SECRETENCLOSURE "B"

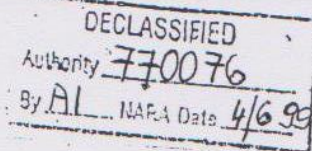
23 October 1945

MEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES

The British Chiefs of Staff approve SACMED's recommendation that the investigations at Basovizza reported in NAF 1078 should be discontinued. The Foreign Office concur and are so informing the State Department.

We therefore suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff reply to NAF 1078 as follows:

"Combined Chiefs of Staff authorise discontinuance of investigations referred to in NAF 1078."



E C R E T

ENCLOSURE "C"

From: Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces, Mediterranean
Theater of Operations, Caserta, Italy.
To: War Department
Nr: FX 49765 NAF 1078 21 October 1945

For Combined Chiefs of Staff and to Cabinet Offices for
British Chiefs of Staff sgd SACMED FX 49765 cite FHCOS.

1. Subsequent to occupation of Trieste area by Allied troops allegations were made by Italian Committee of National Liberation that between 2 and 5 May 1945 Jugoslavs threw hundreds of corpses of local inhabitants, carabinieri and minor officials, collaborators and German soldiers, down a pit at Basovizza (some 7 miles east of Trieste and west of the Morgan Line) and covered these with corpses of approximately 120 German soldiers and by carcasses of horses.

2. Following advice of political advisors here and because of views expressed by Mr. Eden to Field Marshal Alexander at Potsdam, attempt has been made to investigate the matter using military personnel and military engineering equipment in the form of a grab. Latter has been difficult to operate owing to depth of pit (700 to 1000 feet) and has tended further to break up the material in the course of extraction.

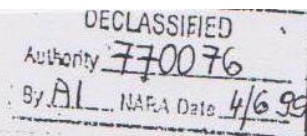
3. Material so far obtained shows that human bodies (some identifiable as Germans) and horse carcasses have been thrown down the pit. Otherwise results are inconclusive.

4. If effective investigation is to be carried out it will be necessary to import mining equipment from outside Italy and install machinery to allow personnel to descend shaft by cage and examine material at bottom.

JCS 1623

- 3 -

Enclosure "C"



S E C R E T

5. In view of advanced state of decomposition of bodies consider that unlikely any conclusive evidence of Yugoslav atrocities would result from further investigation, even with this machinery.

6. Recommend therefore you authorize discontinuance of investigations and closure of pit. Should however the two governments require that further measures be continued, request further investigation be made an Italian civil responsibility as task is not proper for Allied troops. In this event Allied military functions would be limited to provision of observers at shafthead to ensure that false reports to discoveries were not disseminated.

CM-IN-10228 (21 Oct 45)

JCS 1623

- 4 -

Enclosure "C"

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

1 1945

SECRET

COPY NO. 52

SWNGC 218

30 October 1945

Pages 1 - 2, Incl.

STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (RASOVIZZA)

Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a memorandum from the State member on the above subject, containing a proposed draft reply to the message (Appendix) from the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, is circulated for consideration by the Committee.

ALEXANDER D. REID

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

Carded

Indexed

SWNGC 218

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 770076

By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

A P P E N D I XPARAPHRASE OF A MESSAGE FROM THE CG, US ARMY FORCES MEDITERRANEAN
THEATER OF OPERATIONS, TO COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF

1. Allegations were made by Italian Committee of National Liberation subsequent to occupation of Trieste area by Allied troops, that between 2 and 5 May 1945, Yugoslavs threw hundreds of corpses of local inhabitants, Carabinieri and minor officials, collaborators and German soldiers down a pit at Basovizza, some miles west of the Morgan Line, and covered these with carcasses of horses and approximately 120 German soldiers.

2. Because of views expressed by Mr. Eden to Field Marshal Alexander at Potsdam, and upon advice of political advisors here, an attempt has been made to investigate the matter using military personnel and military engineering equipment in the form of a grab. Owing to depth of pit, latter has been difficult to operate and in the course of extraction has tended further to break up the material.

3. So far the material obtained shows that human bodies, some identifiable as Germans, and horse carcasses have been thrown down the pit. Results otherwise are inconclusive.

4. It will be necessary to import mining equipment from outside Italy and install machinery to allow personnel to descend shaft by cage and examine material at bottom if effective investigation is to be carried out.

5. Even with this machinery it is considered unlikely that any conclusive evidence of Yugoslav atrocities will result from further investigation of this material in view of advanced state of decomposition of bodies.

6. Therefore recommend you authorize discontinuance of investigations and closure of pit. Should however the two governments require that further measures be continued, request further investigation be made an Italian civil responsibility as task is not proper for Allied Troops. Allied military functions, to ensure that false reports to discoveries were not disseminated, would be limited to observers at shafthead in this event.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 770076
By AL NARA Date 4/6 99

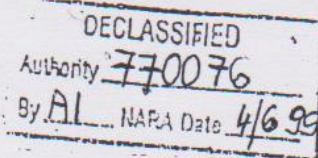
SECRET

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum by the
State Member, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee

The State Department has considerable interest in the Basovizza investigation and recommends that the Joint Chiefs of Staff reply to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, along the following lines:

"Investigations at Basovizza should continue to be carried out by Allied military efforts intensified to bring matter to successful conclusion. To this end, additional machinery should be imported as set forth in paragraph 4 of your message (Appendix) under reference."



