS EXPLAINED TO BRIGADIER ELSWORTHY NO SATISFACTORY SCHEME COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE PW IN LABOUR UNITS AND STILL, RETAIN THEM AS PRESENTLY EMPLOYED ID BRIGADIER ELSWORTHY AGREED THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND DEFERRING FOR THE PRESENT RELEASE OF SICILIAN PAROLED PRISONERS OF WAR NOW AT THEIR HOMES ID PLEASE TELEGRAPH IMMEDIATELY IF RELEASE IS TO TAKE PLACE AS ORIGINALLY INSTRUCTED IN FX SEVEN ZERO SIX FOUR NINE DATED TWENTY JULY

FX 70649

84

A 1910
29 JUL 1944

Cable
0 72
of 28 July

8

3 & 3.0

97

"C" files A 1910

DISTRIBUTION:
Sec. Gen. (2)
~~War. D.S.O.~~

Authenticated by
Originator's signature

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Captain Stone

Think we it would be well
to hear Campbell tell you re
this meeting -

Dawson

Where do we stand re the
release scheduled for 7/31?

Sm

URGENT

2109

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

26 July 1944
Date

To	From	
✓		C.C. ~~Dep. Pres.~~
		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

343.6

1 Notes on meeting with Italian P.W. at 3rd Army Cage
2. Building from "AVANTI" on Gen Clayton.

J.A. Lumsden Lt-Col

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

(initials)

File (A)

(96) a
26 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ESTRACT FROM THE ITALIAN PAPER 'AVANTE'
DATED 26 July 1944 REGARDING GENERAL GAZZERA

We always choose the same men and we go ahead!-
That must be the regulation of the day. If it were not so,
why should General Gazzera hold the position of High Com-
missioner for Prisoners of War? General Gazzera was Sec-
retary of War under Mussolini, he was one of those that
prepared and not prepared the war, they prepared the war
politically and did not prepare it technically, this makes
them all the more responsable. Responsable of what?
Today the political life of Italy the unwritten law seems
to be one of irresponsability. Nobody is ever responsable
for anything. The only ability required is to leave the
boat when it is sinking.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

2107

NOTES ON MEETING AT HEADQUARTERS, A.A.I.

Present: Brigadier Elsworthy, G.1 B, A.F.H.Q.
Colonel Welsh, 'A' Branch, H.Q., A.A.I.
Lt.-Colonel Campbell, H.Q., A.C.C.

Subject: Italian Prisoners of War.

After discussing the question of the release of Paroled Prisoners of War in Sicily Brigadier Elsworthy agreed that he would advise that release of Paroled Prisoners of War in Sicily should be deferred for the present. He explained that the proposal originated from I.B.S. who wishes to get rid of cards and records prior to closing down. It was suggested that the records could be held by the Allied Control Commission. Lt. Colonel Campbell agreed subject to confirmation.

Brigadier Elsworthy went on to explain that he was of opinion that the Italian Government and High Commissioner for Prisoners of War were not clearly in the picture on the subject of co-operators. Italian Prisoners of War were no longer treated as prisoners - they were in camps - in many cases alongside American and British troops. They were free to go out and about and could have leave. They were dressed as British and American soldiers and were only held on Prisoner of War status for legal reasons. He asked that we study two pamphlets which had just been issued 'Administrative Instructions for Italian Prisoners of War' and 'Pay and Accounting Instructions for Italian Prisoners of War'.

Brigadier Elsworthy suggested that the A.C.C. should send someone with General Gazzera or his representative to North Africa to see the conditions under which the co-operatives lived. They have their own Welfare Officer and had similar amenities to Allied Troops. He knew a meeting had been held regarding the 10,000 Italian Prisoners of War

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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Brigadier Elsworthy suggested that the A.C.C. should send someone with General Gazzera or his representative to North Africa to see the conditions under which the co-operatives lived. They have their own Welfare Officer and had similar amenities to Allied Troops. He knew a meeting had been held regarding the 10,000 Italian Prisoners of War for Italy, but he was of opinion that for A.F.H.Q. to function without a great increase in EM and ORs, the co-operators would have to come to Italy. He pointed out that it would be much better for the Italians to come to Italy, as in Algeirs and Tunisia the French would not have them in the streets or cafes: and here they could move about freely and mix with their own countrymen and have leave to visit their families.

(cont'd)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Brigadier Elsworthy also stated that the Combined Chiefs of Staff would not budge in the question of moving Prisoners of War all over the world as they wished - it was a question of labour pure and simple, and they intended to move them as they pleased.

Lt. Colonel Campbell suggested that permission should be given to A.C.C. to explain this position to the Italian Government which he was sure would have better results than leaving them guessing and at the same time receiving information daily from Prisoners of War as to what was happening. Brigadier Elsworthy said it was a point which he thought should be considered and suggested that a representative of A.C.C. should visit A.F.H.Q. at an early date and discuss any such questions. He, Brigadier Elsworthy was returning to England, but his successor could deal with this question.

Lt. Colonel Campbell suggested that the many small requests for repatriation submitted by the Italians should be granted and in this way help to keep the Italian Government quiet. He explained that the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War has made use of the agreement 'to release Prisoners of War of over 60 years of age and between 50 and 60 years in certain cases', and had passed the information on at an Italian Press conference, and an article had been published saying that the position regarding Italian Prisoners of War was improving and that the subject was having attention by the Allied Governments.

Colonel Welsh, stated that he would put something on paper regarding the question of Prisoners of War in Italy and the status of prisoners of War as co-operators.

REMARKS.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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Colonel Welsh, stated that he would put something on paper regarding the question of Prisoners of War in Italy and the status of prisoners of War as co-operators.

REMARKS.

It would appear that the question of Prisoners of War for Italy is not yet dead. It is suggested that the Chief Commissioner discuss with Lt.-Colonel Campbell this and other points.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

15 July 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: The Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

Subject : Administrative Procedure Affecting Civilian Internees.

1. I have been informed that civilian internees at the Central Internment Camp, Padula, Potenza Province, Italy are not accorded the same treatment and privileges as prisoners of war, including the issue of canteen rations.

2. Both the United States Government and H. M. Government have agreed with the German and the former Italian Government to consider the Prisoners of War Convention of July 25th, 1929, as applicable to civilian internees so far as its provisions can be applied to civilians. Accordingly, the following pronouncement of policy is forwarded for your guidance in treatment of civilian internees at the Central Internment Camp:

a. All civilians <u>temporarily</u> interned at the Central Internment Camp will be accorded the same treatment accorded prisoners of war, including issuance of canteen rations, except with respect to the following:

(1) They will not be processed as prisoners of War.

(2) No notification of capture or internemnt will be given to the Protecting Power or any recognized agency.

(3) They will not be permitted to send capture cards or be accorded any other correspondence privileges.

(4) Prisoner of War allowances will not be applicable to them. Accounting for canteen supplies issued will be madein the same manner as now employed in the case of friendly nationals (Poles, etc) temporarily detained for screening.

(5) They will not be employed unless they request employment in writing.

b. Civilians to be interned other than temporarily will be processed as prisoners of war and will be accorded the same treatment including notification of capture ot the Protecting Power and recognized agencies, and all correspondence privileges accorded to prisoners of war. They will not be employed unless they request employment in writing.

15 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

3. Similar instructions are issuing to American authorities to insure identic treatment of internees at PW Camp 326.

By command of General WILSON:

for /s/ Lowell W. Rooke
/t/ J. A. H. GAMMELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

SA 519

24 JUL 1944
LDD/ajp

A/CC-383.6
1st Ind
Hq. Allied Control Commission, APO 394, 23 July 1944.

To: Hq. A. A. I., "A" Branch.

Forwarded for necessary action as a matter pertaining to your headquarters.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

L. D. DENSMORE
Colonel, Sig. C.
Chief Staff Officer

2136

File D/8

(D)

23 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

REFERENCE SLIP

Date 20.7.44

File:

SUBJECT: CENTRAL INTERNMENT CAMP PADULA.

FROM: Acting Chief Commissioner

TO			
	Administrative Section		War Materials Disposal Sub-Comm.
	Economic Section		Public Relations Branch
	Political Section		Secretary General
	Regional Control and Military Government Section		Chief Staff Officer
	Air Sub-Commission	✓	SECURITY BRANCH (Attn: Major Mackay).
	Army Sub-Commission		
	Communications Sub-Commission		
	Navy Sub-Commission		
FOR:			
	Acknowledgement		Information and Retention
	Appropriate Action		Dispatch
	Investigation and Report		File 9112
✓	Remarks/Recommendation		
	Information and Return		

REMARKS: This is entirely a matter for "A" Branch of A.A.I. who are responsible for the administration of the Camp/Prisoners is a H.Q. AAI camp.

John Aldred Kay, Major
Security Branch

Initials J.A.K.

(16)

1153

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

24 JUL 1944
LMB/ajp

23 July 1944

A/CC-383.6

SUBJECT: Administrative Procedure Affecting Civilian Internees

TO : Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512

1. In reply to your memorandum dated 15 July 44, it should be pointed out that Padula Camp is not an A.C.C. responsibility, but comes under H.Q. A.A.I.

2. Your letter has accordingly been forwarded by indorsement to "A" Branch of A. A. I., who are responsible for the administration of the camp.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

L. D. DENSMORE
Colonel, Sig. C.
Chief Staff Officer

383.6 POW

2101

Files (A) & B

A/CC 383.6
23 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Major Quayle

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

HQ ACC, APO 394
2 00 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 24 July 1500
By DIAR

A 1840
25 JUL 1944

ASC/1/12/9

23 July 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

Subject: Situation of PW in British Hands.

1/. The attached translation of letter No. 530/Pol/C12 dated 18 July from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of war is forwarded.

2/. May I be informed if the information asked for can now be given or if the position remains the same as stated in your signal F45375 of 13 May?

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Encl. as above.

(A7 B
Q.

copy to Secretary General (2)

(9) ASC/1/12/9
23 July 44

file/70 P100

3836 Pam

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

T R A N S L A T I O N

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR POW — ROME 16 July 44

File No 530/Pol/C12 — TO:- A.C.C. Rome

SUBJECT:- Situation of POW in British Hands.

With the occupation of Rome and the return of the Royal Italian Government to the various ministries, I had hoped to be able to collect sufficient information concerning the number and disposition of Italian Prisoners of War in British Hands. Unfortunately the documents recovered are incomplete and do not set forth the necessary information concerning the disposition of the POW in the various parts of the world,(i.e. from India to Egypt).

For this reason I find myself obliged to frame a prayer for the kind help of the A.C.C., so that they might communicate with and procure from the proper Department of the British Ministry of War - even in an unofficial capacity - enlightenment of the situation with reference to the number of POW in British hands and their disposition in the various countries.

This information - even if, on the other hand, it is not too specific out of necessity - will greatly facilitate my discharge of the duty to provide for the Italian Prisoners of War.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro GAZZERA)
f.s/ P Gazzera.

(44) Incl II

530/Pol/C12
16 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

High Commissioner for PW Rome, 20 July 1944

File No. 543/Pol.C.15. a di prot. TO: A.C.C., ROME.

A 1274
27 JUL 1944

SUBJECT: Italian PW and Internees in Germany.

1. I refer again to the question treated in the letter of General MacFarlane No. CC/P/402 of June 19th, 1944.

2. Seen the quick succeeding of events on the fronts against Germany, I retain it to be urgent to get to a decision with regards to the preventive measures to take with regards to the Italian PW and Internees at the moment in Germany. I retain that the memorial sent by us on May 16th (176/Pol.) to General MacFarlane could also now constitute a starting point for the examination of the question.

3/. I would be very grateful if I could have a scon answer.

The High Commissioner for PW
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

(68)

383,6

(47)

(93) a

Folder (17B

PWB - G PWB - Rome

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

C 50

168 APO 394
Rec'd Secy Gen. 22/7/44 1230
By Lorf

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

APO 394

ASC/1/1/209

21 July 1944

24 1820 24 JUL 1944

To: Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

Subject: Matter forwarded - Major Gioacchino CASTELLANA, PW in India.

1/. Reference attached translation of letter No. 1303/M11/C.1 dated 12 July 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

2/. I shall be pleased to know if anything can be done to meet the wishes of the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel

Encls. as above.

To Secretary General (2) ✓

File A 115

9607

93 ASC/1/1/209 21 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION

ROME 12 July 44

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR POW

File No 1383/M11/C.1

SUBJECT:- Major Gioacchino CASTELLANA, P.W. in India

TO:- The A.C.C.

The Major Gioacchino CASTELLANA, PW in India, is ill with cancer at his right intiestine, now in advanced state and incurable. The opinion of Dr. Paymaster, who visited him, is that ther treatment wither with X-rays ar with radium would be of no use any more.

The Colonel Dircetor of the Military Hospital of Collaba in Bombay, where the sick person is sheltered, retains that he may live for another four or five months.

The Major G CASTELLANA has repeatedly asked for repatriation through the British Authorities in Simla, so as to be able to see again his family in Sicily.

The British Command declares that the Italian PW visited by the mixed Medical Commission and judged by them to be repatriable, because of being seriously ill and disabled, could not be repatriated because the situation in Italy at that time (end of 1943) was very unstable.

Referring to my letter to the A.C.C. of June 29th (No 1145/mil) by which I asked to repatriate the disabled in India, many of which for over a year languish waiting for the necessary means for travelling, I pray the A.C.C. most urgently to transport to Italy by the most rapid means, the Major CASTELLANA so as to enable him to see his family again.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro GAZZERA)
/s/ P Gazzera.

9006

(43) IN-1 I

1383/m.1/c.1
12 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

SECRET

A 1909

29 JUL 1944

AFHQ PAREN ACTION PAREN AAI PAREN INFO PAREN

ACC

739

20 July

SECRET

ROUTINE

ARMY SUB COMMISSION

Reference your FX 70649 of 10 July, FILFOT A 864 of 12 July and your FX 72066 of 14 July. I am informed that there still remain (to AFHQ action (AAI) info)) in prisoner of war status in Sicily approximately 2000 men on parole within units and 550 in prisoners of war camps. The latter group did not violate Italian law which forbids any captured soldier to give parole on penalty of court martial. It is our belief that to liberate the parole prisoners not in units who violated the Italian law and to continue as prisoners of war both those men who did not and those who are contributing to the war in labor units will completely wipe out any favourable Italian reaction hoped to be accomplished by the granting of full liberty to one group of parole prisoners. Strongly recommend that a uniform policy be adopted towards all prisoners of war in Sicily. It would appear preferable to release all of them from prisoner of war status but to continue as labor companies those now in military units. Am certain that a satisfactory scheme to effectuate this can be worked out with Italian Government.

