

ACC 10000/1471298

POSTAL SECTION
P/45/CS

AIRGRAPH SERVICE

vol I only

July - AUG 1945

AIRGRAPH SERVICE

Vol I only

July - AUG 1945

EXTRACT FROM POST OFFICE CIRCULAR

DF 1525

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN MAILS - (Continued)
Discontinuance of Airgraph Service

DF 1525

The airgraph service will be discontinued at the end of this month and no airgraph letters should be accepted from the public after the close of business on Tuesday, the 31st of July. Copies of counter compendium supplement No. 4 "Airgraph Service" should then be withdrawn from use and disposed of as waste. Persons applying for airgraph forms from now until the end of the month should be warned that airgraph letters will not be accepted after the 31st of July and the attention of any persons tendering airgraphs after that date should be drawn to the alternative 2d. Forces Letter and to the 6d. air letter service where this service is available to civilian addresses in the countries concerned.

Stocks of unused airgraph forms on hand after the service has ceased should be withdrawn from the counter and utilised for drafting purposes, etc.

(P.O.C. 18.7.45)

FILE	22
45	3779

Date

21

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

VHF/cons

P.45.21/CS

23th July 1945

Subject: Airgraph Services.

To : Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecommunications.

1. The Airgraph Service provided primarily for communications from Great Britain to British troops overseas will cease as from 31th July 1945.

2. This service was also used for communications from Italian "Cooperator" Prisoners of War in Great Britain to their relatives in this country, the relative airgraphs being handed over by the British A.P.O. to your Naples Ferrovia Office. You may wish to notify all Offices of the withdrawal of this service in order that they may be able to respond to any enquiries from persons who have hitherto enjoyed this facility.

W.H.G.

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

Copies to:

G-5 : A.P.H.Q. (ref. 311.1 of 21th July 1945).
Civil Censorship Group.
Postal Officers, Emilia, Liguria, Lombardia, Venetia Regions,
Leghorn Commune.

3778

File

CROSS	
REF	
FILE	2 1 TWO
45	

Date

*Communication - 6332**20*

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CJM/jjr

G-5: 311.1

21 July 1945

SUBJECT: Airgraph Services.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

TROOPERS in GEM 622 announces the closing of air-
graph services on 31 July 45 which will of course apply to
the Italian PW service from Great Britain.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

22 JUL 1945

Macnamara 3787
C. J. MACNAMARA
Major, P.C.*E 45*

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
C.M.F.

19 P/120.

21 July 45.

Subject:- Airgraph Services - discontinuance.

To:- Q(Maint), AFHQ.

Confirming telephone conversation (Majors Colville - Lamborne)
20 July 45.

1. Advice has been received from DMPS War Office that the Airgraph service will be terminated on 31 Jul 45 on which date, with the agreement of all Governments concerned, the acceptance of airgraph letters will cease universally.

2. Army Post Offices have been instructed that they will not accept airgraph letters after 31 Jul 45 and it is understood that you have arranged with C-4(B) for the publication of a suitable C.R.O. on 27 July 45.

W.C. Harvey

(W.C. HARVEY)
Lt-Col., R.E.,
for D.R.A.F.S.

Copy to:- C-4(B) AFHQ.

C-5 AFHQ - ref my P/641 dated 1 Jul 45.

Allied Commission (Communications Sub-Commission). CMF ✓

Fleet Mails Advisor, Office of C-in-C Med, AFHQ. CMF

Command Postal Officer, HQ M.A.A.F.

MLO.

HQ

Director	
U/Director	
Chief Telecoms	
Chief Postal	
H Q Coms O	
Asst Chief Postal	
Consorship	
Chief Clerk	

CROSS REFS	
FILE	B/Fwd.
45	

Date

3776

put
copy in 14

ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
C-5 Section
AFC 542

C-5 : 311.1

6th July 1945

Subject: P.W. Airmen Services.

To : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 334.

Your reference is P.44.71/US of 27th June 1945.

1. There is little possibility of an extension of this service as airmen traffic has sunk to such negligible proportions that the withdrawal of facilities and closure of the Naples station is contemplated.
2. The question of air mail for Italy has been previously discussed and the same political considerations prevailed, but on the general improvement of ports and resumption of air services for our allies it will be time to reconsider the question.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, C-5:

J. J. BUCHANAN,
Major, P.O.

P.45.13/US

11th July 1945

1st Indorsement

To : Postal Officers, Naples, Lombardis, Liguria, Venezia Regions
and Leghorn District.

From: Communications Sub-Commission.