NOV 7 - 1945

SECRET

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71932

3 November 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza) (SWNCC 218)

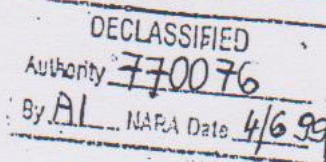
State member, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee has submitted a memorandum (page 1) recommending that JCS dispatch message to Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, ordering him to continue investigations at Basovizza with intensified Allied military efforts and if necessary to import additional machinery from outside Italy.

In NAF 1078 (CM-IN 10228, 21 Oct 45) Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean states that:

- a. Subsequent to occupation of Trieste area by Allied troops, Italian Committee of National Liberation alleged that between 2 and 5 May 1945, Yugoslavs threw hundreds of corpses of local inhabitants, Carabinieri and minor officials, collaborators and German soldiers down a pit at Basovizza (some 7 miles west of the Morgan Line) and covered these with carcasses of horses and approximately 120 German soldiers.
- b. The present attempt to investigate the matter, using military personnel and military engineering equipment, has ceased to be effective, because, owing to the depth of the pit, engineering equipment has been difficult to operate and in the course of extraction has tended to further break up the material.
- c. So far, the material obtained shows that human bodies, some identifiable as Germans, and horse carcasses have been thrown down the pit. Results otherwise are inconclusive.
- d. Even with the importation of new equipment from outside Italy, it is considered unlikely that any conclusive evidence of Yugoslav atrocities will result from further investigation of this matter, due to the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies.
- e. He recommends discontinuance of further investigations and closure of the pit be authorized.

NAF 1078 was referred to State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee by the Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff for information upon which to base reply.

OPD feels that for reasons stated in attached proposed memorandum, project should be discontinued.



SECRET

Action Recommended by OPD:

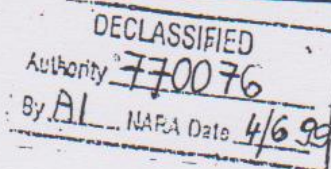
Sign and dispatch attached proposed memorandum for the Chairman, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee.

Coordination:

AAF (Col McRae - Ext 72720) Concurs

G-1 (Major Brown - Ext 72234) no comment.

G. A. L.



SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE;
 SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in Trieste Area (Basovizza) (SWNCC 218).

The War Department desires to discontinue the military investigation of alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area, since:

- a. From the report of the investigation there are no military reasons for its continuation.
- b. The authorities in the theater believe continuation of the project will have inconclusive results, even with importation of equipment, due to the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies.
- c. Continuation of the project beyond its present status is not a fit one for the United States military troops and will lead to the detention of additional United States military personnel in the theater. Publicity which might well result will be prejudicial to the War Department.

It is therefore recommended that SWNCC submit the following message as a basis of the reply which the Joint Chiefs of Staff may recommend to the Combined Chiefs of Staff as an answer to NAF 1078:

"In reply to NAF 1078, 21 October 1945, discontinuance of further military investigations and closure of pit is authorized."

If, for overriding political reasons, the U.S. and U.K. Governments desire the project be continued, it is recommended that the Italian Government assume responsibility and that SWNCC submit the following message as a basis of the reply which the JCS may recommend to the CCS as an answer to NAF 1078:

"In reply to NAF 1078, 21 October 1945, suspend further military investigation pending action by U.S. and U.K. Governments to turn over conduct of investigation to Italian Government."

ROBERT A. LOVETT
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR AIR

SECRET

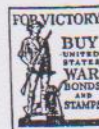
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 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6 99

NOV 10 1945



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



SM-4030
 7 November 1945

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Bosovizza).

References: a. SWNCC 218.
 b. SM-3870.

Enclosure: Memorandum by the British Representatives.

The enclosed memorandum by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff is furnished for information in connection with the request contained in reference b.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

(SIGNED)

A. J. McFARLAND,
 Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
 Secretary.

Copy for OPD, WDGS ✓

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NOV 10 1945

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Authority 770076
By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

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SECRETMEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES

The British Chiefs of Staff approve SACMED's recommendation that the investigations at Basovizza reported in NAF 1078 should be discontinued. The Foreign Office concur and are so informing the State Department.

We therefore suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff reply to NAF 1078 as follows:

"Combined Chiefs of Staff authorise discontinuance of investigations referred to in NAF 1078."

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Authority	770076
By	AL NARA Date 4/6/99

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SWNCC 218/18 November 1945Pages 3 and 4*Cmt to no*STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEEALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA)

References: a. SWNCC 218
 b. Item 11 Minutes
 29th SWNCC Mtg.

Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a memorandum on the above subject from the Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff, is circulated to the Committee in connection with their consideration of reference a.

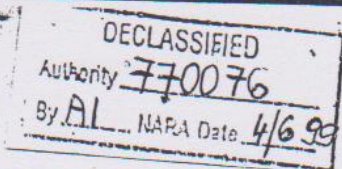
ALEXANDER D. REID

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

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Indexed	Wgm
SWNCC 218/1	



S E C R E T

E N C L O S U R E

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington 25, D. C.

