

Disposal of Enemy Equipment in Italy

equipment in Italy

10000 / 148 / 1141

June 45

Tel: 473303. TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMISSION. CAG/Smh
MOVEMENTS DIVISION. *Instructed.*

Ref : AC/34/1/Tn3. 9 June 45.

SUBJECT : Disposal of Enemy Equipment in ITALY.

TO : Deputy Director.
Transportation S/C. (2)

1. AFHQ ordered a meeting to take place at H.Q. 15 Army Group at 1430 hours on 4 June 45. I attended the meeting and rendered a verbal report to Director Tn. S/C during the evening. I also telephoned details of items affecting Tn. S/C to Roads Division, A.C.

2. The object of the meeting was to discuss AFHQ Directive AG.336.3/163 LOG-C dated 22 April 45 regarding disposal of captured Enemy Equipment in ITALY.

3. The Chair was taken by Brig. Thurburn C(AB), AFHQ. Lt. Col. Shutte and other officers of C(AB), AFHQ were there together with representatives of G-2, G-4 and G-5. The following were also represented :-

H.Q. 15 Army Group.
H.Q. 5 Army.
H.Q. 8 Army.
H.Q. 1 District.
H.Q. 2 District.
Allied Commission.

4. AGENDA.

- (i) Policy and methods of collection into Main Dumps.
- (ii) Treatment of Ammunition.
- (iii) Policy on material now in hands of Partisans.
- (iv) Receiving and Registration of Captured Transport.
- (v) Finished material in war factories.
- (vi) Availability of captured supplies for maintenance of POW.
- (vii) Units and Personnel required when Districts take over from Armies for, - Staff, Guards and Labour.
- (viii) Arrangements for transfer of responsibilities from Armies to Districts.
- (ix) Reports on all serviceable materials to AFHQ.
- (x) Captured civilian material.
- (xi) Other matters arising out of Directive.

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5. At Appendix "A" is given a summary in brief of decisions reached. At Appendix "B" is a report on matters discussed which are of particular interest to Transportation Sub-Commission.

Copy to: Rail Div.
Roads Div.
Mov Div(Rail Branch).

C. STALT-GARNER.
Major.
Roads Branch.

/tp

3 June 1945

APPENDIX "A"DISPOSAL OF ENEMY EQUIPMENT IN ITALY.1. Policy and methods of collection.

(a) Brig. Thurburn stated that although the total number of POW held by 5 and 8 Armies is approximately the same, 5 Army hold 90% of all captured equipment. Arrangements must be made to ensure that 8 Army will be able to meet its maintenance commitments. After some discussion it was decided that the best method of equalising the equipment available would be for each Army to prepare a statement showing minimum maintenance requirements for prisoners held for a period of 6 months. This statement would be sent to AFHQ together with a statement showing quantities of items of equipment held. Everything in excess of 6 months requirements would be frozen by AFHQ and distributed where most needed.

(b) Brig. Thurburn said that considerable progress had already been made by 5 Army in the collection into main dumps of equipment; 8 Army representative had no details as to progress made but will send details to 15 Army Gp.

(c) Brig. Gen. Tate (15 Army Gp) directed that the closest contact be maintained with Mov. & Tn. of localities concerned in the selection of sites to be used for dumps. Should be at suitable railway loading points.

2. Treatment of ammunition.

(a) Many injuries have resulted to both military and civilian personnel.

(b) AG-AMG should issue warnings through MMIA re dangers.

(c) Maj. Gen. Heideman (Comd. 1 District) recommended that Amn. Coys should be formed composed of Germans. Their function would be to collect, destroy or render harmless German ammunition, mines and explosives.

(d) ALCOM to continue dealing direct with MMIA on requirements for explosives.

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(d) ALCOM to continue dealing direct with MMIA on requirements for explosives.

(e) Recovered brass will be handed in through Allied Army Service channels.

(f) Ammunition may be dumped in the sea subject to limitations imposed by C. in C. Med.

(g) Information required as to whether or not amn. may be dumped in rivers and lakes. If so, what are regulations?

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3. Materials in hands of Partisans.