1. For information with reference to P.45.15/US.
2. It is the intention to raise the matter again with particular reference to the possibility of using existing air services or Navy.

By Command of Rear Admiral STONE.

WJH

H. J. BUCHANAN
Lt. Colonel, S.S.C.
Naples.

CROSS	15
INDEXED	
FILE	U.S.O.

Our reference is P.M. 71/68 of 27th June 1945.

1. There is little possibility of an extension of this service as airgraph traffic has sunk to such negligible proportions that the withdrawal of facilities and closure of the Naples station is contemplated.
2. The question of air mail for Italy has been previously discussed and the same political considerations persist, but on the general improvement of ports and resumption of air services for our allies it will be time to reconsider this question.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, C-3:

P.M. 18/68

C.J. McNAMARA,
Major, P.O.

11th July 1945

1st Indorsement

To : Postal Officers, Maille, Lombardie, Liguria, Venetia Regions
and Leghorn Command.

From: Communications Sub-Commission.

1. For information with reference to P.M. 15/68.
2. It is the intention to raise the matter again with particular reference to the possibility of using existing air services on Egypt.

By Command of Rear Admiral STONE.

W.H.

H. H. SCHUBERT
Lt. Colonel, Sig. C.
Legation.

CROSS FILE	15
FILE	45

Date

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
C.M.F.

P/641.

17 / July 45.

Subject:- P.W. Airgraph Service.

To:- G-5.

Ref. P.44.71/CS dated 27 Jun 45 from Allied Commission
(Communications Sub-Commission) to G-5, copy to this Directorate.

1. Due to the decline of Airgraph traffic to and from this theatre to negligible proportions, and to the expansion of alternative services which are cheaper and more rapid in overall transmission, it is possible that the existing Airgraph facilities to and from this Theatre will be withdrawn shortly and the Naples Airgraph Station closed.

2. This factor will no doubt be borne in mind in considering the case put forward by Alcom in their a/g letter.

W.C. Harvey

(W.C. HARVEY)
Lt-Col., R.E.,
for D.D.A.P.S.

Copy to:- Allied Commission (Communications Sub-Commission), C.M.F.
P/120.
File.

HG

3774

P44-7

45

Do

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 334
Communications Sub-Commission

WHL/bs

P.44.71/03

27 June 1945

SUBJECT: P.W. Airmail Service.

TO : C-5, AFHQ.

Reference P. 44.65/03 of 20 June 45.

1. The following is an extract from a report by the Postal Officer, Liguria Region:-

"Several callers have arrived this week with airmails from POW in England asking if a similar service is available from here to prisoners".

2. The probable demand for a return service was forecast in my IS 16/15.145 of 20 August 44 and it is rather surprising that it has not been voiced before this.

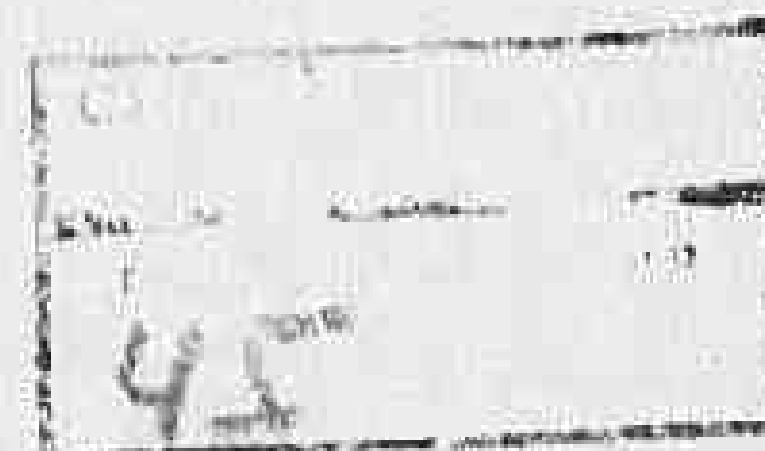
3. It is, of course, realized that the outward service was conceived as special concession to "cooperatives", but it is thought that at this stage of events a more general air service should be made available.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

WHL
H.M. SMITH
1st. Colonel, Sig.O.
Director.

Copies to: British Army Postal Directorate.
A.C. Postal Directorate, AFHQ.
Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telecomm.

3773



Date

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

P.45.15.08

27th June 1945.

SUBJECT: P.W. Airgraph Service

TO : Regional Commissioner, Liguria Region
(Att: Postal Officer)

Reference your Posts/1.27 of 23 June.