If this is not approved the only other course of action to be recommended would be to make no change in the present status of parole prisoners. To do other than to follow one of these two alternatives would seem to be an empty gesture. Therefore recommend that proposed release of paroled prisoners of war only, on 31 July be deferred pending formation of scheme for labour units to be forwarded by 30 July. AAI concurs above recommendations.

List: Soc Gen; Pol Sec; Adm Sec; Army SC; WMISC

C C F X4

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

AFHQ PAREN ACTION PAREN ~~XXXXX~~ AAI PAREN INFO PAREN

ACC

SEVEN THREE NINE

TWO ZERO

SECRET
ROUTINE

ARMY SUB COMMISSION

F X 7 JULY 0 6 4 9 1 0

REFERENCE YOUR FOX XRAY SEVEN ZERO SIX FOUR NINE OF ONE ZERO JULY OMA FILPOT ABLE EIGHT SIX FOUR OF ONE TWO JULY AND YOUR FOX XRAY SEVEN TWO ZERO SIX SIX OF ONE FOUR JULY PD I AM INFORMED THAT THERE STILL REMAIN PAREN TO AFHQ PAREN ACTION PAREN AAI PAREN INFO PAREN PAREN IN PRISONER OF WAR STATUS IN SICILY APPROXIMATELY TWO ZERO ZERO ZERO MEN ON PAROLE WITHIN UNITS AND SIX FIVE ZERO IN PRISONERS OF WAR CAMPS PD THE LATTER GROUP DID NOT VIOLATE ITALIAN LAW WHICH FORBIDS ANY CAPTURED SOLDIER TO GIVE PAROLE ON PENALTY OF COURT MARTIAL PD IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT TO LIBERATE THE PAROLE PRISONERS NOT IN UNITS WHO VIOLATED THE ITALIAN LAW AND TO CONTINUE AS PRISONERS OF WAR BOTH THOSE MEN WHO DID NOT AND THOSE WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE WAR IN LABOR UNITS WILL COMPLETELY WIPE OUT ANY FAVOURABLE ITALIAN REACTION HOPED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE GRANTING OF FULL LIBERTY TO ONE GROUP OF PAROLE PRISONERS PD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT A UNIFORM POLICY BE ADOPTED TOWARDS ALL PRISONERS OF WAR IN SICILY PD IT WOULD APPEAR PREFERABLE TO RELEASE ALL OF THEM FROM PRISONER OF WAR STATUS BUT TO CONTINUE AS LABOR COMPANIES THOSE NOW IN MILITARY UNITS PD AM CERTAIN THAT A SATISFACTORY SCHEME TO EFFECTUATE THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PD PARA IF THIS IS NOT APPROVED THE ONLY OTHER COURSE OF ACTION TO BE RECOMMENDED WOULD BE TO MAKE NO CHANGE IN THE PRESENT STATUS OF PAROLE PRISONERS PD TO DO OTHER THAN TO FOLLOW ONE OF THESE TWO ALTERNATIVES WOULD SEEM TO BE AN EMPTY GESTURE PD THEREFORE

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

RECOMMEND THAT PROPOSED RELEASE OF PAROLED PRISONERS OF WAR ONLY CMA
ON THREE ONE JULY BE DEFERRED PENDING FORMATION OF SCHEME FOR LABOR
UNITS TO BE FORWARDED BY THREE ZERO JULY FD AAI CONCURS ABOVE

RECOMMENDATIONS

DISTRIBUTION:

Sec. Gen.
Pol. Sec.
Adm. Sec.
Army SC
W.M.D.S.C.

AUTHENTICATED BY:

1st Lt. MONTANT

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

A554

A/CC 383.6

21 JUL 1944

18 July 1944

SUBJECT: Complaints of Unjust Treatment of Italian PW

TO : Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters Advanced.

1. In letters AOC/383.6 dated 23 June, AOC/383.6 dated 23 June, ASC/1/102 dated 14 July, ASC/1/3 dated 11 July and ASC/1 dated 10 July, and other recent letters from this headquarters a number of complaints on the treatment of Italian PW in different parts of the world have been forwarded. As you are aware, the question of prisoners of war is one of great concern to the Italian Government and if we are unable to meet them on the main question of status, it is most desirable that we should be in a position to rebut such complaints as:

a) small numbers of PW's being sent to malarial districts;

b) PW's not receiving their personal effects and monies prior to leaving PW camps on repatriation;

c) letters being returned to relatives marked "Repatriated" when the man is still a PW.

2. These and other such complaints may be small matters in themselves, but cumulatively, if left unanswered for any length of time, they must adversely affect our good name and the readiness of the Italian military and other authorities to cooperate wholeheartedly in the war effort. I do not intend to suggest that the Italian Government have as yet reached the point of non-cooperation, but the fact that they are entirely in our hands in these matters and have so few, if any, means of reacting, should of course make us more, rather than less, scrupulous in answering their enquiries and complaints.

3. I should therefore be grateful if these questions could be re-considered as a matter of major policy and not of minor administrative routine.

DRAFTED BY JAC

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Copies to: British Resident Minister
U. S. Political Adviser
Political Section (3 copies)
P.W. Section, Army Sub-Commission.

AOC 383.6
18 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

259 28 July 0920 DKB

To Lady Gent
From WMDSC

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
G-5 Section

CmS/CF/seb

17 July 1944

G-5 : 383.6

SUBJECT: Italian Soldiers Employed as POW in British West Africa.

29 JUL 1944

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
(Attention: Army Sub-Commission)
APO 394.

46

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter on the above subject (ACC/10/102 of 14 July), with the letter of the Italian High Commissioner there inclosed (No. 463/Pol of 29 June). Steps have been taken to cause the matter to be studied and presented to the Political Council, AFHQ, for consideration. You will be advised when a decision is reached.

86 Incl 1

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

G.S. 383.6 Italy

filed AFHQ

90a

G5 383.6
17 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

(1)

Political Section.

Seen by Political Section who has had an agreement with Cotton & myself.

Draft for Captain Stone's approval.

[illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Files (A) B

SECRET

EMS/mjp

A 543
19 JUL 1944

16 July 1944

A/CC 383.6

SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped Italian POW (Co-operators)

TO : Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy

REF A Incl 1

1. This is in reply to your letter of 4 July, AAI/3072/A(O), on the above subject.

2. This subject and the copies of letters forwarded with your letter were discussed with the Supreme Allied Commander at AFHQ Adv on July 11th.

3. I recommended that the 10,000 POW should not be sent to Italy because of the grave political questions which it would raise. The subject was discussed on July 12th by the Supreme Allied Commander and the Head of AMMIA.

4. It is my understanding that as a result of these discussions it is not now planned to bring these 10,000 POW to Italy.

ELMER W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: AMMIA

2090

Ltr 9/10

(90)

A/CC 383.6
18 Jul 44

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

REFERENCE SLIP

Date 8 July 1944

Files A/CC 383.6

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War (Attached are: (1) Ltr AAI/3072/A(Q) - 4 July; (2) Ltr (Army Sub-Commission)to AAI, ref AQ/11/1, 29 June 44 and ltr AAI/3072/A(O).)

FROM: Acting Chief Commissioner

TO

	Administrative Section		War Materials Disposal Sub-Comm.
	Economic Section		Public Relations Branch
✓	Political Section		Secretary General
	Regional Control and Military Government Section		Chief Staff Officer
	Air Sub-Commission		
	Army Sub-Commission		
	Communications Sub-Commission		
	Navy Sub-Commission		
FOR:			
	Acknowledgement		Information and Retention
	Appropriate Action		Dispatch
	Investigation and Report		File 9000
✓	Remarks/Recommendation		
	Information and Return		

REMARKS:

The Acting Chief Commissioner would like very much to have your comments and recommendations with respect to the attached.

(1) AFCC 383.6 Italy
APP X

Initials
Chief Staff Officer

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

S 3372

SUBJECT:- Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW (Co-operators).

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/3072/A(O).

4 Jul 44.

Files (A) 15

HQ, A.C.C.

1. Copy of this HQ letter of even number dated 25 Jun 44, addressed to Army Sub-Commission ACC, is forwarded, together with a copy of General Browning's reply.

2. Will you please consider the question and approach the Italian Government in accordance with para 6 of the first quoted letter.

Brigadier,
D.A.G.

(4) ADPA

TW/IY.

INCL 1

AAI/3072/A(O)
4 JULY 44

COPY 7A File A B 37

SECRET

SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW. (Co-operators).

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main HQ (MAIA)
LEQUILE (LECCE)
AQ/11/1.
29 June 44.

H.Q. AAI.

Your AAI/3072/A(O) dated 25 June -

1. I agree in general with your letter as above.

2. The position of P of W is anomalous and no solution has been come to by the Allied Governments. I understand that the Italian Government will NOT "play" and so no "formula" is likely to be produced. But this is a matter for ACC to advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

3. The following are some ideas on this subject:-

(a) P of W have for long past been used for work for the Allies in organised units with better priviliges than the ordinary Italian soldier. They are thus unlikely to desert permanently.

(b) We need this manpower, particularly if the Italian Army ceiling is reduced to 447,300 as proposed by AFHQ.

(c) Therefore we must take these 10,000 P of W and do the best we can with them. If they slip off to see their families and do not come back under a fortnight, we tell CC.RR. If they come back we say and do nothing.

If CC.RR picks them up, those of non-military age are demobilised, those of military age are enrolled in the Army - without punishment for deserting, except to demand back their P of W uniforms. We must hope they will not desert, but if they do, we can do nothing about it, except as above.

(d) We must treat them as they have been treated in NORTH AFRICA, but try and keep them separate from other Italian troops.

(e) Presumably they would only be used for labour and not (armed) Guard duties.

4. The above are only my personal ideas. I think it is really a political matter which should be advised on by ACC. I know General MACFARLANE made many efforts to achieve a solution which failed due to factors outside his control.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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(Sgd) L. Browning.

Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

tvs.LB.

(90) APP A INCL 2

AG/11/1
29 Jan 44

SUCA

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

Files (A) B 31

SUBJECT:- Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW. (Co-operators).

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
GHF
25 Jun 44
AAI/3072/A(O)

Army Sub-Commission,
ACC.

Reference AC 383.6 dated 30 May 44 from CG PBS.

1. AFHQ intend shortly to import into ITALY 10,000 Italian PW who can play a vital part in the maintenance of this Force. As carefully organised and equipped units they are of far greater value to us than equivalent units of the Italian Army. On this basis, our policy must be to keep these PW units intact.

2. When the 10,000 PW are imported there will be a natural tendency for personnel to desert in order to visit their families and for other reasons. The only deterrent which the system of the PBS applies in the fact that on apprehension the absconder rejoins the Italian Army with its lower standard of living. This penalty is not sufficiently hard to prevent desertion.

3. Presumably deserters within the demobilization categories would not be returned to the Italian Army and would be demobilized on apprehension.

4. In view of the foregoing, the arrangements in force as described in PBS letter quoted above are not acceptable.

5. The status of Italian PW employed in formed units by the Allied Forces is now officially described as "Co-operator". They are employed in the same manner as other units of the Italian Army and, therefore, cannot be regarded in a true sense as PW. That being so, the argument by CG Italian Forces in CAMPANIA that the international military code obliges an officer to assist in the escape of PW of his own nationality must be interpreted in a broader sense, in view of the abnormal state of affairs in ITALY and the employment of these units in conjunction with the Italian Army as stated above.

6. It is considered that the matter should be taken up with the Italian Government, in order that they may produce a formula by which the scruples of their officers are satisfied and the deserters returned to the units in which they are employed, as it is only by the co-operation of the Police, Military Authorities and Carabinieri that deserters can be apprehended.

7. Will you please consider the matter and let us have your views.

(Sgd) T. Welch. Col.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

TW/JD

Copy to G(SD)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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(Sgd) T. Welch. Col.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

TW/JD

Copy to G(SD)

(90) APP A TAB 3

AAI/3072/A(O)
25 Jan 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

RESTRICTED

1120

Fle (X) B

ACTION/ ACC INFO/ DISTHREE

A1795

55/18

HQ AAI

RESTRICTED

~~ROUTINE~~ / IMPORTANT

A 898

JUL 171815B

85a

86a

REF MY A 862 OF 12 AND FREEDOM FX 72066 OF 14 NOT TO DISTHREE BUT CONVERSATION COND - COL A REFERS.

1. RELEASE OF BRITISH CAPTURED PW RELEASED ON PAROLE OTHER THAN COOPERATORS ALSO INVOLVED.

2. PROMULGATION OF RELEASE MUST HOWEVER ALSO HAVE AT LEAST PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON COOPERATORS WHO ARE ALSO PAROLEES UNLESS CAREFULLY WORDED AND INCLUDES REFERENCE TO IMMEDIATE CALL UP FOR SERVICE IN ITALIAN ARMY. CAN RELEASE BE EFFECTED IN TERMS OF FREEDOM SIG FX 70649 OF 10 BY M HANDING OVER NOMINAL ROLLS OR PAROLE FORMS TO LOCAL CIVIL GOVT AUTHORITIES.

3. REQUEST YOU EXAMINE BEST METHOD AND REPORT.

(84)

DIST

ACTION - SEC GEN
INFO - ADM SECT
A/CC
CA BR 2
ARMY SC
POL SECT
W.M.D.S.C.
FLOAT
FILE

Fle / for

89a

AF98
17Jul44

RESTRICTED

JUL 181440B

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

To 17 July 1845

A 1761

9 JUL 1944

ASC/1/101

16 July 1944

To: Allied Armies in Italy.

Subject: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW (Co-operators).

Reference your AAI/3072/A(O) of 4 July 1944.

1/. It is understood that when this question was discussed with General Sir Maitland Wilson and Captain Stone a few days ago, it was decided that new instructions would be issued in regard to this matter.

2/. No action will now be taken until further instructions are received.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Army Sub-Commission

Copies To - Secretary General (2)

ASC/1/101
16 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ARMY SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

A 1759 (A)

ASC/1/4/45

19 JUL 1944

16 July 1944

To: G-5, Allied Force Headquarters, APO512.

Subject: Return of personal effects and valuables of PW.

