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10000/143/594

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RATIONS, ITALIAN ARMY DESERTERS
DEC. 1944 - JAN. 1945

FOLIO	REF. TO.	DATE	FOLIO	REF. TO.	DATE
Men. I.	FOOD SEC.	4/19/45.			

10000

43/594

THIS FOLIO

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM DEC. 1944

TO JAN. 1945

CATALOGUE.

TO : Food Sub-Commission.

1. The ~~attached~~ letter AQ/2/29 dated 29th December 1944 has been received from Land Forces Sub-Commission.

2. The question is raised as to whether Italian Army deserters temporarily lodged in carabinieri cells (as distinct from prisons) pending removal to the nearest military unit should be fed on (a) Italian Army rations or (b) civilian rations.

3. In normal times this question never arose. By law, Carabinieri were not allowed to detain Italian Army deserters in Carabinieri cells. Deserters had to be delivered to the nearest military unit without delay. That is still the law but owing to lack of transport a deserter may be kept in the cells for several days. As soon as the deserter is delivered to the military unit he is given Italian Army rations. It therefore seems logical that he should receive Italian Army rations while he is being held by CC.RR. on behalf of the military unit simply because of lack of transport.

4. As regards a civilian prisoner detained in Carabinieri cells pending transfer to a civil prison, he receives civilian rations by virtue of his civilian ration card. There is also a procedure by which non-rationed food stuffs may be bought and charged to the account of the Minister of the Interior.

5. If an Italian Army deserter is to be provided with civilian rations prior to delivery to the military unit, it will presumably mean that he must be issued with a civilian ration card (or an equivalent authority) and the Ministry of War or the Ministry of the Interior must agree to re-imburse the expense of buying food stuffs.

6. If, on the other hand, an Italian Army deserter is to be given Italian Army rations (which in fact he will receive when he is transferred to the nearest military unit) then the procedure is simple. The Carabinieri - who themselves are military and receive Italian Army rations - will merely add the deserter to their ration strength and draw an extra ration for him as long as he is in custody.

7. This Sub-Commission recommends the latter procedure as the more practicable and convenient.

8. The views of your Sub-Commission will be appreciated.

John W. Chapman
1430

Room E2, 5th floor.
Ext. 365.

JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, J.A.G.D.

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Room E2. 5th floor.
EXR. 365.
4/1/45.

John W. Chapman

JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, J.A.C.D.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION
No. 394

14043/2 2A

Ref: 43-15/20/FOOD

13 January 1945

SUBJECT: Rations - Detainees in Police Cells

TO : Regional Commissioner, Sicily Region Emilia Region
(Attn: Supply Officers) Sardinia Region Liguria Region
Lazio-Umbria Region Piemonte Region
Abruzzi-Marche Region Lombardia Region
Toscana Region Venezia Region
Southern Region
GND 5th Army JAG GND 8th Army JAG

1. Persons, whether civilian, Italian Forces personnel, including deserters or absentees, who have been arrested and are detained in Police Cells pending removal to a civil prison, or discharge, should receive food rations at the normal consumer scale, plus supplements to which the individual may be entitled.
2. Police or Carabinieri in charge should obtain food for them according to the current ration cards and documents produced by the detainees.
3. Where ration cards can not be produced the detainees should be provided with rations at the normal consumer scale.
4. The detainees may supplement the ration by purchase of uncontrolled food, or by arrangements with his relatives or friends according to the system allowed by the police authorities.
5. Arrangements for the implementation of the above should be made between the local Police and the local Alimentation authorities.

By command of R. R. Admiral STONE:

L. D. HENRIOTTE,
Colonel, P.A.,
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Economic Section

Copies to:

Chief of Staff
Civil Affairs Section
Local Government Sub-Commission
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Public Health Sub-Commission
All 4, G-5 Section
The 15th Army Group, Lt. Col. Stewart
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
Ministry of Grace and Justice

TO	
COL. CHAPMAN	
COL. YOUNG	
LT. COL. WILCOX	
MAJ. LUCKMAN	
MAJ. WILSON	
MAJ. BELL	
MAJ. BAL	
CAPT. P. WEL	
MAJ. J. K.	