1. The question of a return service was raised with A.F.H.Q. in my PS. 16/15/143 of 28 August 1944 when the service from England was initiated but no decision has been received.

2. Incidentally the service from England was not made available to PW generally but was a special service introduced for the benefit of "Cooperators" and there would be some difficulty in applying similar limitations in the reverse direction.

3. Recently the service was also permitted to cooperators in the M.E.F. area.

4. The general question of Air Mail or airgraph services to Italian PW has been raised again recently.
(vide enclosed copy of P.44.65.08)

3772

WJH

H.H. SCUDDER,
Lt.Col. Sigs.O.
Colonel.

Inc: Copy of P.44.65.08 of 20 June

Copies to:

Postal Officers: Emilia, Lombardia,
Venetia Region and Leghorn Commune.

CROSS	19-18
REF.	
FILE	
45	

Date

Headquarters
Liguria Region
Allied Military Government.

14
23 June 1945.

Ref. Posts/1.27

Subject: P.O.W. Airgraph Service.

To : Communications sub Commission H.Q. A.C.

1. Several callers have arrived this week with airgraphs received from P.O.W. in England and asking if a similar service is available from here to prisoners.

2. Presumably an outgoing service is not practicable but the matter is brought under notice.

For the Regional Commissioner

R.S. Drummond
R.S. DRUMMOND

Captain

Regional Postal Officer.

377

File

GROSS. REFS.	15
FILE	B/Ref.
P.45	
Date	26/6/45

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

Communications
3335
13
CJM/prb

17 June 1945

G-5: 311.1

SUBJECT: Proposed Airgraph Service for Italian Cooperators in MEF.

TO : British Army Postal Directorate AFHQ.

This Headquarters has no objection to this proposed service.

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

Copy to:
Allied Commission, APO 394 ←

C. J. MACNAUL
Major, P.C.

3779

HEADQUARTERS	REF.
18 JUN 1945	45
Date	

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
C.M.F.

Subject:- Proposed Airgraph Service from Italian
Co-operators in M.E.F.

P/641.

To:- G-5.

18 May 45.

12

Reference our P/641 dated 9 May 45 to Allied Commission
(Communications Sub-Commission), copy to G-5, and P.45.11/CS dated 12
May from Allied Commission to this Directorate, copy to G.5

I would appreciate an early decision on the proposal to
introduce an Airgraph service from Italian Co-operators in M.E.F. to
their relatives in Italy.

W. O. Harvey

(W.O. HARVEY)
Lt. Col., R.E.
for D.D.A.P.S.

Copy to:- Allied Commission
(Communications Sub-Commission), COM.
DDAPS, CHQ M.E.F.
File.

OKO

Director	
Deputy Director	
Chief Technical	
Chief Postal	
H Q Comd G	
Asst Chief Postal	
Censorship	
Chief Clerk	

CROSS	3769
FILE	45

Date _____

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

332/ba *11*

P.45.11/CS

12 May 1945

Subject: Proposed Airgraph Service from Italian Cooperators in M.E.F.

To : British Army Postal Directorate, A.F.H.Q.

1. Your P/6 41 of 9th May appears to have been misdirected as the delay in commencing this service is certainly not attributable to this Commission.

2. On receipt of your original letter of 19th January the matter was referred to G-5, A.F.H.Q. in P.45.5/CS of 29 January, which made it quite clear that there was no objection to the proposal so far as this Commission was concerned.

3. Our P.45.9/CS of 9th April to you (copy to G-5) contained a copy of the previous letter to A.F.H.Q. and repeated the statement that there was no local objection to the service.

For the Chief Commissioner.

WHL

J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel,
Director.

Copy to:

G-5, A.F.H.Q.
DEAFS, GPO, MEF.

3768

CROSS REFS	<i>10-12</i>
FILE	L. rwd.
<i>45</i>	

Date _____

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE
ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
C.M.F.

Subject :- Proposed Airgraph Service from
Italian Co-operators in MEF to Italy.

9 May 45.
10 P/641

To :- A.C. (Communications Sub-Commission), CMF

Reference your P.45.8/CS dated 9 April 45 and earlier correspondence regarding the proposed Airgraph service from Italian Co-operators in MEF to their relatives in Italy (your P.45.5/CS dated 29 Jan 45 to G-5 also refers).

1. This matter was raised by Mideast in the middle of Jan and was referred to you without delay. Despite several reminders to you we have not yet had a decision on this question.
2. It is difficult to see what special difficulties can have arisen in regard to the proposed arrangements particularly as a similar concession has already been made to Co-operators in U.K. Could early action be taken, please.