1/. The attached translations of letters regarding the non-return of personal effects and monies to Italian PW, received from the Italian High Commissioner for PW are forwarded.

2/. It is requested that instructions be issued for the return of the effects etc. involved and that information be forwarded to me showing any action taken in this matter

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
Army Sub-Commission

3 Encls.

Copy to Secretary General (2)

ASC/1/4/45

9083

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

High Commissioner for PW Cava dei Tirreni 30 June 1944
File No. 805/N/ABS TO: A.C.C. SALERNO

SUBJECT: Luggage of the General Pescatori, PW repatriated.

The Division General Armando PESCATORI, repatriated the 13th of March this year from the Genral Officers Camp of Premnager(Dehra Dun-Delhi), had been assured by Col. Williams, Commander of the Camp, that his personal baggage would have been forwarded to him as soon as possible not being able to take it with him because travelling by air. The baggage was left in the hands of General Merrari at the Camp of Premnagar. The General Pescatori has heard no more about the above mentioned baggage, consisting of a wooden box and two metallic ones. The A.C.C. is prayed possibly to sollicit the expedition.

For the High Commissioner for PW.
General Vincenzo Papino

(88) Incl I
805/N/ABS
30 Jun 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

High Commissioner fo PW Cava dei Tirreni [illegible] July 1944
File No. 1298/Mil.G.S TO: A.C.C., SALERNO
SUBJECT: Return of money and properties to PW.

The PW, now repatriated, Captain Nicolo Amato, No. T. 111346, asked this High Commissioner for the return, from the Allied authorities, of 3 postal orders of the Bank of Sicily of 2000 lire each (No. 6884, 6885, 6893), No. 1 postal order of the Bank of Naples of 1000 lire (No. 000257) and of the 150 lire cash.

Capt. Nicolo AMATO was made prisoner by British troops on 11 June 1943 on Pantelleria. The sums above indicated have been taken from him by the British Command of Camp No. 205 of Bona (Algieria), and when he was repatriaed (1 April 1944) the Command of the PW Camp No. 221 (Algeria Area), did not return to him his property.

The PW states that the envelope, in which was his property, had the No. T. 111346.

I beg this Commission to ask the proper authority to return to the above named PW his money and property.

The High Comissioner
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera)

(88) Incl III

1298/mil. G. S
7 Sept 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

High Commissioner for PW Cava dei Tirreni 7 July 1944
File No. 1277/Mil G.2 TO: A.C.C., SALERNO
SUBJECT: Repatriated PW BEVILACQUA Michele, sone of Nicolca, Via Piccinni No. 198 Bari, requests for documents.

The PW cited on subject, repatriated 11/5/43, landed in Bari 8/6/43 on a PW exchange, asks for the restitution of some personal documents of his (drivers license, steam boiler conductor patent, letters, pay envelope etc.) which have been taken from him in Mogadiscio and were not given back to him in Egypt when he was repatriated.

I beg this Commission to interest the proper authority for the restitution of the cited documents which are very necessary for the ex PW.

(88) Encl II

1277/Mil G.2
7 Jul 44

The High Commissioner For PW
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

HQ A.C.C. APO 394
Secy G-5
Rec'd 12/7 1945
By

A 1758

19 JUL 1944

ASC/1/3/64

15 July 1944

To: G-5, Allied Force Headquarters. APO 512.

Subject: PW Welfare Inquiry.

1/. The Italian High Commissioner for PW has submitted an inquiry concerning the present state of health, welfare and address of Italian PW,

Bernardino MICUCCI, Class 1895, sone of John and Sofia Bignati, No. 381850, Camp 387, Postal Section, Sudan.

2/. It is requested that any information available concerning the PW in question be forwarded to me so that I may reply in due course to the High Commissioner for PW.

For the Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt.-Colonel
~~Director, A.M.D.G.S.~~
Army Sub-Commission

Copy To - Secretary-General (2)

ASC/1/3/64
15 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

File (A) + 13

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

1794

FX 72066

JULY 14/1102

42/15

CONFIDENTIAL

NONE

CITE: FHGAB

ACTION FILPOT TO FCRF INFO ACC

AFHQ SIGNED SACMED

REFER YOUR A 864 OF 12 JULY. MAJORITY OF MEN NOW ON PAROLE IN SICILY TO BE RELEASED ON 31 JULY ARE SICILIANS CAPTURED BY AMERICANS AT START OF INVASION, AND IMMEDIATELY SENT HOME ON PAROLE, WHERE THEY HAVE REMAINED EVER SINCE. A FEW WERE BRITISH CAPTURES. NO FORMATION OF SUCH PERSONNEL INTO UNITS HAS EVER BEEN RECORDED. THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH PW CO-OPERATORS OR NON CO-OPERATORS STILL RETAINING PW STATUS WITHIN UNITS OR WITH IN PW CAMPS, WHOM IT IS NOT PROPOSED TO RELEASE

ACC DIST

Info Act Sec Gen
Info CA Br (2)
Admin Sect
Pol Sect
Army S/C
A/CC
File
Float

CONFIDENTIAL

File/Sm

2080

(86) a

FX 72066
1742CKF

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SC-1711

17 JUL 1944

File (A)

ARMY AIR COMMISSION
H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Subject: Italian soldiers employed as POW in British East Africa.

To: Allied Forces Headquarters.

AS/1/102
14 July, 1944.

1. We attached translation of letter 463/Pol dated 29 June 44 from the Italian High Commissioner for protection of War is forwarded.

2. May We matter please have attention and may I be provided with information upon which my reply to the Italian Government can be based.

For Acting Chief Commissioner:

J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Air Section.

Copy to: Secretary General, H.Q. A.C.C. (2) (For Info.)

(A)

AS/1/102
14 Jul 44

TRANSLATION No B[illegible] - ROMANO

High Commissioner for POW
File No 463/Pol

Cava 29 June 1944 17 JUL 1944

TO:- A.C.C.

SUBJECT:- Italian soldiers employed as POW in British West Africa.

The Royal Government has received news regarding the presence of Italian soldiers employed, in the status of POW, in works in British West Africa, that is to say, in Nigeria, in the Gold Coast, in Sierra Leone, etc.

This news has surprised the Italian Government, since these soldiers were transferred to such tropical regions from Kenya and South Africa.

We do not wish to discuss here this regrouping the British military authorities have made of the Italians in question, which is definitely contrary to the regulations of the Geneva Convention and without any agreement with the Italian Government to change them. We hope this question can, even now, be solved according to our moderate wish to vindicate the rights and military dignity of the Italians still maintained in the status of POW.

But we are obliged to recall - through the kind mediation of the ACC - the attention of the Allied Governements to the sanitary conditions of these unfortunate Italian soldiers, already physically tired and morally depressed by more than two and even three years of captivity.

These prisoners, transferred thus to West Africa, unanimously expresshe wish to be removed as soon as possible from those regions with unhealthy and dangerous climate, and sent back to where they c came from or transferred to regions adapted to their present health, which has been rendered so weak. It suffices to recall here, for example, that of the 98 POW detained at Camp No 1 at Lagos(Nigeria), in four months 15 were struck by malaria (15 percent) and that 29, (i.e. 30 percent), had to be cured in hospital, while others were c cured in detention camp. The conditions of the 152 detained in the camp at Accra (Gold Coast) are not much better. Within 70 days, 44 or about 25% were taken to the local hospital, among whom 11 for malaria (8%).

The POW, placed in these dangerous conditions and hardships, cannot understand (as they say themselves) why, in view of the changed political situation in Italy with the downfall of Fascism, with the Armistice and cobelligerency, they were transferred from a healthy region to an unhealthy region, completely infracting the regulations set forth in Art 9 of the Geneva Convention (1), while after cobelligerency, they imagined they would be set free.

The Italian Authorities beg the British Government to transfer these Italian soldiers to healthy regions; considering too that the entire number of them - it appears - is not more than a few hundred.

I would be grateful if the ACC would kindly send a courteous reply which would be favourable.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(GENERAL PRUNAS HESTON)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

soldiers are transferred to [illegible] South Africa.

We do not wish to discuss here this regrouping the British military authorities have made of the Italians in question, which is definitely contrary to the regulations of the Geneva Convention and without any agreement with the Italian Government to change them. We hope this question can, even now, be solved according to our moderate wish to vindicate the rights and military dignity of the Italians still maintained in the status of POW.

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The Italian Authorities beg the British Government to transfer these Italian soldiers to healthy regions; considering too that the entire number of them - it appears - is not more than a few hundred.

I would be grateful if the ACC would kindly send a courteous reply which would be favourable.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(GENERAL PIETRO GAZZERA)
/s/ P Gazzera

(1) Geneva Convention - Art 9 - Prisoners captured in districts which are unhealthy or whose climate is deleterious to persons coming from temperate climate shall be removed as soon as possible to a more favorable climate.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Files A-B

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

880

TO: ACTION FREEDOM /INFO ACC

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 22/15

FROM: FILPOT

CLASSIFICATION: VERY IMPORTANT

REFERENCE No: A864

PRECEDENCE: NONE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUL 121800

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE FHGAB

A 1821
21 JUL 1944

PLEASEE SEE YOUR FX 70649 OF 10 REF RELEASE OF PAROLMEN IN SICILY. AM EXAMINING IMPLICATIONS VIS A VIS LOSS OF VARIOUS PW UNITS AND WILL COMMUNICATE RESULT. MY IMMEDIATE REACTIONS FROM BRITISH VIEW POINT ARE THAT CERTAIN UNITS SUCH AS PIONEER AND PROVOST COYS MUST BE RETAINED IF NECESSARY AS ITALIAN MILITARY UNITS WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY BE THE STATUS OF PERSONNEL ON RELEASE. IN ANY CASE MOST OF UNITS WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED IF TOTALRELEASE EFFECTED BY CIVIL LABOR OR ITALIAN MILITARY WHICH WILL MEAN ADJUSTMENT OF ITALIAN MAN POWER CEILING ALLOTTED. REQUEST ACC ACTION TO PROMULGATE BE DEFERRED UNTIL SITUATION EXAMINED. CONSIDER PROMULGATION ALSO UNDESIRABLE IN VIEW YOUR FX 70748 OF 10

383.6 Italy

ACC DIST

INFO-ACTION	SEC GEN	1
INFO	C A BR	2
	ADM SEC	1
	POL SEC	1
	ARMY SC	1
	A/CC	1
	FILE	2
	FLOAT	1

A864
12 Jul 44

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUL 15

Distribution:

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

(A) 8 B

COPY

801

DISTHREE INFO IBS ACC MMLA

FILFCT

A 862

A 1796 N 20/15

JUL 1217502

(84)

FOOLOWING IS SIG FX 70649 of 10 FROM FREEDOM TO ACC. QUOTE .....

..... (for text see FX 70649 of 10) .....

.....

UNQUOTE. REQUEST YOU EXAMINE IMPLICATIONS VIS A VIS LOSS OF VARIOUS PW UNITS AND DILUTEES. ALSO CONSIDER MACHINERY FOR RELEASE

ACC DIST

INFO ACT
INFO

SEC GEN
CA Br 2
AIM SEC
POL SEC
ARMY SC
A/CC
File 2
Flont

3.3(b)(6) POW Records

2026

COPY

(85) a

A862
12 Jul 44

File 174

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Cd. Docum 9

SECRET CCTV 12344

ARMY SUB COMMISSION
HEAD Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

32

15 Jul 1200 DHB

17-2
17 JUL 1944

AS0/1/3
11 July 1944.

Subject: Mail of Military POW who have been assigned to labour units and transferred to Italy.

File (A)

To : Allied Force Headquarters.

1. The attached translation of letter No 469/POW/II dated 29 June 1944 from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

2. It is requested that this matter be given early attention and that any information on the subject be forwarded to me so that I may present a reasonable answer to the Italian Government.

For Acting Chief Commissioner:

J. A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission.

Copy to Secretary General, H.Q.A.C.C. (for information) ✓

File Q

85

AS C/1/3
11 Jul 44

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR CAVA DEI TIRRENI
FILE NO. 469/Pol.E. di prot 29 June 1944 TO: A.C.C.

Subject: Correspondence of PW put together in labour units and sent to Italy.

1/. Relations of PWs have had their letters, addressed to the normal PW camp address in North Africa, returned to them with "repatriated" written on the envelope.

The families who have their letters returned to them with the declaration "repatriated" and don't see their relative arrive home of course, after some time start to get worrisome speculating that some disgrace has happened to their relative PW and live in extreme anguish. It has now been stated that actually these soldiers have come to Italy and that they are, however always under the painful qualification of PW, united in labour groups in the retinue of the Anglo-American Army in Italy.

Perhaps the restitution of the letters to the sender has been determined by the fact that contrary to Art. 8 of the Convention of Geneva the detaining Powers have not yet communicated to the R. Italian Government and through it to the High Commissioner for PW, the official addresses to which the relations of those PW can address their letters, or either the PW themselves have not yet been put in the position to correspond personally with their relatives, according to the conditions provided by the Articles 26 and 36 of the same Convention of Geneva.

I pray for the benevolent interest of the A.C.C. so that very soon this grave inconvenience mentioned above can be remedied, keeping present the serious repercussions of moral order, which would come forth if this situation was to be prolonged, either with regards to the PWs as to their families, who since many months, reciprocally are without any news.

I would be grateful if the A.C.C. could send to the High Commissioner the lists of the PWs and who have been brought to Italy as well as their respective address. The interested families would be immediately informed by us.

2/. Other families have also applied to us because since months they cannot write to their PWs and don't have any news from them, because the PWs have been transferred to other labour units.

I have already mentioned above the articles of the Convention of Geneva which deal with these cases. I beg the A.C.C. to inform us of the names and the new address of the PW transferred.

3/. As the A.C.C. will see, all this confusion and those new suffrances of a moral kind, which are inflicted upon the PWs and their families arise from the fact, that the reorganisation which seems to have take p place through the Allied Governments, was done without making any agreements with the R. Italian Government. I beg the A.C.C. to take trouble so that this agreement which should respect the international Conventions and the Italian national dignity, is realised as soon as possible.

The High Commissioner
General Pietro Gazzera

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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The High Commissioner
/s/ General Pietro Gazzera

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

2/

?

