

ACC 10000/147/293

P.43/CS

POSTAL SECTION

EXTERNAL PARCELS P.O.W.

JUNE 1944. DEC. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

CHST/ams

P.43.48/CS

17th December 1945

Subject: Parcels for Prisoners of War in North Africa.

To : Postal Officers Lombardia and Venezia Regions.
Communications Officer Venezia Giulia.

Reference P.43.47/CS dated 1st December, herewith
copy of instructions sent by Ministry of Posts and Telecomms
to Postal Directorates concerning parcels for Prisoners of War
in North Africa.

By Command of Rear Admiral STONE.

H.H. SCUDER
Colonel, Sig.C.
Director.

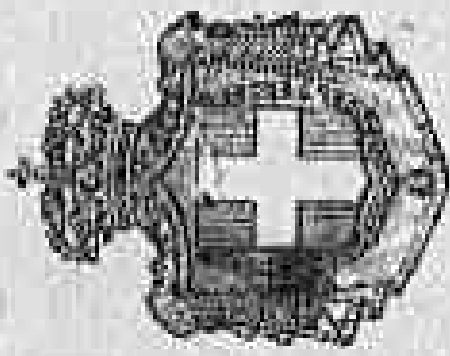
Enc. : 128726/125/5 dated 7th December.

FILE

CROSS REFD.	
FILE	43
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Mod. 475



Ministero delle Poste e delle Telecomunicazioni

SERVIZIO IV - DIVISIONE III SEZIONE I

N. 423726/125/5

Roma 4 Dicembre 1945

Oggetto: Pacchi per prigionieri
Italiani nel Nord Africa

Alle Direzioni Prov. di
delle Poste e dei Telegrafi

Ad iniziativa della C.R.I., con effetto immediato ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in mano francese nel Nord Africa, possono essere spediti, dalle loro famiglie in Italia, pacchi postali del peso massimo di 5 Kg., di dimensioni non superiori a cm. 40 x 20 x 25, contenenti solo indumenti e generi alimentari non deperibili.

I pacchi possono essere confezionati con scatolette di cartone, o cassette di legno, ma debbono essere sempre avvolti in tela. Nell'imballaggio dei pacchi sia internamente che esternamente non può essere usata cuffia stampata, giornali, ecc. Centri di raccolta di detti pacchi saranno i Comitati e sottocomitati provinciali della C.R.I. a cui le famiglie interessate dovranno rivolgersi per la spedizione dei pacchi in questione, limitati per ciascun mittente ad uno al mese.

Di mano in mano che detti pacchi, confezionati in cassette di legno o di cartone resistente ed avvolti in tela saranno raccolti dagli anzidetti Comitati della C.R.I., verranno da questi rimessi all'Ufficio Postale del capoluogo della provincia e consegnati da distinta in duplice copia.

Gli uffici di capoluogo, verificata l'identità dei pacchi e data di essi ricevuta alla C.R.I. su una delle distinte



SERVIZIO IV - DIVISIONE II SEZIONE I

N. 426726/125/5

Roma 2 Dicembre 1945

Oggetto: Pacchi per prigionieri
Italiani nel Nord Africa

Alle Direzioni Prov. di
delle Poste e dei Telegrafi

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saranno raccolti dagli anzidetti Comitati della C.R.I., verranno
da questi rimessi all'Ufficio Postale del capoluogo della
Provincia accompagnati da distinta in duplice
esemplare.

Gli uffici di capoluogo, verificata l'integrità dei
pacchi e data di essi ricevuta alla C.R.I. su una delle distinte
di accompagnamento, provvederanno:

1°) ad apporre su ciascun invio il numero distintivo, distac-
cando dal mod. 253/3 o in mancanza dal mod. 253;

2°) a descrivere su distinta giornaliera, da conservarsi in
atti, tale numero seguito dalla provenienza del pacco, dal no-

me del mittente e da quello del destinatario;

3°) a inoltrare giornalmente, con le modalità regolamentari, gli invii stessi all'Ufficio di Napoli Pacchi Ferrovia.

L'Ufficio di Napoli Pacchi Ferrovia

a) riporterà, giornalmente, su lista in duplice copia l'origine ed il numero distintivo di ciascun pacco che riceve;

b) rimetterà poi i pacchi, accompagnati da un esemplare di detta lista al locale Comitato Provinciale della C.R.I., che, nel prelevarli, rilascerà ricevuta sull'altro esemplare della lista.

Sarà cura dell'anzidetto Comitato Provinciale sia il trasporto dei pacchi dalla stazione di Napoli ai propri locali di deposito, sia la successiva spedizione ad Algeri, alla Delegazione del Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa, cui spetta riceverli e distribuirli ai destinatari nei vari campi di concentramento.

Opportuni accordi con i locali organi della C.R.I. dovranno essere presi dalle Direzioni Provinciali per la designazione dell'Ufficio presso il quale dovrà effettuarsi la consegna dei pacchi e per fissare la varia modalità della consegna stessa, la Direzione Provinciale di Napoli provvederà inoltre ad intese per regolare il prelevamento da Napoli Pacchi Ferrovia.

Si fa a tutti viva raccomandazione di collaborare nel miglior modo per il buon esito della iniziativa.

Pregasi impartire le necessarie istruzioni agli uffici interessati e dare un cenno di assicurazione.

IL DIRETTORE GEN. RAIL.

Musumeci



*Ministero delle Poste
e delle Telecomunicazioni*

Servizio IV° *Div.* II *Sez.* I
Del. N. 428767/125/5
Allegati Vari

Roma 11 DIC. 1945

Mod. 107
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BL
On. Commissione Alleata
Posts and Telecommunications
Sub Commission

Rapresent. f. N. R O M A
del

OGGETTO: pacchi per prigionieri
di guerra nel Nord Africa.

In accoglimento di
quanto è richiesto nell'ultima parte della
lettera n. P.43.47/E S del 1° corrente, si
trasmettono qui unite alcune copie della cir-
colare con la quale in data 7 corrente sono
state impartite alle dipendenti Direzioni
Provinciali le istruzioni riguardanti il ser-
vizio dei pacchi per prigionieri di guerra

nel Nord Africa, concordato con la C.R.I.

Director

D/Director

Chief Telewoms

Chief Postal

Ch. Q. Com. ②

Asst. Chief Postal

Censorship

Chief Clerk

IL DIRETTORE GENERALE

3329

2/fwd.

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11 DIC 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

WHG/ans

1st December 1945

P.43.47/C3

Subject: Parcels for Prisoners of War in North Africa.
To : Director General for Posts and Telecommunications.

1. It would appear from letter 60301/35 of 27th November 1945 to Service IV of your Ministry that you have agreed to accept the parcels collected by Committees and Sub-Committees of the Italian Red Cross for transmission through postal channels to Naples.

2. No objection is seen to such an arrangement being operated also from Provinces in Military Government territory and your circular instructions on the subject may be sent to Provincial Directorates in that territory. Please send me four copies of these instructions for the information of Postal Officers.

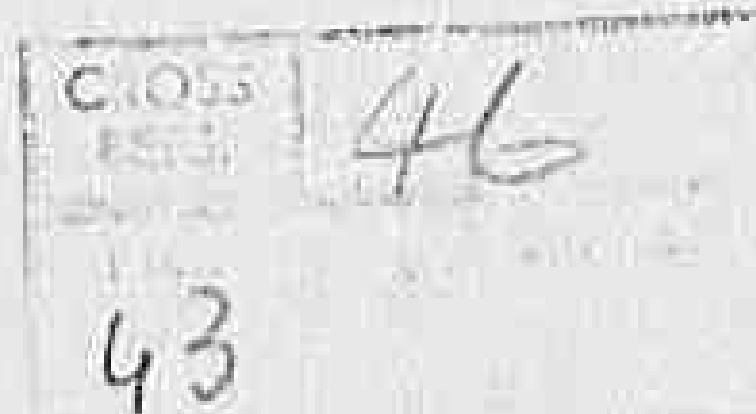
WHL

H.H. SCHERER
Colonel, Sig.C.
Director.

Copies to:

Italian Red Cross Via Puglia 6 Rome.
Postal Officers Lombardia, Venetia and Venetia Giulia Regions.

F.C.



3358



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI, RICERCHE E SERVIZI CONNESSI

Prot. N. 60304/35

Risposta N.

Oggetto: Spedizioni pacchi

individuali a Prig. di Guerra Ital.

Allegati 2 in Africa del Nord

Roma, li 27 novembre 1945

VIA PUGLIE, 6 - Telef. 41-530 - 484-876
Telegrammi: CROCEROSSA PRIGIONIERI ROMA

ALLA DIR.GEN. DELLE DELEGAZIONI DEL
CICR IN ITALIA - Via Gregoriana, 28

e p.o.

AL MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI
Serv. IV

AL MAGGIORE GREEN - COMMUNICATION
SUB-COMMISSION (Allied Commission)

AL MINISTERO AFFARI ESTERI-D.G.A.P.
IX

AL MINISTERO ASSISTENZA POST-BELLICA
Serv. Prigionieri di Guerra

AL MARCHESE UGO THEODOLI - Segretario
Generale - COMITATO CENTRALE C.R.I.
Via Toscana 12

ROMA

AL COMITATO PROVINCIALE DELLA C.R.I.
NAPOLI

ALLA DELEGAZIONE DEL C.I.C.R.
NAPOLI

ALL'UFFICIO STATISTICA E COLLEGAM.
COMITATI PROVINCIALI

SEDE

A seguito del foglio 59908/35 dell'8.11.45 di questo Ufficio Prigionieri, si acclude copia della lettera n.60303/35 del 27.11.45, indirizzata al Ministero delle Comunicazioni - Servizio IV - a conferma degli accordi verbali con il predetto Servizio in merito alla organizzazione del servizio di spedizione di pacchi Prigionieri di Guerra Italiani tuttora detenuti in Africa del Nord.

Si acclude pure copia della circolare n.29 di emanata a tutti i

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Del:

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Risposta N.

Oggetto Spedizioni pacchi
individuali a Prig. di Guerra Ital.
Allegati 2 in Africa del Nord

e p.c.

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AL MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI
Serv. IV

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to alla organizzazione del servizio di spedizione di pacchi ^{Prig.}
gionieri di Guerra Italiani tuttora detenuti in Africa del Nord.-

Si acclude pure copia della circolare n.29 diramata a tutti i
Comitati e Sottocomitati della C.R.I. nella quale vengono impartiti
le relative disposizioni per l'esecuzione del servizio in parola.

./.

Il Ministero delle Comunicazioni, d'intesa con la Communication sub-Commission - Allied Commission, ha dato tutto il suo valido interessamento impartendo disposizioni ai propri Enti dipendenti affinché collaborino con la C.R.I. per il buon esito di questa iniziativa altamente umanitaria.-

Codesta Direzione è pregata di voler cortesemente inviare le necessarie istruzioni alla propria Delegazione di Napoli affinché previ accordi con il locale Comitato Provinciale della C.R.I., sia provveduto all'accentramento e successivo inoltro dei pacchi in Africa del Nord in base alle trattative intercorse tra codesta Direzione e il War Shipping Administration.-

Si sarà molto grati se codesta Direzione vorrà impartire istruzioni alla Delegazione del C.I.C.R. in Algeria per tutto quanto riguarda la ricezione e la conseguente distribuzione dei pacchi ai Prigionieri dislocati nei vari campi.-

In base a scambi di vedute già intervenute, si resta in attesa di ricevere cortesemente sollecite comunicazioni circa la somma eventualmente dovuta per il pagamento del nolo relativo al trasporto dei pacchi da Napoli ad Algeri.-

Sinfrangenza santitamente codesta Direzione per la preziosa collaborazione nell'organizzazione di questo importante servizio in favore dei nostri prigionieri di guerra.-

Con distinti saluti.-

IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO P. G.





CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI, RICERCHE E SERVIZI CONNESSI

Prot. N. 60303/35

Risposta N.

Oggetto: Spedizioni pacchi individuali a Prig. di Guerra Ital. in Africa del Nord
Allegati

27 novembre 1945

Roma, li
VIA PUGLIE, 6 - Telef. 41-530 - 484-876
Telegrammi: CROCE ROSSA PRIGIONIERI ROMA

AL MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI
Servizio IV
RO A -

A conferma di quanto comunicato con il foglio 59908 del 1.8 c.m. di questo Ufficio Prigionieri ed a seguito di accordi verbali con codesto Ministero (Servizio IV) si ha il pregio di accludere alla presente, copia della circolare n.29 del 23.11.45 diretta a tutti i Comitati e Sottocomitati della C.R.I. nella quale vengono impartite le istruzioni relative alla spedizione di pacchi a Prigionieri di Guerra Italiani in Africa del Nord da parte delle proprie famiglie in Italia.-

Codesto Servizio è pertanto pregato voler cortesemente dare disposizioni ai propri Enti dipendenti per tutto quanto riguarda l'accettazione e l'inoltro dei pacchi a Napoli.-

Si prega altresì di dare particolare servizio di accettazione e l'ulteriore rimessa dei pacchi al Comitato Provinciale della C.R.I., il quale, d'accordo con la locale Delegazione del Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa ne curerà il successivo inoltro in Africa del Nord.-

336

Si ringrazia sentitamente codesto On. Ministero per la valida collaborazione nell'organizzazione di questo importante servizio e si resta in attesa di un cortese cenno di assicurazione al

Proi. N. 60303/35

Risposta N.

Oggetto Spedizioni pacchi

individuali a Prig. di Guerra Ital.

Alligati in Africa del Nord

Roma, li 27 novembre 1945

VIA PUGLIE, 6 - Telef. 41-530 - 484-876

Telegrammi: CROCE ROSSA PRIGIONIERI ROMA

AL MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI

Servizio IV

R O A -

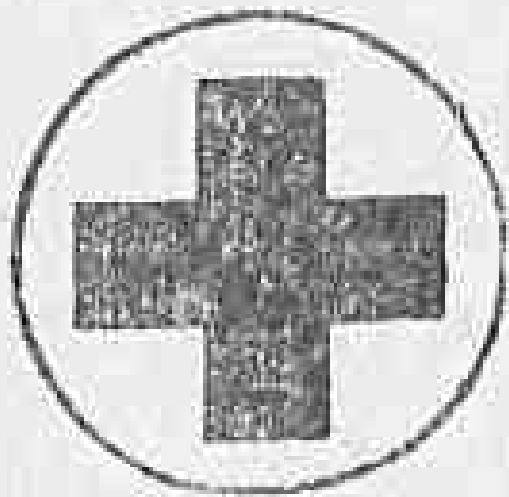
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Si prega altresì di dare particolari istruzioni al competente Servizio di Napoli per lo svolgimento del servizio di accentrimento e l'ulteriore rimessa dei pacchi al Comitato Provinciale della C.R.I., il quale, d'accordo con la locale Delegazione del Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa ne curerà il successivo inoltro in Africa del Nord.-

Si ringrazia sentitamente codesto On.Ministero per la valida collaborazione nell'organizzazione di questo importante servizio e si resta in attesa di un cortese cenno di assicurazione al riguardo.-

IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO P.D.G.



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI, RICERCHE E SERVIZI CONNESSI

UFFICIO STATISTICA E COLLEGAMENTO COMITATI PROVINCIALI
Roma 23 Novembre 1945

Circolare n. 29
Prot. N. 8662/24

Oggetto: Spedizione pacchi individuali a
prigionieri in Africa Francese del Nord

A TUTTI I COMITATI PROVINCIALI
E SOTTOCOMITATI DELLA C.R.I.

Si rende noto che, in seguito a recenti accordi intercorsi tra le competenti Autorità, sono state autorizzate spedizioni di pacchi individuali da parte delle famiglie, a prigionieri italiani nell'Africa Francese del Nord.

Il servizio per la raccolta e l'invio dei pacchi in questione deve effettuarsi come segue:

Le famiglie possono inviare pacchi ai loro congiunti prigionieri nel Nord Africa, in ragione di uno al mese. I singoli Comitati pertanto, i quali faranno centro di raccolta di detti pacchi, invieranno uno schedario in modo da poter controllare scrupolosamente e sotto la loro responsabilità, l'invio di un pacco al mese per ogni nominativo prigioniero. Man mano che i pacchi vengono raccolti i Comitati della C.R.I. devono spedirli per mezzo delle R.Poste, che a tal uopo hanno ricevuto disposizioni in proposito per il convogliamento a NAPOLI. Il Comitato provinciale della C.R.I. di Napoli, d'accordo con la Delegazione del Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa provvederà all'invio dei pacchi nel Nord Africa Francese.

Le norme per il confezionamento dei pacchi, l'imballaggio, il contenuto, sono le seguenti:

I pacchi non devono superare il peso di 5 Kg. e le dimensioni non devono superare i cm. 40 x 20 x 20.

I pacchi possono essere confezionati in legno o cartone resistenti; ma devono essere sempre avvolti in tela. Nell'imballaggio dei pacchi, sia internamente che esternamente non può essere usata carta stampata, giornali, ecc..

Nei pacchi non può essere inclusa alcuna comunicazione epistolare. Deve essere invece inclusa copia dell'indirizzo del destinatario. L'elenco degli oggetti contenuti e l'indirizzo del mittente. I pacchi possono contenere derrate alimentari non deperibili ma sono preferibili indumenti di lana in considerazione dell'inimicizia

Oggetto: Spedizione pacchi individuali a prigionieri in Africa Francese del Nord

A TUTTI I COMITATI PROVINCIALI E SOTTOCOMITATI DELLA C.R.I.

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IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI

B. ROSCA

N.B. Le presenti disposizioni non annullano quelle contenute nella circolare n. 27 del 15 Ottobre 1945 avente per oggetto: "Disposizioni per invio pacchi a prigionieri in mano Francese".

Translation

Subject: Despatch of individual parcels to POWs.

Ref. 59908/35 of this office for POW, copy of letter 60303 is enclosed addressed to the Ministry of Communications Servizio LV, to confirm verbal agreements with the above servizio regarding the organisation of the service for despatch of parcels to Italian POWs still in North Africa.

Also copy of circular n.29 is attached which was issued to all Committees and Sub-Committees of the CRIC in which the relative instructions for the execution of the service in question were issued.

The Ministry for Communications, in agreement with Communications SC AC, has given its valid aid issuing instructions to its own dependant Bodies so that they cooperate with the CRI for the good result of this highly human initiative.

This Directorate is kindly asked to forward the necessary instructions to its own Delegation at Naples on the purpose that, ^{to the President} ~~in agreement~~ with the local CRIC Provincial Committee the concentration and further forwarding of parcel for North Africa be provided for on the basis of the negotiations ~~had~~ ^{reached} between this Directorate and the WSA.

We would be very grateful if your Directorate will issue instructions to the Algeria CRIC Delegation for all that regards reception and consequent ~~delivery~~ distribution of POW parcels in the various camps.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Based upon the exchange of opinions already had, we ~~remain~~ are awaiting to receive early ~~and~~ communications regarding the amount eventually due for payment of the "nolo" relative to the ~~transportation~~ conveyance of the parcels from Naples to Algeria.

We thank your Directorate for its precious cooperation for the organisation of this important service in favour of our POWs.

From CRIC

Subject: Despatch of individual parcels to POW.

To Ministry of Communications

To confirm what has been communicated with letter 59908 of 8 Nov. from this POWs Office and following on verbal arrangements with this Ministry (Servizio IV) herewith enclosed is copy of circular n.29 of 23.11.45 issued to all the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Committees and Sub Committees of the CRI in which are issued instructions relative to the despatch of parcels to ~~XXXX~~ Italian POWs in North Africa on behalf of their families in Italy.

Your Service is therefore requested to issue instructions to its own dependant bodies for all that concerns the acceptance and forwarding of the parcels to Naples.

We also kindly ask you to issue particular instructions to the Naples competent Office for the operation of the service of concentration and further ~~delivery~~ handing over of parcels to the Provincial CRI Committee, who, in agreement with the local Delegation of the International Red Cross Committee will take care of further conveyance in North Africa.

We thank your Ministry for its valid collaboration in the organisation of this important service and are awaiting a ~~kindly~~ word of assurance concerning the matter.

3334

Circular no.29

Subject: Despatch of ~~xxxxxx~~ individual parcels to POW in North Africa.