W.C. Harvey
(W.C. HARVEY)
Lt-Col., R.E.,
for D.D.A.P.S.

Copy to :- G-5, AFHQ
DDAPS, GHQ MEF (ref PO/37111 dated 1 May 45)
File.

RY

5 29 Jan.
6 17 Feb.
9 9 Apr.

CLASS.	9-11
FILE	6/1 wa
45	

Date 11 MAY 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

9 April 1945

In reply
refer to : P.45.9/03

Subject : Airgraph Service.

To : British Army Postal Directorate
c/o No 15 Base Army Post Office, C.M.F.

1. With reference to your P 641 of 6th April to D.D.A.P.S., M.E.P.
I enclose copies of two letters sent to G-5 A.F.H.Q. on the subject.
2. The statement in P.45.5/03 to the effect that there is no
local objection to the service still holds.

For the Chief Commissioner

WJH
J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel
Director

3760

2 Inc. *3*
(1) Copy of letter PS.16/15.143
(2) " " " P.45.5/03

Copy to :
G-5 A.F.H.Q.

CROSS	10
145	

BRITISH POSTAL DELEGATION,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
C.M.F.

Subject:- Civil Postal Arrangements - Italian.

P/641.

To:- DDAPS, (S) M.E.F.

6 Apr 45.

Reference your PO/37111 of 1 April 45, no reply has yet been received from Allied Commission regarding the suggested airmail service from Italian Co-operators in MEF to their relatives in Italy. It is understood, however, that a reply will be received shortly.

W.C. Harvey
(W.C. HARVEY)
Lt. Col., R.E.
for D.D.A.P.S.

Copy to:- A.C. (Comms. Sub-Commission), CMF.
(Ref telephone conversation Major Green - Capt. Boddo).
File.

CKC

CHIEF REFS.	13765
FILE	B/Fwd.
45	

Date 9 APR 1945

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
C.M.F.

22 Feb 45.

Subject :- Civil Postal Arrangements - Italian.

22P/641

To :- HQ Allied Commission.
(Communications Sub-Commission). ✓

Reference my P/641 of 19 Jan, 45, it would be appreciated if you would now furnish your views regarding the proposed establishment of an airgraph service from Italian co-operators in MEF to their relatives in liberated Italy.

A.W.C. Ryland

(A.W.C. RYLAND)
Lt-Col., R.E.,
for D.D.A.P.S.

Copy to :- File.
RY

*Col Heads instructions
await Col Jackson's
visit*

3764

C	4-5-6
F	B/Fw.
45	28/2

1 22 FEB 1945

SHH/ba

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

17 February 1945

In reply
refer to : P.45.6/03.

Subject : Airgraph Service.

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

May we be advised what the position is in relation
to our P.45.6.03 of 29th January 1945.

For the Chief Commissioner

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

2763

CROSS REFS.	7
FILE	45-1 Keenoh

Date

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Communications Sub-Commission

SHH/ec

5

29 January 1945

In reply
refer to : P.45.5/CS

Subject : airgraph service.

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

1. It is thought that A.F.H.Q. should see the accompanying copies of correspondence on the policy aspect. It may be that the existing similar service from the U.K. can be taken as a precedent, but it is not clear whether the facility is to be made available to co-operators in all P.O.W. camps in North Africa; those in South Africa will presumably be excluded. From a purely local point of view we are in agreement with the proposals, which can be proceeded with so far as the civil post is concerned without difficulty.

2. A reply to D.D.A.P.S. is being withheld pending receipt of your reply.

For the Chief Commissioner

houl
J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel
Director

300

CROSS REFS.	6-7-9
FILE	B, wd.

114 Feb 1945

Date

F. 84

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,
C.M.F.

Subject:- Civil Postal Arrangements - Italian.

P/641.

To:- HQ Allied Commission
(Communications Sub Commission),
CMF.

19 Jan 45.

1. The Director of Army Postal Services, London, has raised with D.D.A.P.S., GHQ MEF, the question of introducing an Airgraph service from Italian co-operators in M.E.F. to their relatives in liberated Italy, similar to the service available to Italian co-operators in U.K.

2. The proposed working arrangements in Egypt are indicated in the attached copy of M.E. letter PQ37111 dated 14 Jan. After processing and enveloping in Naples, the airgraphs would be transferred to local civil offices for distribution.

3. Perhaps you will kindly say whether you are in agreement with the proposal.

R.N. Roskell

(R.N. ROSKELL)
Lt. Col., R.E.
for D.D.A.P.S.

Copy to:- DDAPS, GHQ MEF.
P/660
File.