~~17~~

56th Area
Reopened

Keep this note
in file

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

AB Pol Sec

606

ACC, ACTION FOR INFO TO CG AAI, CG SOS NATOUSA, GOC NORTH AFRICA DIST, 6 BRITISH DISTRICT

56-1732

17 JUL 1944

SECRET

ROUTINE

FHSAC

AFHQ

FX 70649

101541

YOU WILL INSTRUCT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, BASED ON COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF CABLE #369, SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE 1. THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDERS INSTRUCT ME TO INFORM YOU THAT ITALIAN NATIONAL PRISONERS OF WAR WOW ON PAROLE IN THE POLITICAL ENVIRONS OF SICILY WILL BE OFFERED COMPLETE RELEASE EFFECTIVE 31 JULY 1944. PARA QUOTE 2. THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IS AUTHORIZED BY THE ALLIED ARMIES TO TAKE THIS ACTION FOR THE DUAL REASONS, FIRST, IN ORDER THAT THESE PEOPLE MAY BE RETURNED TO THE FULL USE OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN SICILY FOR COMPLETE ASSIMILATION IN FURTHERING THE WAR AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY, AND SECOND, AS AN EARNEST INDICATION OF THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TAKE EVERY ACTION COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE WAR AND TO ALLEVIATE THE PERSONAL SITUATION OF ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WHERE PRACTICABLE IN PURSUING THESE OBJECTIVES. UNQUOTE PARA YOU WILL TAKE CARE THAT NO REFERENCE, EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, IS MADE BY YOU CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RIGHTS OR STATUS AS A COBELLIGERENT OR JURISDICTION IN THE POLITICAL AREA INVOLVED. THE DATE SET FOR RELEASE HAS BEEN INTEGRATED WITH THE CLOSING OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY ISLAND BASE SECTION IN SICILY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS RELATIVE TO RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WILL BE CHARGED TO THE RESPECTIVE BRITISH AND UNITED STATES ARMY ADMINISTRATIVE CHANNELS. ANY QUESTION COMPOUNDED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INCIDENT TO THIS WHOLESALE RELEASE OF PERSONNEL WILL BE

84

F 70649

10 Jul 44

SECRET

FJL 1/44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SECRET

606

FORWARDED TO THIS HEADQUARTERS FOR ACTION. THIS IS NOT A PRECEDENT FOR FU FUTURE RELEASES NOR IS IT TO BE CONSTRUED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN AS STATED IN FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO BE DELIVERED BY YOU. NO PUBLI+ CITY IN THIS MATTER WILL BE RELEASED EXCEPT THROUGH THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMAND.

ACC ADV DIST
(ACT) ADM SECT 2
SEC GEN
DCC
CA BR 2
ARMY EC
POL SEC
FILE
FLOAT 2

2077

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

U. S. SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

MSG Center No : 26/144
Classification :
Precedence : PRIORITY
From : AFHQ
To : ACC CASERTA

Date Time Rec'd : 14 1725
Date Time Sent : 131935
Reference NR : CC 7418
Cite :

2647

DIG OUT OUR MESSAGS FOX XRAY SEVEN XERO SIX FOUR NINE DATED ONE XERO ONE FIVE FOUD ONE BAKER GROUPS FOUR EIGHT FIVE PAREN CRYPTO FREEDOM TO CRYPTO ABLE CHARLIE CHARLIE CYS RPT CYS SIX TWO FOUR AND VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO ABLE ABLE ITEM CNA XOS NATOUSA COMMA IBS CNA AFHQ ADV CP PAREN PE PORTION OF TEXT IN BEGINNING OF MESSAGE SHOULD READ QUOTE THAT ITALIAN NATIONAL PRISONERS OF WAR NOW REPIAT NEGAT OBOE WILLIAM ON PAROLENIN TUE POLITICAL ENVIRONS OF SICILY UNQUOTE PLEASE MAKE THIS CORRECTION TO MESSAGE QUITED ABOVE

2021

ATTN CAIF - [illegible]

(84)

APPA

U. S. SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

File (A) & B

Orig. to A/cc

CONFIDENTIAL

A 1709
22 JUL 1944

HQ ACC, APO 394
Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 18 July 1944
By OFE

10 July 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

Subject: Italian Military Personnel Detailed as Prisoners of War.

1. Under cover of your memorandum A/CC 383.6 of June 26, you sent a copy of a note from the President of the Italian Council, requesting the views of the Allied authorities on Marshal BADOGLIO's representations of May 19 regarding the Allied policy of utilising Italian prisoners of war.

2. The Supreme Allied Commander directs that you reply to Signor BONOMI's note on the lines indicated in the following paragraph.

3. It is the policy of the Allied authorities to release from prisoner-of-war status and return to ITALY individuals with special qualifications, such as judicial or administrative experience, for service in specific positions for the direct furtherance of the war effort in ITALY. The Allied Governments have every desire to meet the wishes of the Italian Government in questions concerning prisoners of war, insofar as their responsibilities in regard to the prosecution of the war permit, as is evidenced by the release of more than 60,000 Italian prisoners of war who were on parole in SICILY. The general question of the utilisation of Italian prisoners of war in Allied custody is under constant study and the views of the Italian Government will be taken into consideration. There is, however, no intention at present of effecting a general release of Italian personnel from prisoner-of-war status.

2070

F.A.H. GASKELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

Copies to:
G-1 (A)
G-5
U. S. Political Advisor
British Resident Minister
IS & MI

83a

10 July 44

CONFIDENTIAL

File 171

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

15 JUL 1944

ARMY SUB COMMISSION
REAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Subject: Hospitalisation of Italian POW in India suffering from Malaria.

To : Allied Force Headquarters.

1. The attached translation of letter No. 1076/22/4-6 dated 25 June 1944, from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is forwarded.

2. Your early reply is requested.

For Acting Chief Commissioner:

J. A. Campbell,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission.

Copy to: Secretary General, H.Q. A.C.C. (for information)

HQ ACC, APO 394
Sec'y Gen.
Recd 14 Jul 44
AG/1

10 July 1944.

Encl I

2669

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Trans No895. Army 1.7.1944. Romano

Cava dei Tirreni, 25 June 1944.

The High Commissioner for POW.

File No. 1076/M.1/Ei-C

Subject: Hospitalization of Italian POW in India suffering from Malaria.

An examination of the statistics of the Italian POW in India taken to hospital, belonging to the Camps of Group 6, show for the year 1943 a surprising progressive increase of those taken ill with malaria.

And the percentage of the malarial cases which in the months of March and September 1943 varies from 2.6 to 5.9% goes up in the winter months (October to December) to an average of 12%, reaching even 49% in Group 6 for the month of October 1943.

One can only deduce that the Camp of Group 6 are in a highly malarious region, and since the choice of such a site is in contrast with the regulations in Articles 9 and 10 of the Geneva Convention, I beg the A.C.C. to kindly call the attention of the British Government to these undesirable conditions so that the necessary measures may be adopted.

I thank you in anticipation.

The High Commissioner.

8306

(83) Encl I

1076/M.1/Ei-C
25 Jun 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

74-0-6

NPS/ajs

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

8 July 1944

G-5: 383.6

SUBJECT: Copies of cables on Prisoners of War.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.

Reference: Memorandum 4 July 1944, file A/CC 383.6.

1. It is regretted that no copies are now available from Message Center files of the cables to which reference was made in your memorandum referred above.

NORMAN T. SEAGRAVE
Major, FA
Executive officer

NOTE:
"No further action. On examining the file it is my opinion that we never had, and were never intended to have, the cables mentioned. "RED"
G-5 383.6
8 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Col. Dunsmore

Suspended to 1 Aug 44. 383.6

Ltr Capt Stone A/CC 383.6 of 1 Jul 44 to AFHQ G-5 re Killing of Ital POW by Guards.

74

M.I.P.

See 80

1 Sept. — Being handled by Col. Campbell. WMD + POW S/C

To Major Dwight

Col: Dunsmore:

I think there is no need to take any further action for quite a time.

Suspend to 1 Sept 44

[illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

C 50
U 4913

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CMS/CF/as

G-5: 383.6-8

DSU 1611
10 JUL 1944

7 July 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.
(Attention: Acting Chief Commissioner).

74

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 1 July on the above subject, with a letter of Premier Bonomi inclosed. The complaint of the Italian Government has been brought to the attention of the United States and British Governments, and request has been made, to those Governments and to the appropriate staff sections of this headquarters, for information upon which a reply may be based. (See indosed copies.) It will be evident that the collection of this information will necessarily involve a considerable delay.

HEADQUARTERS
AUG 1944
A. C. C.

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

Incl:
Copy of letters of
6 July to
Asst. C/S CAD WDGS
Dir. of CA, War Office
A C/S G-1 (A)
DAG - G-1 (B)

80

G-5 3F 3.6-8 No Action
7 Jul VV File Rl Q.

File/Retain
1 Sg (with incls)

REF: Please

Q.

MAY 2 1945

T T 5 2 1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Ref

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CMB/CF/as

6 July 1944

G-5: 383.6-8

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

TO : Major General J.H. Hilldring,
Chief, Civil Affairs Division,
War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. The Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, has transmitted a communication on the above subject from the Italian premier, two copies of which are inclosed. Complaint is there made that Italian prisoners of war have been killed under circumstances not justifying such severity; investigation is requested, and a claim for indemnities is placed on record.

2. This communication is brought to your attention, in order that the United States Government may know of the complaint.

3. It is requested that information be supplied, on which to base an answer to the Italian Government, in the case of Sergeant De Falco, whose name is No. 24 on the Italian Government's list.

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

Incl:
Letter of the President
of the Italian Council
of Ministers, 27 June 1944,
with its inclosed list. (2 copies)

2684

60 INCL I

G-5 383.6-8
6 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CMS/GF/aa

G-5: 383.6-8

6 July 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

TO : Director of Civil Affairs,
War Office, Whitehall S.W.1.

1. The Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, has transmitted a communication on the above subject, from the Italian premier, a copy of which is inclosed. Complaint is there made that Italian prisoners of war have been killed under circumstances not justifying such severity; investigation is requested, and a claim for indemnities is placed on record.

2. This communication is brought to your attention, in order that His Majesty's Government may know of the complaint.

3. It is requested that information be supplied, on which to base an answer to the Italian Government, in the case of Private Alberto Verba, whose name is No. 23 on the Italian Government's list.

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

Incl:
Letter of the President
of the Italian Council
of Ministers, 27 June 1944,
with its inclosed list.

80 Incl II

G-5 383.6-8
6 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

M11

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CMS/CF/as

G-5: 383.6-8

6 July 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoner of War by Guard.

TO : Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 (A).

1. The Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, has transmitted a communication on the above subject from the Italian premier, a copy of which is inclosed. Complaint is there made that Italian prisoners of war have been killed under circumstances not justifying such severity; investigation is requested, and a claim for indemnities is placed on record.

2. The communication is being brought to the knowledge of the United States and British Governments.

3. It is requested that information be supplied, on which to base an answer to the Italian Government, in the case of Carab. Angelo Belli, whose name is No. 22 on the Italian Government's list.

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

Incl:
Letter of the President
of the Italian Council
of Ministers, 27 June 1944,
with its inclosed list.

280.2

(50) Incl III

G-5 383.6-8
6 Jul 44

DECLASSIFIED

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

CMS/CF/as

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

6 July 1944

G-5: 383.6-8

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoner of War by Guard.

TO : The Deputy Adjutant General G-1 (British).

1. The Acting Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, has transmitted a communication on the above subject from the Italian premier, five copies of which are inclosed. Complaint is there made that Italian prisoners of war have been killed under circumstances not justifying such severity; investigation is requested, and a claim for indemnities is placed on record.

2. The communication is being brought to the knowledge of the United States and British Governments.

3. It is requested that information be supplied, on which to base an answer to the Italian Government, in the cases arising in India, South Africa, East Africa, and Egypt, Nos 1 to 21 on the Italian Government's list.

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

Incl:
Letter of the President (5 copies) of the Italian Council of Ministers, 27 June 1944, with its inclosed list

2681

(80) Incl IV

G-5 383.6-8
6 Jul 44

DEC 1 0 1974
RECEIVED

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

3024

14 JUL 1944

TO: AAI INFO MMIA ACC FOR OFFENHAUER

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N54/06

FROM: PENBASE

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

REFERENCE No: PENBASE 21215

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUL

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/BPSPM

WE CITE URAD A743 DATED 2 JULY. PENBASE DOES NOT HAVE PERSONNEL CAPABLE OF DETERMINGING WHETHER ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ARE BONA FIDE FASCIST REPUBLICANS OR ANTI FASCISTS IMPRESSED INTO LABOR SERVICE. REQUEST SMRE DESIGNATE AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO PENBASE COMPETENT AND TRUSTWORTHY ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE ATTACHED TO PENBASE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP 326 TO INTERVIEW ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF REQUIRED LISTS.

ACC MAIN DIST

INFO/ ACTION/ ARMY LO 2

INFO/ DCC

FILE

FLOAT 2

3823.9 POW Sec

Ref. cable not available, and Army Sub-Com says this matter is dead and that Penbase is not going to pick up anyone.

790

21215 6 Jul 44

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUL 6

Distribution:

Fib/Leg

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

PA to A/C & C 13320
U 4950

AMGOT SUB COMMISSION
REAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

DSAO 1629

SUBJECT: Italian POW Enquiries. 11 JUL 1944 AG/11/3/61

TO : High Commissioner for Prisoners of War. 6 July 1944.

1. Enclosed herewith are four letters from Italian Commando, which were either directed to or reached Provost Marshal General (PMG), Caserta, through various sources.

2. Inasmuch as such enquiries should be transmitted through Italian channels to your office for submission to this office, you are requested to issue the necessary instructions to ensure that this procedure is observed by all Italian units, Commands and Ministries.

3. With reference to letter No. 1052 di Prot from Comando Del Distretto Militare dated 21 April, 44, location of PW are as per attached list.

4. In response to the other inquiries, HP (303) Natowas state that there are no records of any of those being held as POW in French or US custody.

J. A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission.

COPY TO:- Major Quayle
P.A. to Act.C.C., A.C.C. ✓

POW Branch

FILE

AG/11/3/61
6 July 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

PA to A/C. 5319
U4951

ARMY AIR COMMISSION
REAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

AAI/1/3/60
6 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Information concerning Italian P.O.W.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
(Liaison Section)

D SM 1630
11 JUL 1944

1. Ref your letter, subject as above, dated 24 June 1944.

2. I would acknowledge receipt of your letter on the subject of information concerning Italian P.O.W.

3. I have forwarded the papers on to the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War with a request that he take such action as you have indicated.