(a) Maj. Gen. Weideman said difficulty is being experienced in persuading Partisans to hand over more than a percentage of their equipment. (Incl. M.T.) Material held by them is mostly concealed in the mountains.

(b) 2 District have had the same experience but hope to overcome this by good will rather than by any other means. Some success has resulted in connection with production of M.T. previously concealed.

4. Receiving and registration of enemy M.T.

(a) Maj. Gen. Weideman stated he had two large M.T. dumps, one of which already contains over 4,000 captured vehicles of assorted types. They are in the process of sorting and repairing the vehicles. The majority are not runners, those that are runners are not in sufficiently good condition to be put into service. He has constituted some German M.T. Repair Coys which are working well.

(b) For further details of matters connected with M.T. see Appendix "B".

5. Finished materials in war factories.

It was stated that ALCON is continuing a survey of factories. It is known that one factory is still producing Army Nuts ordered by the Germans. Further information required. Arms may not be manufactured.

6. Availability of captured supplies for maintenance of POW.

(a) See Para. 1 (a) above.

(b) A large dump of M.T. Spares has been found near Holzano. Now undergoing examination and being sorted.

(c) After redistribution of large quantities of equipment now held by 5 Army it is not anticipated that difficulties will be encountered in maintaining POW.

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(c) After redistribution of large quantities of equipment now held by 5 Army it is not anticipated that difficulties will be encountered in maintaining POW. Some items are in very short supplies, one item is paper. German Cnds. have stated they are unable to issue orders because of shortage.

(d) Clothing & barracks stores have been found in large quantities. (In S. AUSTRIA)

7. Units and Personnel required when Districts take over from Armies for Staff, Guards and Labour.

1 District will eventually take over from 8th Army.

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As Armies hand over to Districts additional personnel will be required to handle work now being carried out by Formation tps. Some will have to be technicians. Envisaged that Movements L.O.s would be very helpful in eliminating unnecessary handling and movement of stores (later on). Guards and Labour could probably be found by absorbing Partisans now being discharged and for whom employment is sought. Demands for additional District personnel to be made to AFHQ in good time.

8. Transfer of Responsibilities from Armies to Districts.

Covered by 7 above.

9. Reports on serviceable material to AFHQ.

(a) Owing to the fact that vast quantities of material have already been transferred from one dump to another and from Armies to Districts and that records of such transfers have not always been kept, it is necessary to obtain information of quantities held. To do this Armies and Districts will be asked to state quantities of all equipment held on a date to be announced by Q (AS). Thereafter a report will be rendered to reach AFHQ by 28th of each month by all concerned indicating quantities held.

(b) 5 Army may continue meeting the demands of 1 District.

(c) 1 District to send rep. to S. AUSTRIA to examine the large quantities of clothing and barracks stores which have been found there.

(d) 5 Army has made offers of large quantities of Engr. equipment to 2 District.

(e) All supplies of Railway construction materials to be made over to MRS and NOT to be put into General Equipment Dumps.

(f) Brig. Gen. Tate directed that MRS should

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in eliminating unnecessary material. Guards and Labour could probably stores (later on). Guards and Labour could probably be found by absorbing Partisans now being discharged and for whom employment is sought. Demands for additional District personnel to be made to AFHQ in good time.

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(f) Brig. Gen. Tate directed that MRS should place L.O.s with Engrs. at 5 and 8 Armies to ensure that Railway supplies are not used for other purposes except by mutual agreement.

(g) Agreed with MRS rep. that railway wagons found filled with railway repair equipment should be sent to ISR dumps at VERONA and BOLZANO where equipment will remain under guard of ISR.

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(a) Under what terms will Allied Commission hand back materials to civilians? (Italian)

(b) Complaints have been received concerning the manner in which Italian Civilians have sometimes been treated in this respect. Some have stated that certain materials were purchased by them from the Germans. The Allies took over such materials and when the Italians have claimed them, have sometimes been told that they must pay for them, resulting in double payment for the same article.

(c) Timber will probably figure largely in claims made by civilians.

11. Other matters arising out of the Directive.

(a) Weapons cannot be handed back to Italians without AFHQ authority.

(b) Materials of French and Russian origin will be segregated and kept in separate dumps.

(c) POW now in camps in 1 District MUST be moved out before the rains begin.

