

ACC

10000/143/273

10000/143/273

ITALIAN P/W, POLICY
SEPT. 1943 - NOV. 1945

AMG/14008/PJ

(Formerly 1218/PJ)

ITALIAN A/W - POLICY

HCC
Dr 306

ITALIAN ~~AW~~ - POLICY

ACC
Dr 306

10000 / 143 / 273

THIS FILE CONTAINS

FROM SEPT 1943

TO NOV 1944

CATALOGUE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

28 November 1945

AC/14008/PS

SUBJECT : Italian Prisoners of War - Property

TO : Provost Marshal General, HTOUSA

1. The attached copy of letter PR/PS/13/151 dated 23 October 1945 from Regional Public Safety officer, Piemonte Region, Allied Military Government is forwarded for whatever action you may deem necessary.

W. J. Chapman
for JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Director

BAE/G

4134

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
PIEMONTE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

23 October 1945

PS/PS 18/191

SUBJECT : Private property of ex POW

TO : HQ A.G. APO 394 (Attention Director P/S S.O)

1. BERETTA ACHILLE, recently transferred from POW Camp No. 337 to Le Nuove Prison Torino at request of the Questura of Torino, has shown to this office a receipt from the POW camp, numbered 7383, dated 20/5/45 for 2,500 lire and one wristwatch. He states that when he was transferred they said at the camp that there was no time to return the goods and he now requests that they be sent to him at Torino through the Allied Military Government.

2. It is of interest that complaints are being made daily to this HQ that persons liberated from this camp have been sent away without identity cards and other personal documents and without personal goods and have been told to apply to the AMG when they get home. Hitherto when the persons are in liberty they have been told to go back to the camp with their receipts.

For the Regional Commissioner

H. MICHALL
Major 4123
Regional Public Safety
Officer

HEADQUARTERS
PIEMONTE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

14008/PS.
R

Office of the Regional Public Safety Officer

23 October 1945

REF PR/PS 18/151

SUBJECT: Private property of ex POW

TO : HQ A.C. APO 394 (Attention Director Public Safety Sub/Comm.)

1. BERETTA ACHILLE, recently transferred from POW Camp n° 337 to Le Nuove Prison Torino at request of the Questura of Torino, has shown to this office a receipt from the POW camp, numbered 7883, dated 20/5/45 for 2,500 lire and one wristwatch. He states that when he was transferred they said at the camp that there was no time to return the goods and he now requests that they be sent to him at Torino through the Allied Military Government.
2. It is of interest that complaints are being made daily to this HQ that persons liberated from this camp have been sent away without identity cards and other personal documents and without personal goods and have been told to apply to the AMG when they get home. Hitherto when the persons are in liberty they have been told to go back to the camp with their receipts.

For the Regional Commissioner.

H. Mighall

H. MIGHALL
Major
Regional Public Safety
Officer

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>21</i>
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>1-11</i>
EXEC. DIR.	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>2/10</i>
CHIEF		
<i>X Prisons</i>		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Atlet B.F.

4132

SECRET14-008
Pub Safety
12A
531
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

ACTION AGO MAIN, AAI INFO TO CG SOS, CG PBS, CG NAAP

12/16

CG NATREA

PC 25629

DEPT 15/1826

SECRET

FOURTH

CITE: NAAP

HEADQUARTERS

14 SEP 1944

A. C. G.

no copy ldr

INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT, REFERENCE TO 85761 OF 21 AUGUST, SICILIAN PRISONER OF WAR PAROLE CARDS WERE DISPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

- ISLAND BASE SECTION COPIES WERE DESTROYED ON CLOSING OF ISLAND BASE SECTION (INFORMATION FURNISHED BY PRISONER OF WAR DETAIL AT BALZANO)
- ONE COPY ISSUED EACH PAROLEE.
- INFORMALLY REPORTED THAT COPIES FURNISHED ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT SICILY WERE TURNED OVER BY ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO CARABINIERI IN DISTRICT OF PAROLEES RESIDENCES. IT WOULD APPEAR ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ACCESS TO THESE COPIES THRU ROYAL CARABINIERI