Following on agreement reached between the ^ecompetent Authorities, it is made known that the despatch of individual parcels from families to ~~xxxx~~ Italian POWs in North Africa has been authorised. The service for collection and forwarding of the parcels in question must be performed as follows:-

Families can send parcels to their relatives POW in North Africa, in the measure of one per month. ~~THESE PARCELS MUST BE SENT BY THE CRI COMMITTEES~~ Therefore, the singular Committees which will be the collecting centers of said parcels, will set up a list so to check scrupulously and under their own responsibility, the despatch of a parcel per month for each prisoner. ~~When~~ the parcel will be collected the CRI Committees must forward them by means of the RR. Posts, which have received instructions for their conveyance to NAPLES. The CRI Provincial Committee at Naples, in agreement with the International Red Cross Committee will see to their forwarding to French North Africa.

The regulations for the making up of the parcels, ~~the~~ wrapping, ~~the contents~~ contents, are as follows:-

The parcels must not weigh over 5 kilos and must not be bigger than ~~40~~ 40x20x20 cm. strong/

The parcels may be made up in wood or cardboard, but must always be ~~xxx~~ wrapped in canvas. Printed paper, newspapers etc., cannot be used both on the external or internal part of the parcel for wrapping.

~~NO COMMUNICATION BY LETTER CAN BE ENCLOSED IN THE PARCELS~~

No communication by letter can be enclosed in ~~the~~ the parcels. Instead the address of the sender must be enclosed, and the list of the ~~xxx~~ items enclosed and the address of the addressee.

The parcels may contain ~~foodstuffs~~ non perishable foodstuffs but woollen clothing ~~is~~ is preferable considering the approaching winter,

The Chief of the POW Office
B. Mosca.

The present instructions do not annul those contained in circular 27 of 15 Oct 45 whose subject is: Instructions for the despatch of parcels to Prisoners in French hands.



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI RICERCHE E SERVIZI CONNESSI
(SEGRETARIATO INTERNAZIONALE INFORMAZIONI PRIVATE)
ROMA - Via Puglia, 6 - Telef. 41-30 - 484.876 - Telegr. CROCEROSSA ROMA

Prot. N.

Risposta N.

Oggetto

Allegati

AR/ls

Roma, il 12th November 1945

Dear Sir,

With further reference to my call at your office yesterday, I beg to attach hereto copy of the letter N.59908/35 of the 8th November regarding the question of forwarding parcels to Italian Prisoners of War in North Africa.

Thanking you very much for your courtesy and valid cooperation I beg to remain

Yours truly

3332

UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

Major GREEN
Communications Sub Commission
Allied Commission - Room 444

= ROME =

file P43.

Fact. 59908/55

Spedizione pacchi indid-
viduali a prigionieri di guerra
italiani in Africa del Nord

AR/1s.

8 Novembre 1945

MINISTERO ASSISTENZA POST-BELLICA
Servizio Prigionieri di guerra

MINISTERO AFFARI ESTERI
D.G.A.P. UFF. IX

MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI
Servizio IV°

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLE DELEGAZIONI
DEL C.I.O.R. IN ITALIA
Via Grégoriana 26

COMITATO CENTRALE C.R.I.-Gabinetto

= ROMA =

Il Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa - Direzione Generale per l'Italia - ha comunicato aver preso accordi con il Capitano di Corvetta B.E. YBERT d'intesa con il War Shipping Administration in merito alla possibilità di poter effettuare il trasporto dei pacchi in oggetto da Napoli ad Algeri o Orano approfittando delle navi che nel viaggio di ritorno da Napoli agli Stati Uniti approdano in Algeria o Marocco;

La suddetta Direzione delle Delegazioni del C.I.O.R. ha fatto sapere che per questo trasporto ci sarà probabilmente da pagare il nolo, tuttavia si è fatto presente che ai sensi degli accordi della Convenzione Internazionale di Ginevra, qualsiasi corrispondenza e pacchi destinati a prigionieri di guerra dovrebbero essere esenti da qualsiasi pagamento e si spera pertanto sormontare questa difficoltà.

Si è in attesa di conoscere quanto è stato possibile fare per ottenere di risolvere favorevolmente questa questione.

In seguito a quanto sopra il Ministero delle Comunicazioni (Servizio IV°) subito interessato da quest'Ufficio, in relazione anche a precedenti accordi, ha promesso tutto il suo appoggio per la buona riuscita della nostra iniziativa assicurando che saranno date disposizioni a tutti gli uffici dipendenti affinché collaborino con la Croce Rossa Italiana nell'accettazione dei pacchi e il loro coinvolgimento al centro di raccolta(Napoli)autorizzando altresì che il peso massimo di ogni pacco, come da nostra richiesta sia portato da 2 a 5 chilogrammi.

I pacchi convogliati a Napoli presso l'Ufficio Postale della Stazione Centrale verranno prelevati a cura del Comitato Provinciale C.R.I. di Napoli il quale provvederà al trasporto dalla stazione con la

MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI

Servizio IV°

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLE DELEGAZIONI

DEL C.I.C.R. IN ITALIA

Via Grégoriana 28

COMITATO CENTRALE C.R.I.-Gabinetto

= ROMA =

Il Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa - Direzione Generale per l'Italia - ha comunicato aver preso accordi con il Comitato di Corvetta E.E. VBERT d'intesa con il War Shipping Administration in merito alla possibilità di poter effettuare il trasporto dei pacchi in oggetto da Napoli ad Algeri o Orano approfittando delle navi che nel viaggio di ritorno da Napoli agli Stati Uniti approdano in Algeria o Marocco;

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I pacchi convogliati a Napoli presso l'Ufficio Postale della Stazione Centrale verranno prelevati a cura del Comitato Provinciale della C.R.I. di Napoli il quale provvederà al trasporto dalla stazione ai locali della C.R.I. e successivamente, previ accordi con la locale delegazione del C.I.C.R., alla spedizione ad Algeri presso la Delegazione del C.I.C.R.

La Direzione delle Delegazioni del C.I.C.R. a Roma invierà istruzioni alla Delegazione di Algeri per quanto riguarda la rice-

file P43 PW

/.

zione e la conseguente distribuzione dei pacchi ai prigionieri di guerra dislocati nei vari campi.

Quest'Ufficio Prigionieri provvederà pertanto a:

- 1) - Informare subito il Maggiore GRIGNA della Communication Sub-Commission (Commissione Alleata) con riferimento alla sua lettera P.44/143/CS del 25/10/45 indirizzata al Ministero delle Comunicazioni, facendone presente la improbabilità del rimpatrio dei nostri prigionieri di guerra entro un breve termine e della conseguente necessità di organizzare subito questo servizio (specialmente per quanto riguarda l'invio dei pacchi contenenti indumenti) in vista dell'imminente stagione invernale e della possibilità ora verificata della spedizione Via Napoli-Algeri anziché Via Svizzera-Marsiglia come in un primo tempo si era dovuto prospettare per mancanza di comunicazioni tra Napoli ed Algeri.
- 2) - Ottenere dalla Delegazione del C.I.C.R. di Roma la conferma dell'annullamento del costo del nolo per il trasporto Napoli-Algeri richiesto dalla War Shipping Administration.
- 3) - Preparare uno schema di circolare da diramare a tutti i Comitati Provinciali della Croce Rossa Italiana precisando le modalità per la spedizione dei pacchi specificando che le famiglie dovranno rivolgersi a questo Ufficio Centrale Prigionieri di guerra - Roma, per ottenere il relativo tagliando di spedizione e di controllo.
- 4) - Preparare un comunicato da far pubblicare sui giornali e alla Radio con il quale si avvisano le famiglie che possono inviare pacchi ai propri congiunti prigionieri in Africa del Nord in ragione di uno al mese, stabilendo le modalità che verranno chiarite nella circolare da inviarsi ai Comitati Provinciali di cui al n.3).
- 5) - Informare il Comitato della Croce Rossa Italiana di Napoli trasmettendo copia della circolare di cui sopra e del comunicato Radio-Stampa inviando istruzioni definitive per quanto concerne il lavoro che dovrà svolgere il predetto Comitato d'accordo con la Delegazione del C.I.C.R. di Napoli.
- 6) - Non appena stabiliti gli accordi definitivi, quest'Ufficio Prigionieri confermerà al Ministero delle Comunicazioni tutto quanto è stato suo tempo concretato con il Comm. Novi - Capo del Servizio IV° - allegando copia della circolare di cui al n.3 e maggior chiarimento delle disposizioni che verranno date da quest'Ufficio Centrale Prigionieri di guerra.-

IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO P.G.

F.to MOSCA

Note: Major Hanson G.O. advised by telephone to check on question of payment for carriage of PW mails.
Convention does ensure relatives &

l'invio dei pacchi contestualmente alla possibilità ora verificatasi della spedizione invernale e della possibilità di verificare la possibilità di un primo tem-
Via Napoli-Algeri anziché Via Svizzera-Marsiglia come in un primo tem-
po si era dovuto prospettare per mancanza di comunicazioni tra Napoli
ed Algeri.

2) - Ottenere dalla Delegazione del C.I.C.R. di Roma la conferma del-
l'annullamento del costo del nolo per il trasporto Napoli-Algeri ri-
chiesto dalla War Shipping Administration.

3) - Preparare uno schema di circolare da circolare a tutti i Comitati
Provinciali della Croce Rossa Italiana precisando le modalità per la
spedizione dei pacchi specificando che le famiglie dovranno rivolgersi
a questo Ufficio Centrale Prigionieri di guerra - Roma, per ottenere
il relativo tagliando di spedizione e di controllo.

4) - Preparare un comunicato da far pubblicare sui giornali e alla Ra-
dio con il quale si avvisano le famiglie che possono inviare pacchi ai
propri congiunti prigionieri in Africa del Nord in ragione di uno al
mese, stabilendo le modalità che verranno chiarite nella circolare da
inviarsi ai Comitati Provinciali di cui al n.3).

5) - Informare il Comitato della Croce Rossa Italiana di Napoli tra-
mettendo copia della circolare di cui sopra e del comunicato Radio-
Stampa inviando istruzioni definitive per quanto concerne il lavoro
che dovrà svolgere il predetto Comitato d'accordo con la Delegazione
del C.I.C.R. di Napoli.

6) - Non appena stabiliti gli accordi definitivi, quest'Ufficio Prigio-
nieri confermerà al Ministero delle Comunicazioni tutto quanto è stato
esposto tempo fa con il Comm. Novi - Capo del Servizio IV° - al-
legando copia della circolare di cui al n.3 e maggior chiarimento del-
le disposizioni che verranno date da quest'Ufficio Centrale Prigionieri
di guerra.-

IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO P.G.

F.to MOSCA

Note: Mayor Benson G's asked by telephone 15 checks on
question of payment for carriage of PW Mails.
Itinerario visto although Convention does ensure relatives &
PW against postal charges, the cost of conveyance
is proven to be borne by the deactivation fund.

Mrs Lombardi says negotiations are in the
hands of French Naval com at Naples & she will
inform us when information is needed. She assumes that
the necessary steps for the deactivation.

Mod. 107



*Ministero delle Poste
e delle Telecomunicazioni*

Roma 24 OTT 27 1945

A.A.C. Communications S.C.

Servizio IV *Dir. 1* *Sez. 2*
Prot. N.° 835029/1PS/420464
Allegati 1

ROMA

Rapporto all' N.° P.45.33.CS
del 5.7.1945

OGGETTO: Invio di pacchi dall'Italia ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in mani francesi nel Nord Africa.

In relazione alla lettera sopra distinta, qui inviata per conoscenza, ed in base alle intese verbali, si trasmette copia della nota n. 3582/0-3 in data 6 corr. del Ministero dell'Assistenza Post-bellica, relativa all'oggetto, con preghiera di voler fornire gli elementi per la risposta.

IL DIRETTORE GENERALE

Moni 3330

F

44

MINISTERO POSTE E TELECOMUNICAZIONI

DIREZIONE GENERALE POSTE E TELEGRAMMI

SERV. IV. DIV. I. SEZ. II

C O P I A

MINISTERO DELL'ASSISTENZA POST-BELLICA

Servizio Prigionieri Guerra

Div. I Sez. Politica

Prot. n. 3582/0-2

Oggetto: Invio di pacchi dall'Italia ai prigionieri di guerra in mani francesi nel Nord Africa

Roma, 6 ottobre 1945

AL MINISTERO DELLE POSTE E TELECOMUNIC.

R O M A

Questo Servizio per Prigionieri di guerra aveva interessato la Commissione Alleata in data 20 agosto per poter usufruire del Servizio Postale Militare Alleato per inviare pacchi viveri e vestimenta ai nostri prigionieri di guerra.

Le Autorità Alleate hanno risposto in data odierna come segue:

1. Il servizio postale americano non si serve più di mezzi di trasporto "via mare" per e dal Nord Africa per posta militare. L'APO britannico non può più accettare lettere dirette a prigionieri di guerra nel Nord Africa, poiché i mezzi di navigazione per il Nord Africa non sono frequenti.

2. Risulta che l'unico mezzo con cui tali lettere possono essere spedite è mediante la posta civile internazionale per lo scambio fra l'Italia e il Nord Africa.

3. Si prega di voler riferire la questione alle Autorità delle Poste italiane.

Si prega codesto Ministero di volerci informare sulle possibilità del servizio civile internazionale e sulle modalità da seguire per le spedizioni.

IL CAPO SERVIZIO
f.to: Dr. Fausto Nitti

Per copia conforme

Roma 20 OTT 1945 33.9

Il Capo Divisione *Roy*

Translation

935029/IPS 420464

24 October 45

SUBJECT: Despatch of parcels from Italy to Italian POW in North Africa.

Ref P.45.33 of 5.17 45, sent to us for information, and according to verbal agreement, a copy is herewith attached of letter 3582/O-3 of 6 October from the Ministry of Post-War Assistance, regarding the subject; please will you ~~inform the~~ let us know what reply must be given.

Letter from the Ministero dell'Assistenza Postale

Our Service for POWs has interested on 20 Aug 40 to be able to make use of the Allied Military Postal Service to send parcels of food stuffs and clothing to our POWs.

Today we have received from the Allied Authorities the following reply:-
The American Postal service no longer uses ~~xx~~ means of transport "by sea" to and from North Africa ~~by military post~~ for military post. The British APO cannot accept letters addressed to POWs in North Africa, because ~~xxxxxx~~ the shipping for North Africa is not very frequent. It appears that the only way with which such letters can be despatched is through the international civil mail for the exchange between Italy and North Africa.

Please will you refer the question to Italian Postal authorities. We beg your Ministry to keep us informed on the possibility of the international civil service and the regulations to be followed for the despatches.

33-8

43

MEMO

OGLM/ams

B.43.43/OS

Subject: Repatriation of Italian Prisoners in France and North Africa.

To : Director Public Relations Branch.

Thank you information received.

Copy of "L'Indipendente" of 3rd October 1945 to is
returned herewith.

Cf D. Maddock
Capt

H. H. SCUDDER
Lt. Colonel, Sig. O.
Director.

6th October 1955

Communications Sub-Commission
Extn. 444.

CHS	33-7
43	
Date	

42

Extract from "Indipendente" of 3 Oct. 45

.....
For the POWs in French North Africa, their repatriation is only subordinated to the possibility for the Italian Govt to place at their disposal the ships necessary for such purpose, and with this aim agreements are being taken with the Allied authorities in the Mediterranean.
If the means of transport will allow I can assure you that with the help of the Allies, all that is possible will be done in a few weeks, and for the luckiest ones amongst you in a few days you will see Italy again.
....."

Speech of Ambassador Saragat from Paris Radio Station.

P43

33-6

MEMO

0312/ans

41

P.43.41/CS

Subject: Repatriation of Italian Prisoners in France and North Africa.

To : Director Public Relations Branch.

Reference para 5 of R.108/53/P.R.B. of 3rd October 1945
(Daily Digest of Rome Press).

Will you please say if it is possible for a more detailed account of this announcement, on Radio Paris, to be forwarded to this Sub-Commission. In particular the order in which repatriation is to be carried out is of extreme importance as this Sub-Commission is at present dealing with proposals to establish a parcel post service from Italy to Italian P.O.W. in French custody in North Africa.

J. L. Souder Capt

H. H. SOUDER
Lt. Colonel, Sig. C.
Director.

5th October 1945

Communications Sub-Commission
Extn. 444.

33.5

Fil

63

Delt

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

MT/mdp

IPW/1/3/1337 B

2 October 1945

SUBJECT : Transporting Parcels to PW in French Custody
in North Africa.

TO : Ministry of Post War Assistance.

Reference your letter N.2958/Pol/O-3 di prot.
dated 20 Aug 45

1. The US Army Postal Service no longer utilize water transportation to and from North Africa for military mails. The British APO can no longer accept letter mail for Italian PW in North Africa, since sailings to North Africa are so infrequent.

2. It would appear that the only means by which such mails could be dispatched would be via international civil mails exchanged between Italy and North Africa.

3. It is requested that the matter be referred to the Italian postal authorities.

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Div.

✓ Copy to Communication Sub/Commission
Attn. Major Green

COPY

MINISTERE DE LA GUERRE
ETAT-MAJOR DE L'ARMEE
Direction Generale des P.G. de l'Axe
12, Avenue de Breteuil - PARIS 7

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

N. 9199 DGPG/4

Paris le 7 Aout 1945

LE MINISTRE DE LA GUERRE
(Direction Generale des P.G. de l'Axe)

a'

Monsieur le Lieutenant Chef P.I.
de la Mission Francaise aupres de la
COMMISSION ALLIEE EN ITALIE
S.P. 70.289

Reference: lettre AB/SM N. 2.183 du 7 Juillit 1945

OBJECT:
Envoi de colis aux
P.G. Italiens.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaitre que je ne vois
aucun inconvenient a ce que la Croix-Rouge Internationale
expedie des colis aux Prisonniers de guerre italiens en
Afrique du Nord.

Le Colonel, Chef de l'Annexe d'ALGER, m'a fait connaitre
que ces secours seraient particulierement utiles sur les
chantiers militaires et les depots, les P.G. travaillant
dans l'Economie Civile etant mieux ravitaillies, et que, de
nos trois possessions d'Afrique du Nord, c'est l'Algerie
qui se trouve dans la situation alimentaire la plus diffi-
cile.

.../...3323

file P 43

C O P Y

- Total... 38.521

- Total....8.335

- Total.....8.643

- Total... 4.228

- Total... 17.315

Pour memoire il y a en A.E.F. 82 P.G. Italiens dont 1 Officer.

332

copy

38

IPW/1/3/1119 B

6 September 1945

SUBJECT : Sending of packages from Italy to POW in French custody in North Africa.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
Attn. P.M.G.

Reference your 383.6 dated 6 August 45.

1. It is brought to your attention that the matter in question has been taken up as per your suggestion, by the Italian Government with the holding Government.

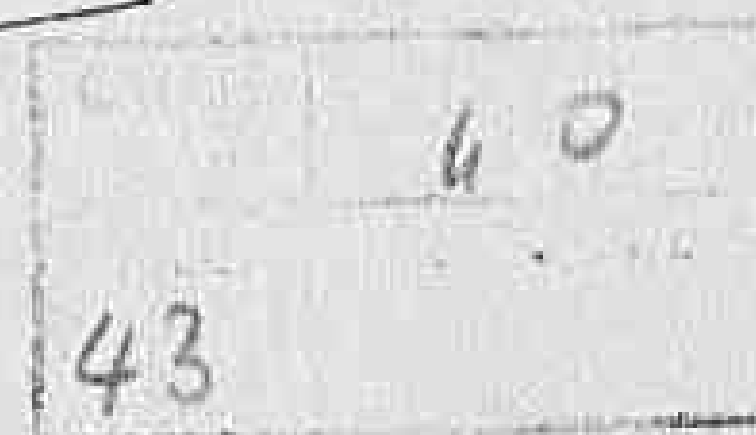
2. The action now requested of Allied Force Headquarters by the Ministry of Post War Assistance, is the actual transport of packages in question to North Africa, the French Authorities having granted permission for their reception.

For the Chief Commissioner:

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Div.

G5. Telephoned re this letter saying that IPW Subcommittee seemed to be forwarding cases without consulting other subcommittees concerned. Copies obtained from IPW.

File P.43.



Date _____

119

20 August 1945

TO: Allied Commission, WMD & IPW S/O

The fact of the approaching winter is preoccupying the Italian Government, in regards to our compatriots who are still in captivity, held by the French in North Africa.

The precarious situation of this military personnel, who will have to affront a third winter without clothes, is well known.

The Italian Government has obtained permission from the French authorities to send packages of clothes to them and we beg your S/O to interest yourselves in the transport of said packages to North Africa.

This matter was prospected by the High Commissioner for POW in letter No. 1434 dated 3 May 45 to which we have received no answer.

e/ The Minister
Lucca

3370

~~100-100~~

copy

IPW/1/3/1050 B

23 August 1945

SUBJECT : Request of ration Packages for POW in North Africa

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War-

Reference your letter N. 2339/ Pol. 06 dated
11 July 45

1. Questions concerning the welfare of Italian POW,
not U.S. or British held, should be taken up by the Italian
Government with the holding Government.