SM-4030
7 November 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Alleged Atrocities in the
Trieste Area (Basovizza).

References: a. SWNCC 218
b. SM-3870

Enclosure: Memorandum by the British
Representatives.

The enclosed memorandum (Appendix) by the
Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff is fur-
nished for information in connection with the request
contained in reference b.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

/s/ A. J. McFarland
A. J. McFARLAND,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Secretary

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

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SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE:
 SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in Trieste Area (Basovizza) (SWNCC 218).

The War Department desires to discontinue the military investigation of alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area, since:

- a. From the report of the investigation there are no military reasons for its continuation.
- b. The authorities in the theater believe continuation of the project will have inconclusive results, even with importation of equipment, due to the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies.
- c. Continuation of the project beyond its present status is not a fit one for the United States military troops and will lead to the detention of additional United States military personnel in the theater. Publicity which might well result will be prejudicial to the War Department.

It is therefore recommended that SWNCC submit the following message as a basis of the reply which the Joint Chiefs of Staff may recommend to the Combined Chiefs of Staff as an answer to NAF 1078:

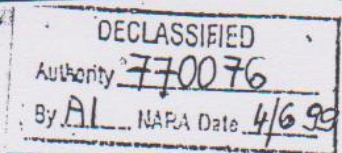
"In reply to NAF 1078, 21 October 1945, discontinuance of further military investigations and closure of pit is authorized."

If, for overriding political reasons, the U.S. and U.K. Governments desire the project be continued, it is recommended that the Italian Government assume responsibility and that SWNCC submit the following message as a basis of the reply which the JCS may recommend to the CCS as an answer to NAF 1078:

"In reply to NAF 1078, 21 October 1945, suspend further military investigation pending action by U.S. and U.K. Governments to turn over conduct of investigation to Italian Government."

ROBERT A. LOVETT
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR AIR

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APPENDIX

MEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES

The British Chiefs of Staff approve SACMED's recommendation that the investigations at Basovizza reported in NAF 1078 should be discontinued. The Foreign Office concurs and are so informing the State Department.

We therefore suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff reply to NAF 1078 as follows:

"Combined Chiefs of Staff authorise discontinuance of investigations referred to in NAF 1078."

DECLASSIFIED

1946

Authority 770076

By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

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COPY NO. 20

SWNCC 218/2

31 January 1946

Page 5

STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEEALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA)References: a. SWNCC 218
b. SWNCC 218/1Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a memorandum by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff forwarded by the Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff for information in connection with references a and b, is circulated to the Committee with a view to advising the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee agrees to the cessation of these investigations.

ALEXANDER D. REID

B. L. AUSTIN

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

SWNCC 218/2

Gardes

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DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

ENCLOSUREMEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH JOINT STAFF MISSION

29 January 1946

INVESTIGATION AT BASOVIZZA

You will remember that in NAF 1078 the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean (SACMED) recommended that the investigations in the pit at Basovizza should be discontinued and in our memorandum of 23rd October last (Enclosure to SM-4030) we proposed that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should accordingly inform SACMED that his recommendations were approved.

We understand that the State Department has hitherto been reluctant to agree to the cessation of these investigations, but we are now informed by the Embassy that the State Department now agrees that SACMED should be informed that:-

- (a) The investigation should now cease.
- (b) He should be authorised to issue a public statement which would make it clear that the investigations were being stopped owing to the physical difficulties involved and that this did not imply that the allegations made by the Committee of National Liberation in Northern Italy (C.L.N.A.I.) had been proved to be without foundation.

We therefore now suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should despatch a reply to NAF 1078 as follows:-

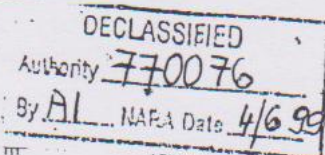
"Reference NAF 1078.

Cessation of investigations is authorised.

To minimise any effect on Italian public opinion and possibility that Yugoslavs will interpret cessation as admission that accusations against them were unfounded, you are authorised to issue public statement that cessation of investigations is due to physical difficulties involved, and that it did not imply that allegations made by C.L.N.A.I. had been proved to be without foundation."

SWNCC 218/2

ORIGINAL ARCHIVES

SECRETENCLOSURE "A"MEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH JOINT STAFF MISSION

29 January 1946

INVESTIGATION AT BASOVIZZA

You will remember that in NAF 1078 the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean (SACMED) recommended that the investigations in the pit at Basovizza should be discontinued and in our memorandum of 23rd October last (Enclosure "B") we proposed that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should accordingly inform SACMED that his recommendations were approved.

We understand that the State Department has hitherto been reluctant to agree to the cessation of these investigations but we are now informed by the Embassy that the State Department now agrees that SACMED should be informed that:

(a) The investigation should now cease.

(b) He should be authorised to issue a public statement which would make it clear that the investigations were being stopped owing to the physical difficulties involved and that this did not imply that the allegations made by the Committee of National Liberation in Northern Italy (C.L.N.A.I.) had been proved to be without foundation.