D.P.S.
D.O.P.S.
En Chief
PU

PRISON
File R C D
Reg. & Licensing
ADM. Office
REMARKS

Public
Folio

ACC DIST

ACTION WMD: POW SC (2)

A/CC

Pub Safety SC

File (2)

Front

411A

SECRET

SEPTEMBER 16/0800

CONFIDENTIAL*Public Safety**114008 H
9/2**Adm Sec HA*

ACTION FILPOT TO FORT INFO ACC

*PS
6 JUL 1944*

42/15

APRIL SIGNED SIGNED
FX 72066

JULY 14/1192

CONFIDENTIAL**NOTE****CITE: FIDAB**

REFER YOUR A864 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 POW 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**(Inv Act) Sec Gen**(Inv) C A Br (2)**Admin Sect**Pol Sect**Army SC**A/CC**File (2)**Front*

4130

*H/203***CONFIDENTIAL**

JULY 14/1700

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

ACC, ACTION FOR INFO TO CG AAI, CG SGS NATBOUSA, GOC NORTH
TO: AFRICA DIST, 6 BRITISH DISTRICT

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: _____
FROM: AFHQ CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
REFERENCE No: FX 70649 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: 101541 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: FHSAC

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 NOT 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 GOVERNMENTS 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 WHOLESALERELEASE OF PERSONNEL WILL BE

DATE and Time of RECEIPT _____

Distribution: _____

606

PS

11 JUL 1944

104

4129

A/124

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE

606

PAGE 2.

TO: _____ SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: _____
 FROM: _____ CLASSIFICATION: _____
 REFERENCE No: _____ PRECEDENCE: _____
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: _____ OFFICE OF ORIGIN: _____

FORWARDED TO THIS HEADQUARTERS FOR ACTION. THIS IS NOT A PRECEDENT FOR KKK
 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 - Info.
 SEC GEN - action
 DCC
 CA BR 2
 ARMY SC
 POL SEC
 FILE
 FLOAT 2

Info

4128

DATE and Time of RECEIPT _____

Distribution:

A/124

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
AFO 394

14008
RECEIVED
MAY 14 1944
10 May 1944

Ref/154/36/CA

SUBJECT: Release of Prisoners of War.

TO : Distribution below.

Executive Memorandum No. 31

Page 57
Just to hand
of office

1. The above memorandum is shortly to be replaced by a memorandum now in draft embodying more recent instructions.
2. It should therefore be regarded as cancelled and any application for release in hand will be held until the publication of the new instructions.
3. Please inform all recipients.

Norman E. Fiske
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" Less Group 3

1127

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 324
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

1400R
JH.

P.S.

8A

11/1A/AS

15 April 1944

SUBJECT: Release of Prisoners of War.

TO : All Admin Sub-Coms.

JB.

Attached for your information and compliance are
instructions of the procedure to be followed when it is desired to
obtain release of a prisoner of war.

S.H. WHITE,
Major
for C&O Adm Sec.

4126

PROCEDURE FOR RECOMMENDATION OF
RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR

JR

- 1 Prisoners of War will be released most exceptionally on request and then only if their services are necessary for the furtherance of the War effort.
- 2 The authority for initiating a request for the release of a prisoner will be the Sub Commission responsible for the class of work which the prisoner is particularly suited to do.
- 3 On being satisfied that the services of a prisoner are necessary the Sub Commission will forward their request together with a short statement of the reasons for their decision to the Deputy Chief Commissioner.
- 4 The papers relating to prisoners to whom the request for release is approved by the DCC, will be submitted by him to the Public Safety Sub Commission who will investigate and report on the prisoner's local reputation and party history, returning the papers with their report to the initiating Sub Commission.
- 5 If this report is that the prisoner is suitable for repatriation the initiating Sub Commission will prepare the formal request for release of the prisoner for signature by the DCC.
- 6 The formal request will be addressed to the G.O. the Army by whom the prisoner is held and will contain :
 - a. such particulars of the prisoner and his location as will enable him to be identified.
 - b. The capacity in which it is proposed that he shall be employed and a short summary of the reasons that his services are required.
 - c. A statement that his services are necessary for the furtherance of the War effort.
 - d. A statement that his local reputation and party history have been investigated and are satisfactory.
 - e. A request that he be released.
- 7 Any application for release of a prisoner which originates outside HQ AOC will be forwarded to the appropriate Sub Commission who, if satisfied that the prisoner's services are necessary, will deal with it as above.