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

33.9

(1050)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

CMK/mcc

6 Aug 45.

G-5: 383.6

SUBJECT: Request of ration Packages for POW in North Africa.
TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
WMD & IPW Sub-Commission,
APO 394.

1. The attached correspondence concerning conditions of French and Russian held Italian POW is returned.
2. Questions concerning the welfare of Italian POW, not U.S. or British held, should be taken up by the Italian Government with the holding Government.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

C. M. Kraay
C.M. KRAAY,
Captain.

Incls: AC ltr 1/3/9038 dtd 27 Jul 45.
ltr in translation from It. High Commissioner for POW.

3318

1050

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

MT/pb

IPW/ 1/3/903B

27th July 1945
(date)

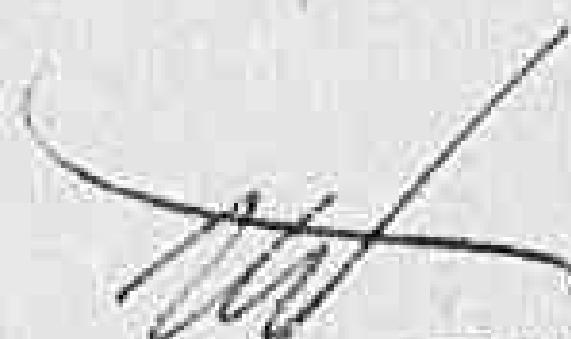
SUBJECT: Request of ration packages for POW in North Africa.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

G - 5

1. The attached is forwarded for such action as you deem necessary.
2. May this Sub-Commission be informed, please.

For the Chief Commissioner.


J. A. CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WAD & IPW Sub-Com.

1 Encls.- Letter in translation from Italian High Commissioner for POW

3317

/amc.

ITALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

11 July 45

No. 2339/Pol.06

SUBJECT: Request of ration packages for POW in North Africa.

TO: Allied Commission
S/C for Italian POW
Rome

The General Direction of the C.I.R.C. Delegation in Italy, informs us about the decrease of the food condition due to the drought in which are the Italian POW.

The Delegation informs us that in Morocco, the bread ration is of 275 grams while before it was of 500 gr. and it is thought that it is still on a decrease.

The very bad conditions of life of POW in French hands are known, due to this cause the Italian Government, tries every way to succeed in letting them receive some assistance.

We beg your Sub-Commission to intervene in allowing to send food packages to the North African camp, authorizing to send at least one 5 Kg packages every month.

The families of the POW are willing to send those packages through the Red Cross. Also if all the relations of the prisoners would send a packages the complessive weight would not be more than 200 tons a month.

This matter has been called to the attention of the French Ambassador in Rome.

33-6

The General Secretary
Col. Pallotta

MEMO

JNL/ams

P.43.37/CS

Subject: Proposed Parcel Service from Italy to Italian Prisoner of War in French Custody in North Africa.

To : W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission.

G-5 : A.P.H.Q. has drawn attention (by telephone) to your I.P.W./1/3/1119 of 6th September to P.M.G. A.P.H.Q.

1. In this Sub-Commission's P.43.33/CS of 5th July (copy to you) the problem of establishing a limited parcel post service to Italian P.W. in North Africa was fully dealt with and the suggestion was made that the I.R.C.C. should discuss the matter with the competent Italian Ministries including the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

2. It will be seen that in that letter it was stated that there was no reason why the Italian Government should not make bids for the necessary shipping tonnage in the normal way but that the availability of shipping from Naples to Algiers is very infrequent.

3. Postal communications in Italy have improved considerably since July although they are still not adequate for a normal parcel post service in all parts of the country.

4. So far as Military Government territory is concerned it is considered that there would not be insuperable difficulty in arranging for Post Offices to accept from the public the limited number of parcels involved under this scheme and in forwarding the parcels to a convenient centre (say Genoa) for the preparation of despatches. The letter mails from Italy to France are addressed to Marseilles and are conveyed by a French road service working to and from Ventimiglia but this would be inadequate to provide for the conveyance of large quantities of parcels and unless disposal by sea from Genoa is possible, arrangements would be necessary for a special road service from Genoa or railhead to Marseilles, or the railhead on the French side. The I.R.C.C. might be able to help in this respect.

5. In Italian Government territory the parcels could also probably be collected to a convenient centre or centres through ordinary postal channels but the question would arise whether they should be concentrated at Naples and await despatch by sea when shipping became available, or sent overland to Genoa. Probably the Italian Red Cross at Naples could undertake the accommodation of the parcels until shipping could be arranged through the usual bidding procedure.

If, however, the prospects of shipping the parcels direct from Naples to Algiers or to Marseilles is so remote as to rule out this arrangement it might be necessary to consider special arrangements for the transport of the parcels in bulk by rail from Rome northwards as the postal vehicles attached to civil trains on this route are already congested with existing traffic.

P.43.57/CS
continued
./.

6. In the absence of a normal parcel service it is still considered that the formulation of definite proposals for the special service is a matter for consideration by the Italian Ministries concerned and the Red Cross organisations and you may wish to advise the Ministry of Post War Assistance accordingly. It might be advisable first to obtain the views of the Transportation Sub-Commission on the points mentioned in paras 4 and 5 concerning sea and rail transportation.

WHL
H. H. GUDEN
Lt. Colonel, R.C.
Director.

23th September 1945

Copies to:

G-5 : A.V.H.Q.
Transportation Sub-Commission.

Communications Sub-Commission
Extn. 444.

43
Date _____

3314

copie au Major Green

35

Rome, 7 Juillet 1945

AB/SA n° 2.183

Le Lieutenant de GUILLIN d'AVENAS,
Chef P.I. de la Mission Française auprès de la
COMMISSION ALLIEE EN ITALIE,
S.P. 70.289

à

Monsieur le Général de Division B O I S S E A U,
Directeur Général et Inspecteur des
Prisonniers de Guerre de l'Axe
Avenue de Breteuil
PARIS.

J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre attention le sujet
suivant, pour votre information personnelle et pour vous
permettre de prendre, éventuellement, toutes dispositions
que vous jugerez opportunes.

La Sous-Commission des "Communications" de la Commis-
sion Alliée m'a soumis un dossier au sujet d'un projet d'
envoi de colis familiaux aux Prisonniers de Guerre Italiens
en Afrique du Nord.

Ce projet émane de la Croix-Rouge Internationale. Les
difficultés rencontrées sont grandes et surtout d'ordre:
transport. Le poids global de ces colis serait d'environ
200 Tonnes par mois, à raison d'un colis de 5 Kg par pri-
sonnier et par mois. Leur but serait d'envoyer ces paquets
à Alger où la Croix-Rouge se chargerait de les recevoir et
de les envoyer dans les différents camps, où les Chefs de
Camp, selon la coutume habituelle, en assureraient la dis-
tribution.

Les autorités de la Croix-Rouge Internationale font
remarquer avec juste raison que la situation alimentaire
en certaines régions de l'A.F.N. est mauvaise du fait de la
grande sécheresse et que cette aide, aussi minime soit-elle

Comme on l'a vu

..... doit être apportée avec diligence. Elles demandent donc que tous les efforts soient faits pour faciliter le travail de ses représentants en A.F.N./.

La Commission des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique du Nord
2.1.1.1. de la Mission
2.1.1.2. de la Mission
Avec

4

Monsieur le Général de Division B. I. S. S. U.
Bureau Général et Inspection des
Prisonniers de Guerre de l'Armée
Avenue de l'Indépendance
ALGER

1. Je tiens à vous adresser mes
vives salutations et vous prie de
transmettre à votre famille et à
vos amis mes sentiments de
cordiale amitié.

La Commission des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique du Nord
a le plaisir de vous adresser
par la présente la liste des
prisonniers de guerre algériens
qui se trouvent en Italie.

Les prisonniers de guerre algériens
qui se trouvent en Italie sont
répartis dans les camps suivants
et les autorités italiennes ont
la tâche de leur fournir les
matériaux nécessaires à leur
entretien et à leur éducation.
Les autorités italiennes ont
la tâche de leur fournir les
matériaux nécessaires à leur
entretien et à leur éducation.

Les autorités de la Commission des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique du Nord
ont le plaisir de vous adresser
par la présente la liste des
prisonniers de guerre algériens
qui se trouvent en Italie.

0777

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
ATO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

WHG/ams

P.43.34/CS

6th July 1945

Subject: Parcels for Prisoners of War in French Hands in North Africa.

To : Postal Officers, Emilia, Liguria, Lombardia and Venezia Regions.

1. The attached P.43.33/CS of 5th July is self-explanatory and is sent to you for information and for preliminary consideration of the problem from the point of view of your Region.

2. It is, of course, almost impossible to forecast the amount of parcel traffic which would arise from the introduction of such a scheme but, as there are estimated to be not more than 30,000 Italian P.W. in French hands in North Africa and as a good many of the families would probably not be able to send a parcel, the total traffic spread over the whole country would probably not be excessive.

3. In some of the Northern Provinces there would be less difficulty than in the South as regards the transport of the parcels from outlying Post Offices to the Capoluoghi, but there is the major problem of conveying the parcels from the North to Naples. Possibly by the time the scheme becomes operative the best course would be to concentrate the parcels on Milan and make a bid for direct railway conveyance in bulk. Alternatively it might be worth considering the practicability of direct conveyance under I.R.C.C. arrangements by road into France for shipment from Marseilles which may have more frequent sailings to Algiers than operate from Naples.

W.H.
H.H. SCUDDER
Lt. Colonel, Sig.O.
Director.

Copy to:

G-5 : A.F.H.Q.
W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission
French Representative to A.C.
Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecommunications. 33 ref. P.43.33 of 5th July

CROSS	
REFS.	
FILE	
43	

Date _____

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
170 394
Communications Sub-Commission

33

WED/enc

P.43.33/33

5th July 1945

Dear Mrs Campanari

Parcels for Prisoners of War in French hands
in North Africa

With reference to your recent representations concerning the possibility of instituting a special parcel service to Italian Prisoners of War in French hands in North Africa from their relatives in this country I have now been informed that it would not be practicable for the American or British Army Post Office to undertake the conveyance of such parcel mails from Italy to North Africa.

I have made enquiries as to the practicability of the Italian Government making direct approaches for the necessary shipping facilities and am told that there is no reason why bids for the necessary tonnage should not be placed in the normal way. It is pointed out, however, that the availability of shipping from Naples to Algiers is very infrequent.

In these circumstances I can only suggest that the problem should be discussed with the Italian Red Cross and representatives of the competent Italian Ministries including the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

It seems to me that in view of the uncertainty of shipping facilities and the indefinite amount of traffic requiring to be concentrated at the dispatching point, the best course would be to commence any such scheme on an experimental basis by issuing a special label permitting the despatch of one parcel to each of the Prisoners of War concerned.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications would probably agree to parcels bearing such labels being accepted at Post Offices and forwarded exceptionally by internal postal channels wherever space permitted and the Italian Red Cross would no doubt assist where serious difficulties in this respect were experienced as would make similar arrangements so far as Military Government territory is concerned.

I am very doubtful whether the accumulation and retention of the parcels at Naples pending shipment could be undertaken by the Italian Post Office which is already in very serious difficulties owing to lack of sorting office accommodation in Naples. Perhaps the Italian Red Cross has a warehouse which could be used for the purpose?

The packing of the parcels would need special attention if they are to arrive in good condition and this may be a matter of some difficulty for the families concerned in view of the scarcity of suitable paper and string.

43

/.

./, P.45.53/CH
continued.

The arrangements for the receipt of these parcels in North Africa and their subsequent distribution to the various camps would need to be discussed with the French authorities, but the best solution would probably be for your Algiers Delegation to make the necessary arrangements. Ownership of prisoner of war parcels is usually undertaken at the camp.

*yes etc
WHL*

H. H. COWDRIE
Lt. Colonel, R.C.C.
Director.

To:
Mrs A. Gregorini
Director Generale des Delegations en Italie
Comite International de la Croix Rouge
20 Via Gregoriana
ROMA

Copies to:
C-5 : A.F.R.O. (ref. 311.16-2 of 28th June 1945)
W.R.R. and I.P.R. Sub-Commission
French Representative to A.C.
Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecommunications.

0780

Communications s/c

4260
36
625

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CJM/j

28 June 1945

G-5: 311.16-2

SUBJECT: Parcels for Italian P. W. in French hands in N. Africa.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

Your reference is 43/30 CS of 13 June 1945.

1. Both the American and British Army Post Offices express a desire to curtail commitments with regard to the Italian Posts. The service proposed would place an additional strain on facilities which are due for reduction and it is suggested that the Italian Government itself make the necessary approach for shipping facilities to be granted independent of any Allied aid.

2. The U. S. Army post is in no position to dispose of the mail bags arriving on the Gift Service and it is mentioned that Genoa as a point of acceptance would place too much strain on the restricted services north - south and that the frequency of shipping Naples - Algiers is problematical.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

C. J. Macnamara
C. J. MACNAMARA,
Major, P. C.

*4/7 Shipping Sub-Committee say
shipping from Italy to N. Africa
very infrequent. Well let us discuss
about routes to SFAY.*

3309

CROSS	
43	

Date.....

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

WIG/ans

P.43.31/CS

25th June 1945

Subject: Parcels for Italian P.W. in French hands in North Africa
To : G-5 : A.F.H.Q.

With reference to P.43.30/CS of 13th June.

1. A copy is enclosed of a letter received by the Rome Delegation of the I.R.C.C. from Geneva applying fresh pressure for the introduction of a parcel service from the families living in Italy to these Prisoners of War.

2. It is, of course, considerably open to doubt whether a parcel service of the kind visualised is the best method of alleviating the conditions described in the letter, but this cannot be taken as an adequate reason for withholding such a service. It would, therefore, be appreciated if an urgent decision can be given on the points raised in P.43.30/CS so that the necessary internal arrangements may be considered further.

For the Chief Commissioner.

with
H.H. SCULDER
Lt. Colonel, Sog.C.
Director.

1 Inc. : Translation of Geneva letter of 23th May 1945

Copies to:

G.I. (B) A.F.H.Q.
W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission
French Representative to A.C.

3308

File

CROSS REFS.	
FILE 43	1 11, 1 wd.
Date	

CONFIDENTIALTRANSLATION

Geneva, May 23 1945

NOTE FOR THE HOME DELEGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS COMMITTEEAID TO ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN NORTH AFRICA

Our North African Delegation calls our attention to the considerable worsening of the food conditions of the P.O.W. in this sector, owing to the exceptionally dry winter; the harvest is expected to be extraordinarily deficient.

Already in Morocco the P.O.W.'s bread ration has been again diminished from 500 to 275 gr. and it will probably have to be still further reduced.

Doubtlessly, the majority of the Italian War prisoners who do agricultural work will suffer relatively little from this situation. On the other hand, for the 6 to 7000 sedentary Italian prisoners of war in the camps, who are often the least resistant, the measures to be adopted should be urgently decided upon right now.

We should be very grateful to you to undertake the necessary steps with a view to take up again the question of family parcels. Many of the families of the Italian P.O.W.s are either fully well off or in agriculture; in both these cases, they would be able to send substantial parcels to their prisoners.

The fact of the new situation created in North Africa by the drought might convince the Allied military Authorities to suspend, at least for the time being, their prohibition to the sending of family parcels from Italy to the camps of North Africa. The affair is not one of great equity: calculating one parcel of 5 klg. ahead for each month for every prisoner, this would mean for 40,000 prisoners less than 200 tons monthly. This is a very small cargo, but one which would represent an appreciable help for the prisoners of war.

For the International Red Cross Committee
(signed) H. Vassier
Director of the Relief Department 827

TRANSLATION.

Geneva, May 23, 1945.

NOTE FOR THE ROME DELEGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS COMMITTEE.AID TO ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN NORTH AFRICA.

Our North African Delegation calls our attention to the considerable worsening of the food conditions of the P.O.W. in this sector, owing to the exceptionally dry winter; the harvest is expected to be extraordinarily deficient.

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For the International Red Cross Committee
(signed) H. Wagner
Director of the Relief Department

3306

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMUNICATIONS
AFG 394
Communications Sub-Commission

WIZ/bo

15th June 1945

F. 43.30/CS

Subject: Parcels for Italian P.W. in French hands in North Africa.

To : G-5, A.P.H.Q.

1. The International Red Cross Committee in Rome is making further representations concerning the desirability of instituting a parcel service from relatives in Italy to Italian Prisoners of War in French hands in North Africa.

2. It is therefore proposed to discuss with the Italian Red Cross and Postal Administration the question of overcoming the difficulties which lie in the way of transmission of such parcels from the senders to despatching points. Before this can be done effectively, however, it is necessary to know where these despatching points must be and whether the Army Post Office could undertake to accept the mails for conveyance to Algiers.

3. It is very difficult to form any reliable estimate of the number of relatives who would be in a position to send parcels under such a scheme but it is thought that if a limitation of one parcel per month to any Prisoner were imposed not more than 500 bags per month would be despatched.

4. In view of internal transportation difficulties it would be desirable to make up the despatches from North Italy at Genoa for transfer to the APO at that place. Rome, Palermo and Naples could also be despatching offices with transfer to the APO at Naples. Could this point be cleared with GI (B) please?

5. The shortage of Italian mail bags is a serious obstacle and perhaps the American Postal Administration can be asked whether mail bags received in Italy from the USA containing gift parcels could be utilised for this service, being subsequently returned to the USA from North Africa. The Italian Post Office could furnish any records required of the bags disposed of in this way.

6. In view of difficulties with regard to sorting office accommodation it would be preferable not to attempt to make up despatches in Italy for individual camps but to despatch all the parcels to a suitable agency in Algiers for subsequent distribution.

Copies to:

GI (B) A.P.H.Q.
British Army Postal Directorate A.P.H.Q.
A.C. Postal A.P.H.Q.
U.M.D. & I.P.W. Sub-Commission
French Representative to A.C.
Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecommunications

WHL
H.A. SCHUBERT
Lt. Colonel, R.A.C.
Director.

3305

CROSS REFS.	31
FILE	8/Fwd.
43	

Date

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE



DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES DÉLÉGATIONS EN ITALIE

OC/cr

Inter Armo Caritas

REF.: 1/3017

SERVICE IV

ROME, le June 9, 1945

20, Via Gregoriana - Tel. 63.368

Télégr.: INTERCRUX - ROME

Major Green
 Communications
 Sub-Commission
 Allied Commission

Subject: Parcels for Italian P.O.W.s in
 North Africa.

Dear Major Green,

With reference to our conversation on the sending of parcels from their families to Italian P.O.W.s in North Africa, we are enclosing some paragraphs taken from a report sent by our Algiers Delegate to Geneva, and from the letter sent by the International Red Cross Committee to us asking us to take all necessary steps in the matter.

Considering the extremely critical conditions in which the Italian P.O.W.s in North Africa find themselves, we beg you to do all in your power to facilitate the forwarding of parcels from their relatives to them as soon as possible, and we thank you in advance. Sincerely yours,

Anna Carpani
 Allen June 13

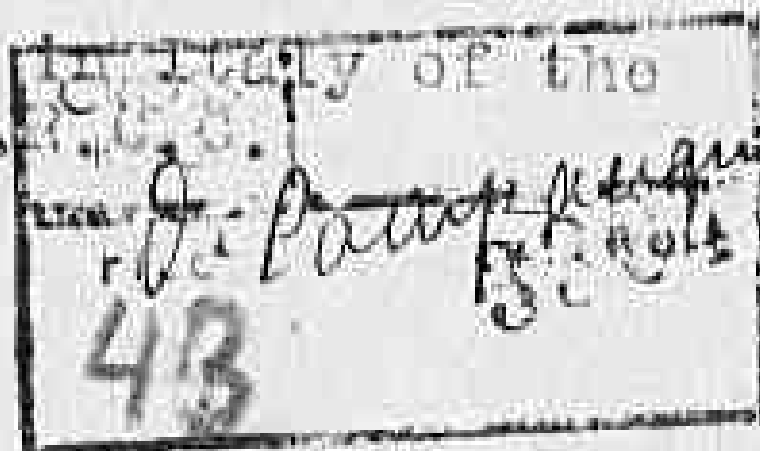
For the H.C. in Italy of the

Enclosed: 1 translation.

File P44

Bring out 30 June

Date _____



3061A

TRANSLATIONInternational Red Cross
Committee

Geneva, 30 April 1945

re: Italian P.O.W. in french hands in North Africa.