We therefore now suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should despatch a reply to NAF 1078 as follows: -

"Reference NAF 1078.

Cessation of investigations is authorised.

To minimise any effect on Italian public opinion and possibility that Yugoslavs will interpret cessation as admission that accusations against them were unfounded, you are authorised to issue public statement that cessation of investigations is due to physical difficulties involved, and that it did not imply that allegations made by C.L.N.A.I. had been proved to be without foundation."

SWGCC 218/2 (Basovizza)	Alleged (Investigation)	Atrocities	FILE TRIESTE AREA
DATE 31 Jan 46 SUBJECT FOLDER ABC 383.6 (16 June 43) Sec 1-B			
TITLE: ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA) ENCLOSED MEMORANDUM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE B/CS FORWARDED BY THE XXXXXX SECT:Y JCS FOR INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH REFERENCES A AND B IS CIRCULATED TO THE CMTE WITH A VIEW TO ADVISING THE JCS THAT SWGCC AGREES TO THE CESSATION OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS.			
ROME (ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS)	TRIESTE (MOVEMENT)	ITALY (DEPT OF STATE)	FILE RESPONSIBILITY (DISPROVAL)
DATE 3 October 1945 SUBJECT FOLDER ABC 382.01 (5 November 1943) Sec 4			
TITLE: MEMORANDUM FROM DIVISION OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, DEPT OF STATE TO LIAISON SECTION, OPD, WARD DEPT DATED 3 Oct '45 RE: THE DEPT OF STATE HAS INFORMED THE US POLITICAL ADVISER AT ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS THAT THE DEPT OF STATE DOES NOT APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF AFHQ TO ROME. THE DEPT IS OF THE OPION THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW TO ESTABLISH AFHQ IN ROME, WHERE THE ITALIAN GOV IS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE ITALIANS TO ASSUME AND INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ITALIAN TERRITORY. WE FEEL THEREFORE THAT IF AND WHEN AFHQ MOVES IT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN TRIESTE, IF CONDITIONS PERMIT, SINCE THE ALLIED COMMITMENT IS CONTINUED FOR SOME MONTHS TO COME.			
MEM/ 28 November 1945			
SWGCC 218 (Basovizza)	Alleged (SAC, MED)	Atrocities	FILE Trieste Area
DATE 30 Oct 45 SUBJECT FOLDER ABC 383.6 (16 Jun 43) Sec 1-D			
TITLE: ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA). The enclosure, a memo from the State member on the above subject, containing a proposed draft reply to the message (Appendix) from the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, is circulated for consideration by the Committee.			
DGM 2 Nov 45			

FILE			
Basovizza (SWNCC 218/2)	Investigation (Alleged)	(Atrocities)	(Trieste Area)

DATE 31 Jan 46

SUBJECT FOLDER ABC 383.6 (16 June 43) Sec 1-B

TITLE:

ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA)

ENCLOSED MEMORANDUM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE B/CS FORWARDED BY THE
SECT'Y JCS FOR INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH REFERENCES A AND B
IS CIRCULATED TO THE EMTE WITH A VIEW TO ADVISING THE JCS THAT SWNCC
AGREES TO THE CESSATION OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS.

FILE			
Basovizza (SWNCC 218)	SAC, MED (Alleged)	(Atrocities)	(Trieste Area)

DATE 30 Oct 45

SUBJECT FOLDER ABC 383.6 (16 Jun 43) Sec 1-D

SWNCC 218

TITLE: ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA).

The enclosure, a memo from the State member on the above subject, containing
a proposed ~~rm~~ draft reply to the message (Appendix) from the Supreme Allied
Commander, Mediterranean, is circulated for consideration by the Committee.

		FILE	
ATROCITIES (EUROPEAN THEATER)	TRIESTE AREA (MEDITERRANEAN TH)	BASOVIZZA (G-1)	JCS 1623 (GEN HULL)

DATE 20 Feb 1946

SUBJECT FOLDER ABC

383.6 (16 June 43) Sec 1-B

TITLE: ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA)

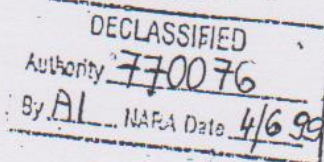
JCS 1623 concerning the alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza) is a
note by the secretaries recommending that the USCoFS agree to the proposed British
representative's message to SACMED stating that cessation of investigations is
authorized and that a statement should be made clarifying the situation. Such
a statement would indicate that investigations are being terminated due to
physical difficulties involved and does not imply that allegations made by the
C.L.M.A.I. has been proved to be without foundation.

Memo to ET and MTO fwd JCS 1623 for info. Cy of ET memo w/incl to G-1 and
Eur Th Section; and w/o incl to G-2, G-4, CAD, AAF, AND ASF.

MMN 4 March 1946

This card belongs to S & P Group, OPD, W.DGS.

JAN ARCHIVES



FEB 1 1946

SECRETMEMORANDUM BY THE BRITISH JOINT STAFF MISSION

29 January 1946

INVESTIGATION AT BASOVIZZA

You will remember that in NAF 1078 the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean (SACMED) recommended that the investigations in the pit at Basovizza should be discontinued and in our memorandum of 23rd October last (Enclosure to SM-4030) we proposed that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should accordingly inform SACMED that his recommendations were approved.