For Acting Chief Commissioner:

J. A. CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Air Commissioner.

COPY TO:- Major Quayle
B.A. to Act.C.C., A.C.C.

HEADQUARTERS
30 JUL 1944
A. C.C.

9088

File/ Ref

FILE
Q

(19) a
AAI/1/3/60
6 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

To:

Army Sub-Commission
Rear Hq ACC

For information.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

8 JUL 1944

REFERENCE SLIP

Date 6 July 1944

File: A/CC 383.6

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War (Attached are: (1) Ltr AAI/3072/A(O) - 4 July; (2) Ltr (Army Sub-Commission) to AAI, ref AO/11/1, 29 June 44 and Ltr AAI/3072/A(O).)

FROM: Acting Chief Commissioner

TO			
	Administrative Section		War Materials Disposal Sub-Comm.
	Economic Section		Public Relations Branch
✓	Political Section		Secretary General
	Regional Control and Military Government Section		Chief Staff Officer
	Air Sub-Commission		
	Army Sub-Commission		
	Communications Sub-Commission		
	Navy Sub-Commission		
FOR:			
	Acknowledgement		Information and Retention
	Appropriate Action		Dispatch
	Investigation and Report		File
✓	Remarks/Recommendation		
	Information and Return		

REMARKS:

The Acting Chief Commissioner would like very much to have your comments and recommendations with respect to the attached.

Initials
Chief Staff Officer

(79)

A/CC 383.6 (1)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

COPY

SECRET

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped Italian POW (Co-operators).

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/3072/A(O).

4 Jul 44.

IDN 15355

8 JUL 1944

HQ, A.C.C.

Encl III

1. Copy of this HQ letter of even number dated 25 Jun 44, addressed to Army Sub-Commission ACC, is forwarded, together with a copy of General Browning's reply. Encl II

2. Will you please consider the question and approach the Italian Government in accordance with para 6 of the first quoted letter.

xxxxxxxxxx
Col.
for Brigadier,
D.A.G.

TW/IY.

2056

(79) Encl I

AAI/3072/A(O)

COPY

SUBJECT: Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW. (Co-operators).

SECRET

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main Hq (MAIA)
LEQUILE (LECCE)
AQ/11/1.
29 June 44.

H.Q. AAI.

Your AAI/3072/A(O) dated 25 June -

1. I agree in general with your letter as above.

2. The position of P of W is anomalous and no solution has been come to by the Allied Governments. I understand that the Italian Government will NOT "play" and so no "formula" is likely to be produced. But this is a matter for ACC to advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

3. The following are some ideas on this subject:-

(a) P of W have for long past been used for work for the Allies in organized units with better privileges than the ordinary Italian soldier. They are thus unlikely to desert permanently.

(b) We need this manpower, particularly if the Italian Army ceiling is reduced to 447,300 as proposed by AFHQ.

(c) Therefore we must take these 10,000 P of W and do the best we can with them. If they slip off to see their families and do not come back under a fortnight, we tell CC.RR. If they come back we say and do nothing.

If CC.RR. picks them up, those of non-military age are demobilised, those of military age are enrolled in the Army - without punishment for deserting, except to demand back their P of W uniforms. We must hope they will not desert, but if they do, we can do nothing about it, except as above.

(d) We must treat them as they have been treated in NORTH AFRICA, but try and keep them separate from other Italian troops.

(e) Presumably they would only be used for labour and not (armed) Guard duties.

4. The above are only my personal ideas. I think it is really a political matter which should be advised on by ACC. I know General MACFARLANE made many efforts to achieve a solution which failed due to factors outside his control.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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2. The position of P of W is anomalous and no solution has been come to by the Allied Governments. I understand that the Italian Government will NOT "play" and so no "formula" is likely to be produced. But this is a matter for ACC to advise on. Therefore, we must act independently as best we can.

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4. The above are only my personal ideas. I think it is really a political matter which should be advised on by ACC. I know General MACFARLANE made many efforts to achieve a solution which failed due to factors outside his control.

(Sgd) L. Browning.

Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

tvs.LB.

(14) Incl II

AG/11/1
29 Jan 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

C O P Y

SUBJECT: - Apprehension of Escaped Italian PW. (Co-operators).

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
CMF
25 Jun 44
AAI/3072/A(C)

Army Sub-Commission,
ACC.

Reference AG 383.6 dated 30 May 44 from CG PBS.

1. AFHQ intend shortly to import into ITALY 10,000 Italian PW who can play a vital part in the maintenance of this Force. As carefully organized and equipped units they are of far greater value to us than equivalent units of the Italian Army. On this basis, our policy must be to keep these PW units intact.

2. When the 10,000 PW are imported there will be a natural tendency for personnel to desert in order to visit their families and for other reasons. The only deterrent which the system of the PBS applies is the fact that on apprehension the absconder rejoins the Italian Army with its lower standard of living. This penalty is not sufficiently hard to prevent desertion.

3. Presumably deserters within the demobilization categories would not be returned to the Italian Army and would be demobilized on apprehension.

4. In view of the foregoing, the arrangements in force as described in PBS letter quoted above are not acceptable.

5. The status of Italian PW employed in formed units by the Allied Forces is now officially described as "Co-operator". They are employed in the same manner as other units of the Italian Army and, therefore, cannot be regarded in a true sense as PW. That being so, the argument by CG Italian Forces in CAMPANIA that the international military code boliges an officer to assist in the escape of PW of his own nationality must be interpreted in a broader sense, in view of the abnormal state of affairs in ITALY and the employment of these units in conjunction with the Italian Army as stated above.

6. It is considered that the matter should be taken up with the Italian Government, in order that they may produce a formula by which the scruples of their officers are satisfied and the deserters returned to the units in which they are employed, as it is only by the co-operation of the Police, Military Authorities and Carabinieri that deserts can be apprehended.

7. Will you please consider the matter and let us have your views.

(Sgd) T. Welch. Col.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Reference AG 383.6 dated 30 May 44 from CG PBS.

1. AFHQ intend shortly to import into ITALY 10,000 Italian PW who can play a vital part in the maintenance of this Force. As carefully organized and equipped units they are of far greater value to us than equivalent units of the Italian Army. On this basis, our policy must be to keep these PW units intact.

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7. Will you please consider the matter and let us have your views.

(Sgd) T. Welch. Col.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief.

TW/JD

Copy to G(SD)

(79) Incl III

AAI/3072/A(O)
25 Jan 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

AFO/hd

4 July 1944

N/cc 383.6

MEMORANDUM TO: Allied Force Headquarters.
(Attention: G-5)

4 JUL 1944

1. In examining the files at this HQ relating to prisoners of war, there appears to be no trace of certain documents, details of which are given below:

a. Your outgoing cable W1315 of 6 Oct 43 to AGWAR for Marshall refers to latter's 8924 of 30 Sept 43;

b. Your outgoing cable W2111 of 9 Oct 43 to AGWAR for Marshall refers to latter's 9620 of 8 Oct and 68 of 23 Sept;

c. Mention is also made of your outgoing cable 7552 of 21 Sept.

2. Cables which are missing in our files are Nos. 8924, 9620, 7552, and 68, mentioned above. It would be appreciated if you would kindly supply copies of these missing documents in order that our files may be complete.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

L. D. DENSMORE
Colonel, Sig C
CSO

(77)

N/cc 383.6
4 Jul 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

EWS/hjp

A/CC 383.6

4 July 1944

DRAFT

4 JUL 1944

(1) APP A

Dear Colonel Valenzano:

Reference your 1651/Prot, I am glad to be able to give you the following news of Corporal Filippo Tocca:

He is at present located with No. 2627 Italian Company (Pioneer), and his postal address is: No. 308 PW Camp, c/o Central PW Postal Section, M.E.F.

Sincerely,

EMERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Lieut. Colonel G. Valenzano
Private Secretary to Marshal Badoglio
Villa Ricciardi
Cava dei Tirreni

(76)

A/CC 383.6
4 Dec 44

7/6/28

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

D 56 442

1 JUL 1944

EWS/lvjp

1 July 1944

A/CC 383.6

Dear Prime Minister Bonomi:

Your letter No. 1903 of 27 June 1944, relative to "Killing of Italian POW by guards", has been referred to Allied Force Headquarters with a request that information be furnished upon which reply to you can be based.

Yours very truly,

KILLEN W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
The President of Council of Ministers
Italian Government

cc. Army S/C

2051

Filed: Feb 1948
SG Suspended
Aug 1st

75

A/CC 383.6
1 Oct 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

2255

INCOMING MESSAGE

A 2174
14 AUG 1944

TO: ACC HQ FOR LUSH

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N22/04

FROM: ACC REG 1 (HANCOCK) CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

REFERENCE No: KPS 47 PRECEDENCE: IMPORTANT

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUL032305B OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

REF RELEASE ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ON PAROLE EFFECTIVE 31 JULY REFERRED TO IN CABLE FROM AFHQ HAS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED. AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS

101

ACC DIST

ACT-	WMD & I POW	2
INF-	A/CC	
	CA BR	2
	FILE	2
	FLOAT	

3836 POW

7 files Otto AYB 1000.

79a

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUL040815

Distribution:

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

AMG/AJD

A/CC 353.6

DSC 9 JUL

1 JUL 1944

1 July 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian POW by Guards

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

(74) Encl I

1. Reference is made to attached translation of letter No. 1503 from Prime Minister Bonomi, to the Commission, dated 27 June 1944, above subject.

2. It is requested that information be furnished upon which reply to the Italian Government can be based.

ALBERT W. STARR
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Incl:
As per para 1

CC-Army Sub-Commission

5869

(74)

A/CC 353.6
1 Jul 44

Filed in mic
S 9
Suspend 2
Aug 1 to 6

Encl 1 to 6916

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

No. 1903 di prot.

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian POW by Canada.

27 June 44

TO THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Salerno

The Italian Government, through the Protecting Power, has come to know about the serious facts in connection with the killing of 24 Italian soldiers in the camps where they were detained as POW. Those killings took place during the brief period from April to August, 1943.

Although the documents furnished are probably incomplete, we have the sad impression that in the majority of cases the killings took place without sufficient justification, and that no penal measures have been taken against the responsible murderers.

The attached table contains the information necessary to identify the cases that we are deploring and the essential circumstances in which the killings took place, insofar as the Italian Government has gathered from the reports it has received.

The Allied Control Commission can well understand the dread with which the Government must learn of the miserable end of these poor Italian soldiers. Moreover, it will no doubt imagine the feelings which must spring in the hearts of the families when they will be informed, as it is the duty of the Government to do so, of the incidents which accompanied the unexpected end of their beloved, while the latter were in the custody of the Allied Powers.

Particular attention is being given to the incident involving the Indian officer who as soon as he saw Capo Maripolo Calderoni, who was unarmed, and inside the prison camp, walking towards his barracks, shot him with a pistol at close quarters, wounding him fatally.

The Italian Government wishes to ask the Allied Control Commission to explain to the British Government and to the United States Government the profound impression that these killings have made on the Italian government and people, and the necessity of throwing clear and objective light on these grave incidents.

These Governments too will feel the necessity of taking penal measures, if they have not as yet done so, rendered necessary by the disclosures they may have made in the matter; as it seems from the report of the facts of the cases, the guards are not always greatly responsible, but those who have given them rigid and exaggerated orders which are justified in penal institutions but not in the case of honored soldiers fallen in captivity.

The Italian Government will be grateful if information will be sent in regard to the measures that will be adopted.

For the protection of the families concerned, so hard hit, the Government

(14) Encl 1

1903
27 June 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

requests that the indemnities will be paid to them, in the earliest time, and which are due to them according to Art 3 of the IV Hague Convention of 18 Oct 1907 ('the belligerent party...will be responsible for all the acts committed by persons belonging to its Armed forces).

I shall await your kind communications on this and project.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

/s/ Petrescu

2017

(4) Encl I

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

1.	46437	Soldato	MUNI Archimede	Camp 21	2/5/43	Particulars missing
2.	177030	S. Ten. Art	DES GRANGES Alberto	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing
3.	177624	S. Ten. Art.	SISI Frederico	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing
4.	48500	Tenente	ITALIA Francesco	Camp 27	24/5/43	Particulars missing
5.	7189	Int. Civ.	BOVANI Nello	Central Int.	27/6/43	Attempted escape. 2nd Lt. Petroncini, th
6.	116609	S. Ten.	PETRONCINI Vico	Camp 25	27/5/43	climb across the barbed wire fence of the guard with a rifle and fell. The guard, fired again. Corp. Calderoni, also infor seen Petroncini fall, was going toward h Indian officer who, thus inside the camp at close quarters, wounding him fatally.
8.	57655	Soldato	IPTTO Nunziato	Camp 23	14/8/43	Killed by a rifle shot fired by the guar barbed wire. He was shot not attempting at all justified. The act of approaching justification for killing.
9.	335620	S. Ten.	MARTINELLI Ezio	Camp 24	12/6/43	Killed by a guard's rifle shot. guard d barbed wire. The court has ascertained the opinion that the killing was not ju has been taken against this guard.
10.	291437	Capo Sq.	FEDERICO Pasquale	Camp 16 Wing V	23/7/43	Unquestionably mentally ill. While he basins and 5 metres from the potesting guard to fire upon him, a buddy trying the guard cried out to them to get away Federico received 17 splinters of a mac the killing was not justified.
	b) SOUTH AFRICA					
11.	76406	Cap.le	ERAI Giuseppe	Camp 357 Tanga-Kenya	19/8/43	Killed for not having answered the guar him near the barbed wire fence. No hid poor victim.
12.	Tenente		VERIONE	Camp 156 Kenya	3/2/42	Killed for having unconsciously stood that precedes the barbed wire fence by made no attempts to escape. The guard charge of murder, was acquitted.
13			VASSALO Giovanni	Kenya Camp 360	10/6/43	Particulars missing.
14.		Soldato	Ribaudo Gaetano	Kenya	13/7/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard b barbed wire with a bag of provisions. escaping, the attempt had not yet beg camp.
15.	142891	Soldato	FARAONE Celestino	Zonderwater Camp		Killed by a shot from the rifle of the