.....We are again asking the Protective Power to study all possible means to which one could have recourse to improve the conditions of these prisoners, but it is evident that one can scarcely hope for improvements in the material order of things, considering the general scarcity of goods prevalent in North Africa as well as in France.

On your part, please study without delay the steps which could be taken to forward rapidly the correspondence of the families of the regions of North Italy which are now being liberated. On the other hand, we insist once again on the question of family parcels. It would be so much the more useful that this question should be re-examined with the Allied Authorities in as much as very soon the greater part of the families will be in the liberated zones. Finally, all action of collective aid would be welcome, both as regards food stuffs, and clothing and tobacco.

For the International Red Cross Committee

G. Perrin

Prisoners, internees and Civilians'
Section.International Red Cross
Committee

Algiers, 22 March 45

".....It is true that the question of the situation as regards clothes of the Italian P.O.W. in french hands is extremely critical owing to the fact that the first prisoners arrived directly from the fields of battle and had nothing save the clothes, underlinen and shoes they were ~~actually~~ wearing.

The french authorities who were themselves very short of clothing for their own troops, have made a constant and real effort to better this situation but the needs were so great that their efforts remained always far below what was necessary to meet these needs.

Italian

On the other hand the P.O.W. employed both in Industry and Agriculture should have been given clothes by their employers. Many of them have made a great effort to put their workers in condition to go about decently clad but the difficulties for civilians are such that it is practically impossible at present to buy clothes in the market even with clothes cards which the prisoners anyway have not got."

3303

- 2 -

".....We have personally both written and telegraphed to our Delegation in Italy various times to ask them to obtain if not from the Italian Red Cross since all exports are forbidden by the Allies, at least the sending of family parcels including old clothes, underwear and shoes which each P.O.W. could still have at home."



3302

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

COMMIS

Originator's Reference: EX 57746
 Date/Time of Origin: APR 101038B

Message Centre No: D/7315
 Date Time Rec'd: APR 101645B
 Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE FHGEG
 TO: FOR MARSHALL ACTION TO AGWAR WASHINGTON INFO TO ALCOM ROME

29

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

Reur W58925 of 27 March.

Relief parcels from Italian prisoners of war and service unit personnel acceptable in ITALY for addresses in ROME, VATICAN CITY, NAPLES and PALERMO on same terms as agreed for civilian relief parcels in MAT 380. Italian unable to effect delivery in other areas and parcels already received for other areas have caused embarrassment. Request you ensure parcels sent comply strictly with terms of MAT 380.

ACTION

DIST

ACTION: Communications S/C
 INFO: A/President
 Chief Commissioner
 File 2
 Float

*Please have cross refs
 on this
 we write to AFHQ
 as long as we can go*
 SEE 24

HEADQUARTERS
 11 APR 1945

RESTRICTED

F

3301

73

APPLICATION FOR PARCEL SERVICE TO ITALIAN P.W. IN VARIOUS THEATRES.

Parcels for Italian P.W. in North Africa.

Mr. Jefferson, American Red Cross, was asked (24 March) whether anything had been done in the direction of sending parcels from America to Italian P.W. in North Africa.

He said that about a week ago (through arrangements made by International Red Cross) 60000 food parcels were sent to these P/W in North Africa. The cost 220,000 dollars is to be borne by Italian Ministry of War. He understood that these parcels were released from I.R.C.C. stocks in Portugal.

Parcels for Cooperators in British hands.

Dr. Luvini I.R.C.C. says he has not heard of any appeals for a parcel service in this case. His information is that the men are in need only of books and he is already meeting such demands either directly through unit commanders or through the good offices of the I.P.W. Sub-Commission.

Parcels for P.W. in Germany.

I.R.C.C. scheme is held up owing to present events in Germany which render it impossible for Geneva to undertake delivery of parcels to individual P.W.

MEMO: In view of above and of the present situation it seems preferable to defer any action for the present.

W.H. GREEN
Major.

3300

0790

DF 994

**SUSPENSION OF NEXT-OF-KIN AND "PERMIT"
PARCEL SERVICES TO PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY**

DF 994

The following is the text of a press notice on the above subject which is being issued for publication on the 22nd of March:—

"The Postmaster General announces that, in the present phase of the war, transport conditions make it difficult to forward next-of-kin and permit parcels to prisoners of war in Germany. Although therefore it is hoped that it may still be possible to forward some or all of the present accumulation of these parcels to destination, it is necessary to suspend further posting of next-of-kin and permit parcels for the present". Next of kin and others who are in possession of labels and coupons are asked not to return them to the Red Cross but to keep them safely until further notice.

Any inquiries from members of the public should be answered in accordance with this notice and the acceptance of next-of-kin parcels from the public should cease as from the 23rd of March.

Suitable notes should be made against the sections relating to next-of-kin and permit parcels in working copies of the leaflet P 2280E (postal supplement No. 11 in the counter compendium). (P.O.C. 21.3.45)

3239

(2)

4. -- Le contabilità relative ai libretti e buoni devono trattene-
re dalle Ragionerie delle Direzioni ordinate per servizio,
per date e per ordine secondo il numero frazionario degli uf-
fici.

Gli uffici eseguiranno la trasmissione alla Ragioneria
Provinciale delle note E-E 1 -- B E-B E I -- B E I speciale
ogni cinquina unitamente al conto di cassa mod. 22 C. Per gli
uffici principali gestiti da personale di ruolo, detto invio
resta invariato.

5. -- E' ammessa la liquidazione delle successioni presso gli uf-
fici di emissione dei libretti e dei buoni. La definizione
delle relative pratiche é deferita anche alle Direzioni
Provinciali, le quali le affideranno ad un funzionario di
prima categoria.
6. -- Il rimborso provvisorio previsto dagli art. 113 e 114 dell'I-
struzione Risparmi, é elevata da £. 500 a £. 2.000.--
7. -- Le richieste di vincoli per i libretti e buoni debbono con-
tinuare ad aver corso. Le Ragionerie Provinciali provvederan-
no ad apporre il vincolo secondo le modalità dettate dalle rela-
tive istruzioni.
- Gli atti che concernono le operazioni di vincolo, svinco-
li, e successioni, dovranno essere custoditi dalle Ragionerie
Provinciali. Queste, mensilmente, invieranno al Servizio VIT^o,
anche se negativi. distinti alorchi dalla...

SUBJECT:- Parcel Mail for PW.

COMMUNICATIONS S/c

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

CR/3008/GI (Br).

7 Mar 45.

Headquarters,
Allied Commission
(Communications Sub-Commission).

1. Reference your P.43 24/CS dated 26 Feb 45.
2. Your full explanation of the problems involved is appreciated. It is, however, considered that a decision as to the best use to which the limited facilities available in ITALY for dealing with parcel mail can be put is entirely a matter for the Italian Government with such assistance and guidance as Allied Commission can give.
3. It is fully understood that there may be other claims entitled to have precedent or parallel consideration to those of Italian PW in ITALY, SICILY and NORTH AFRICA and this Headquarters has no wish to influence the Italian Government's decision in any way.
4. With reference to para 4 of your letter it is pointed out that no censorship problem arises, as this would be carried out at the camp or unit of destination. Further the enquiry made by this Headquarters' letter of even reference dated 20 Feb 45 did not include any reference to incoming parcel mail from Italian PW Co-operators.
5. In reply to para 7 of your letter it is felt that this Headquarters is only affected in so far as Allied Army Postal Services may be required to assist by the carriage of sorted and bagged mail to PW Camps from certain points of exchange. It is therefore suggested that Allied Commission should in the first instance obtain the considered views of the Italian Government on the best means of using the available facilities. If the proposals made involve requests for the assistance of Allied Postal Services in the manner mentioned above, these can then be considered.

A. S. BARS DORT
A. S. BARS DORT,
Lieut-Colonel, A.A.G.
for Major General,
DAG, G.I (Br).

HDH/ER.

Copy to:- Headquarters, Allied Commission (IPW Sub-Commission).
G-5.

memo. Col Winter G-2 informs that so far as Allied countries are concerned no censorship is likely to be asked for on despatch.

CROSS. REFS.	<i>Sp</i>
FILE	B/Fwd.
P.43	

Date 9 MAR 1945

26
A
Memo.

Attached, brought by hand
by Lt. Luvini, Int. R.C. Mr. Riddell.
Int. R.C. on 28 Feb.

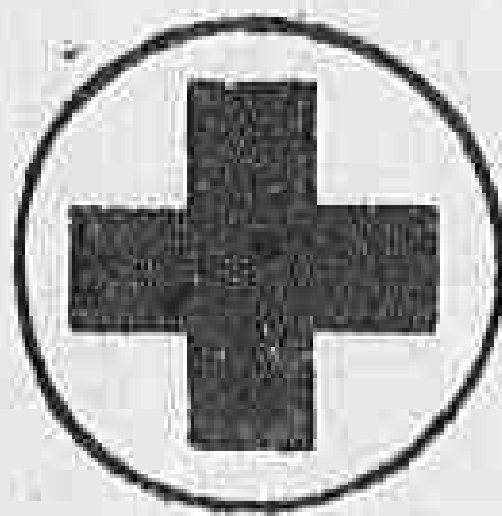
Outlines final plan for
sending parcels through Red
Cross channels to certain Italian
POW in Germany.

Int. R.C. taken to Lt. Col.
Campbell, POW Sub. Comm.,
who will now pursue.

Hand

3237

F. 43



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
UFFICIO PRIGIONIERI, RICERCHE E SERVIZI CONNESSI

MEMORANDUM

19) The Italian Red Cross is accordance with arrangements planned with the Italian Authorities concerned and in view of the opinion expressed by the U.A.G. (see para 4) of their letter dated January the 8th 1945) and note received from the Italian Ministry of Communications (letter dated February 12th a.s.) in connection with the question of forwarding packages for Italian prisoners of war in Germany, is willing to put the services of its Organization utilizing all its Provincial and Central Committees in order to organize an adequate service for collection and forwarding of above mentioned packages which will be received from the respective families, to the Italian Internees in German concentration camps.

20) The number of packages to forward seem to be much less than originally prospect. According to recent news it is ascertained that Italians still internees in German concentration camps, ascend to about 200.000 while all the others are actually in working camps and do not appear to be in urgent need of assistance from their families.

If we reckon that about 50% of said internees originate from Northern Italy, considering also the fact that not all of them are in condition to send packages, we may obtain an approximate figure 50.000 packages which could be forwarded, say at the end of every three months.

30) These 50.000 packages could be accepted at Rome, Naples and Palermo and then forwarded by sea to Geneva via Marseilles. From the Swiss point of Geneva they could be re-forwarded through the C.I.C.R. to Germany, in accordance with the recent agreements by which the packages can be consigned to the Italian internees even without the well known special "Billet" (German-label). On the other hand, the Italian Ministry of Communication is willing to renounce to the monopoly of transport and forwarding of the packages which is every facility granted for this service which will be performed by the organization of the I.R.C.

MEMORANDUM

1c) The Italian Red Cross in accordance with arrangements planned with the Italian authorities concerned and in view of the opinion expressed by the I.R.C. (see para 4) of their letter dated January the 8th 1945) and note received from the Italian Ministry of Communications (letter dated February 18th 1945) is in connection with the question of forwarding packages for Italian prisoners of war in Germany, is willing to put the services of its Organization utilizing all its Provincial and Central Committees in order to organize an adequate service for collection and forwarding of above mentioned packages which will be received from the respective families, to the Italian Internees in German concentration camps.

2c) The number of packages to forward seem to be much less than originally expected. According to recent news it is ascertained that Italians still internees in German concentration camps, second to about 200,000 while all the others are actually in working camps and do not appear to be in urgent need of assistance from their families.

If we reckon that about 50% of said internees originate from Northern Italy, considering also the fact that not all of them are in condition to send packages, we may obtain as an approximate figure 50,000 packages which could be forwarded, say at the end of every three months.

3c) These 50,000 packages could be accepted at Rome, Naples and Palermo and then forwarded by sea to Geneva via Marseilles. From the free point of Geneva they could be re-forwarded through the C.I.C.R. to Germany, in accordance with the recent agreements by which the packages can be consigned to the Italian internees even without the well known special "Bulletin" (German-label). On the other hand, the Italian Ministry of Communication is willing to renounce to the monopoly of transport and forwarding of the packages while every facility is granted for this service which will be performed by the organization of the I.R.C.

4c) As the organization of this service would be completely entrusted to the I.R.C. the Allied Authorities should limit their work to the transportation of the packages from the embarkation ports to Marseilles and from this town to Geneva (in case that for this latter journey the C.I.C.R. cannot provide transport).

- 2 -

tion.)

Censure operations could be performed at Rome, Naples and Palermo or, eventually, only at Naples.

On the whole the lading would weight about 250 tons. corresponding to an approximate volume of cubic meters 30 (about 270 cub. feet) to be made in one or more expeditions, to be repeated as above mentioned only at the end of every three months.

5c) In order to organize at the earliest possible this service, it is proposed that, as an experiment, an expedition of 50.000 packages, to be made within say a fortnight.

The execution of the service as planned by the I.R.C. could be made as follows:

- a) The I.R.C. will widely divulge through the Press and with all the communication means at its disposal, the new regulations in connection with the forwarding of packages for Italian internees in Germany.
- b) In the three principal centres of Rome, Naples and Palermo the packages service will have a special control and in connection with the Allied Censorship as well as with the Allied and Italian transport service centres.
- c) Each Provincial Committee will be provided with a proper packages section for the gathering and first control and will be in strict contact with the transport centres of the I.R.C. for the forwarding of the packages to one of the nearest reception centres (Rome, Naples or Palermo).
- d) For transportation to the embarkation ports no postal agents will be required as to this, the I.R.C. will provide with its own autocars.
- e) All the arrangements, for the reception and forwarding of the packages being so simplified it is to be assumed that all Provincial as well as Central Committees are in a position to be able to perform this service satisfactorily.
- f) The regulations for the confection packing, contents etc. of the packages will be, more or less, similar to those which were issued by the Italian Ministry of Communications for the Italian prisoners of war and which can be resumed here below:

Censor operations could be performed at Rome, Naples and Palermo or, eventually, only at Naples.

On the whole the loading would weight about 250 tons, corresponding to an approximate volume of cubic meters 80 (about 270 cub. feet) to be made in one or more expeditions, to be repeated as above mentioned only at the end of every three months.

5°) In order to organize at the earliest possible this service, it is proposed that, as an experiment, an expedition of 50.000 packages, to be made within say a fortnight.

The execution of the service as planned by the I.R.C. could be made as follows:

- a) The I.R.C. will widely divulge through the Press and with all the communication means at its disposal, the new regulations in connection with the forwarding of packages for Italian internees in Germany.
- b) In the three principal centres of Rome, Naples and Palermo the packages service will have a special control and in connection with the Allied Censorship as well as with the Allied and Italian transport service centres.
- c) Each Provincial Committee will be provided with a proper packages section for the gathering and first control and will be in strict contact with the transport centres of the I.R.C. for the forwarding of the packages to one of the nearest reception centre: (Rome, Naples or Palermo).
- d) For transportation to the embarkation ports no postal sacks will be required as to this, the I.R.C. will provide with its own autocars.
- e) All the arrangements, for the reception and forwarding of the packages being simplified it is to be assumed that all Provincial as well as Central Committees are in a position to be able to perform this service satisfactorily.
- f) The regulations for the confectio packing, contents etc. of the packages will be, more or less, similar to those which were issued by the Italian Ministry of Communications for the Italian prisoners of war and which can be resumed here below:

" The packages must not exceed 5 kg. of weight and the dimensions must not be over cm. 40 x 20 x 20.

The weight of the packages could eventually reach the maximum limit of 10 kg. when they contain clothing forming a piece alone and not separable. If the confectio of the package is in a round form the circumference must not be over 90 cm.

- 3 -

The packages could be confectioned in wood or with paperboard, but must always be wrapped in canvas.

In the packing of the packages inside or outside, printed paper, newspapers etc. must not be used. Inside the packages no letters or correspondence must be enclosed, but a copy of the address of addressee and a list of contents must be enclosed.

The packages may contain only the following objects:

Unperishable food stuff - clothing - linen - socks - shoes - soap - toilet articles (not in tubes nor bottles but only in boxes) - playing games - musical instruments - safety razors - blades - national tooncos.

The sending of medicines must be made in special packets to be transmitted solely to the I.R.G. prisoners of War Office, Via Puglia n. 6 - Rome. The families concerned must have the products sent by the Chemist Firm legally known in Italy direct to the above P.O.W. Office.

Sending of books is also allowed only by means of special packets which the families could have forwarded to the P.O.W. Office - Via Puglia 6 - direct from the Editors.

The Offices must refuse acceptance of packages which do not correspond to the confection conditions and regulations as above indicated."

g) The C.I.C.R., in view of the last informations received in this connection and owing to the fact that the forwarding of these packages - as an experiment - it is not of excessive quantity, have already given on the whole their agreement to the reception of said packages in Geneva.

In conclusion, the Allied Authorities should only give their agreement for a rapid censure operations and provide the transportation from the embarkation port to Geneva via Marseilles.

Rome, 24th of February 1945

*Extract from Post Office Circular**25*

COMPLETE EDITION

8r

FEBRUARY 21, 1945

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN MAILS—(continued)

DF 994

†PARCELS AND LETTERS FOR BRITISH PRISONERS OF
WAR FORMERLY IN CAMPS IN POLAND AND EASTERN GERMANY

DF 994

The following is the text of a press notice on the above subject which has been issued for publication and any inquiries from members of the public should be answered accordingly.

"The Postmaster General announces that parcels should not again be sent to British prisoners of war formerly in the camps (including associated labour detachments and hospitals) in Poland and Eastern Germany mentioned below, until new addresses are received either through official notification to the next-of-kin or from letters from the men themselves. Letters for these prisoners can continue to be posted addressed to the last-known camp address.

The camps in question are:—

Stalags II B, II D, III A, III B, III C, III D, VIII A, VIII B, VIII C, XX A, XX B, XXI D and 344.
Stalags Luft III, Luft IV and Luft VII,
B.A.B. 20 and B.A.B. 21,
Oflag 64.

The Post Office will despatch, as opportunity offers, next-of-kin parcels for these camps which have already been repacked and reposted by the British Red Cross and also parcels of cigarettes, tobacco, etc., posted by holders of censorship permits, in expectation that they will be re-directed by the German Authorities. In order, however, not to add to the difficulties of re-direction, the British Red Cross will return to the senders any next-of-kin parcels for these camps which have not been reposted and the public should not place further orders with holders of censorship permits as parcels sent by this means cannot be returned.

In the case of other camps, next-of-kin and "permit" parcels, as well as letters, can continue to be sent for the time being; but the public are advised to look out for further official announcements which will be made as may be justified by events."

(P.O.C. 25245)

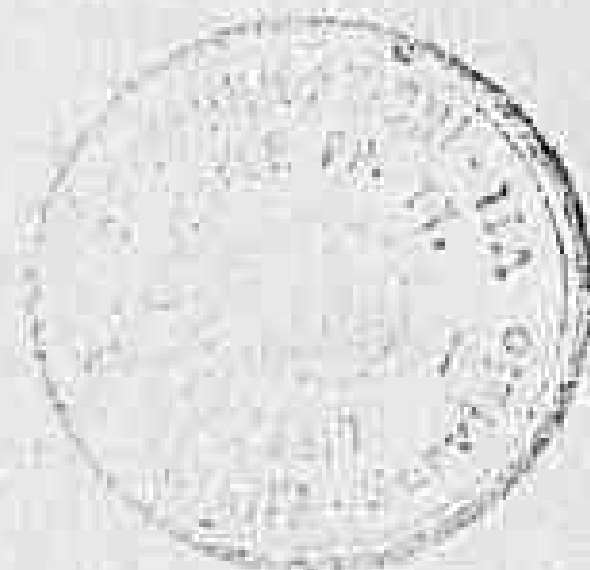
333

43

l'ultima esecuzione della contabilità
mensile.

Al ricevimento della presente le Direzioni signaleranno telegraficamente a questo Ministero Servizio VII il fabbisogno dei fogli L presumibilmente occorrenti.

Questo Ministero comprende le difficoltà d'indole tecnica ed organizzativa che sorgeranno per il funzionamento del desiderato ufficio di controllo, ma confida che la indiscussa competenza dei Dirigenti e la buona volontà dei collaboratori rimuoveranno ogni ostacolo per assicurare, in breve tempo, al detto ufficio la piena efficienza.-



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IL REGGENTE DEL SERVIZIO VII°
(N. SOCCI)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

24A

SHH/bs

In reply
refer to: F.43.24/33.