4125

7A
 #A
 1408/1
 SR
 5 Apr 44

REAR HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 APO 394
 ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

11/1A/AS

SUBJECT : Prisoners of War, Releases.

TO : Deputy Chief Commissioner.

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

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9 May a decision as to the procedure to be followed be made please and circulated to all concerned.

(Sgd) S

STANBAGATE,
VP Adm Seco.

Copy for P.S.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission.
APC. 512.

5A
November 17, 1943.

TO : Col. Charles M. Spofford.

As directed, I have seen Major Zalinsky of the P.M.'s Office, I.B.S. and find the subject he had in mind for consideration by the Commanding General is:

He is prepared to initiate a petition from a high authority of the Catholic Church asking that Sicilian officers now held as prisoners of war be paroled upon substantially the same terms as now extended to enlisted men. He requests an expression of opinion from the Chief Civil Affairs Officer as to this procedure and whether favorable recommendation would be given to such a proposal. If favorable, it is proposed then to forward such petition to A.F.H.Q. with the favorable recommendation of I.B.S.

I see no objection to placing the matter before A.F.H.Q. as it is stated that the Sicilian officers now held are surplus and not needed for any of the program now under way either here or elsewhere. From such incomplete information as I now have available, my recommendation is that the proposal receive the General's favorable endorsement.

LEMUEL L. BOLLES
Colonel, Infantry.

4123

STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS. 34

The Disposal of Italian Officers and Soldiers held as Prisoners of War in Allied custody is governed by the following considerations:

1. They were taken in arms against the Allied Forces. They include a number of persons whose release would hamper the Allied Nations war effort on account of their pro-Fascist or pro-German leanings. These individuals will be held in custody in North Africa. They have the right to appeal through normal military channels to the Italian Authorities.

2. Since the conclusion of the Armistice with Italy, it has been the desire of the Allied Governments to enable all Italian prisoners to be engaged in the active furtherance of the war against Germany, with the deliverance of Italy from the German armed forces.

This desire is shared by Marshall Badoglio who exhorts all Italian subjects to co-operate in this task.

3. Natives of Sicily who are free from the taint of Fascism and willing to declare their loyalty to the cause of the Allied Nations have been released on parole and permitted to return to their homes.

Those held as prisoners in North Africa can not be returned to Sicily at present owing to the need for their services in Africa and difficulties of transport. Moreover the return of large numbers of ex-soldiers of Sicilian origin could only aggravate the problem of feeding the civilian population.

Ex-prisoners of Sicilian origin who have been released on parole may voluntarily give up their civilian status and proffer their services in the furtherance of the war effort. They will then be employed on the same terms and under the same conditions as those mentioned below.

Alternatively they may seek employment as civilians.

4. All other prisoners, including officers, have been invited to sign a declaration

3B

of loyalty to the cause of the Allied Nations and to volunteer their services to this end. Pending final arrangements between the Italian Government and the Allied Commander-in-Chief, the employment of such prisoners in the armed forces of Italy is not authorized, except that individuals will be released whose services are specifically asked for by the Italian Military Authorities.

5. Prisoners who have signed the declaration referred to in para 4 above will be released if their services are specifically asked for by SHQOF

6. Prisoners who have signed the declaration referred to in para 4 above will, in the immediate future, be employed by the Allied Military Authorities, in the manner considered most suitable to further the war effort, having in mind the capabilities of the individuals. Such individuals will be housed, fed and clothed by the ^{allied} (British) Military authorities and for all practical purposes be treated as combatant soldiers of the Allied Nations. The issue of payment in cash to such personnel is under consideration. At the present moment, it is restricted to those who, by the nature of their duties, may be required to find their own means of subsistence. These individuals may be released on parole within a limited radius of the locality in which they are required to serve.