N.B. 1 to 10
a) INDIA

2045

(74) INCL. T

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ohimede	Camp 21	2/5/43	Particulars missing
3 GRANCES Alberto	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing N.B. 1 to 10
EI Frederico	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing a) INDIA
ALIA Francesco	Camp 27	24/5/43	Particulars missing
VANI Nello	Central Int.	27/6/43	Particulars missing
ETRONCINI Vico	Camp 25	27/5/43	Attempted escape. 2nd Lt. Petroncini, the moment he was trying to climb across the barbed wire fence of the camp, was fired upon by the guard with a rifle and fell. The guard, seeing him on the ground fired again. Corp. Calderoni, also intending an escape attempt, having seen Petroncini fall, was going toward his wing. He was met by an Indian officer who, thus inside the camp, fired upon him with a pistol at close quarters, wounding him fatally.
TTO Nunziato	Camp 23	14/8/43	Killed by a rifle shot fired by the guard because he was near the barbed wire. He was shot not attempting to escape. The firing was not at all justified. The act of approaching the barbed wire is not justification for killing.
NTINELLI Emio	Camp 24	12/6/43	Killed by a guard's rifle shot, guard declaring he was cutting the barbed wire. The court has ascertained the contrary and has expressed the opinion that the killing was not justified at all. No measure has been taken against this guard.
DERICO Pasquale	Camp 16 Wing V	23/7/43	Unquestionably mentally ill. While he was 3 metres from the wash basins and 5 metres from the protecting wire, he personally asked the guard to fire upon him, a buddy trying to pull him away. That instant the guard cried out to them to get away and immediately after fired. Federico received 17 splinters of a machine-gun bullet. Evidently the killing was not justified.
357 LAI Giuseppe	Camp 357 Tenga-Kenya	19/8/43	Killed for not having answered the guard's intimation, who had seen him near the barbed wire fence. No hint of escape on the part of the poor victim.
RRONE	Camp 156 Kenya	3/2/42	Killed for having unconsciously stood on the other side of the wire that precedes the barbed wire fence by 3 metres. The poor victim had made no attempts to escape. The guard, who was chld for hearing on a charge of murder, was acquitted.
ESALO Giovanni	Kenya Camp 360	10/6/43	Particulars missing.
heudo Gaetano	Kenya	13/7/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard because he was found near the barbed wire with a bag of provisions. Even if he had intended escaping, the attempt had not yet begun. He was killed indide the camp.
9618			
RAONE Celestino	Zonderwater Camp		Killed by a shot from the rifle of the colored guard. The guard

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Order No.	Rank	Name	Camp	Date of Killing	Remarks
	c) EAST AFRICA				
16. 16629	Soldato	MONACI Adelmo	Camp 352	8/5/43	was held for trial and, having been f murder, was sentenced to only 7 days Killed by a rifle shot by the guard b
	d) EGYPT				camp which was considered "off limits"
17. 360672	Soldato	LANCELLA Giuseppe		19/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard a
18. 348644		BERGAMASCHI Alessandro		11/5/43	camp to the other. Killed by a rifle shot by the guard b
19. 318642		MILANO Giuseppe		Apr 43	camp which was considered "off limits"
20. 148421	Sergente	ELVEZI Ettore			Particulars missing.
21. 365023	Sergente	BANUCCIO Salvatore			Killed by shots fired by guarding pat were outside the camp. It is not dis stopped without being killed instantl escape is not a crime, but merely dis by only 30 days of detention, Art 50 Convention.)
	e) NORTH AFRICA				
22.	Carab.	BELLI Angelo	Camp 100	27/7/43	Killed by the guard of the guard towe engaged in conversation, near the sent guards of a nearby tower.
	f) GREAT BRITAIN				
23.35377	Soldato	VABBA Alberto	Indicazione avuta dal Foreign Office	8/4/43	Killed aboard a ship which was transfe rifle shot fired by a guard who, seeing the latrine, feared he would be assail had made no sign of attacking the guard been without any purpose.
	g) AMERICA				
24. 8431	Serg. Magg.	DE FALCO Antonio	Camp Clark Missouri	28/7/43	Killed because he was attempting, cont from one section to another within the Again a disciplinary failure, which sh with death.

TRANSLATION

9045

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Name	Camp	Date of Killing	Remarks
			was held for trial and, having been found guilty of intentional murder, was sentenced to only 7 days imprisonment with hard labour.
MONACI Adelmo	Camp 352	8/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard because he was in a section of the camp which was considered "off limits".
LANCELLA Giuseppe		19/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard as he went from one section of the camp to the other.
BERGAMASCHI Alessandro		11/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard because he was in a section of the camp which was considered "off limits".
MILANO Giuseppe		Apr 43	Particulars missing.
ELVEZI Ettore) BANUCCIO Salvatore)			Killed by shots fired by guarding patrols of the camp because they were outside the camp. It is not disclosed that they could not be stopped without being killed instantly. (Note that the attempt to escape is not a crime, but merely disciplinary failure punishable by only 30 days of detention. Art 50 and Art 54 of the Geneva Convention.)
BELLI Angelo	Camp 100	27/7/43	Killed by the guard of the guard tower of the camp while he was engaged in conversation, near the sentry wire, with one of the other guards of a nearby tower.
VARRA Alberto	Indicazione avuta dal Foreign Office	8/4/43	Killed aboard a ship which was transferring him to America, by a rifle shot fired by a guard who, seeing 2 prisoners returning from the latrine, feared he would be assailed. The POW were unarmed and had made no sign of attacking the guard. The attack would have been without any purpose.
DE FALCO Antonio	Camp Clark Missouri	28/7/43	Killed because he was attempting, contrary to orders given, to pass from one section to another within the general barbed wire fence. Again a disciplinary failure, which should not have been punished with death.

COPY

9045

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

ARMY SUB COMMISSION
REAR H.Q. ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

TO: Major Quayle.

I pass the attached to you to show to Captain Stone.
It has a Political flavour I think, and comes from "Bonomi"

29 June 1944.

J.A.CAMPBELL,
Lt. Colonel,
Army Sub-Commission.

This has not been acknowledged by Col: Campbell
20/7

(14)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Translation
1 Cy

RECEIVED A.F.
27 JUN 1944
27 GIUGNO 1944

IL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO
DEI MINISTRI

N° 1903 di prot. 1 allegat.-

OGGETTO : Uccisioni di p.g.italiani da parte di sentinelle.

Killing of Italian Pows by guards.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

S a l e r n o

Il R. Governo italiano, attraverso le comunicazioni delle Potenze Protettrici è venuto ora a conoscenza di alcuni gravi fatti relativi alle uccisioni avvenute, nel breve periodo di tempo dall'aprile all'agosto 1943, di ben 24 militari italiani prigionieri di guerra, nei campi ove erano detenuti.

Per quanto i documenti forniti siano probabilmente incompleti, si ha la dolorosa impressione che nella maggior parte dei casi le uccisioni siano avvenute senza sufficente giustificazione e senza che risultino provvedimenti penali presi a carico degli omicidi responsabili.

Nello specchio allegato sono riportate le indicazioni necessarie per identificare i casi che si stanno deplorando e le circostanze essenziali che caratterizzano le uccisioni avvenute, quali esse appaiono dai rapporti sinora giunti al Governo italiano.

Codesta Commissione Alleata di Controllo può ben comprendere il raccapriccio con cui il Governo deve soffermarsi a meditare sulla fine miseranda di questi poveri militari italiani, e si rende certamente conto, pure, dei sentimenti che, umanamente, devono nascere nel cuore dei loro congiunti quando saranno informati, come di dovere, dal R.Governo, degli avvenimenti che hanno accompagnata l'improvvisa fine dei loro cari, mentre erano in custodia delle Potenze Alleate.

2043
./.

(74) Incl I

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

IL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO
DEI MINISTRI

Particolarissima attenzione va portata sul fatto dell'ufficiale indiano il quale, appena avvistato il capo manipolo Calderoni, inerme, entro il campo di prigionia, che s'avviava alla sua baracca, gli ha sparato una pistolettata, quasi a bruciapelo, ferendolo mortalmente.

Il R.Governo prega codesta Commissione Alleata di Controllo di volersi rendere interprete presso il Governo di S.M.Britannica e presso il Governo degli Stati Uniti d'America della profonda impressione di queste uccisioni nel governo e nel popolo d'Italia, e della necessità che piena, obbiettiva luce sia fatta su tali gravi avvenimenti.

I Governi stessi, qualora non l'abbiano ancora attuato sentiranno essi stessi la necessità di adottare i provvedimenti penali resi necessari dagli accertamenti che avranno compiuo. Spesso, come apparirebbe dal racconto dei fatti, non sono sempre le sentinelle a portare le responsabilità maggiori, bensì coloro che hanno ad esse impartite disposizioni rigide, esagerate, valevoli per i luoghi di pena e non per campi di onorati soldati caduti in cattività.

Il R.Governo sarà grato se gli verranno comunicate notizie in riguardo ai provvedimenti che verranno adottati.

A tutela poi degli interessi delle famiglie così duramente colpite, il R.Governo prega che siano sollecitamente liquidate ad esse gli indennizzi loro spettanti, in virtù dell'art.3 della IV Convenzione dell'Aja del 18 ottobre 1907 (La partie belligérante .... sera responsable de tous actes commis par les personnes faisant partie de sa Force Armée).

Resto in attesa di cortesi comunicazioni su questo doloroso argomento.

Cordialmente

IL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI

Ivanoe Bonomi

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

May Quarte

AG 383.6 (Cecil) M-3530

BMR/as

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

DSU 1515

4 JUL 1944

28 June 1944

G-5: 311.18

SUBJECT: Whereabouts, Italian PW.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.

(62) PW No. 153887 Cple/Magg. Filippo Tocca

Reference DCC 383.6 dated 1st June the a/m PW is at present located with No. 2627 Italian Coy (Pioneer). Postal address:- No. 308 PW Camp, c/o Central PW Postal Section, M.E.F.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

B. M. REPTON
Jnr./Cmdr.

(73) a

28 June 44

2 Aug 44. G-5 311.18
Dice 1/1.

J 20/1/45

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

EMG/hjp

JAG.

A/CC 383.6

25 June 1944

DSM 414

30 JUN 1944

Subject: Shortages of items in Army Store No. 304 of POW Camp in Egypt

58 INCL

Dear General Gazzera:

Reference is made to your letter 293/AS8 of May 17th. This matter was referred to GHQ, MET, from whom the following statements have been received:

"(a) Article 12 of the Geneva Convention is being complied with at all PW Camps in the Middle East, as it has been since the inception of the Camps.

(b) The Camps are frequently visited and inspected by the delegate of the I.R.C.C. and by the Representative of the Protecting Power for Italian affairs in Egypt, and they have expressed their entire satisfaction.

(c) Some Italian Officers have expressed a request for authority to purchase from their own funds suitable material with which to make Italian uniforms, and this authority has been granted.

Enquiries made in North Africa have also revealed no complaints of inadequacy of supplies."

58

Le Allen 66

EMERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency General Pietro Gazzera
High Commissioner for Prisoners of War
Italian Government

2049

73

A/CC 383.6
28 Jan 44

Tele/hjs

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Note for Acting Chief Commissioner.

Political

There may be some political aspect here?

I know General Browning would prefer not to touch matters concerning the Balkans.

If you agree I can speak with political section and if they wish to take no action, I can refer the question to A.F.H.Q.

(73)

9026

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Secy Gen
H 3016

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

25 June 1944.

DSB 1464
30 JUN 1944

SUBJECT: Alleged shortage of clothing for Italian PW in EGYPT.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission.

1. Reference your letter CC 383.6 dated 29 May 44 and my reply dated 7 June 44.

2. A reply has now been received from GHQ, MEF in which the following statements are made:-

(a) Article 12 of the Geneva Convention is being complied with at all PW Camps in the Middle East, as it has been since the inception of the Camps.

(b) The Camps are frequently visited and inspected by the delegate of the I.R.C.C. and by the Representative of the Protecting Power for Italian affairs in EGYPT, and they have expressed their entire satisfaction.

(c) Some Italian Officers have expressed a request for authority to purchase from their own funds suitable material with which to make Italian uniforms, and this authority has been granted.

3. Enquiries made in NORTH AFRICA have also revealed no complaints of inadequacy of supplies.

By Command of General WILSON:

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

HEADQUARTERS
28 JUN
A.C.C.

73 APR A.C.C.

25 Jun 44

File 14028

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

EWB/dfo
J.A.G.

A/CC 383.6

DSB 390
27 JUN 1944

26 June 1944

Subject: Italian Military Personnel Retained as Prisoners of War.

To: Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

12 AFC A

1. Reference is made to attached translation of letter No. 1890 dated 23 June 1944 from the President of the Council, H.E. Sig. Bonomi.

2. The new government is clearly returning to the attack on this subject.

3. May this matter please receive early attention and information be given us to the lines along which a reply should be made.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: Army Sub-Commission
Rear Hq ACC

X - Suggest DAS files mss 2097

Secty Gen.
Suspend to 10 July
TSB

(12)

A/CC 383.6
26 Jun 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

TRANSLATION

President of the Council — Cava dei Tirreni, 23 June 1944

File No. 1890

TO: General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane
Chief of the ACC, Naples

S.F

Dear General,

Among the many and serious problems with which the Royal Government must deal, there exists, as you well know, the problem of the Italian Military Personnel still detained as prisoners of war in all parts of the world and even in the national territory.

In his letter of May 10th, No. 1405 directed to you, my predecessor, His Excellency Marshal Badoglio, in summarizing the matter, explained again the Italian Government point of view and asked for an official explanation of the new organization which the Allied Governments, according to press and radio dispatches, would have given to the Italian Military Personnel in their hands.

With your letter No. 304 of May 18th, Your Excellency assured him of having transmitted that letter to the Allied Command at Algiers and you expressed the hope of receiving a prompt reply.

However, up to date no further communication has been received by the Italian Government regarding the matter. I do not hide from you the fact that the prolonging of this situation of uncertainty renders painful and difficult the work of the government, inasfar as regards the Italian Military Personnel still detained as prisoners of war who write letters into the country relative to their state of mind; inasfar as concerns hundreds of thousands of families impatient to see the situation solved for their distant and still captive relatives in such a way as to conform to the effort which liberated Italy wishes to carry out, shoulder to shoulder, with the Allies against the common enemy.

Therefore, I would be grateful to you, Dear General, for a prompt reply which would smooth the way to effect an agreement---conforming to international law and to Italian national dignity---which until now we have been unable to reach, notwithstanding all the good Italian intentions.