26 February 1945

Subject: Parcel Post Services for P.O.W.

To : G-1 (Br.), A.F.H.Q. 23

Reference your UK/3008/G1 (Br.) of 20th February 1945.

1. The general question of parcels for P.O.W. is one which has been under notice off and on here for twelve months or more. At the immediate moment we are dealing with particular representations in respect of P.O.W. in German hands, and for one particular camp in Morocco. The matter to which your letter relates raises yet another issue.

2. The absence to date of any postal service for P.O.W. parcels is bound up essentially with internal service difficulties, of which A.F.H.Q. (G-5) has been made fully aware in connection with other related matters; and you will have had a copy of our P.43.20/33 of 6 February 1945 to G-5, which relates.

3. The Italian and International Red Cross organisations are well aware of the difficulties, as they are continually trying fresh lines of approach to the problem, maybe in the hope of obtaining a concession which can be used as a precedent to bring pressure to bear in order to obtain other similar services. This policy is understandable, and there is every desire on the part of this Commission that parcel services should be re-established as soon as the necessary facilities are available.

4. The overall mail handling facilities in Italy are at present such that only a restricted amount of external parcel traffic could be:-

- (i) collected in from all outlying Post Offices, centralised, sorted, and despatched - e.g. for a service to P.O.W. (Censorship has to be considered also).
- (ii) received at a port, sorted, and distributed to some or all Post Offices - e.g. incoming traffic from U.S. civilians and P.O.W. co-operators.

In brief, it is impracticable to cope with all the parcel traffic which would flow if all deserving interests had their facilities; but a proportion of it could be dealt with.

24C

5. An experimental post office at ... has been ...

Reference your GR/3008/G1 (Br.) of 20th February 1945.

1. The general question of parcels for P.O.W. is one which has been under notice off and on here for twelve months or more. At the immediate moment we are dealing with particular representations in respect of P.O.W. in German hands, and for one particular camp in Morocco. The matter to which your letter relates raises yet another issue.
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- (ii) received at a port, sorted, and distributed to some or all Post Offices - e.g. incoming traffic from U.S. civilians and P.O.W. co-operators.

In brief, it is impracticable to cope with all the parcel traffic which would flow if all deserving interests had their facilities; but a proportion of it could be dealt with.

5. An experimental restrictive dividing line has been drawn (limited frequency of posting and zone of delivery) in respect of the gift parcel service from the U.S. This service does not make any call upon distributing services in the provinces, or between centers other than those of Rome, Naples and Palermo, and the port of Leghorn; but the full effect of it is felt, in relation to accommodation and dock-to-office transportation at Naples, which would have to be of any additional external services introduced.

CROSS REFS.	278
FILE	3
B/rwd.	

Date

P.43.24/33 of 26 February 1945
-Continued-

6. If it is now intended to agree to make a distinction as between P.O.W.-holding countries (which is what, in effect, this latest I.A.G.C. proposition does), it is strongly felt here that the full implications of such a step should be thoroughly considered before any precedent is established, or facilities afforded prematurely. It may well be (in view of the Morocco case quoted) that the case of the British held prisoners is not the most pressing. It might also well become an issue as to whether P.O.W. co-operators in this theater have a better claim to a parcel service than have Italian military personnel in the same theater. It is obviously desirable that such limited facilities as are available should be utilized for the service which is considered to have the strongest entitlement to them.

7. To make the problem picture complete there are attached for information copies of relative correspondence with the Italian Postal authorities. This sub-commission is of the opinion (as is also the Italian P.O.W. Sub-Commission, with whom the question has been discussed) that the situation calls for a representative meeting towards an agreed line of action for P.O.W. services generally. Although not all need attend, the activities of the following interests are affected in varying degrees:-

Communications Sub-Commission
P.O.W.

G-1

G-2 (Censorship)

G-4 (External Transportation)

G-5

British Postal Directorate

A.G. Postal

Italian Ministry of Communications

Italian High Commissioner for P.O.W.

International Red Cross.

Italian Red Cross

8. It would be appreciated if the matter could be dealt with as one of some urgency.

For the Chief Commissioner

[Signature]

J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director.

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7. To make the problem picture complete there are attached for information copies of relative correspondence with the Italian Postal authorities. This Sub-Commission is of the opinion (as is also the Italian P.O.W. Sub-Commission, with whom the question has been discussed) that the situation calls for a representative meeting towards an agreed line of action for P.O.W. services generally. Although not all need attend, the activities of the following interests are affected in varying degrees:-

Communications Sub-Commission
P.O.W.

G-1

G-2 (Censorship)

G-4 (External Transportation)

G-5

British Postal Directorate

A.G. Postal

Italian Ministry of Communications

Italian High Commissioner for P.O.W.

International Red Cross.

Italian Red Cross

8. It would be appreciated if the matter could be dealt with as one of some urgency.

For the Chief Commissioner

W.L.
J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director.

Enc.

P.43.17/23 of 8 Jan. '45

P.43.22/23 of 15 Feb. '45

British P.O.W. Services Leaflet.

Copies to:

G-5, A.F.H.Q.

W.H.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission

(without enclosures)

CROSS REFS.	FILE 43	B/fwd. 14 March.
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HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

File N°291/Pol/C.3

Rome, 1st February 45

To: IPW Sub/Com., A.C.,
ROME

Subject: Camp of ElHajeb, Marocco.

Reference your letter IPW I/3/3188 dated the 16th of Jan.45

1. Taking into consideration that the French Authorities, owing to the climatic difficulties in North Africa cannot better the situation as to cloths of the PWS, we beg the Allied Authorities to provide this articles of clothing from the Allied depots in North Africa.

2. Secondly we beg to have the Authorization to send private packages from Italy to said prisoners. We have repeated requests from these unfortunate people that owing to the intense cold of the present season they are suffering a great deal.

If these proposals are accepted the anxiety of many families will be relieved. We beg you to inform us as to the forms which would be established by the Allied Authorities, for the sending of these packages.

This question, naturally is very urgent.

3290

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

s/ Gen Pietro Gazzera

Received with slip from
Lt. Col. S.P.W. S/C. for comment.
Returned with their copy
of P43. 24/CS.
held

Communication *8*

SUBJECT:- Parcels for PW.

Headquarters, Allied Commission.
(Communications Sub Commission).

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

CR/3008/G1(Br).

20 Feb 45.

1. A request has been received through IECC that facilities may be arranged for the delivery of parcels from Italian civilians in Allied occupied Italy and Sicily to Italian PW (including co-operators) in Italy, Sicily and North Africa.
2. The British Army Postal Service is prepared to accept from the Italian Civil Postal Service closed parcel mails addressed to British PW Camps (including Camp No. 208) for onward conveyance to the destination.
3. Please advise this Headquarters whether the Italian Civil Postal Service can undertake the sorting and bagging of such parcel mail and its carriage to one or two exchange points, probably NAPLES and ROME for hand over to the British Army Postal Service.

HDF/DDKT.

HEADQUARTERS
21 FEB 1945

CROSS. REFS.	24
FILE	B/Iwd.

Date 20 FEB 1945

H. D. Harper
H.D. HARPER, Captain,
Staff Captain,
for Major General,
DAG. G.1(Br).

22
SHH/baHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-CommissionIn reply
refer to : P.43.22/CS.

15 February 1945

Subject : Parcels for Italian P.O.W. in Germany.

To : Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomms.

21

1. It was not entirely clear, from your letter n° 5/8.3/30654 of 3rd February 1945, whether the minutes of the 29th January meeting had been sent to us essentially for information only. Enquiry of your office by telephone indicated that such was the case, but it is now understood, from your telephone call yesterday, that our views are sought.

2. It is noted that, between them, the interested parties feel that a service could be provided through non-postal channels. In such case the next step rests with the High Commissioner for P.O.W. and the International Red Cross (the latter organisation was apparently not represented at the meeting) as indicated in para. 6 of my letter n° P.43.17/CS of 8th January 1945.

3. It is agreed that the question of censorship, and sea transportation, - which are referred to in paras. 5 (1) and (K) and 6 of my letter - will require further and fuller consideration. It can be taken however that it would be a matter of great difficulty to provide for censorship to be undertaken at other than a very few of the Provincial parcel collection centers. The P.O.W. Censorship Detachment would desire that all censorship should be undertaken at Naples.

4. Whilst it is not in any way desired to discourage the provision of the desired facility, it does seem desirable to make the following comments:-

- (1) To send parcels destined to Germany on an "experimental" basis, with little or no indication that the Germans will undertake delivery, is leaving a very great deal to chance.

By phone
from Lt. Col.
Finch, G.S.
R.F.M.O.

F.43

P.43.22/CS of 15 Febr. 1945.
- Continued -

(ii) That whatever the likelihood might have been of German co-operation eight months - or even two months ago, the interim progress of the war is likely to have made the circumstances much less favourable.

(iii) It might not be too optimistic to expect that an overland transfer of parcels direct to the International Red Cross Bureau in Switzerland might be practicable at least as soon as delivery could be made by a sea route.

hll

J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director.

Copy to:

W.M.D. & I.P.W. Sub-Commission
(referring to our P.43.16/CS of 22.12.44,
and enclosing copy of our P.43.17/CS of
8 January 1945.)

3287

CROSS REFS.	24
FILE	B/fwd.
43	

Date



/ves

MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI

SOTTOSCRITTARIO DI STATO ALLE POSTE E TELECOMUNICAZIONI

SEGRETARIA

R-oma, 3 febbraio 1945

Prot. N°

S/P.3/30654

Risposta al foglio N.

del

Allegati

Alle COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Posts and telecommunications
Sub-Commission

ROMA

OGGETTO: Pacchi diretti agli internauti
civili in Germania.

Facciamo riferimento alla vostra lettera n. P.43.17.CS in data 8 gennaio relativa ai pacchi diretti ai prigionieri di guerra in Germania per comunicarvi che il 29 gennaio u.s. ha avuto luogo presso il Comitato Centrale della Croce Rossa Italiana una seduta di cui riteniamo opportuno allegarvi il verbale.

In tale seduta si è concordato bensì che tutto il servizio di raccolta e trasmissione viene fatto da parte della Croce Rossa Italiana ma non si è, a nostro avviso, data la giusta importanza alla questione della censura da parte alleata, che sarebbe opportuno maggiormente considerare.

Nell'inviarvi, pertanto, la copia acclusa non possiamo che confermare:

- il vivo desiderio del popolo italiano di vedere l'inizio di tale servizio;
- la favorevole disposizione, nei limiti del possibile, della nostra Amministrazione, che si dovrà però limitare a ben poca cosa, data la limitazione dei mezzi di trasporti; ³³⁸⁸3388
- la necessità di evitare l'inizio di un servizio nella cui pratica esecuzione dovessero sorgere, fin dal principio, difficoltà di tale natura da renderne impossibile lo svolgimento.

In tale orientamento attendiamo da costesa Commissione le direttive che riterrà del caso emanare e che riteniamo dovranno essere senz'altro date dalle autorità interessate e comunicate alla Croce Rossa Italiana, che si è fatta promotrice di tale iniziativa.

Memo:

Il sottoscritto *Amministratore*

IL SOTTOSCRITTO

CROSS.	22
REFS.	

FILE

B/Fwd.

del

Allegati

OGGETTO: Pacchi diretti agli internati
civili in Germania.

Facciamo riferimento alla vostra lettera n. P. 44.17.03
in data 6 gennaio relativa ai pacchi diretti ai prigionieri di
guerra in Germania per comunicarvi che il 29 gennaio u.s. ha
avuto luogo presso il Comitato Centrale della Croce Rossa Italia-
na una seduta di cui riteniamo opportuno allegarvi il verbale.

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tale servizio;
- b) la favorevole disposizione, nei limiti del possibile, della
nostra Amministrazione, che si dovrà però limitare a ben poca
cosa, data la limitazione dei mezzi di trasporti ³⁵⁸⁸⁶ disponibili;
- c) la necessità di evitare l'inizio di un servizio nella cui pre-
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In tale orientamento attendiamo da questa Commissione
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essere senz'altro date dalle Autorità interessate e comunicate
alla Croce Rossa Italiana, che si è recata promotrice di tale ini-
ziativa.

*Memo: Pacchieri by
phone direct in action
expected of this Sub. Com.
L. J. L.*

IL SOTTOSCRITTO

CROSS REFS.	22
FILE	123
B/fwd.	

Date 4/2/45

C O P I A

V E R B A L E

Preso la sede del Comitato Centrale della Croce Rossa Italiana il 29 gennaio 1945 alle ore 16,30 si é riunita una Commissione per studiare la possibilità di inviare pacchi ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania.

Sono presenti:

- Il Marchese Ugo THEODOLI - Segretario Generale della C.R. Italiana
- il Dr. Angelo CORRIAN della Direz. Gen/le Affari Politici del Ministero Affari Esteri
- il Comm. Vincenzo MARCOLINI del Ministero del Tesoro
- il Comm. Paolo NOVI del Ministero delle Poste
- il Generale Vincenzo Lapino dell'Alto Commissariato dei Prigionieri
- S.E. il Ministro Plenipotenziario Dr. Angiolo CASSINIS - Capo dell'ufficio Prigionieri della C.R.I.

Tutti gli intervenuti, ciascuno per la propria competenza, hanno illustrato i lavori preliminari svolti sull'argomento dagli Uffici rappresentati e dai contatti da questi avuti con i Comandi Alleati e con gli altri Ministeri ed Enti Pubblici interessati.

Viene quindi rilevato il vivo interessamento del Governo su questo programma e le difficoltà che sino ad ora si sono frapposte per la sua realizzazione e gli intendimenti della Commissione Alleata in proposito. Si svolge quindi una ampia discussione in relazione alla quale si giunge all'unanimità alle seguenti conclusioni.

Affidare al più presto alla Croce Rossa Italiana la raccolta e l'invio dei pacchi individuali ai prigionieri di guerra in Germania lasciando che il Governo Italiano seguiti ad interessarsi per ottenere dall'America l'invio diretto di pacchi standardizzati in Germania, senza che le due pratiche possano interferire tra loro.

La Croce Rossa Italiana provvederà a costituire tre principali Centri di Raccolta, possibilmente a Roma, Napoli e Palermo da dove i pacchi saranno convogliati al posto di imbarco, che verrà concordato con i Comandi Alleati, per l'invio a Ginevra via Marsiglia. La C.R.I. provvederà a costituire anche Centri Sussidiari di raccolta in tutti i Comitati Provinciali. Le RR. Prefetture riceveranno istruzioni onde facilitare con ogni mezzo la Croce Rossa Italiana nell'invio dei pacchi ai Centri principali di raccolta.

A cura degli organi competenti verrà fatta apposita diffusione a mezzo della radio, giornali e manifesti perché tutte le famiglie interessate possano predisporre il pacco e consegnarlo possibilmente ai Centri principali di raccolta istituiti dalla C.R.I. ed in caso contrario ai Centri sussidiari.

Ad ogni modo sarà necessario avvertire tutte le famiglie interessate che questo invio di pacchi viene tentato dall'Italia nel vivo desiderio di sovvenire i propri figli lontani senza nascondere però che gravi difficoltà dovranno essere superate per l'arrivo a destinazione dei pacchi.

Nel comunicato dovranno essere precisati anche il peso, il contenuto e le modalità di confezionamento dei pacchi, in relazione a quanto consiglia l'esperienza di precedenti spedizioni già effettuate dalla Croce Rossa Italiana.

Gli intervenuti non si nascondono gli ostacoli da superare per fare accettare i pacchi dalla Germania e consentire alla loro distribuzione, e si impegnano a prendere i necessari contatti con il Governo Tedesco.

- il Comm. Vincenzo MARCOLINI del Ministero del Tesoro
- il Comm. Paolo NOVI del Ministero delle Poste
- il Comm. Vincenzo Dapino dell'Alto Commissariato dei Prigionieri
- il Generale Vincenzo Dr. Angiolo CASSINIS - Capo dell'Ufficio
- S.E. il Ministro Plenipotenziario Dr. Angiolo CASSINIS - Capo dell'Ufficio

Prigionieri della C.R.I. hanno competenza, hanno illustrato i lavori preliminari svolti sull'argomento dagli Uffici rap- presentati e dai contatti da questi avuti con i Comandi Alleati e con gli altri Ministeri ed Enti Pubblici interessati.

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Ad ogni modo sarà necessario avvertire tutte le famiglie interessate che questo invio di pacchi viene tentato dall'Italia nel vivo desiderio di sovvenire i propri figli lontani senza nascondere però che gravi difficoltà dovranno essere superate per l'arrivo a destinazione dei pacchi.

Nel comunicato dovranno essere precisati anche il peso, il contenuto e le modalità di confezionamento dei pacchi, in relazione a quanto consuetudine di precedenti spedizioni già effettuate dalla Croce Rossa Italiana.

Gli intervenuti non si nascondono gli ostacoli da superare per fare accettare i pacchi dalla Germania e consentire alla loro distribuzione, ma nell'impossibilità di prendere diretti contatti con il Governo Tedesco, il cui esito sarebbe ad ogni modo dubbio, tutti sono concordi nel tentare

./.

un primo invio di pacchi a titolo sperimentale, spediti ai magazzini di Ginevra del Comitato Internazionale della Croce Rossa, da dove si ha motivo di sperare che potranno essere introdotti in Germania ed essere distribuiti tramite i delegati del Comitato Internazionale stesso e tramite il Nunzio Apostolico. In tal senso il Rappresentante del nostro stero degli Affari Esteri ha letto un confortante telegramma del nostro Incaricato d'Affari a Berna.

Gli intervenuti inoltre concordano di promuovere subito l'autorizzazione dei Comandi Alleati per l'invio ai prigionieri di alimenti e di indumenti, precisando loro che detto invio è limitato ai soli prigionieri che non abbiano accettato di lavorare per il Governo Tedesco e che riguarderà un numero di circa 80 mila militari, che tanti si suppone possano essere i prigionieri in Germania che abbiano familiari nell'Italia liberata, in relazione alle cifre approssimative comunicate da Ginevra in un totale di 200.000.-

Gli invii potrebbero essere suddivisi in un periodo complessivo di tre mesi. La censura dei pacchi dovrà essere affidata alla Croce Rossa Italiana e gli Organi competenti interesseranno i Comandi Alleati perché venga consentito che le operazioni di censura possano essere svolte presso i Centri sussidiari di raccolta in ogni Comitato Provinciale della C. R. I. o quanto meno presso i tre Centri principali.

Il Comm. Marcolini del Ministero del Tesoro assicura la Croce Rossa Italiana che tutte le spese che dovrà sostenere per detto servizio saranno rimborsate a rendiconto dal suo Ministero ed a questo riguardo aggiunge che erano stati già stanziati i fondi necessari nel bilancio.

Il Comm. Novi del Ministero delle Poste assicura per suo canto che il Ministero darà tutta la sua assistenza e collaborazione per la buona riuscita del servizio e provvederà anche a fornire istruzioni a tutti gli Uffici postali perché siano in grado di dare chiarimenti alle famiglie interessate.

Il Dr. Corrias ed il Generale Dapino assicurano rispettivamente la collaborazione del Ministero degli Affari Esteri e dell'Alto Commissariato dei Prigionieri di Guerra, tutte le volte che sarà loro richiesta dalla Croce Rossa Italiana, per un rapido e favorevole esito dell'incarico affidato.

Gli intervenuti inoltre provvederanno a promuovere l'assenso ufficiale del proprio organismo rappresentato in merito agli accordi intervenuti.

I risultati della discussione vengono esposti a S.E. il Presidente Generale della C.R.I. Dr. Zanotti-Bianco.

La seduta è tolta alle ore 19.

TRANSLATION

3 Feb.

Subject: Parcels addressed to Civilian Internees in Germany.

Ref. your E.43.17/OS of Jan. 8th concerning parcels addressed to POW in Germany, we inform you that on Jan. 29th a conference has been held at the Central IRC Committee of which we enclose a verbal.

During said conference it was agreed that all the service of transmission and collection would be done by the IRC, but, our opinion is that the right importance has not been given to the question of censorship on behalf of the Allies, and that it would be opportune to give more consideration to this question. Consequently, while we are sending you the enclosed copy we cannot but confirm:

a. The great desire of the Italian public to see the introduction of said service.

b. The favourable inclination, in all possible limits, of our Administration which will have to limit itself to very small amount of help, owing to the limitation of available transport.

c. The necessity to avoid the commencement of a service in whose practical actuation, since the beginning, difficulties would arise of such importance as to make its operation impossible.