We understand that the State Department has hitherto been reluctant to agree to the cessation of these investigations, but we are now informed by the Embassy that the State Department now agrees that SACMED should be informed that -

- (a) The investigation should now cease.
- (b) He should be authorised to issue a public statement which would make it clear that the investigations were being stopped owing to the physical difficulties involved and that this did not imply that the allegations made by the Committee of National Liberation in Northern Italy (C.L.N.A.I.) had been proved to be without foundation.

We therefore now suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should despatch a reply to NAF 1078 as follows:-

"Reference NAF 1078.

Cessation of investigations is authorised.

To minimise any effect on Italian public opinion and possibility that Yugoslavs will interpret cessation as admission that accusations against them were unfounded, you are authorised to issue public statement that cessation of investigations is due to physical difficulties involved, and that it did not imply that allegations made by C.L.N.A.I. had been proved to be without foundation."

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 770076
By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

FEB 6 - 1946

SECRET
OPD 8154/7132
ADJUTANT GENERAL/OPD

5 February 1946

383.6 (16 Jan 43)
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza) (SWNCC 218/2)

Secretary, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee has circulated a memorandum by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff (page 5) in which they suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff dispatch the following reply to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean:

"Reference NAF 1078. Cessation of investigations is authorized.

To minimize any effect on Italian public opinion and possibility that Yugoslavs will interpret cessation as admission that accusations against them were unfounded, you are authorized to issue public statement that cessation of investigations is due to physical difficulties involved, and that it did not imply that allegations made by the Committee of National Liberation in Northern Italy had been proved to be without foundation."

In NAF 1078 (CM-IN 10228, 21 Oct 45) Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean states that:

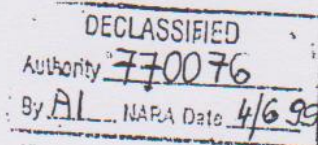
a. Subsequent to occupation of Trieste area by Allied troops, Italian Committee of National Liberation alleged that between 2 and 5 May 1945, Yugoslavs threw hundreds of corpses of local inhabitants, Carabinieri and minor officials, collaborators and German soldiers down a pit at Basovizza (some 7 miles west of the Morgan Line) and covered these with carcasses of horses and approximately 120 German soldiers.

b. The present attempt to investigate the matter, using military personnel and military engineering equipment, has ceased to be effective, because, owing to the depth of the pit, engineering equipment has been difficult to operate and in the course of extraction has tended to further break up the material.

c. So far, the material obtained shows that human bodies, some identifiable as Germans, and horse carcasses have been thrown down the pit. Results otherwise are inconclusive.

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FILE COPY FOR CHIEF,
STRATEGIC POLICY SECTION



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d. Even with the importation of new equipment from outside Italy, it is considered unlikely that any conclusive evidence of Yugoslav atrocities will result from further investigation of this matter, due to the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies.

e. He recommends discontinuance of further investigations and closure of the pit be authorized.

State Department and Navy Department have approved the subject paper.

OPD feels that since there are no military reasons for continuance of investigations, project should be discontinued.

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY OPD:

Concur in the suggestion by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff.

COORDINATION:

G-1 (Maj Kline, ext 3329) concurs.
CAD (Col Peters, ext 2907) concurs.
AAF (Col Phelan, ext 72720) concurs.

G. A. L.

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

SECRET
 TOP SECRET/Policy/71932
 BY AVAILABILITY OF ORIGIN/80 CRO

FEB 3 1946

5 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza) (SWNCC 218/2)

Secretary, State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee has circulated a memorandum by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff (page 5) in which they suggest that the Combined Chiefs of Staff dispatch the following reply to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean:

"Reference NAF 1078. Cessation of investigations is authorized.

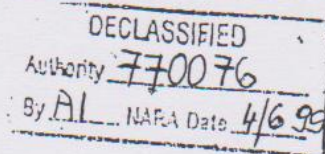
To minimize any effect on Italian public opinion and possibility that Yugoslavs will interpret cessation as admission that accusations against them were unfounded, you are authorized to issue public statement that cessation of investigations is due to physical difficulties involved, and that it did not imply that allegations made by the Committee of National Liberation in Northern Italy had been proved to be without foundation."

In NAF 1078 (CM-IN 10228, 21 Oct 45) Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean states that:

- a. Subsequent to occupation of Trieste area by Allied troops, Italian Committee of National Liberation alleged that between 2 and 5 May 1945, Yugoslavs threw hundreds of corpses of local inhabitants, Carabinieri and minor officials, collaborators and German soldiers down a pit at Basovizza (some 7 miles west of the Morgan Line) and covered these with carcasses of horses and approximately 120 German soldiers.
- b. The present attempt to investigate the matter, using military personnel and military engineering equipment, has ceased to be effective, because, owing to the depth of the pit, engineering equipment has been difficult to operate and in the course of extraction has tended to further break up the material.
- c. So far, the material obtained shows that human bodies, some identifiable as Germans, and horse carcasses have been thrown down the pit. Results otherwise are inconclusive.