I thank you in advance with cordial greetings.

/s/ Ivanoe Bonomi

72 AFHQ A

ACC Distribution:
1 - Captain Stone - ACTION
1 - SC File
1 - DSC File
1 - Adv SC File

1890
23 Jun 44

original Seen by Col. Stevenson in Naples

HQ ACC, APO 394
Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 24 Giugno 1700
By

IL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSIGLIO

Cava dei Tirreni, 23 giugno 1944

N° 1890 di prot.

Al Sig. Generale Noel MASON MACFARLANE
Capo Commissione Alleata di Controllo

N A P O L I

Caro Generale,

Fra i molti e gravi problemi che il R. governo italiano deve trattare, esiste, come Ella ben conosce, quello dei militari italiani tuttora detenuti quali prigionieri di guerra, in tutte le parti del mondo e perfino nel territorio nazionale.

Il mio predecessore, S.E. il Maresciallo Badoglio, con Sua lettera del 10 maggio n. 1405 a Lei diretta, riassunti i termini della questione, esponeva nuovamente i punti di vista del R. governo italiano, e chiedeva cortese precisazione ufficiale, circa la nuova organizzazione che i governi alleati, secondo notizie giornalistiche e radio diffuse, avrebbero dato ai militari italiani in loro mani.

La S.V. lo assicurava con Suo foglio 3[illegible] 18 maggio di avere trasmesso quella lettera al comando alleato in Algeri, ed esprimeva la speranza di avere una risposta sollecita.

Nessuna ulteriore comunicazione è però giunta sinora al governo italiano in merito, ed io Le nascondo che il protrarsi di questa situazione di incertezza rende l'opera del governo penosa e difficile, tanto nel riguardo dei militari italiani tuttora nello status di prigionieri di guerra, i quali scrivono in paese lettere preoccupanti circa il loro stato d'animo, quanto rispetto alle centinaia di migliaia di famiglie impazienti di sapere risolta la situazione dei loro congiunti lontani e tuttora captivi, in modo conforme allo sforzo che l'Italia liberata cerca

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Al Sig. Generale Noel MASON MACFARLANE
Capo Commissione Alleata di Controllo

N A P O L I

Caro Generale,

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./.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Le sarò perciò grato, Signor Generale, se vorrà sollecitare una risposta, la quale possa spianarci la via a conseguire l'accordo - conforme alle leggi internazionali ed alla dignità nazionale italiana - che finora non s'è potuto raggiungere, non ostante tutta la buona volontà italiana.

Ringraziandola anticipatamente, con molta cordialità.

Isaac Sommer

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Suspense

EMS/hjp

28 JUN 1944

A/GC 383.6

26 June 1944

SUBJECT: Italian PWs detained by Americans in the Region of Bizerta

TO : Chief of Staff, Allied Force Headquarters

1 Incl

1. Reference is made to attached translation of letter N. 404 pol di prot., dated 17 June 1944, from the Italian High Commissioner for prisoners of War relative to above subject.

2. General Guzzoni points out certain irregular conditions and suggests that provisions of the Geneva Convention are being violated.

3. May this matter please receive attention and information provided upon which reply to the Italian Government can be made.

KILLERY N. STONE
Captain, USMR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Incl:
ltr (transl.) N. 404 per para 1

cc: Army Sub-Commission

(Suspend to July 10th)

Hq ACC - Sec'y
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 26 Jun 2000
AG
Via
Initials

A/GC 383.6
POW Italian 44

383.6 POW Italians

TRANSLATION

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
For Prisoners of War

N. 404 POL di prot.

Cava dei Tirreni, 17 June 1944

TO: ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SALERNO

SUBJECT: Italian PW detained by Americans in the Region of Biserta.

1. We have just learned to our great surprise, that two camps for Italian PW are still existing in Tunis, maintained by American military authorities, strongly contrasting with the regulations of the Geneva Convention of 27th July, 1929.

2. It seems there is, in the first of all, a general concentration camp, in which are interned all the Italian soldiers who have not yet signed or have not wished to sign a declaration of collaboration with the ligitimate R. Government in Italy.

The R. Government does not know what formula of such nature has been submitted without its knowledge to Italian soldiers, but I must point out that the procedure of making an artificial distinction between prisoners of war, based on each ones political sentiments, would not meet with its consent. Italian law considers the prisoners themselves entirely subject to military regulations and having, all inexclusively, the same military duties. Thus it would not be consented to any of them to avoid, by means of the expression of political sentiments, the duties deriving from the present compulsory conscription existing in Italy.

Besides, a PW, according to Italian law, can assume no obligation toward the Power holding him prisoner, other than that established by the Geneva Convention or ordered by the Italian Government, without incuring the grave punishments of the military penal code of war.

Morecver, while the regulations of Article 4 of the Geneva Convention do not permit differences of treatment unless based on the military grade or the state of health of the PW, in this camp the treatment is much more severe than in other camps. For example, the officers, even those of high rank, (with the exception of the Generals) are forbidden to have an attendant, so that even the colonels have to wash their pans and draw their food rations from the kitchen, there being no mess for them. Such restrictive treatment is in contrast with Article 22 of the Geneva Convention.

3. There is also another camp, we are informed, in the same region and under the control of the American authorities, a disciplinary and political "punishment camp", where almost a prison regime is adopted, here again contrary to the Geneva Convention. Apart from the facts that now PW can be punished or persecuted for his political ideas and that all PW not being punished should all be treated in the same way as said before, no disciplinary punishment should exceed thirty days. Thus a continual punishment such as that of the above-mentioned camp, is not consented by the Geneva Convention (Art. 48).

4. I imagine that these irregular conditions I have pointed out are

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

1. We have just learned to our great surprise, that two camps for Italian PW are still existing in Tunis, maintained by American military authorities, strongly contrasting with the regulations of the Geneva Convention of 27th July, 1929.

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The R. Government does not know what formula of such nature has been submitted without its knowledge to Italian soldiers, but I must point out that the procedure of making an artificial distinction between prisoners of war, based on each ones political sentiments, would not meet with its consent. Italian law considers the prisoners themselves entirely subject to military regulations and having, all inexclusively, the same military duties. Thus it would not be consented to any of them to avoid, by means of the expression of political sentiments, the duties deriving from the present compulsory conscription existing in Italy.

Besides, a PW, according to Italian law, can assume no obligation toward the Power holding him prisoner, other than that established by the Geneva Convention or ordered by the Italian Government, without incuring the grave punishments of the military penal code of war.

Moreover, while the regulations of Article 4 of the Geneva Convention do not permit differences of treatment unless based on the military grade or the state of health of the PW, in this camp the treatment is much more severe than in other camps. For example, the officers, even those of high rank, (with the exception of the Generals) are forbidden to have an attendant, so that even the colonels have to wash their pans and draw their food rations from the kitchen, there being no mess for them. Such restrictive treatment is in contrast with Article 22 of the Geneva Convention.

3. There is also another camp, as are informed, in the same region and under the control of the American authorities, a disciplinary and political "punishment camp", where almost a prison regime is adopted, here again contrary to the Geneva Convention. Apart from the facts that now PW can be punished or persecuted for his political ideas and that all PW not being punished should all be treated in the same way as said before, no disciplinary punishment should exceed thirty days. Thus a continual punishment such as that of the above-mentioned camp, is not consented by the Geneva Convention (Art. 48).

4. I imagine that these irregular conditions I have pointed out are due to some incorrect information or misunderstanding on the part of the superior local authorities. I earnestly beg the A.C.C. to bring the above facts to the knowledge of the authorities who have the power to correct such undesirable conditions.

I offer my thanks for what information the A.C.C. wishes to give us regarding whatever decisions will be adopted.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
(General Pietro Gazzera)

/s/ P. Gazzera

71 Incl I

404
17 Jan 44

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

EWS/dfe
TAB.

A/CC 383.6

26 June 1944

DS-13 388
27 JUN 1944

(72) ACP A

My dear Prime Minister,

The contents of your letter No. 1890 dated 23 June 1944 has been passed to Allied Force Headquarters, and I hope to be able to give you a reply on this matter in the near future.

Yours very sincerely,

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

H.E. Sig. Ivanoe Bonomi
President of the Council
Salerno

cc: Army Sub-Commission
Rear Hq ACC

203

(70)

A/CC 383.6
26 Jun 44

File/Sec S
filed: MSP
S.1109.4

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

AFHQ/ACC

25 June 1944

In reply refer to:
A/CC 383.6

DSH 384

27 JUN 1944

Subject: Restitution of personal property to repatriated Prisoners of War.

To : Allied Force Headquarters, G-5 Section, APO 512.

1. The Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War has reported many instances of Italian Prisoners of War repatriated to Italy where Articles 6 and 24 of the Geneva Convention have not been complied with.

2. In Articles 6 and 24 it sets out that all prisoners of War prior to release should have all private effects and monies held or due to him returned or paid prior to release on repatriation. Exchange in currency is not permitted without the consent of the Prisoner of War concerned.

3. I enclose translations of the presentations by the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War of twelve claims from repatriated Prisoners of War, for monies and personal effects of which they were relieved at the time of capture or on occasions of transfer from one camp to another. The High Commissioner for Prisoners of War states that in many cases the non-return of money etc. has been very hard on repatriated Prisoners of War and has caused much unhappiness.

4. Many Italians in North Africa and Italian East Africa who, at the outbreak of hostilities were taken prisoner, consigned their entire possessions in cash, government bonds, saving books, etc. to the Command who took them prisoner. As a rule the articles were enclosed in an envelope 2982 which was written the name of the owner but a receipt was not always given.

5. If, on investigation, the statements made in the attached claims prove correct, it is requested that steps be taken to satisfy the claimants as quickly as possible.

(69)

A/CC 383.6
23 Dec 44

File 1 for 8

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

6. It is also for consideration that early instructions be issued to staff and others handling the release of Prisoners of War to ensure that the correct procedure is known and the undesirable actions complained of not repeated in the future.

HENRY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Enclosures as in para 3. (all refer to High Commissioner for Prisoners of War letters to A.C.G.)

1.	Letter - File No.	409/mil	dated	30	May 1944
2.	" "	596(185)mil	"	6	June 1944
3.	" "	597(199)mil	"	6	June 1944
4.	" "	598(587)mil	"	6	June 1944
5.	" "	599(208)mil	"	6	June 1944
6.	" "	600(519)mil	"	6	June 1944
7.	" "	601/mil/204	"	6	June 1944
8.	" "	521/mil	"	7	June 1944
9.	" "	608/mil	"	7	June 1944
10.	" "	649/mil/G.2	"	9	June 1944
11.	" "	655/mil/G.2	"	9	June 1944
12.	" "	646/mil/G.2	"	15	June 1944

2029

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 661 - Corisi

High Commissioner for POW
File No 409/mil

Cava 30 May 44
To: A.C.C. - Salerno

SUBJECT: Restitution of Money, Documents and Bonds to Medical Colonel RICUCCI-CHIMI Agostini.

1. Med Col RICUCCI-CHIMI Agostini was taken prisoner at Mogadiscio by British forces and listed as No 72251. On May 11,43, he was put on the Dutch Hospital ship "Orange" and repatriated. He now states as follows:

A few days after the embarkation, obeying orders issued by British Authorities, he deliver d, for censorship purposes, the following items which he intended to take to Italy, enclosed in 6 envelopes, which in turn were in a cotton bag:

1st. Personal health records;
2nd. Receipts, bills paid, administartive documents;
3rd. 20 Treasury Bonds of the value of 95,000 lire, 25 interest bearing postal Bonds valued at 81,000 lire besides the accrued interest; 1 deposit book of the Bank of Italy with 15,000 lire; 2 money orders (non-transferable) of 50,000 lire each;
4th. Family snapshots;
5th. National book and various identity cards;
6th. Promotion orders and military honors.

Name and surname of Col RICUCCI-CHIMI werewritten on each envelope, and also on the cloth bag. This last was tied with ribbon and sealed in the presence of the officer himself.

The British Censorship officer, Lt N Davians, assured him the documents would be returned in Rome and then restored at the time of prisoner exchange which would occur at Smyrne. Arriving at Smyrne on 2 June, contrary to instructions, nothing was returned.

The Red Cross delegate travelling on the same ship assured the Col that the documents would be returned a few months after arrival. But up to now, about a year later, this has not been effected.

2. To the above, the Col adds that on 9 May 43, two days after leaving Mogadiscio, it was ordered that all officers and other ranks should deliver all currency and all valuable objects (watches, chains, rings, buttons, etc) which they wished to take away with them. The interpreter Lt. N Davians, already mentioned above, took in the items, issuing to each man a list of currency and objects put in his care. Each individual was given an envelope in which all articles and money were put; on the envelope, sealed with sealing wax, was written the name of the owner.

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Arriving at Camp Kelvan in Egypt the day before leaving for Alexandria, these envelopes were distributed, the envelope of the col very much frayed, was found to be less a gold fountain pen, and a gold container which held a thermometer.

Aware of the fact that the above articles were missing, and since he held a receipt issued at Mogadiscio by Lt H Damiano, he made a complaint, which resulted in an inquiry. The Col was asked to file a report, which was given, and he was assured by the British that an investigation would be made of the matter.

3. In compliance with Art 24 of the Geneva Convention, I beg the ACC to use its good offices in connection with the British Government so that Med Col RENGEL-CHIURI may regain the above mentioned items.

I feel it advisable to point out, in regard to the matter, that credits of POW may not be converted into other values without their consent, and that the officer involved has not given any consent whatsoever for that purpose.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PIETRO GAZZERA)
/s/ P Gazzera.

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TRANSLATION No 724 - S.I.S.I.

High Commissioner for POW
File No 596(185) mil

Geva 6 June 44
PO: - A.C.C. - Salerno

SUBJECT:- Reimbursement of Sum due in Deposit Book of Medical Major SPAGNOLETTI.

During his prison term, a deposit book was made out to Medical Doctor Major Galileo SPAGNOLETTI, ex PW in 1943 at Camp No 5, PW Myrtleford (Australia), in which monies due PW were put to his account in the Australian Bank at Melbourne, and the deposit book was holding the Australian Camp Administration.

The sum at the time of his repatriation, amounted to 950 pounds sterling, and consisted of salaries paid to the officer in addition to credits used for purchases at the Camp stores, which were issued to him from time to time.

When SPAGNOLETTI was repatriated he was not given the deposit book, nor did he get either the sum deposited or a receipt for the same.