1429

Chief Clerk / Send 4 copies to each

RP50 - SCAP

Howley

HQ . C. C.

Date 14 GEN 1945

FOOD SUB COMMISSION

FROM

TO

	COL W. J. LECIG	
	LT. COL W. N. STEWART	
	MAJOR J. IMRIE	
	MAJOR A. W. TOLMAN JR	
	MAJOR H. F. H. MYATT	
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	CAPT R. H. KLEIN	
	CAPT G. E. LUKAS	
	CHIEF CLERK	
	PUBLIC SAFETY S/C	✓
	noted JMB	

FOR:

Necessary action Recommendations and remarks
 Information retention Perusal and return
 Approved or Disposal Filing
 Investigation and report Despatch

REMARKS: Instructions for feeding of detainees are at present in Econ Sec awaiting signature. 50 copies will be sent down to you.

Subject: Rations for Military Prisoners.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. M. I. A.) R O M E
AQ/2-29

24 Dec 1944

To: Public Safety Sub Commission A.C.

Ref conversations 28 Dec 1944 Col. KERR } - Lt. Col. WILCOX.
Maj. GREGG }

1. Difficulty is being experienced over the rationing of Italian Army deserters or absentees when arrested by C.M.P. or CC.RR and detained in CC.RR cells.

2. Although it is the wish and endeavour of the CC.RR to hand these prisoners over to the appropriate Military Authorities as soon as possible, lack of transport, distance from nearest Military Post, etc. makes this difficult at times and prisoners have to spend several days in CC.RR cells.

3. The question then arises as to what rations the CC.RR should draw on their behalf (a) Civil or (b) Military.

A report from MMIA LO 1 District (para 9, Liaison Log of 19 Dec) states that in fact in some cases neither Civil or Military rations were drawn and during their time in CC.RR cells the Military prisoners existed on food left over from the CC.RR's own table.

4. Para 11 (f) of AFHQ letter, file AG 091.711/169 GCF-O of 16 Nov 1944 specifically provides that Italian Army personnel on leave are not entitled to rations from Army Sources during the period of absence. It is considered that this "leave" as mentioned is absence, either with or without permission.

5. Army personnel absent from their units over 30 days are struck off the strength of the Army, thereby becoming civilians insofar as rations are concerned.

6. The CC.RR could not determine if the man arrested was in fact a soldier absent without leave, and for less than 30 days. He would have to be fed by the CC.RR as an ordinary civil prisoner prior to the time he was turned over to and accepted by the Military authorities. During this period between arrest and the time of acceptance by the Military authorities, the only rations available to the CC.RR for feeding the man are the ordinary civilian rations available to civil prisoners, and these are the only rations the man can ever eat during this period. The Military ration and the Civil ration is not the same.

Even if it were contended that the Civil rations should be repaid, which is not discussable in the light of the cited AMHQ directive, this would involve a determination (1) that the man was in fact AWOL, and for less than 30 days, (2) the establishment of the particular category in which the man was serving inasmuch as the different categories are National responsibilities and (3) the exact kind and weight of the Civil rations issued. This would involve a large amount of administrative labour.

7. The Civil rations are charged to the Italian Government, as are the Army rations. It is the desire of the Italian Government, as well as the Allies, that these deserters be apprehended. The cost of the civil prison ration is less than the Army ration. Obviously the men must be fed at Italian Government expense, and very obviously the present regulations determine the man to be a civil prisoner until he is returned to Military control.

8. It appears that the only logical solution to the problem will be for the CC.RR to treat such prisoners as ordinary civil prisoners, and feed them the ordinary Civil rations while such men are in their custody. Will this be done?

CPK/le

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel,
for Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Copy to: MMIA LO 1 District

TO		
COL CH PM V		
COL YOUNG		
T CO W D X		
MAJ LUTCH		
MAJ W B		
MAJ HANLEY		
MAJ BAL		
CAPT P V		
C		

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