7. The unconditional release of prisoners with permission to return to their homes will only be granted on medical or compassionate grounds. Applications for such release will not be considered unless accompanied by supporting evidence; e.g. full medical history or independent corroboration of the compassionate grounds.

(COPY)

2

MESSAGE FORM

FROM: 15 ARMY GROUP 14 1115A
 TO: FIFTH ARMY EIGHTH ARMY NO 2 DISTRICT (FORWARDED)
 INFO: PW SUB COMMISSION C/O 103 SUB AREA NAME
 ORIG NO: 4 271

ALHQ MESSAGE CITEFACIT NO 3489 OF 5 IS REPEATED FOR INFORMATION (.) QUOTE (.)
 MOST SECRET (.) POLICY FOLLOWING WILL BE APPLIED WITH RESPECT TO ITALIAN PRISON-
 ERS OF WAR (.) THOSE IN ITALY AND SICILY MAY BE RELEASED PAROLED OR DETAINED
 AT YOUR DISCRETION DEPENDENT SOLELY IN WHICH STATUS THEY WILL BE ON MOST VALUABLE
 TO THE WAR EFFORT (.) IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE NUMBER RELEASED BE
 KEPT SMALL. EACH CASE BEING FULLY JUSTIFIED BY ESSENTIAL WAR REQUIREMENTS (.)
 THOSE WHO ARE ASSISTANTS OR MEMBERS OF THE NAZI RPT NAZI AND NON-COOPERATIVES
 SHOULD BE SENTENCED REMAINED AS PRISONERS OF WAR AND EVENTUALLY EVACUATED
 TO NORTH AFRICA (.)
 ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN NORTH AFRICA WILL NOT BE NOT EXCEPT IN SPECIAL
 CASES BE RELEASED FROM THEIR STATUS AS PRISONERS OF WAR THE SPECIAL CASES
 WILL BE VOLUNTEERS FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS AND WILL BE A VERY SMALL PROPORTION
 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS (.) SUCH PRISONERS MAY BE RELEASED OR
 PAROLED (.) OF THE REMAINDER THOSE WHO AGREE TO AID THE ALLIED WAR EFFORT WILL
 BE EMPLOYED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH FURTHER THE WAR EFFORT IN UNITS UNDER THEIR
 OWN OFFICERS AND NCOs OR BY PRISONERS OF WAR LABORERS AND WILL BE ASSIGNED
 LIBERTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS SHORTLY TO BE ISSUED (.) THEY WILL
 HOWEVER BE MAINTAINED HOUSED CLOTHED AND FED IN ALLIED CAMPS AND BE PAID AT
 RATES PROVIDED UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTION FOR ALL LABORER EMPLOYED (.)
 THOSE WHO WILL NOT AGREE TO AID THE ALLIED WAR EFFORT WILL BE SEPARATED AND
 REMAINED IN PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS UNDER GUARD WITH A VIEW TO EVENTUAL TRANSFER
 FROM THE THEATRE (.) NO PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN ON THIS MATTER (.)
 UNQUOTE

This message may be sent AS WITHIN by any means except	If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands this message must be sent in	Originator's Instructions. Degree of Priority	WHI or TOR
WIRELESS	OTHER		

Sgd..... Sgd.....

Internal Distribution by 'A':

MA to C in C G(SD)
 PA to GCS GSI
 PA to DCS AG(US)
 G(OFS) AMOT (5)
 File: 3110/4.2 Master Message File

/101

INFO: PW SUB COMMISSION C/O 103 SUB AREA BARI

ORIG-NO: A 27L

ADP MESSAGE CRYPTACT NO 3489 OF 5 IS REPEATED FOR INFORMATION (.) QUOTE (.) MOST SECRET (.) POLICY FOLLOWING WILL BE APPLIED WITH RESPECT TO ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR (.) THOSE IN ITALY AND SICILY MAY BE RELEASED PAROLED OR DETAINED AS YOUR DISCRETION DEPENDS SOLELY IN WHICH STATUS THEY WILL BE ON MOST VALUE TO THE WAR EFFORT (.) IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE NUMBER RELEASED BE KEPT SMALL, EACH CASE BEING FULLY JUSTIFIED BY ESSENTIAL WAR REQUIREMENTS (.) THOSE WHO ARE AGENTS OR MEMBERS OF THE PARTISAN MOVEMENT AND NON-COOPERATIVES SHOULD BE SEPARATED, DETAINED AS PRISONERS OF WAR AND EVENTUALLY EVACUATED TO NORTH AFRICA (.)