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**SECRET**

d. Even with the importation of new equipment from outside Italy, it is considered unlikely that any conclusive evidence of Yugoslav atrocities will result from further investigation of this matter, due to the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies.

e. He recommends discontinuance of further investigations and closure of the pit be authorized.

State Department and Navy Department have approved the subject paper.

OPD feels that since there are no military reasons for continuance of investigations, project should be discontinued.

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY OPD:

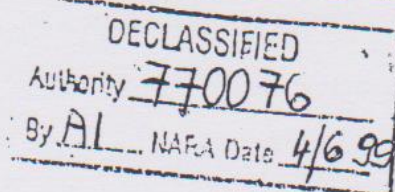
Concur in the suggestion by the Representatives of the British Chiefs of Staff.

COORDINATION:

G-1 (Maj Kline, ext 3329) concurs.
CAD (Col Peters, ext 2907) concurs.
AAF (Col Phelan, ext 72720) concurs.

G. A. L.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



FEB 8 - 1946

SECRET

THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



① PS WAF
② Simp
③ Ad P
383.6 (16 Jan 43)
2-1-43 D

X
SWN-3845
6 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:

Subject: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area
(Basovizza).

References: a. SWNCC 218 Series
b. SM-4877

By informal action on 6 February 1946, the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee approved SWNCC 218/2.

In approving this paper the Committee agreed that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should dispatch a reply to NAF 1078 as suggested by the British Joint Staff Mission in the enclosure to your SM-4877.

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee:

A. D. REID,
Secretary.



Copy for S&P Group OPD

SECRET

THE ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 770076

By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

EB 7 - 1946

S E C R E TCOPY NO. 12J.C.S. 16237 February 1946Pages 1-4, incl.

383.6 (16 Jan 43) sec 1-B

Auto No.

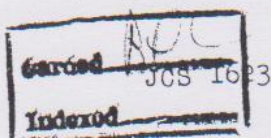
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFFALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA)Note by the Secretaries

1. The message in Enclosure "C" (NAF 1078) was forwarded to the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee requesting the basis of a reply.
2. The memorandums from the British Representatives in Enclosures "A" and "B" were forwarded to the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee for information.
3. On 6 February 1946, the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee agreed that the Combined Chiefs of Staff should dispatch to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, the reply suggested by the British Representatives in Enclosure "A".
4. It is recommended that the United States Chiefs of Staff agree to the dispatch of the message in Enclosure "A".

A. J. McFARLAND,

C. J. MOORE,

Joint Secretariat.



DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

383.6 (16 June 43) sec 1 (D)

EXTRACT

Combined Chiefs of Staff
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Minutes Meeting
Status of Papers
Compilation of Decisions

Item: _____

Date: SEP 8 1946

7 Feb 46 Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza)

JCS 1623 7 Feb. Referred to JCS.

PRESENT STATUS

COMPLETED. On 19 February 1946 the JCS
 approved the recommendation in JCS 1623. (FAN
 643 dispatched 19 Feb.)

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/98

FFR 11 1946

LT Col Grant/rw

11 February 1946

MEMO ANDOR FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

SUBJECT: Alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area (Bassovizza) (JCS 1623).

1. In MAY 1978 (CMA-IN 10228, 21 Oct 45) General Morgan states that subsequent to the occupation of the Trieste area by Allied troops, the Italian Committee of National Liberation alleged that between 2 and 5 May 1945 Yugoslavs threw hundreds of corpses of local inhabitants, Carabinieri and minor officials, collaborators and German soldiers down a pit at Bassovizza (some 7 miles west of the Morgan line) and covered there with corpses of German soldiers and carcasses of horses. Because attempts to investigate these alleged Yugoslav atrocities have proven difficult due to the physical difficulties involved, and because only inconclusive results have been obtained, General Morgan recommends discontinuance of further investigations and closure of the pit be authorized.

2. On 6 February 1946 the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee approved the dispatch by the Combined Chiefs of Staff to General Morgan of the following British Chiefs of Staff recommended reply:

"Reference MAY 1978. Cessation of investigations is authorized.

To minimize any effect on Italian public opinion and possibility that Yugoslavs will interpret cessation as admission that accusations against them were unfounded, you are authorized to issue public statement that cessation of investigations is due to physical difficulties involved, and that it did not imply that allegations made by the Committee of National Liberation in northern Italy had been proved to be without foundation."

3. Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff recommends that United States Chiefs of Staff agree to the dispatch of this reply.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the recommendation of the Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

COORDINATION

J-1 concurs. (Maj Kline, Ext 3329)
 G-2 concurs. (Col Peters, Ext 2907)
 J-3 concurs. (Col Phelan, Ext 72720)
 J-4 concurs. (Maj Colquitt, Ext 74482)

LINCOLN

Approve JCS's recommendation _____

Other Action _____

STRATEGY & POLICY FILE COPY

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Authority 770076
By AL NARA Date 4/6/99



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



X
SM-4957
7 February 1946

SECRET

GRANT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Leahy
Admiral Nimitz
General Eisenhower
General Arnold

Subject: Alleged Atrocities in
the Trieste Area
(Basovizza).