Consequently we are awaiting from your Commission the directives which you will think right to issue, and which we believe will be surely given by the authorities concerned and notified to the MRCC which has been the originator of the proposal under notice.

The Under Secretary of State.

3284

VERBALE

At the Central Committee of the IRC on the 29th of Jan 1945 at 4.30 P.M. a meeting was held to examine the possibility of sending parcels to the Italian POW in Germany.

Are attending the conference:

- Marchese Ugo Theodoli - General Secretary of the IRC
- of the General Direction, Political Section, Italian FO.
- Dr Angelo Corrian - of the Ministry of Treasury
- Comm. Marcolini - of the P.P.P. Ministry
- Comm. P. Novi - of the High Commission for POW
- General Dapino - of the POW Division IRC.
- Minister Cassinis - Head of the POW Division IRC.

All the attendants, each concerning their own ~~competence~~ competence, have exposed the preliminary work carried out by the Offices which they represent, and the contacts had with the Allied Offices and other Ministry's and Public Institutions concerned. ~~The high interest shown by the Govt.~~ The high interest shown by the Govt. on the matter has then been notices, and also the difficulties which have up till now interfered with its realisation; and also the opinion of the Allied Commission. Then, the question was fully discussed, reaching unanimously the following ~~result~~ conclusion:

The Italian Red Cross will be entrusted as soon as possible of the collection and the despatch of personal parcels to POW in Germany, while the Italian Govt. will continue to pursue the scope of obtaining direct transmission from America of standard parcels to Germany, without these two matters interfering with one another. The IRC will set up three main collection centers, possibly at Rome, Naples and Palermo, from where the parcels should be forwarded to the embarkation point which will be agreed upon with the Allied Authorities, for further transmission to Geneva via Marseille. The IRC will also set up subsidiary Centers of collection in all the Prov. Committees. The R. Prefettura will receive instructions in order to facilitate in every possible way the IRC and the transmission of parcels to the main centers of collection. The competent offices will take care that the information is brought to the public's notice by means of broadcasting, press notices, and public notices, so that the families concerned may prepare the parcels and deliver them to the main collecting center if possible or to the subsidiary center. Anyhow it will be necessary to advise all the families concerned that this despatch of parcels is being tried with the hearty desire to help their own sons although they know what serious difficulties will have to be overcome for the arrival of these parcels, the contents, and the wrapping regulations, in relation to what the IRC experience of previous ~~despatches~~ despatches will suggest. The attendants know all the obstacles they will have to surmount to obtain that the parcels be accepted by Germany and for the consent to their despatch, but in the impossibility of getting into direct contact with the German Govt. and of a conclusion which may be anyhow doubtful, they all agree to try to send a first despatch as an experiment, with the help of the depots of Geneva's International R.C. Committee, from where, we have reason to hope, they can be introduced into Germany and be distributed through the delegates of the Same Committee and through the Nuncio Apostolico; Concerning this the F.O. representative read a comforting telegram from our Charge d'Affairs at Berne. Furthermore the attendants are all of the opinion that authorization be granted immediately from the Allied Commands for the despatch of food-stuffs and clothing to the POWs ~~that it is determined~~ determining to the Germans that said despatch is limited only to the POWs which did not accept to work for that Govt. and which number concerns of about 80 thousand military. This is the number, we suppose, of POW in Germany which have relatives in liberated Italy, referring to the approximate figure given us by Geneva, totalling 200,000. The despatch can be divided in a period of 3 months. The censorship of the parcels will have to be carried out by the Italian RC and the competent Offices will interest the Allied Command ~~for permission~~ so that permission be granted ~~for~~ so that the censorship operations can be done at the subsidiary centers of collection ~~at every provincial Committee~~ of the IRC and also at the three principal centers, Comm. Marcolini of the

the preliminary work

Then, the question was really
conclusion:
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of parcels to POW in Germany, while the Italian Govmt.
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another. The IRC will set up three main collection centers, possibly at Rome,
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families concerned that this despatch of parcels is being tried with the hearty
desire to help their own sons although they know what serious difficulties will
have to be overcome for the arrival of these parcels to destination. The notice
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the German Govt. and of a conclusion which may be anyhow doubtful, they all agree
to try to send a first despatch as an experiment, with the hope of the help of
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by the Italian RC and the competent Offices will interest the Allied Command
~~for permission~~ so that permission be granted ~~from~~ so that the censorship operations
can be done at the subsidiary centers of collection at every provincial Committee
of the IRC and also at the three principal centers. Comm. Marcelini of the
Ministry of Treasury has assured the Italian R.C. that all the expenses they will
encounter for the said service shall be reimbursed on detailed account of the Ministry
and, for this purpose, he adds, the funds necessary for the balance have already
been appropriated.
Comm. Novi of the Ministry of PP.M. assures on his behalf that the Ministry will
give every possible aid and collaboration for the good result of the service
and will see also to supply instructions to all the P.O.s. so they will be able
to give clarifications to all the families concerned. Dott. Corrias and General
Dapino assured respectively that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the
High Commissioner for POW will collaborate every time they will be asked to do so
by the It. R.C. so to give a favourable and speedy issue to the matter to which
they are entrusted.

SEC/INT/NS

MEMORANDUM
COMMUNICATIONS
SEC 394

Communications Sub-Commission

6 February 1945

In reply
refer to : P.43.20/43.Subject : Parcels from Italian Cooperators in U.S. to
Italian Civilians in Italy.

To : G-5, A.J.H.A.

1. Inspections made last week at Naples civil sorting office revealed that considerable embarrassment and difficulty are being caused by the receipt in the Italian Civil Post Office of parcels from co-operators in American addressed to Italian civilians in all parts of liberated Italy. Such parcels bear the stamped indication

"ITALIAN CO-OPERATOR MAIL TO BE RETURNED TO THE COMMUNIST BUREAU ETC" and the censorship stamp "Base 1589".

2. At present "as has been previously indicated on a number of occasions - there is no internal civil parcel post in Italy. This is due to transportation difficulties on many of the trunk and subsidiary routes, and to restricted sorting office examination facilities now being encountered in numerous instances. On these same counts it was necessary to restrict the recently established gift parcel service from the U.S.A. to the cities of Naples, Rome, Palermo and the Vatican. Furthermore, the absence of an internal parcel post service is one of the reasons why it has not yet been possible to establish a parcel service from Italian Civilians to Italian P.O.s in Germany.

3. In these circumstances it is a matter of somewhat serious concern that a parcel service from co-operators should have been commenced without any consultation through this Commission.

4. Apart from the question of the handicaps mentioned, there are other factors which needed consideration before such a service should have been inaugurated, in view of the repercussions involved.

3282

(a) In the case of the civilian gift parcel from the U.S.A., the Italian Finance Ministry agrees to waive customs examination and charges on condition that to-morrow and certain other items were not accepted, and that the contents should be listed on the customs declarations.

(b) It may not have been realized that the normal regulations for the

Subject : Parcels from Italian Cooperators in Italy.
Italian Civilians in Italy.

To : U-5, A-2, A-3.

Inspection made last week at Naples Civil Sorting Office revealed that considerable embarrassment and difficulty are being caused by the receipt in the Italian Civil Post Office of parcels from co-operators in America addressed to Italian civilians in all parts of liberated Italy. Such parcels bear the stamped indication

"ITALIAN CO-OPERATORS MAIL TO BE FORWARDED TO THE ITALIAN CIVIL POST OFFICE".

At present there has been previously indicated on a number of occasions - there is no internal civil parcel post in Italy. This is due to transportation difficulties on many of the trunk and subsidiary routes, and to restricted sorting office hours. On these same counts it was necessary in numerous instances. In these same counts it was necessary to restrict the recently established gift parcel service from the U.S.A. to the Cities of Naples, Rome, Palermo and the Civilians. Furthermore, the absence of an internal parcel post service is one of the reasons why it has not yet been possible to establish a parcel service from Italian Civilians to Italian P.O.s in Germany.

In these circumstances it is a matter of somewhat serious concern that a parcel service from co-operators should have been commenced without any consultation through this Commission.

Apart from the question of the handicaps mentioned, there are other factors which needed consideration before such a service should have been inaugurated, in view of the repercussions involved.

3282

(a) In the case of the civilian gift parcel from the U.S.A., the Italian Finance Ministry agreed to waive customs examination and charges on condition that tobacco and certain other items were not exempted, and that the contents should be listed on the customs declarations.

(b) It may not have been realized that the normal pre-war Italian parcel post regulations for the handling of unregistered parcels within Italy provide for treatment and records at least as elaborate as those which the U.S. and the U.S. apply to registered parcels. There is, no doubt, good reason for such parcels. Elaborate safeguards in Italy in normal times, and it cannot, therefore, be suggested that these parcels should be given a less secure internal handling in the present abnormal times.

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#43

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2.43.20/03. of 6 February 1945
- Continued -

The haphazard way in which the parcels are actually being transferred to the Italian Post Office, without any record or security, is also a matter of considerable worry to the responsible Italian officials.

(c) There might be less objection to the Italian co-operators in the U.S.A. being allowed to use the restricted parcel post service to Italy under the same conditions as apply to the gift parcels sent by members of the public in the U.S.; but even under such a scheme - as also with the one now complained of - it needs to be kept in mind that with Italian P.O.s, co-operators located in other theaters, the U.S. service may be used as a precedent to develop the facility from other continents to a degree entirely beyond the means of coping with it in Italy. (It is understood that the U.K. has notified the British Dominions that they may participate in the service for sending gift parcels to the four Italian cities it present served by the U.S. service and if the U.S. should extend the scope of their gift-parcel service to include parcels from P.O.s, co-operators, the Dominions might well wish to follow suit).

(d) The reasoning governing the restrictions mentioned in para. 2 is undermined to some extent by the precipitate introduction of this co-operators service.

5. In effect the whole situation has been compromised, and it is strongly urged that the service complained of be suspended forthwith.

For the Chief Commissioner.

J.L.H.
J.L. HARRISON
Colonel,
Director.

Copy to :
G-1, A.F.H.Q.
W.H.O. & I.P.W. Sub-Commission.

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in para. 2 is underrained to some extent by the
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5. In effect the whole situation has been compromised,
and it is strongly urged that the service complained of be
suspended forthwith.

For the Chief Commissioner.

J.L.
J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director.

3281

Copy to :

G-1, A.E.H.Q.
W.H.D. & I.F.W. Sub-Commission.

CROSS REFS.	24 -	BY W.D.
FILE	28	FILE

Date

PARCEL POST

PARCELS OR PACKETS SENT TO PRISONERS OF WAR OTHERWISE THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS LIST WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER. PARCELS CANNOT BE SENT UNTIL A CAMP OR HOSPITAL ADDRESS IS KNOWN.

Parcels cannot be sent to prisoners of war formerly in Italian hands whose present address is unknown (see Special Notice, Section 23).

NEXT-OF-KIN PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN GERMAN
AND FRENCH HANDS.

9. (1) As explained in Section 19, supplies of food and other necessities are sent regularly to British prisoners of war by the British Red Cross. In addition once every three months, the next-of-kin of a prisoner in German or French (°) hands is allowed to send him "a next-of-kin" parcel. The parcel may not weigh more than ten lb. and may be posted without charge at any post office, provided it bears a special tie-on label issued by the British Red Cross.

One of these labels, bearing the address of the packing center through which the parcel is to be forwarded, is sent each quarter to the next-of-kin, together with a supply of clothing coupons, three copies of a form on which the contents of the parcel must be entered (the three copies of this form, duly completed, must be included in the parcel), and full instructions about the sending of the parcel. Unless the parcel bears the special label, it will not be accepted at the post office.

(11) The parcel should be packed as for the inland post, and the sender should fill in particulars of the prisoner's camp address as used for letters (see Section 5 (1)) on the tie-on label, and after tying the label on should copy the full address, including that of the packing Centre, in ink on the cover of the parcel. The name and the address of the sender should also be written in ink on the cover of the parcel, unless the sender is serving in H.M. Forces when he must not write his own address, but must give the address of a relative or friend to whom any acknowledgment from the prisoner may be sent.

If the sender requires an acknowledgment of the receipt of the parcel by the Red Cross, a stamped address postcard should be enclosed. An acknowledgment card for return by the prisoner is enclosed in each parcel.

10.

Permissible Articles.

These are liable to change from time to time and next of kin should consult the detailed instructions sent to them each quarter with the special label.

Among the articles which may be sent in a next-of-kin parcel for

-2-

despatch by the British Red Cross, as described in Section 9, are the following:

Attaché cases.
 Blankets, boots, bootlaces. Brilliantine in tins. Brushes of all kinds.
 Button-cleaning outfits (solid not liquid polish).
 Chewing gum. Chocolate in solid slabs (no filling).
 Cigarette filter tips and cigarette rolling machine but not cigarettes or cigarette papers.
 Clothing, including underwear, civilian or Service shirts, any foot wear, knitted comforts or uniform. (The Service Departments will not supply uniforms as sufficient for all prisoners are sent in bulk through the British Red Cross). See Section 11 for prohibited articles.
 Coloured silks and cottons, plain linen or canvas for embroidery.
 Dentifrice (solid or powder but not in tubes).
 Frames with safe or unbreakable glass.
 Hussies containing usual items.
 Kit bags (without locks or metal eye holes). Knitting needles and wool (in skeins, if possible).
 Pencils. Pipes and tobacco pouches.
 Safety razors and blades. Screw tin openers.
 Shoe polish (solid, not liquid or in tubes). Shoe leather and nails for mending; metal studs for toes and heels.
 Small musical instruments.
 Soap of all kinds (except soap flakes and soap powder).
 Towels, face cloths and sponges.

11.

Prohibited Articles.

parcels:

The following articles may not be enclosed in next-of-kin

- (i) Written communications (letters must be sent separately).
- (ii) Printed matter.
- (iii) Pictorial illustrations and photographs.
- (iv) Money, stamps, stationery and playing cards.
- (v) Articles in glass containers, tubes, tins, and other receptacles which are breakable or which cannot easily be opened for inspection.
- (vi) Candles, spirits or solidified spirit for cooking stoves, matches or any other inflammable material.
- (vii) Photographic apparatus, field glasses, sextants, compasses, electric torches and other instruments of use for naval and military purposes.
- (viii) Haversacks.
- (ix) Complete suits, coloured or grey flannel trousers, sports trousers; black or coloured shirts normally worn with sports coats or blazers, mackintoshes, leather waistcoats or any kind of overcoats. (These items of clothing with the exception of black shirts, may, however, be sent to civilians).
- (x) Food (except solid chocolate) (see Section 10).
- (xi) Tobacco, cigarettes (see Sections 17 and 19).
- (xii) Medical comforts. These include medicines of all kinds, drugs and bandages.
- (xiii) Soap flakes, soap powder and toilet paper.
- (xiv) Watches, nail files, scissors (except small or nail clippers).

-3-

- (xv) glass mirrors, knives and tools.
Penn nibs and fountain pens.

12. Return of Prohibited Articles.
The parcel will be repacked by the Red Cross under
censorship supervision and any prohibited articles will be withdrawn
and returned to the sender.

3279

18

In reply
refer to : P.43.18/CS

8 January 1945

MEMO

Subject : Parcels for Italian P.O.W. in Germany.

To : W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission.

Further to our Memo P.43.16/CS of 22 Dec., and your I.P.W./I/3/243 of 12 Dec. 44, and to recent conversations.

1. It has been considered undesirable to hold up any further a reply to the Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomms., and a communication has accordingly been sent as per the copy attached.

2. You may at some time find it convenient to have for reference the accompanying copy-extract from a relative leaflet "Communication with P.O.W. and Civilians interned in Europe" issued for the information of the public in the U.K.

hwl

For Director Communications Sub-Commission

2 Inc.

3277

SHH/bc
17A

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

In reply
refer to P.43.17/03

8 January 1945

Subject : Parcels for Italian Prisoners of War in Germany.

To : Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomms.

1. With reference to your letter #47510/100 of 16th Dec. 1944, this Sub-Commission is of the opinion, after making very rough estimates of likely traffic, that under present conditions it is quite impracticable for your Administration to undertake the operation of a parcel post service from individual members of the public to serve the number of Italian nationals in Germany whom it is understood would rank as Prisoners of War.
2. Such a system would require the transmission through the internal postal service of parcels weighing up to 5 kg. but, as you are aware, the transportation services at your disposal and those available for postal purposes in the territory outside the Italian Governments' control are in many cases quite inadequate for any such service. (The same lack of adequate transport facilities was the main reason why it was recently necessary to limit the operation of the gift parcel service from America - only two kilo parcels in that case - to four cities).
3. Other serious difficulties to the successful operation of a parcel post service of this kind are:-
 - (a) Lack of adequate sorting office accommodation at Naples and certain other intermediate centres.
 - (b) Shortage of mail bags.
 - (c) The great probability that a high percentage of parcels made up by individual members of the public would be unsatisfactory as regards the packing and addressing.
4. In view of these objections it is thought that the only way in which an individual parcel service could be worked would be through some arrangement under which the Italian Red Cross arranged for the collection of the parcels from the senders and for their check and forwarding in bulk to a central Red Cross depot in (say) Naples for repacking and censorship. There would be no objection to use being made of postal transport in any instance where space is available.

SEE 18-24-

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P.43.17/33
8 January 1945 -Continued-

5. If the High Commissioner wishes to pursue the matter independently on such a basis, the essential points for his consideration appear to be the following:

- (a) Whether the Germans will agree to the delivery of the parcels to all Italian "prisoners" in their hands and, if not, what exceptions will be made.
 - (b) What packing regulations and what list of permissible contents will be imposed by the Germans.
 - (c) How frequently will the Germans permit a prisoner to receive one of these parcels.
 - (d) Will the Germans insist that any parcel sent should bear a special label issued by them.
 - (e) What would be the estimated monthly number of parcels likely to be despatched.
 - (f) Can the International Red Cross arrange for the acceptance and onward transmission of consignments of parcels from a pre-arranged handling-over point in France or elsewhere.
 - (g) Will the parcels need to be in mail bags or could boxes be used.
 - (h) If mail bags are insisted upon can the International Red Cross provide.
 - (i) Can the Allied authorities concerned provide for the transport of the consignments of parcels from Italy to the handling-over point referred to in (f).
 - (k) What censorship arrangements are necessary and can these be arranged.
 - (l) Could the Italian Red Cross provide the necessary accommodation, packing materials, personnel etc, at the outport.
6. It is thought that the International Red Cross is the organisation competent to deal with points (a) to (h). The High Commissioner could ask the War Material Disposal and Italian P.W. Sub-Commission to make tentative inquiries concerning points (i) and (k), but definite answers to these questions would no doubt be dependant on (c).

J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel
Director, Communications Sub-Commission

Copy to: C.S.G. H.Q. A.D.

CROSS
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- (a) whether the Germans will agree to use the parcels to all Italian "prisoners" in their hands and, if not, what exceptions will be made.
- (b) What packing regulations and what list of permissible contents will be imposed by the Germans.
- (c) How frequently will the Germans permit a prisoner to receive one of these parcels.
- (d) Will the Germans insist that any parcel sent should bear a special label issued by them.
- (e) What would be the estimated monthly number of parcels likely to be despatched.
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- (i) Can the Allied Authorities concerned provide for the transport of the consignments of parcels from Italy to the handling-over point referred to in (f).
- (k) What censorship arrangements are necessary and can these be arranged.
- (l) Could the Italian Red Cross provide the necessary accommodation, packing materials, personnel etc, at the output.

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J.L. HANMERSON

Colonel

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

Copy to: C.S.G. H.Q. A.C.

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Date

M E M O . -

P.43.I6/CS

22 December 1944

Subject: Parcels for Italian Prisoners of War in Germany

To : W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission.

1. Do you agree with the attached draft reply to the Under Secretary of Posts and Telegraphs on points arising from your letter IPW/I/3/243 of 12 Dec 44 to the Italian High Commissioner for P.O.W.
2. Points (i) and (k) of paragraph 5 of the draft could be referred to A.F.H.Q. by this Sub-Commission but in view of the need for canalising P.O.W. enquiries mentioned in para 8 of the minutes of 6 of 8 meeting of 18 Dec. it is perhaps better that you should handle the matter.

For Director, Communications Sub-Commission

2 Inc

Inc 1 Draft reply to Under Secretary
 Inc 2 Correspondence from Under Secretary } Please return.

Mans:

9274

P.43.I6/CS

22 December 1944

Subject: Parcels for Italian Prisoners of War in Germany

To : W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub-Commission

1. Do you agree with the attached draft reply to the Under Secretary of Posts and Telegraphs on points arising from your letter IPW/I/3/243 of 12 Dec 44 to the Italian High Commissioner for P.O.W.