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN NORTH AFRICA WILL NOT BE RELEASED IN SPECIAL CASES BE RELEASED FROM THEIR STATUS AS PRISONERS OF WAR THE SPECIAL CASES WILL BE VOLUNTEERS FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS AND WILL BE A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS (.) SUCH PRISONERS MAY BE RELEASED OR PAROLED (.) OF THE REMAINDER THOSE WHO AGREE TO AID THE ALLIED WAR EFFORT WILL BE EMPLOYED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH FURTHER THE WAR EFFORT IN UNITS UNDER THEIR OWN OFFICERS AND NCOs OR BY PRISONERS OF WAR LABORERS AND WILL BE ACCORDED LIBERTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS SHORTLY TO BE ISSUED (.) THEY WILL HOWEVER BE MAINTAINED HOUSED CLOTHED AND FED IN ALLIED CAMPS AND BE PAID AT RATES PROVIDED UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTION FOR ALL LABOR PERFORMED (.) THOSE WHO WILL NOT AGREE TO AID THE ALLIED WAR EFFORT WILL BE SEPARATED AND DETAINED IN PRISONERS OF WAR CAMPS UNDER GUARD WITH A VIEW TO EVENTUAL EVACUATION FROM THE THEATRE (.) NO FURTHER TO BE GIVEN ON THIS MATTER (.) UNQUOTE

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except	If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands this message must be sent in	Originator's Instructions. Degree of Priority	THI or TOR
WIRELESS	OTHER		

Sgd.....

Sgd.....

.....

Internal Distribution by 'A':

MA to C in C
PA to CGS
PA to DOCS
G(CFS)
File: 3110/4.2
Master Message File

4120

For SCPT *1038/PS* *AA* *1*
 copy to P.S.D.

Prisoner of War Policy *Original in 264/HA.*
15 Army Group
11/5

Fifth Army.

Right Army Main.

H.Q. No. 1 District (S. 111)

H.Q. No. 2 District (S. 133)

11/5

1. Until orders are received on the way in which the armistice terms are to be put into effect, the situation regarding the taking, holding and disposing of prisoners of war in ITALY must remain somewhat obscure and cannot be clarified until certain big political decisions have been taken. Every effort is being made to speed up this process, but it is unlikely that a clear cut policy will be made known for perhaps some two or three weeks. In the meantime the following principles should be taken as a guide by those concerned, who should act in accordance with these principles when deciding details on the spot.

2. Pending further orders guiding principles will be as follows:-

- (a) All Axis prisoners other than Italian will be dealt with as before and evacuated as quickly as possible to North Africa.
- (b) Italian prisoners already in our hands may be either:
 - (i) kept in P.S. cages if necessary.
 - (ii) Organized as labour units to work outside cages on limited parole.
 - (iii) Released on parole in accordance with existing arrangements.
 - (iv) If British released unconditionally.

unless combatant officers, prominent or fanatical Fascists, members of undesirable organizations and societies, or required for intelligence purposes.

- (c) Italian forces encountered by advancing troops will (unless they commit a hostile act) not be made prisoners, but will be sent (armed or disarmed at discretion of commander concerned) to the rear to join existing Italian formations. For the present they are not to be accepted as combatant detachments of our own forces.
- (d) Escaped or released Allied prisoners of war will be returned to the Allied Prisoner of War Commission, C/o. 5 Base Sub-Area, TARIPTO, from where they will (after registration, etc.) be evacuated as follows:-
 - (i) If of Southern European nationality to Middle East.
 - (ii) If of Northern European nationality to North Africa.

British and U.S. ex-prisoners of war volunteering to serve in our forces in this theatre may be accepted provided they sign a written voluntary

4419

1051