Reference: J.C.S. 1623.

J.C.S. 1623 is submitted for con-
sideration of the recommendation by the Secretaries
in paragraph 4 on the cover page.

(SIGNED)

McFARLAND

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Copy for OPD, WDGS ✓

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

FEB 22 1946

Combined Routing - Information - Filing Form

383.6 (16 Aug 43) Operations Division

SECRET

Decimal Classification:

OPD 000.5 (20 Feb 46)

w/d for file

21 FEB 1946

Subject: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Bosovizza).

Date

Origin

Implementing Section
S & P Group

20 February 46

Digest:

Action: Memos to ET and MTO fwd JCS 1623 for info. Cy of ET memo w/incl to G-1 and Eur Th Section; and w/o incl to G-2, G-4, CAD, AAF, and ASF.

Implementing Section S & P Group

- To
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asiatic | } | <input type="checkbox"/> Theaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific | } | <input type="checkbox"/> Logistics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Troop Control | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operational | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Projected | } | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy & Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Policy | } | <input type="checkbox"/> Current |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coord. & Reports | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Projects | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | } | <input type="checkbox"/> Pan-American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reg. Doc. | | |

Comments:

Recommendation:

Section Chief _____ Date 20 Feb 46

Group Chief _____ Date _____

Concurrence:

- ☐ Executive, OPD -
☐ Deputy A.C. of Staff, OPD
☐ A.C. of Staff, OPD

Original Date Received _____

☐
 Dispatch

☐
 File

STRATEGY & POLICY FILE COPY

Action by Major KimballSigned _____ Date 20 Feb 46**SECRET**

25-58797-100M

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

323.6 (168-...)
 1-1-B

Priority

19 February 1946

Combined Chiefs of Staff

SECRET

W.D. Ext. 77500

Col. C.R. Peck, Inf.

X

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS CASERTA ITALY.

BRITISH JOINT STAFF MISSION WASHINGTON D C.

NAF ONE ZERO SEVEN EIGHT REFERS PD PAREN BOOK MESSAGE TO MORGAN FOR
 ACTION CMA TO AMSSO PASS TO BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR INFORMATION
 PD THIS MESSAGE IS FAN SIX FOUR THREE TO MORGAN FROM THE COMBINED
 CHIEFS OF STAFF PAREN PARA CESSATION OF INVESTIGATIONS IS AUTHORIZED
 PD PARA TO MINIMIZE ANY EFFECT ON ITALIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND POSSI-
 BILITY THAT YUGOSLAWS WILL INTERPRET CESSATION AS ADMISSION THAT
 ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THEM WERE UNFOUNDED CMA YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO
 ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT CESSATION OF INVESTIGATIONS IS DUE TO
 PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED CMA AND THAT IT DID NOT/IMPLY THAT
 ALLEGATIONS MADE BY C PD L PD N PD A PD I PD HAD BEEN PROVED TO BE
 WITHOUT FOUNDATION

NO SIG

NAF 1078 is CM-IN-10228 (21 Oct 45).

(SIGNED)

C. R. PECK,
 Colonel, Infantry, U. S. Executive Secretary.

(JCS 1623)

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6 99

Copia

303.6 (1600-1-8)

ff

Stk

Priority

Combined Chiefs of Staff

W.D. Ext. 77500

19 February 1946

SECRET

Col. C.R. Peck, Inf.

X

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS CASERTA ITALY.
 BRITISH JOINT STAFF MISSION WASHINGTON D C.
 NAF ONE ZERO SEVEN EIGHT REFERS PD PAREN BOOK MESSAGE TO MORGAN FOR
 ACTION CMA TO AMSSO PASS TO BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR INFORMATION
 PD THIS MESSAGE IS PAN SIX FOUR THREE TO MORGAN FROM THE COMBINED
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 ALLEGATIONS MADE BY C PD L PD N PD A PD I PD HAD BEEN PROVED TO BE
 WITHOUT FOUNDATION

NO SIG

NAF 1078 is CM-IN-10228 (21 Oct 45).

(SIGNED)

C. R. PECK,
 Colonel, Infantry, U. S. Executive Secretary.

(JCS 1623)

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

SECRET

BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S. OPD
 WHG/71932
 KRK/mb

Date Initials

20 February 1946

OPD OCO.5 (20 Feb 46)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U. S. ARMY FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN
 THEATER OF OPERATIONS, CASERTA, ITALY:

SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza)

1. On 19 February 1946, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved JCS 1623 and the message in Enclosure "A" thereto was dispatched to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean as WAR 97756 on that date.
2. The inclosure, subject as above, is forwarded for information.
3. A similar inclosure is being furnished the Commanding General, U. S. Forces, European Theater for information.

J. E. HULL
 Lieutenant General, GSC
 Assistant Chief of Staff, OPD

JAMES R. LANEY
 Lt Colonel, GSC
 Ass't Executive Officer
 Strategy & Policy Group

1 Incl
 JCS 1623, Cy No. 69

MEMO FOR RECORD:

JCS 1623, concerning the Alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza), is a note by the secretaries recommending that the USCoFS agree to the proposed British representative's msg to SACMED stating that cessation of investigations is authorized and that a statement should be made clarifying the situation. Such a statement would indicate that investigations are being terminated due to physical difficulties involved and does not imply that allegations made by the C.L.N.A.I. had been proved to be without foundation.