2. Points (i) and (k) of paragraph 5 of the draft could be referred to A.F.H.Q. by this Sub-Commission but in view of the need for canalising P.O.W. enquiries mentioned in para 8 of the minutes of 6 of 3 meeting of 18 Dec. it is perhaps better that you should handle the matter.

for Director, Communications Sub-Commission

2 Inc

Inc 1 Draft reply to Under Secretary

Inc 2 Correspondence from Under Secretary

} Please return.

Memo:

Go to Major Partridge today
re. receipt of reply to this.
They are awaiting inform. from
P.W. Committee. bill &

3274

D R A F T

December 1944

Subject : Parcels for Italian Prisoners of War in Germany.

To: Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomms.

1. With reference to your letter 845530/100 of 16th Dec. 1944, this Sub-Commission is of the opinion, that under present conditions it is quite impracticable for your Administration to undertake the operation of a parcel post service ~~for~~ individual members of the public to Prisoners of War.
2. Such a system would require the transmission through the internal postal service of parcels weighing up to 5 kg. but, as you are aware, the transportation services at your disposal and those available for postal purposes in the territory outside the Italian Governments' control are in many cases quite inadequate for any such service. (The same lack of adequate transport facilities was the main reason why it was recently necessary to limit the operation of the gift parcel service from America - only two kilo parcels in that case - to four cities.)
3. Other serious difficulties to the successful operation of a parcel post service of this kind are:-

3273

 - (a) Lack of adequate sorting office accommodation at Naples and cert. in other places *intermediate centers*
 - (b) Shortage of mail bags.
 - (c) The great probability that a high percentage of parcels made up by individual members of the public would be unsatis-

factory as regards packing and addressing.

4. In view of these objections it is thought that the only way in which an individual parcel service could be worked would be through some arrangements under which the Italian Red Cross arranged for the collection of the parcels and for their check and forwarding in bulk to a central Red Cross depot in (say) Naples for repacking and censorship. There would be no objection to use being made of postal transport in any instance where space is available.

5. If the High Commissioner wishes to pursue the matter on this basis, the essential points for consideration appear to be the following:

(a) Whether the Germans will agree to the delivery of the parcels to all Italian Prisoners in their hands and, if not, what exceptions will be made.

(b) What packing regulations and what list of permissible contents will be imposed by the Germans.

(c) How frequently will the Germans permit a Prisoner to receive one of these parcels.

(d) Will the Germans insist that any parcel sent should bear a label issued by them.

(e) What would be the estimated monthly number of parcels likely to be despatched.

(f) Can the International Red Cross arrange for the acceptance and onward transmission of consignments of parcels from the handing-over point.

(g) Will the parcels need to be in mail bags or

16

Independently

3272

in France or elsewhere.

a pre-arranged

- 3 -

could boxes be used.

(h) If mail bags are insisted upon can the International Red Cross provide.

(i) Can the Allied Authorities concerned provide for the transport of the consignments of parcels from Italy to the handing-over point referred to in (f).

(k) What censorship arrangements are necessary and can these be arranged.

(l) Could the Italian Red Cross provide the necessary accomodation, packing materials, personnel etc, at the outport.

6. It is thought that the International Red Cross is the organisation competent to deal with points (a) to (h). The High Commissioner could ask the War Materials Disposal and Italian P.W. Sub-Commission to make tentative inquiries concerning points (i) and (k), but definite answers to these questions would no doubt be dependant on (e).

3271

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS

16
E

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

IPW/1/3/243

12 December 1944

To : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject : Sending of parcels to IPW in Germany.

- 1 - Reference your letter No. 1752/Pol/C.15, dated 5 November 1944, in regard to the sending of parcels to IPW held in Germany.
- 2 - There is no objection to the sending of these parcels providing they only contain personal supplies to PW from individuals, and and are sent through Red Cross channels. There can be no question at present of the Italian Government setting aside a substantial amount of food stuffs in order to mass supplies.

3. It is suggested that you contact the International Red Cross authorities in Canada, America, South Africa, Australia etc., with a view to getting assistance from them in the way of supplies of food and clothing to be sent direct to the Italian Prisoners of War in Germany.

3270

J.A. CAMPBELL
Lt. Colonel
Director
W.M.D. & I.P.W. Sub Commission

150
Phone to Dr Burkhard IRlb 21/Dec 44
He assures us that his information
is that Italian POW (excent officers)
are now under protection of
IRlb & are working. They
can receive letters (only on the
proper forms) and parcels.

His information is that they already
receive info from North Italy.
Officers are still not working
& are regarded as internees not
under IRlb protection. They are
however allowed to receive info
but not via IRlb.

3269

43

14

- E X T R A C T -MINUTES OF CHIEF OF STAFF'S + 19th DECEMBER.Ref: 210/47/COS.

8. Applications to AFHQ concerning Italian POW. G-5 AFHQ were getting similar enquiries on the same subject from four or five sources in AC and wanted correspondence to be coordinated. Lt. Col. Shipp thought the reason for this was that Italian officials wrote in to every possible source in hopes of getting agreement finally from someone. DCOS direct that this should be carefully watched.

3268

43

0 8 3 6

CONVENTION OF JULY, RELATIVE TO THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR

13

SECTION IV External Relations of Prisoners of War.

Article 37. Prisoners of war shall be allowed individually to receive parcels by mail, containing foods and other articles intended to supply them with food or clothing. Packages shall be delivered to the addressees and a receipt given.

Article 38. Letters and consignments of money or valuables, as well as parcels by post intended for prisoners of war or despatched by them, either directly, or by mediation of the information bureaux provided for in Article 77, shall be exempt from all postal duties in the countries of origin and destination, as well as in the countries they pass through.

Presentments and relief in kind for prisoners shall be likewise exempt from all import and other duties, as well as of payments for carriage by the State railways.

Prisoners may, in cases of acknowledged urgency, be allowed to send telegrams, paying the usual charges.

Article 39. Prisoners of War shall be allowed to receive shipments of books individually, which may be subject to censorship.

Representatives of protecting Powers and duly recognised and authorised aid societies may send books and collections of books to the libraries of prisoners' camps. The transmission of these shipments to libraries may not be delayed under the pretext of censorship difficulties.

Article 40. Censorship of correspondence must be effected within the shortest possible time. Furthermore, inspection of parcels post must be effected under proper conditions to guarantee the preservation of the products which they may contain, and if possible in the presence of the addressee or an agent duly recognised by him.

Prohibitions of correspondence promulgated by the belligerents for military or political reasons, must be transient in character and as short as possible.

320

Cor

*For Major Green -
obtained from WMD + 11 Nov 44*

12

LDD/es

7.06/ES

4 December 1944

MEM FOR: War Materials Disposal and Italian PW S/O

Subject: Parcels to Italian Prisoners
of War - Germany.

Attached is memo prepared by staff officer
of the Economic Section which generally reflects
the position of the Economic Section with respect
to the question raised by the High Commissioner
for Prisoners of War.

L. D. DENSMORE
Colonel, F A
Chief Staff Officer
Economic Section

Inc - m/a

3266

43

Copy 1

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

obtained from WMD & IPWSC
EDN/ram

25 November 1944

Tel: 558

7.06/ES

SUBJECT: Parcels to Italian Prisoners of War in Germany

TO: Chief Staff Officer, Economic Section

1/. The WMD and IPW Sub-Commission has forwarded a request from the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War

- a. that Italian citizens in liberrated areas be permitted to forward through regular Red Cross channels any food, clothing or other similar items, which may be legally in their possession to Italian prisoners of war in Germany, using the conventional Red Cross channels, probably through Lisbon.
- b. that similar packages may be permitted to be sent to Italian prisoners of war from foreign countries including the United States and the United Kingdom.

2/. As regards 1 a above, neither the Food nor Commerce Sub-Commissions have very firm opposition. The Food Sub-Commission suggests that, in view of the food shortage in Italy, such food packages should more appropriately come from the United States, Australia, or other places from which im-ported supplies are now coming, and also that such charitable organizations as American Relief for Italy should send parcels direct to Italian prisoners of war. 3265

The Commerce Sub-Commission principally requests further information particularly as to the source of the items which might be sent out; also information as to assurances of non-diversion by the enemy.

3/. Basically it appears that there is no real economic objection to the Italian people forwarding some of their al-

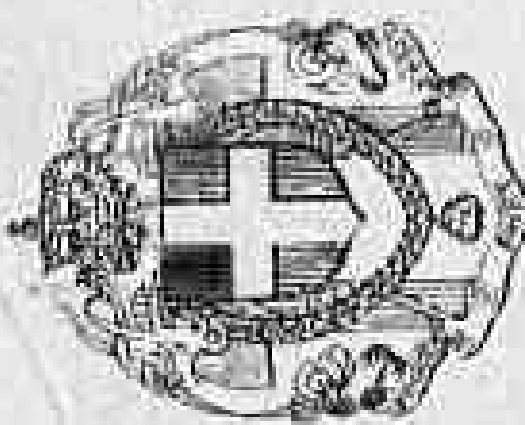
- 2 -

ready slim personal supplies to prisoners of war if they wish to do so on an individual basis. The only objection which might arise would be if the Italian Government should decide to set aside a substantial amount of foodstuffs in order to send mass supplies. This is not contemplated however and it is the opinion of the WMD and IPW Sub-Commission that the amounts involved would be small.

It is therefore suggested that the Economic Section has no objection to the proposal contained in paragraph 1 a. As regards the proposal in 1 b above, it is suggested that the High Commissioner for Prisoners of War should communicate with the International Red Cross in order to arrange for assistance from outside countries and that he might approach the Political Section, AC, for such assistance as he might be granted.

B. D. NASH
Major, AUS
Economic Section.

3264



Ministero delle Comunicazioni

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLE POSTE E DEI TELEGRAFI

Roma, 16 Dicembre 1944

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Posts and Telecommunications
Sub Commission

R O M A

OCCORRENZA : Pacchi per prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania .

Si trasmettono a codesta Commissione copie conformi di due lettere con le quali l'Alto Commissario per i prigionieri di guerra, con riferimento ad una comunicazione della Sotto Commissione Alleata per i materiali e prigionieri di guerra italiani, chiede se si possa provvedere all'invio di pacchi da parte di privati ai prigionieri di guerra italiani che si trovano in Germania. Tali pacchi dovrebbero essere spediti, tramite la Croce Rossa, e dovrebbero contenere soltanto prodotti alimentari .

Ricordiamo a codesta Commissione che in seguito a richieste di numerose famiglie , la questione è stata per il passato attentamente esaminata e che a tutt'oggi si è risposto negativamente a tutti i richiedenti concessioni del genere .

In considerazione della lettera inviata dalla Commissione Alleata a firma del Col/ CAMPBELL, riteniamo sia oggi doveroso da parte nostra riesaminare la questione e studiare se il problema della censura, del trasporto e dell'invio dei pacchi stessi, in quale modo possa essere risolto onde aderire ad un desiderio così umanitario rappresentatoci sia dall'Alto Commissario per i prigionieri che dalle numerosissime famiglie che hanno prigionieri ed internati i loro cari.

Saremmo grati di un cortese cenno al riguardo .

IL SOTTOSCRITTO

[Signature]

all.2

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO PER I
PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

Rome, 13 dicembre 1944

N. 2227/Pol./C-15 di prot.

OGGETTO : Invio di pacchi ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania.

A Sua Eccellenza
Ing. Mario F A M O
Sottosegretario di Stato alle Poste e Telegrafi

R O M A

Si trasmette copia della lettera di cui al nostro colloquio telefonico di ieri, con preghiera di comunicare con cortese sollecitudine se il servizio postale possa provvedere all'invio dei pacchi di cui al n. 1 e 2.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
3182
(Generale Pietro Gazzera)

all. 1.

Tram. Rodion.

Included here with is copy of a letter.
mentioned in our telephone conversation of
yesterday - Please let us know as soon

A Sua Eccellenza
 Ing. Mario F A N O
 Sottosegretario di Stato alle Poste e Telegrafi

R O M A

Si trasmette copia della lettera di cui al nostro colloquio telefonico di ieri, con preghiera di comunicare con cortese sollecitudine se il servizio postale possa provvedere all'invio dei pacchi di cui al n. 1 e c.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
 3-
 (Generale Pietro Gazzera)

all. 1.

Translation

Included herewith is copy of a letter mentioned in our telephone conversation of yesterday - Please let us know as soon as possible if the postal service can provide for the transmission of parcels mentioned at para. 1 & 2.

P. C. N. O.

41C

C O P I A - TRADUZIONE
/de

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

Sottocommissione per i materiali e prigionieri
di guerra itel.

IPW/1/3/443

14 dicembre 1944

OGGETTO : Invio di pacchi ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in
Germania.

ALTO COMMISSARIATO PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

R O M A

1. Facciamo riferimento alla vostra lettera n. 1752/Pol.C-15
del 5 novembre u.s. riguardante l'invio di pacchi ai prigionieri di
guerra italiani che si trovano in Germania.

2. Non vi sono obiezioni per l'invio di questi pacchi pur
che essi contengano solamente ~~effetti personali~~ inviati da priva-
ti per i prigionieri di guerra, e che siano inviati tramite la
Croce Rossa. Non è per ora il caso di considerare, da parte del
Governo Italiano, la questione da accantonare una notevole quan-
tità di generi alimentari in maniera di fare dei rifornimenti no-
tevoli.

3. Sugeriamo di mettervi in contatto con le Autorità del-
la Croce Rossa Internazionale in America, Canada, Sud-Africa, Au-
stralia ecc. allo scopo di ottenere da loro l'aiuto per il rifor-
nimento di generi alimentari e di vestiario da inviarsi diretta-
mente ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania.

R.to Ten.Col. J.A. CAMPBELL

p. c. c.

L'UFFICIALE SUPERIORE ADDETTO
Ten.Col. Alberto Montesoro

14 dicembre 1944

OGGETTO : Invio di pacchi ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania.

ALTO COMMISSARIATO PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

R O M A

1. Facciamo riferimento alla vostra lettera n.1754/Pol.C-15 del 5 novembre u.s. riguardante l'invio di pacchi ai prigionieri di guerra italiani che si trovano in Germania.

2. Non vi sono obiezioni per l'invio di questi pacchi purchè essi contengano solamente ~~oggetti personali~~ inviati da privati per i prigionieri di guerra, e che siano inviati tramite la Croce Rossa. Non è per ora il caso di considerare, da parte del Governo Italiano, la questione da accantonare una notevole quantità di generi alimentari in maniera di fare dei rifornimenti notevoli.

3. Sugeriamo di mettervi in contatto con le Autorità della Croce Rossa Internazionale in America, Canada, Sud-Africa, Australia ecc. allo scopo di ottenere da loro l'aiuto per il rifornimento di generi alimentari e di vestiario da inviarsi direttamente ai prigionieri di guerra italiani in Germania.

F.to Ten.Col. J.A. CAMPBELL

P. C. C.

L'UFFICIALE SUPERIORE ADDETTO
Ten.Col. Alberto Montesoro

h.v. / 11/4/45

Translation

16. Dec. 44

Subject:.. Parcels for Italian P.O.W. in Germany..

Included herewith are copies of two letters, in which the High Commissioner for P.O.W., referring to a communication from the War Material Disposal & Italian P.W., asks if it would be possible to despatch parcels ^{from} private individuals to Italian P.O.W. in Germany.

Such parcels should be despatched through the R.C. and contain only food stuff.

It is pointed out that, following on requests from numerous families, the ~~question~~ ^{same time ago} matter has been carefully examined ~~in the past~~, and that till today we have replied negatively to all such requests.

In consideration of the letter ^{your communication 69} sent by (Col. Campbell), it seems to be opportune to re-examine the matter, and consider if the problems of censorship, transportation and forwarding of parcels can in some way be solved, in order to satisfy such a humanitarian request.

expressed by the High Commissioner for P.O.W. and
by the ~~the~~ numerous families ~~which have their~~
whose relatives are prisoners or internees.

A kind reply on the matter would be very
appreciated.

The Under Secretary of State.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND ITALIAN PW SUB-COMMISSION

INW/1/3/243

12 December 1944.

To: Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

Subject: Sending of parcels to Italian PW in Germany.

- 1./ Reference your letter N. 1752/Pol/C.15 dated 5 November 1944 in regard to the sending of parcels to Italian Prisoners of War held in Germany.
- 2./ There is no objection to the sending of these parcels providing they only contain personal supplies to Prisoners of War from individuals, and are sent through Red Cross channels. There can be no question at present of the Italian Government setting aside a substantial amount of foodstuffs in order to send mass supplies.
- 2./ It is suggested that you contact the International Red Cross Authorities in America, Canada, South Africa, Australia etc., with a view to getting assistance from them in the way of supplies of food and clothing to be sent direct to the Italian Prisoners of War in Germany.

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

3259



IL VICESEGREARIO DI STATO
PER LE POSTE E TELEGRAFI

N° R/1-1817

Salerno, 20 Giugno 1944

Maestro ARTURO TOSCANINI

NEW YORK

GIRCA CINQUECENTOMILA MILITARI ITALIANI
EPOCA ARMISTIZIO TRASPORTATI CAMPI GERMANIA QUALI
INTERNATI MILITARI SENZA PROTEZIONE CONVENZIONE GI-
NEVRA ET CIRCA CENTOMILA CIVILI ALT DURANTE INVERNO
HANNO MOLTO SOFFERTO FREDDO ET FAME PER DEFICIENZA
VESTITI ET INSUFFICIENTE ALIMENTAZIONE ET MANDANO
INVOCAZIONI STRAZIANTI ALT DA ITALIA LIBERATA NON
EST PERMESSO INVIARE PACCHI VESTIARIO ET VIVERI PER-
CHE' TALI GENERI QUI' MOLTO SCARSI ALT SAREBBE VIVA-
MENTE DESIDERATO CHE CROCE ROSSA INTERNAZIONALE AUT
COMITATO ASSISTENZA ITALO - AMERICANA ORGANIZZASSE
MENSILMENTE CONFEZIONE ET SPEDIZIONE CIRCA CENTOMILA
PACCHI STANDARD DI VESTIARIO ET VIVERI ONDE CONSEN-
TIRNE DISTRIBUZIONE INTERNATI MILITARI ET CIVILI GER-
MANIA ET POLONIA IN MAGGIORE SOFFERENZA ALT MIGLIAIA
FAMIGLIE ITALIANE ANSIOSISSIME SORTE LORO CONGIUNTI
CONFIDANO MECO SU OPERA V.E. COSI' ALTAMENTE BENEFICA
PER SOFFERENTI CAUSE GUERRA ET ATTESA NOTIZIE FAVO-

./.

F23

98
REVOLI ESPRIMONO LORO SENSI VIVA RICONOSCENZA ALT
A GENERALE PREGHIERA UNISCO MIA PERSONALE

SOTTOSEGRETARIO POSTE E TELECOMUNICAZIONI
FANO

3255

/gr.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
per i prigionieri di guerra

N° 413/POL/CL5

Excellency CIOCCIANI
Apostolic Delegate
Massachusetts Avenue

NEW YORK - N.Y.

Cava dei Tirreni, 20 Giugno 1944

Circa cinquemila militari italiani epoca arai-
stizio trasportati campi Germania quali internati militari senza
protezione convenzione Ginevra et circa centomila civili alt
durante inverno hanno molto sofferto freddo et fase per deficienze
vestiti et insufficienza alimentazione et mandano invocazioni stra-
zianti alt Solo internati capaci professioni manuali hanno avuto
maggiore nutrizione alt Da Italia liberata non est permesso invia-
re pacchi vestiario et viveri perchè tali generi già molto scarsi
in Italia alt Prego caldamente benefico efficace interessamento
Vostra Eccellenza per invio viveri vestiario Germania richiedendo
intervento autorità ecclesiastiche tedesche aut Croce Rossa per
assicurare distribuzione internati militari civili in Germania
in maggiore sofferenza alt Migliaia famiglie italiane anacostissime
sorte loro congiunti confidano meco su opera V.E. così altamente
benefica per sofferenti cause guerre esprimono loro ³²⁵⁷ viva
riconoscenza alt
Venti giugno alt

ALTO COMMISSARIO P.O.W.

GENERALE PIETRO GAZZERA

firmato

/dr.



MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI
DIREZIONE GENERALE PP. TT.

Salerno, 20 Giugno 1944

A.C.C.

Post and Telecommunications
(Lt.Col.HEAD)

SALERNON. 5/8.3/1820

Risposta al N.

OGGETTO: Pacchi per prigionieri di guerra

In riscontro alla lettera n° PS.16/23.6 del 19/6/944.