Reference to Art 24, Geneva Convention, I beg the AOC to use its good offices with the detaining Power to procure quick payment of the 950 pounds sterling with deposit book to Medical Doctor Major Galileo SPAGNOLETTI. Art 24 prescribes that deposits of PW cannot be converted to another value without his consent.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PIETRO GAZZERA)
/s/ illegible

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 721 - SECRET

Rome 6 June 44

High Commissioner for POW
File No 597(199) mil

TO: A.C.C. - Palermo

SUBJECT:- Restitution of Money to Capt. BACCELLI.

Capt Desiderio BACCELLI, repatriated 8 Dec 43, stated that on 1 August 43, he gave 27,000 French francs to the Command of the English PW Camp at Oueo (Algeria), which sum was put in an envelop, signed by BACCELLI himself.

At the time of repatriation, BACCELLI received neither money nor receipt.

Reference Art 24, Geneva Convention, I beg the ACC to use its good offices with the Detaining Power to procure quick payment of the 27,000 French francs to Capt Desiderio BACCELLI. Art 24 prescribes that deposits of PW cannot be converted to another value without his consent.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PIETRO GAZZERA)
/s/ P Gazzera,

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 722 - [illegible]

High Commissioner for POW
File No 590(587) mil

Cava 6 June 44.

TO: - A.C.C. - Salerno

SUBJECT:- Request for Payment in Full of Pte DE LUCA Teodoro, Repatriated.

Pte DE LUCA Teodoro, now repatriated, was given a statement of his credits, copy of which is enclosed, from which it seems the Detaining Power owes him 948 shillings 75 pence.

He was interned at Camp No 352, Kenya.

Reference Art 24, Geneva Convention, I beg the ACC to use its good offices with the Detaining Power to procure quick payment of 948 shillings 75 pence to Pte DE LUCA Teodoro. Art 24 prescribes that deposits of PW cannot be converted to another value without his consent.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PIERRE GAZZERA)
/s/ P Gazzera.

Copy of attached:

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

Issued by General Headquarters Middle East Forces Liberation
No.....P.O.W. CAMP 344 RANK .. Soldato NAME.. De Luca Teodoro
Credit balance at 27 May 43 £..sh 948,75 d..
I have received a copy of this statement
Supplementary Statement will be forwarded to the Italian Government.
Complete information received from East Africa.

P.C.O.
(certified copy)

Page 1

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 720- SO.....

Geva 6 June 45.

The High Commissioner for POW
File No 550(208) Mil

TO:- A.C.C. - Salerno

SUBJECT:- Restitution of Documents and Bonds taken from POW
Private TERRANOVA Salvatore

Private TERRANOVA Salvatore, ex-POW at Hendera, in Somaliland, serial No 61892, was relieved of personal papers and 3 interest bearing bonds of lire 5,000 each, by POW Camp authorities when they were repatriating him.

Everything was enclosed in an envelope and TERRANOVA was given a receipt.

Quoting Art 34, Geneva Convention, I beg the ACC to use its good offices to contact the Detaining Power for a quick return of the items held by the latter.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL FI [illegible])
/s/ F Gassara

Inc 5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 727 - SOVEST

High Commissioner for POW
File No 600(519) mil

Cava 6 June 44
TO:- A.C.C. - Salerno

SUBJECT:- Payment of Sum Deposited by Major CC RR CAPPETTI Angiolo.

The Major of the Carabinieri Reali (CC RR) CAPPETTI Angiolo, repatriated from imprisonment, is the holder of the document of which we enclose a copy, from which it may be shown that he has a credit against the Government of the United States, of dollars 419.36, which he did not receive upon departure.

The document also contains other information which may help to trace the Camp in which he was interned.

Reference to Art 24, Geneva Convention, I beg the ACC to use its good offices with the Detaining Power to procure quick payment of dollars 419.36 to Major CC RR CAPPETTI Angiolo. Art 24 prescribes that deposits of PW cannot be converted to another value without his consent.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PIETRO CALLENA)
/s/ P Callera

Copy of attached

PRISONER OF WAR
(RECEIPT TO BE CREDIT BALANCE)
P/W CAMP 131

Date 26 April 1944

This is to certify that Cappetti, Angelo Maggiore (Major) 81-1-4905 has been a prisoner of War in custody of the U.S. Government from 15 Nov 43 to 26 April 44 and has a credit balance of dollars 419.36 Voucher No.... which has been credited to his account in the U.S. Treasury "Trust Fund 21X915 - Deposits, Funds of civilian internees and Prisoners of War", supported by approved payroll voucher no. The above amount is subject to change by the Finance officer.

Signed: James E. Powers 2nd Lt Infantry
(signature of U.S. Army personnel officer)

Distribution:
1 copy to P/W
1 copy to PWIB c/o MIS Washington DC
1 Copy for file

(certified copy)

Copy

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 726 - CMISI

The High Commissioner for POW
File No 501/Am11(204)

Okva 6 June 44
TO:- A.C.C. - Palermo

SUBJECT:- Payment of Sum Deposited by Major CARTA Vittorio

The Major of the CC MI, CARTA Vittorio, repatriated from imprisonment, is the holder of the document of which we enclose a copy, from which it may be shown that he has a credit against the Government of the United States, dollars 479.82, which he did not receive upon leaving.

The document also contains other information which may be useful to trace the camp in which he was interned.

Referring to Art 24, Geneva Convention, we beg the ACC to use its good offices with the Detaining Power in obtaining reimbursement by it to Major CARTA of the sum of dollars 479.82. You will note that Art 24 provides that the assets of PW may not be converted to other value without his consent.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PIERO GAZZERA)
/s/ P Gazzera

Copy of attached:

PRISONER OF WAR
CERTIFICATE OF CREDIT BALANCE
P.W. Enclosure No. 159
Mediterranean Base Section

date 26 April 44

This is to certify that CARTA Vittorio, Major 21-I-46407 has been a prisoner of war in custody of the U.S. Government from 15 May 43 to 26 April 44 and has a credit balance of $ 479.82, for the period outlined above, which has been credited to his account in U.S. Treasury Trust Fund 21-915 - Deposits, Funds of civilian internees and prisoners of war, supported by approved payroll vouchers.

P Stanley J Kurt
2nd I.C.C.O., Adjutant.

(certified copy)

2021

Ino 7

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 725 - ROMANO
High Commissioner for POW
File No 524/mil

Geva 4, June 44
TO:- A.C.C. - Geneva

SUBJECT:- Restitution of money, bonds and documents to Capt Ulderico D'URSO, M.D.

Captain Ulderico D'URSO, M.D., prisoner of war, bore the Series No 45342 in Camp No 305, Egypt.

His repatriation arranged, he was transferred on 10 Mar 42, to the Camp in the vicinity of Geneifa where he remained until 30 Mar 42, from whence he was eventually repatriated.

At the moment of departure from this latter Camp (Geneifa) in accordance with orders issued by the British Authorities, the said Capt Ulderico D'URSO enclosed what money he had with him in an envelope (4,500 Italian lire) as well as three interest bearing bonds(postal), amounting to the sum of 2,500 lire.

The envelope was sealed and on it was written the particulars of the officer. The envelope was then placed in a folder by the Camp authorities together with other personal documents of the officer himself, who was assured that all the money and the documents would be remitted to him in Italy, which has not as yet been fulfilled.

Reference Art 24, Geneva Convention, I beg the ACC to use its good offices with the Detaining Power to procure quick payment of 4,500 lire and the three interest bearing postal bonds, amounting to the sum of 2,500 lire, to Capt Ulderico D'URSO. Art 24 prescribes that the deposits of PW cannot be converted into other value without their consent.

The High Commissioner
(GENERAL PINTO GAZZERA)
/s/ P Cassera

2029

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Translation No 723 14 June 1944 - Serial

High Commissioner for PW
No 608/Mil.

Cava di Tirreni 7 June 1944
TO: ACC Salerno

SUBJECT: Medical soldier CARTA Severino of the late Francesco born in Quarto S. Elena (Cagliari) on 28 Jun 1914 - ex PW No. 62426

Medical Soldier CARTA Severino, on leave, was captured 16 April, 1941, in Mis Abeba, was repatriated on 8 June 1943, on a protected personal exchange.

British authorities of Camp of Mandera (Br. Somaliland), the eve of his evacuation at Berera, took from CARTA all his personal papers, among which a postal deposit book No 05286 (Naples) with entry credits of Lire 22,300, assuring him that everything would be sent to him later, in Italy, to his address, Via Generale Gadolfo 13, Quarto S.Elena (Cagliari) Sardinia.

To date he has received nothing.

This soldier, making the above complaint, begs that the postal book be returned, in view of his poor financial condition.

I beg the Commission to use its good offices with the competent British authorities.

The High Commissioner
/s/ P. Gamsero.

Enc. 9

Origin.

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TRANSLATION No 759 16 June 1944 - Romano

High Commissioner for PW, Cava dei Tirreni, 9 June 1944.
File No 649/M11/G.2. TO: A.C.C.

SUBJECT: Private Felice fu Vincenzo SLAH, No. 198187, A.P.M. PW Camp No 37 Great Britain, repatriated on 17 February 1944.

The PW in subject, repatriated on 17 Feb. last, has declared that during captivity in camp No 37, in Great Britain, he handed over to the Director of the Camp the sum of 1,900 lire to be sent to his family. He was issued a regular receipt for the sum, which receipt was later withdrawn from him by the Director of Hospital No 99, where he was admitted as a medical case, from June 1943 to 5th February 1944.

The said prisoner has declared also that during the period in Hospital No 99 he received no pay.

I beg the A.C.C. to notify the competent British Authorities of the above facts, in order that the person requesting my withdraw what is owing to him, according to Article 23 and 25 of the Geneva Convention.

The High Commissioner
/s/ P.Gennaro

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 719 - Romano

The High Commissioner for POW — Cava 9 June 1944

File No. 653/mil/G.2 — TO: A.C.C. Salerno

SUBJECT: Seaman Mario GARINI, son of Giuseppe. Application for payment of allowments not received during period of captivity.

The sailor in subject has presented to this High Commissioner the attached application.

Would the A.C.C. be so kind as to notify accordingly the competent authorities in order that the repatriated POW will be able to collect as soon as possible the amount he requests.

Sincere thanks.

The High Commissioner
(General Pietro GAZZERA)
/s/ P.Gazzera

2914

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Cava 31 March 44

TO:- High Commissioner for POW
SUBJECT: Request for payment of Allotment omitted during captivity and return journey.

I, the undersigned Mario GARINI, son of Giuseppe, sailor and motor mechanic, born 1919, Genoa Military District, formerly of the 11th Submarine Squad, with Base at Bordeaux, declare as follows:

- to have been taken prisoner by the English forces on the Atlantic on 25 October 1941, following the destruction of the submarine "FERRANIA", commanded by Capt. Elso Fiorin;
- To have stayed three days at Gibraltar and then to have been transferred to England, where I remained until 2 Nov 42. Later I was transferred to America, to the Camp of Monticello, until 23 Dec 43 day on which I embarked for Italy. I disembarked at Naples on 6 Feb 44;
- to have received during the period of captivity, the following allotments:
  (1) In England; 9 shillings per month
  (2) In America; 3 dollars per month (besides 20 dollars monthly as first workman and then attendant of H.E.Gen Cesnera, until the end of the month of Dec 43)
- to have received no allotment for the month of Nov and Dec 43 even though required to sign the payroll;
- to have signed various documents (some of which were in blank) without knowing the contents, even though I had asked for an interpreter;
- to have effected no deposits of money or objects of value while a prisoner;
- to have received no anticipation of funds on arrival in Italy up to date but only my usual allowances.

I therefore request that an application be made for the payment by the authorities concerned of what is due to me for the months of Dec and Nov 43 and for the period between 1 Jan and 7 Feb 44. The usual monthly allowances I received during voyage were approximately L550

/s/ GARINI Mario

2016

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

TRANSLATION No 761 16 June 1944 - Roma

High Commissioner for PW, Cava dei Terreni 15 June 1944

File No. Q.4/Asil/G.2 TO: ACC

SUBJECT: Repatriated PW Pompeo RASCELLI

Request for payments of sums overdue and not paid to him during the period of captivity.

The PW Pompeo RASCELLI has declared to this High Commissioner office, the following facts:

to have been taken prisoner at Amba Alagi on 19 May 1941 and sent to the concentration camp at Asmara until 22 June of same year;
to have been transferred to India on the 23 of same month, where he remained until 20 December 42, on which date he was transferred to America, where he remained until 23 Dec 43; repatriated and disembarked at Naples on 6th February 1944;
to have received during captivity, the following allowances: in India, 4 rupie and ¼ anna a month; in America, 3 dollars a month, as well as 20 dollars monthly earned as attendant to General Dunoon; to have received no allowance for the month of November 1943, even though he signed the pay roll, nor the rate for the month of Dec 43; to have signed various documents (none of which in blank) without knowing the contents; to have effected a deposit of money, a copy of the receipt has not handed in here included.

I beg the A.C.C. to kindly call the attention of the competent authorities and obtain for the soldier RASCELLI what is due to him, according to Art. 23 & 24 of the Geneva Convention.

I thank you

The High Commissioner
/s/ F. Gassera

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

No 451 Date 7.6.1941

Received from S/480

WALTER WORK

Rs. 1.-

Notes

FOREIGN MONEY

4 coins hundred = 400

2 " ten = 20

OLD COINS & VALUABLES

8 Silver coins

12 copper coins

MAJOR P.R.I.
No 21 Prisoners of War Camp
For Clement Town
Dehra Dun
-firma illeggibile-

Page 2 Ins. 12

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

CRRK/rj

DS/N 1340
22 JUN 1944

Ref. GC/P/402.

19th. June, 1944.

Thank you for your No. 308/POL/0.15 of 14th. June.

I have read your memorandum with interest but suggest that we should postpone for a while further discussion of this question. We still have time in which to make the necessary decisions regarding the line of action which should be taken.

D 20 VCC
SSB/MB

RECEIVED
JOEL EASON MAFFARLANE
Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner.

General Pietro Gazzera,
High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Hq ACG Secy Gen
DISPATCHED
Date-Time 20 June 1500
Initials

cc/P/402
19 June 44

383.6 POW Sec

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 400)
Revised July 26, 1918

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. _____

3—6788

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

INCOMING

1

Cables

S G (Naples)

Information
Volume III

Vol. III