CKC

CROSS. REFS.	
FILE	B/Fwd.

Date 20/1/45

Director	
D/Director	
Chief. Telecoms	
Chief. Postal	
H Q. Comm. O.	
Asst. Chief. Postal	
Comsec.	
Chief Clerk	

3761

745

(COPY)

SUBJECT: Facilities for Italian Co-op-
erators.GHQ MET
FO/37111

14 Jan 45.

DDAPS AFHQ CMF.

1. The question has been examined of affording Italian Co-operators in this Command the benefit of the facility which is afforded those in UK of sending two airgraphs per month to their relations in Allied Occupied Italy. DAPS letter 17/3/9224 of 16 Dec 44 to this Directorate, copy to you, refers.
2. The Egyptian ^{Postal} Administration has agreed to accept airgraphs from the Italian Co-operators in this Command prepaid at the rate of 1½ PT per letter and to record them on special films.
3. Will you please say whether you will be able to arrange for the airgraphs to be enlarged at and distributed from Naples. The form of labelling which the Egyptian Civil Postal Administration should use on its bags will perhaps be stated.
4. The bags will be conveyed by air alongside of military mails and it is proposed at the outset to restrict the frequency of despatch to once weekly. Perhaps you will kindly say whether any particular day will be more suitable than any other for the receipt of the mail.

(SGD) ???????

Major RE.,
(F.W. GUENIER)
for DDPS.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Tel. No. 489081 Ex. 444

SIR/ee

23

PS.16/15.143.

28 August 1944

SUBJECT:- Civil Airgraph Service.

TO: - G - 5, A.F.H.C.

141 3

1. Further to recent telephone conversation, (Lt. Col. Head - Lt. Col. Jackson), attached is a copy of a relative communication which has been passed to us, for information, by the Postal Directorate, A.A.I..

2. There will be no difficulty with regard to the disposal of the items when received by the Italian Postal Authorities, but the following points arise:-

- (a) Should the service be publicised (? prestige value).
- (b) Is there any intention of affording a return service, and if so under what conditions
- (c) What should be the disposal of any airgraphs which may well come to hand for Provinces not yet open for postal services (? held at discretion or return to IS Base A.P.O.)

✓
S. H. HEAD
Lt. Col.
for Director, Communications Sub-Commission

Copy to:- Major Green, Postal Officer, Region III.

SEE P.

A 44

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Tel. No. 489081 Ext. 444

SHH/ec

~~#~~2

PS.16/15.142.

28 August 1944

SUBJECT:- Civil Airgraph Service

TO: - Major McKean, Consorship Branch, A.C.C.

141 B
I. Further to recent telephone conversation, attached
is a copy of a relative communication which has been passed
to us, for information, by the Postal Directorate, A.A.I.
Also copy of a ref. to A.A.I.

S. H. HEAD
Lt. Col.
Chief Postal Officer
Communications Sub-Commission

3750

144

1423

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

POST/ DIRECTORATE,
HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Subject:- Airgraphs - UK to
Civil Addresses in
ITALY.

Tel No:- MILPOT 285

P/640/16

28 AUG 44

Lt-Col. S.H. Head,
Communications Sub-Commission,
HQ ACC CMT

The enclosed copy of letter P/641 of 25 AUG is
forwarded for your information.

[Signature]
(P.M. A.H.)
Major, R.E.
for Lt-Col. R.E.
A.D.A.P.S.

Copy to:- File
PMA/HF

3757

7 44

C O P Y

BRITISH POSTAL DIRECTORATE,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G.M.F.

Subject:- Airgraphs - UK to
Civil Addresses in ITALY

P/641.

B

To:- CC 15 Base APO

25 Aug 44

1. Arrangements have been made in the U.K. to accept airgraphs from Italian cooperators addressed to civilian addresses in ITALY.
2. The airgraphs will be despatched from the U.K. to your office on separate films.
3. After processing by the Kodak Coy. the airgraphs will be enveloped and handed to Allied Censor Control, Naples, for delivery through the Civil Postal Service.
4. The traffic is expected to be round about 30,000 items weekly.
5. Please notify date of receipt of first film and particulars of the daily traffic received during the first week. Subsequent films received will not be shown separately in the daily Airgraph Return but included with other film receipts from the U.K.

Sgd. R.N. ROSEHILL
Lt-Col. R.E.
for DEAPS.

Copy to:-

Major Green,
Postal Branch,
HQ 3rd Region,
A.C.C., G.M.F.
ADAPS HQ AAI CWP
File

CKE

3756

1425