Prendiamo atto di quanto con la stessa ci proponete e Vi saremmo grati se voleste comunicarci con quali modalità e per quali quantitativi questo Ministero potrebbe dare disposizioni relative alla spedizione di pacchi postali diretti ai prigionieri di guerra purchè contenenti merci che non siano nè viveri nè oggetti di vestiario.

Per quanto con tali modalità si escludono dall'invio le merci di maggiore necessità, potrebbero gl'invi dei pacchi in parola costituire motivo di soddisfazione morale per i riceventi.

Di quanto ci vorrete comunicare al riguardo, Vi porgiamo le ns. più vive, anticipate, grazie.

IL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI STATO

3256

TRANSLATION

20 June 1944

From : Dr. Fano

To : Lt. Col. Head

Subject: P.O.W. parcels.

Ref. your letter PS.16/2366 of 19.6.44

We have noted your proposal and we should be very grateful if you tell us the quantity of parcels, containing other goods than food stuff and clothing, for which this Ministry could arrange the despatching to P.O.W., and the routine to be followed.

Notwithstanding that the more necessary goods would be excluded by such an arrangement, the despatching of such parcels could be a reason of morale satisfaction for the addressees.

We thank you in advance for what you will notify us on the matter.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

3255

REAR HQRS.
A. C. C.
Communications Sub-Commission

Sh

7

22 June 1944

PS. 16/23.7.

SUBJECT:- P.O.W. parcels.

TO:- Major McKean, C.C.O.

1. Please see attached copies of correspondence with the Italian Postal Authorities.

2. There are two possibilities from a postal view point, in relation to "non-foodstuff" parcels:-

(i) That standard parcels should be made up, under International Red Cross auspices, at say Palermo or Naples.

(ii) That -subject to postings not overloading transportation facilities- individual members of the public post their own parcels.

3. Would you be good enough to let me know what Censorship procedure would be applied under such conditions. (It is probably certain that some foodstuffs would be enclosed in some of the parcels under service (ii)). Permissible contents would be presumably be generally on the lines of the U.K. and U.S. P.O.W. services.

S. H. HEAD
Lt. Col.
C.P.O.

3254

23

REAR HQS.
A. C. C.
Communications Sub-Commission

SHH/

64

19 June 1944

PS. 16/23.6.

SUBJECT:- Parcels for Prisoners of War.

TO:- The Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomms.

1. I am sorry that your letters Nos. S/8.3/1068 of 12 April and S/8.3/1630 of 31 May have not been replied to earlier. The general position is however dealt with in the letter of 11 June from the Deputy Chief Commissioner to the International Red Cross Delegate at Palermo, and of which I sent you a copy on June 12th. You will no doubt have replied to the enquiry of the High Commissioner for POW accordingly.

2. It is presumably the case that there is no general demand to send other articles than foodstuff and clothing to Prisoners of War, but if there should be it can, of course, be considered further, whilst keeping in mind the restricted transportation facilities for dealing with any appreciable number of parcels.

S. H. HEAD
Lt. Col.
C.P.O.

TRADUZIONE -

1. Sono dolente di non aver potuto rispondere con piu' sollecitudine alle vostre lettere S/8.3/1068 del 12 Aprile e S/8.3/1630 del 31 Maggio.

Tuttavia la situazione generale dell'argomento in oggetto e' trattata nella lettera dell' 11 Giugno del Vice Presidente la Commissione al Delegato di Palermo della Croce Rossa Internazionale, lettera di cui vi mandai una copia il 12 c.m.. Avrete certamente risposto in tal senso alla richiesta dell'Alto Commissario per i Prigionieri di Guerra.

2. Probabilmente non vi sara' grande richiesta per inviare ai prigionieri di guerra articoli diversi dai generi alimentari o di vestiario, ma in caso affermativo, la questione potrebbe essere reconsiderata, pur tenendo presente i limitati mezzi di trasporto, inadeguati ad un eccessivo numero di pacchi.

F.623

FA/dr.



MINISTERO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI

DIREZIONE GENERALE PR. IT.

N. 5/8.3/1630

Risposta al N.

OGGETTO:

Pacchi per prigionieri di guerra

L'Alto Commissario per i Prigionieri di Guerra ci scrive, in data odierna, quanto segue:

" Si prega di volere comunicare quale risposta ha dato la Commissione Allesta di Controllo alla lettera S/8.3/1068 con cui questo ministero interessava la Commissione Allesta di Controllo per ottenere l'autorizzazione dell'invio dei pacchi con viveri ai militari italiani internati in Germania. Ringrazio "

Si sarebbe vivamente grati a cotesta Spett. Commissione se, rendendosi conto della importanza del problema, volesse farci avere cortese riscontro alla lettera a cui l'Alto Commissario si riferisce.

Di quanto sarete per comunicarci, Vi porgiamo le nostre più vive, anticipate, grazie.

IL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI STATO

3252

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

Post And Telecomms Sub-Commission

Alla

SALERNO

Salerno, 31 Maggio 1944

TRANSLATION

Salerno 3 May 1944

No S/B.3/1630

Subject : Parcels for Prisoners of War

To : A.C.C. Communications

The High Commissioner for P.O.W. writes us today as follows:

"We beg you to inform us what answer has been given by A.C.C. to letter S/B.3/1068, by which this Ministry asked the aid of A.C.C. in obtaining authorisation for sending parcels of food to Italian soldiers interned in Germany. Thanks."

We would be deeply grateful to the Commission if, taking into account the importance of the problem, it would give us the courtesy of a reply to the letter referred to by the High Commissioner.

For what you are about to inform us, we send our hearty thanks in advance.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

3251

COPIA

P. 8.3/1068

SALERNO 12 Aprile 1944

OGGETTO: Pacchi per prigionieri di guerra.

Alla Commissione Alleata di Controllo
Posts and Telecomms. Sub-Commission

SALERNO

Da parecchi mesi questo Ministero riceve numerosissime lettere del genere di quella acclusa.

I prigionieri in Germania pregano perche' siano loro spediti pacchi con viveri - i parenti dei prigionieri implorano la concessione di poter inviare i pacchi stessi che dall'Italia occupata dai tedeschi si possono tuttora inviare.

Questo Ministero si fa portavoce di tale desiderio non senza sottolineare la grande importanza morale che avrebbe per il paese una concessione del genere.

Si sara' grati di un benevolo esame della questione e di un cortese riscontro in merito.

IL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI STATO

TRANSLATION -

SUBJECT: - Parcels for Prisoners of War.

For several months this Ministry has been receiving letters of the same kind of the one attached.

Prisoners of War in german hands ask for parcels with food stuff - their relatives beg to be allowed to despatch such parcels, which can still be forwarded from German occupied Italy.

This Ministry makes itself interpreter of such desire, emphasising the great moral importance which would have for the Country such a concession.

Perhaps you will be good enough to examin the matter and to let us know your view on it.

3250

85 ~~SECRET~~
 ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
 G-5 Section
 APO 512

TBJ/jjr

12 June 1944. 932

G-5: 311.1

SUBJECT: Parcels for Italian POW in Enemy Hands.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,
APO 394

1. It will be remembered that under the Geneva Convention the right for PW to receive parcels and for the next of kin to send them is granted and INC (CCB) report that the Germans have been encouraging Italian PW's to ask that parcels be sent to them from next of kin in Italy.

2. INC (CCB) point out that since the Italian postal services in liberated Italy is functioning the problem is not whether such parcels may be sent but rather what may be included in parcels to POW in German hands.

3. INC (CCB) would like to have an official list of what may be included in the parcels mentioned above. In this connection they draw attention to the attached copy of British Postal Leaflet P 2280E with special reference to paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 relating to parcels. It is stated that no similar U.S. pamphlet is available.

4. Will you please consider the matter and let this Section have your views in the matter generally and particularly on the first sentence of paragraph 3 above.

5. Please return the enclosures with your reply.

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

T. B. Jackman
 T. B. JACKMAN
 Major.

Incl:
 as above

Copy to:- INC (CCB)



SHH/rm

4

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

15th June 1944.

In reply refer
to: PS/16/23/4.

Subject: Parcels for Italian P.O.W. in enemy hands.

To: A.F.H.Q. Military Government Section.

1. The matter of affording the facility referred to in your letter G-5.311.1 of 12th June 1944 has been under consideration at various times at this headquarters, where a copy of your enclosure (returned as requested) has been available.
2. The essential requirements of P.O.W. are of course food and clothing, but as indicated in our letter No. DGC 383.6 of June 10th to the I.R.C. Palermo - of which a copy was sent to you - it has been necessary to veto the export of such items.
3. Although, as INC (CCB) may have pointed out, the postal service is operating in liberated Italy, there are still problems associated with the capacity of the mails in areas served on foot or horseback; and railway conveyance facilities are much below normal. If, therefore, there should be any development towards affording a P.O.W. parcels service for miscellaneous items, it would, at this stage, have to be on the basis of dispatch from an I.R.C. controlled centre. (There is no internal parcel service).

3245

J.L. Henderson,
Colonel,
Director, Communications Sub-Commission.

1. Enclosure.

F.23

8 June 1944

SUBJECT: Parcel Service for POWs.

TO : Col. Henderson

1. Attached please find original of letter dated 30 May 1944, the IRC representative, Mr. Georges Kuhne, in Palermo to CCG proposing the initiation of a parcel service for Italian POWs in German hands and in French hands.

2. There is no censorship objection to the plan proposed.

3. Since the proposed plan involves postal and transportation considerations, the matter is being referred to you for such action as you may consider advisable.

Gordon W. Mc Kean
GORDON W. MC KEAN
Major - Cavalry

SEE 2

F23

0851

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
GENÈVE



INTELL ARMA CARITAS

DELEGATION
PALERMO
Piazza Caracciolo, 50

K/cb

Palermo 30 May 1944

To Civil Censorship

PALERMO

For transmission to the competent
Allied Authorities

SUBJECT : Food and clothing parcels sent from Sicily to
the Italian POW held in Germany and in north
Africa.
Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929, art. 37 -
Regulations of the Universal Postal Union.

For many months Sicilian families
have received from their relatives prisoners of war in
Germany or in North Africa (in French hands) pressing
requests to send food and clothings.

POW held in Germany even send
to their family some special tickets to be glued on the
parcels to be sent to them.

All previous attempts on the part
of the Italian Red Cross to adjust this matter have failed.

The Italian Red Cross has recently
interested this IRCC delegation in this subject.

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. 2 .

Having contacted the local Allied Censorship and Transportation Authorities and the local committee of the Italian Red Cross, the delegate of the IRCC begs to present to the competent allied authorities the following request :

May the Sicilian families send 5 kg parcels of food and clothing to the Italian POW held in Germany or in French Africa ? The authorisation is only requested for these two countries as being those where POW mostly need this help.

These packages would be sent to the Italian POW, in the amount of one per month, by all the Sicilian families that wish to do so.

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It should be considered that every American or British POW now in Germany receives a five Kg food parcel every week through the British or the American Red Cross. The same is done for the German POW in North Africa. Only the Italian POW do not enjoy this privilege, and that badly affects their health and their morals.

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The proposed system would be :

1. - This request is made solely for Sicily, this delegation having jurisdiction over this region only.
2. - The Italian Red Cross of Sicily is not sufficiently organized to take this matter in hand, which is not yet the case in Southern Italy.
3. - The parcels will be made up in standard manner.
4. - They will be prepared for the whole of Sicily

./.

. 3 .

in the central office of the Italian Red Cross in Palermo, which will provide for the wrapping and boxes and will gather the items to be sent.

5 The Sicilian population should therefore make all arrangements, through the Red Cross provincial committees, with the central office in Palermo.

^{COLLECTION}
Confection, censorship and expedition of the parcels will take place only in this town.

5. - It would certainly be preferable to begin this service simultaneously in all the Italian occupied territory but nothing should prevent its being started in Sicily on a smaller scale, in the same way as already done for the civilian messages.

Also, it would be a good experience from which to benefit in the future.

Furthermore, expedition of food to Italian POW is sometimes so urgent that everything that can be rapidly done for this cause would certainly contribute to the conservation of human lives.

It would therefore be very discouraging to sacrifice such a possibility for the question of principles.

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Composition of the parcels :

The parcels sent by Sicilian families should be composed as follows :

dry macaroni	gr. 1.500
dry fruit	" 1.500
clothing	" 1.500
box and wrapping	" 500
Total	gr. 5.000.

3244

Only these three things may be contained in the parcels which should be prepared by the Italian Red Cross of Palermo in standard manner.

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. 4 .

Censorship :

Every morning the Italian Red Cross would take to the competent allied censorship offices in Palermo a certain quantity of parcels. This quantity to be fixed in accordance with the quantity which can be censored daily.

The parcels would be prepared in thin wooden boxes and six of these boxes would be gathered in wooden cases for the expedition.

Weight per each parcel = 5 Kg.
weight per one wooden case containing six parcels = 65/70 pounds.

The final packing and nailing of the boxes and cases would be done by an employee of the Italian Red Cross in the censorship office.

Expedition :

As soon as this operation is completed, the cases would be turned over to the Italian Post Office for shipping.

These cases would be grouped according to their respective destination and addresses, depending upon the location of the prisoners (Germany or Africa).

Parcels to be sent to POW in Northern Africa would be sent to the IRCC delegation in Algiers which would take care of forwarding them to the African camps.

Parcels to be sent to POW in Germany would be sent to the IRCC delegation of Lisbon (Portugal) which would forward them to the German camps through the IRCC in Geneva.

The route Lisbon-Geneva-Germany is ³²⁴³ already used for the expedition of packages to British and American POW held in Germany.

It would be possible to have parcels destined for Germany forward to Lisbon through Algiers, but this would involve a loss of time, and should therefore be

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. 5 .

considered only if it is found to be impossible to send the parcels directly to Lisbon.

Addresses :

A small label bearing the name and the address of the prisoner, the weight of the parcel, and its exact contents, would be glued on the box. The address would also be written in ink on the box itself.

A big label, bearing the names of the six addresses and their respective addresses (as far as possible the parcels would be grouped according to the same camp) would be glued on the case containing the six boxes.

... The labels would be made up as per the attached forms (inclosure 1 for the general packing, inclosure 2 for each parcel).

a) - One copy of general label n.1 will be glued on the case; another copy will be placed inside same with one copy of each nominative label (n.2). Those six copies of the nominative labels will remain with the IRCC office which will finally forward the parcels to the POW (i.e. with the IRCC in Geneva for POW held in Germany, and with the Algiers delegation if the parcels are to be sent to POW held in Africa).

b) - One copy of the small label (nominative) will be glued on the parcel; four other copies will be placed inside each parcel. - One of these copies will be kept by the receiving POW camp senior officer, and the other three will be signed by the addressee on receipt of the parcel; one of these signed labels will be kept on the way back by the IRCC or by one of its delegations, and the two final labels will be sent to the Italian Red Cross in Sicily which will keep one for its own file and send the other to the prisoner's family.

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The delegate of the International Red Cross Committee hopes that this proposal will be given favorable consideration by the Allied Authorities, and takes the liberty to call to the attention of the Authorities the urgency of this request. He hopes that they will find it possible to accord this privilege either to the POW and to the anguished Sicilian families.

H. H. H.
H. H. H.
H. H. H.

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Inclosures :
2 labels.

INCL. 1

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AL COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA CROCE ROSSA

GINEVRA (Svizzera)

=====

6 pacchi di viveri e indumenti per P. G. italiani :

Grado	Cognome e nome	Numero	Campo	Paese
Sergente	RUSSO Salvatore	27.666	Stammlager VII B	Germania
Soldato	BERTOLINI Angelo	11.897	Stammlager VII B	"
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.....				
.....				

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Mittente : CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA (Sez. Sicilia) PALERMO

Palermo, li

3240

INCL 2
31
AL COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA
CROCE ROSSA = GINEVRA (Svizzera)

=====

Per il Sergente RUSSO Salvatore n.27.666
Stammlager VII B - Germania

CONTENUTO	:	grammi 1.500	pasta
		" 1.500	frutta secca
		" 1.500	indumenti
		" 500	tara
Peso lordo		grammi 5.000	(kg 5)

MITTENTE : CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA
Sez. Sicilia - PALERMO

^{Data}
Timbro (e firma) :

COPY

/epc

3 F

In reply refer to:
DCC 383.6

24 March 1944.

Subject: Parcels for Italian Prisoners of War.

Dear General Orlando:

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

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

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

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

Yours very truly
3229

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR.
Deputy Chief Commissioner

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

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

REAR HQS.
A. C. C.
Communications Sub-Commission

SHH,
2 A

12 June 1944

PS. 16/23.2.

SUBJECT:- Parcels for P.O.W.

TO:- The Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomms.

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter sent to Mr. George Kuhne of the I.R.C., Palermo, in response to proposals which he had submitted for the establishment of a scheme for despatching "standard" Red Cross parcels from Palermo.

S. H. HEAD
Lt. Col.
C.P.O.

TRADUZIONE -

Si allega per vostra conoscenza copia di una lettera inviata al Sign. George Kuhne della Croce Rossa Internazionale, Palermo, in risposta alla proposta da lui sottoposta, fissante la forma di un progetto per l'invio di pacchi "standard" della Croce Rossa da Palermo.

SEE 1-3

F.23

28

DEC/hjp

DSH 346
11 JUN 1944In reply refer to:
PS/16.2
DOC 303.6

10 June 1944

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

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

ELMER M. STERN
Captain, USAR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

1 Incl:
Ltr, DCC ACC,
Re. DOC 303.6, 10 Jun 44

3237

Copy to -
Communications s/c

2c
RMS/hjpOSN 945
11 JUN 1944

10 June 1944

DOC 383.6

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

TO : M. Georges Aubne, International Red Cross delegate for Sicily,
Palermo

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

3236

CLERY W. SILKE
Captain, USMC
Deputy Chief Commissioner

cc: Dr. P. Burckhardt, I.R.C. delegate for Italy,
38 Via Tasso, Naples
M.G.S., A.F.H.Q.

SEE 1-3

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Region I Headquarters
APO 394

1 June 1944

RPO 311.1

Subject: Prisoner of War Packages

To : Director, Communications Sub-Commission, Rear HQ., ACC.

APO 394, U.S. Army.

I am forwarding a copy of the letter written by Georges Kuhne, International Red Cross Delegate, in regard to prisoner of war packages.

It is my understanding that Mr Kuhne has forwarded a letter to the Military Government Section, Algiers, in regard to the above subject.

For the Regional Commissioner

A. E. Krull
A.E. KRULL
1st Lt. AGD
Regional Postal Officer

1 Inclosure

SEE 2

3235

Received 5/5

File 23

K/cb

Palermo

30 May 1944

B

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA CROIX ROUGE
DÉLEGATION EN SICILE
P A L E R M O
PIAZZA CANTU' NUOVO, 60

To Civil Censorship

PALERMO

For transmission to the competent
Allied Authorities

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the Italian POW held in Germany and in north
Africa.
Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929, art. 37 -
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The proposed system would be :

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2. - The Italian Red Cross of Sicily is now sufficiently organized to take this matter in hand, which is not yet the case in Southern Italy.
3. - The parcels will be made up in standard manner.
4. - They will be prepared for the whole of Sicily

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. 3 .

in the central office of the Italian Red Cross in Palermo, which will provide for the wrapping and boxes and will gather the items to be sent.

5 The Sicilian population should therefore make all arrangements, through the Red Cross provincial committees, with the central office in Palermo.

~~Collection?~~
Confection, censorship and expedition of the parcels will take place only in this town.

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. 5 .

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GEORGES MUHNE

MEMBRE DU COMITE INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL

32-9

Inclosures :
2 labels.

AL COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA CROCE ROSSA
G I N E V R A (Svizzera)

6 pacchi di viveri e indumenti per P. G. italiani :

Grado	Cognome e nome	Numero	Campo	Paese
Sergente	RUSSO Salvatore	27.666	Stammlager VII B	Germania
Soldato	BERTOLINI Angelo	11.897	Stammlager V	"
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Mittente : CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA (32-8 Sicilia) PALERMO

Palermo, li

0881

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11.11.2
1.2

AL COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA
CROCE ROSSA - GINEVRA (Svizzera)

Per il Sergente RUSSO Salvatore n.27.666
Stammlager VII B - Germania

CONTENUTO	:	grammi 1.500	pasta
	"	1.500	frutta secca
	"	1.500	indumenti
	"	500	tara
Peso lordo		grammi 5.000	(kg 5)

MITTENTE : CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA 32.7
Sez. Sicilia - PALERMO

^{Data}
Timbro e firma :

0 8 8 2