(d) When details of all equipment now held are available and the competent Authority has decided how much will be exported for use in the other theatres, how will be made available to AC and what will be destroyed, it will be necessary to create destruction Coys. These should be formed with German Personnel.

(e) It is not intended to move any equipment out of AUSTRIA.

(f) Much equipment will be transferred from N. Central ITALY to N.E. ITALY.

(g) 5 Army H.Q. is now at GARDONE (F.3376) on West Coast of Lake GARDA.

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*Restricted.*Appendix 'B'

9 June 45.

DISPOSAL OF ENEMY EQUIPMENT IN ITALY
(Matters affecting Tn S/C)

1. M.R.S. Rep Stated that over 1800 railway wagons of the total captured in the North of Italy, have been found to contain Railway construction and repair stores. These wagons will be sent direct to ISR dumps at VERONA and BOLZANO where they will be under guard of ISR.
2. Maj.Gen. Heidenan (Comd. 1 District) stated that he had two large dumps of captured M.T. Some of the vehicles are Italian requisitioned vehicles. Others are Italian manufactured vehicles made under orders of the German Army. The majority of vehicles captured are in very bad shape and even the runners cannot be put into service without some overhauling. Germans have been formed into MT repair Coys. and are working well. It is anticipated that some Italian civilian cars will be made available to Allied Commission towards the end of the month. Some trucks should be available three to four weeks after that. Until vehicles have been further examined Maj.Gen. Heidenan is unwilling to commit himself as to possible numbers. For further information on this subject AC-ALMG should keep in touch with 1 District.
3. Allies may use captured enemy vehicles for the maintenance of POW but MUST report vehicles held in excess of W.E. to A.F.H.Q. Units holding German vehicles in excess of W/E for a specific task must surrender such vehicles at the conclusion of the task.
4. Many German vehicles are already being used to meet 1 District's demands.
5. During Phase 1 A-C must not expect to have any captured trucks handed over for use in that part of ITALY, not under the jurisdiction of 15 Army Gp. 1 District is quite willing to hand over to A-C 2-300 trucks now if A-C is prepared to tow them away.
6. Asked if German drivers were required with German

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6. Asked if German drivers were required with German vehicles handed over to A-C, I said 'NO'.
7. Asked if A-C is prepared to accept vehicles on the basis that A-C would be responsible for their maintenance, I replied 'YES'. I asked about the position regarding spares and was informed that at this stage no answer could be given. Although a large quantity of MT spares had been found near BOLZANO, it is too early to say what kind of spares they are.

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8. Army vehicles made in ITALIAN Factories were of two categories :-

(a) Those made for the Italian Army, - These have "R.N." stamped on the chassis, on the motor and on the dash board, (also sometimes on the dials of the dash board instruments). These vehicles MUST be handed over to MMIA for disposal. These vehicles were manufactured under orders of the ITALIAN Ministry of War and are the ONLY Army vehicles which are acceptable to MMIA and, incidentally, the only vehicles which may be handed over to MMIA.

(b) Those made in ITALIAN Factories for the German Army. - Such vehicles may be exactly the same as types made for the Italian Ministry of War but do not have the 'R.N.' distinguishing letters. These vehicles will, AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY, be handed over to Allied Commission.

(c) Neither of the above classes of vehicles, spares or tyres may be held by Army Units against deficiencies in W/S. Neither will they be held by German Units.

9. A.F.H.Q. is frequently receiving demands for AT from units, areas etc. A.F.H.Q. will only consider demands submitted by Armies and A.C.

10. Vehicles handed over to A-C will be : ITALIAN, priority 1, and GERMAN, priority 2.

11. Asked how A-C proposed employing vehicles handed over, I replied that it is intended to form them into Civilian Truck pools operated by civilians.

12. In connection with Maj. Gen. Heideman's remarks re the difficulty encountered in persuading partisans to hand over equipment, the experience of 2 District is worth noting. Finding the same difficulty, they announced that all owners of vehicles should register them with HQ. 2 District. In this way the POL requirements could be estimated. The response was very satisfactory and, after registration, vehicles were sent away with a red disc on the wing screen. Although the vehicles are still in the hands of the

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