K. R. K.

STRATEGY & POLICY FILE COPY

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 770076

By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

SECRETBY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S. OPD
WHG/71932
KRK/mb

Date

Initials

OPD 000.5 (20 Feb 46)

20 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U. S. ARMY FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN
THEATER OF OPERATIONS, CASERTA, ITALY:

SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza)

1. On 19 February 1946, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved JCS 1623 and the message in Enclosure "A" thereto was dispatched to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean as WAR 97756 on that date.
2. The inclosure, subject as above, is forwarded for information.
3. A similar inclosure is being furnished the Commanding General, U. S. Forces, European Theater for information.

J. E. HULL
Lieutenant General, GSC
Assistant Chief of Staff, OPDJAMES R. LANEY
Lt Colonel, GSC
Ass't Executive Officer
Strategy & Policy Group1 Incl
JCS 1623, Cy No. 69

MEMO FOR RECORD:

JCS 1623, concerning the Alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza), is a note by the secretaries recommending that the USCofS agree to the proposed British representative's msg to SACMED stating that cessation of investigations is authorized and that a statement should be made clarifying the situation. Such a statement would indicate that investigations are being terminated due to physical difficulties involved and does not imply that allegations made by the C.L.N.A.I. had been proved to be without foundation.

K. R. K.

STRATEGY & POLICY FILE COPY

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 770076
 By AL NARA Date 4/6/99

SECRET

BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S. OPD
 WHG/71932

KRK/mb

Date

Initials

OPD 000.5 (20 Feb 46)

20 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER,
 ATTENTION: SECRETARY GENERAL STAFF, FARBENINDUSTRIE BUILDING,
 FRANKFURT, GERMANY:

SUBJECT: Alleged Atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza)

1. On 19 February 1946, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved JCS 1623 and the message in Enclosure "A" thereto was dispatched to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean.

2. The inclosure, subject as above, is forwarded for information and the following distribution:

Hq, ET - 4 copies
 Major General H. R. Bull - 1 copy

3. A similar inclosure is being furnished the Commanding General, U. S. Army Forces, Mediterranean Theater of Operations for information.

J. E. HULL
 Lieutenant General, GSC
 Assistant Chief of Staff, OPD

JAMES R. LANEY
 Lt Colonel, GSC
 Ass't Executive Officer
 Strategy & Policy Group

1 Incl
 JCS 1623, Cys No. 64 thru 68

Copies furnished:
 G-1, w/cy No. 70, JCS 1623
 G-2, w/o incl
 G-4, w/o incl
 CAD, w/o incl
 AAF, w/o incl
 ASF, w/o incl
 Eur Th Sec, w/cy No. 71, JCS 1623

STRATEGY & POLICY FILE COPY

SECRET

TRIESTE
(JPS 786/D)

CM-IN 4183
(ROUTING)

CM-IN 4281 ;
(TONNAGE)

SM -5078
(VENICE)

DATE 25 Feb 1946

SUBJECT FOLDER ABC

387.4 Italy (2 Sept 43) Sec 8-C TOP SEC

TITLE: ROUTING OF TONNAGES THROUGH VENICE INSTEAD OF TRIESTE

Paper have been referred to the Joint Staff Planners for comment and recommendation. CM-IN 4183 and CM-IN 4281 attached for info.

MMN 9 March 1946

TOP SECRET

ATROCITIES
(EUROPEAN THEATER)

FILE

TRIESTE AREA
(MEDITERRANEAN TH)

BASOVIZZA
(G-1)

JCS 1623
(GEN HULL)

DATE 20 Feb 1946

SUBJECT FOLDER ABC

383.6 (16 June 43) Sec 1-B

TITLE: ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN THE TRIESTE AREA (BASOVIZZA)

JCS 1623 concerning eh alleged atrocities in the Trieste Area (Basovizza) is a note by the secretaries recommending that the USCoFS agree to the proposed British representative's message to SACMED stating that cessation of investigations is authorized and that a statement should be made clarifying the situation. Such a statement would indicate that investigations are being terminated due to physical difficulties involved and does not imply that allegations made by the C.L.N.A.I. has been proved to be without foundation.

Memo to ET and MTO fwd JCS 1623 for info. Cy of ET memo w/incl to G-1 and Eur Th Section; and w/o incl to G-2, G-4, CAD, AAF, AND ASF.

MMN 4 March 1946

This card belongs to S. E. P. C. - 1000 - 1000

FILE

TRIESTE
(Military)
(JCS 1640)
(Forces)

YUGOSLAVS
(Requirement)
(Routing)
(Gen Morgan)

VENEZIA GIULIA
(C C S)
(Tonnages)
(Estimate)

MORGAN LINE
(Plan)
(Venice)

DATE 6 March 46

SUBJECT FOLDER ABC

387.4 Italy (2 Sep 43) Sec 8-C

JCS
1640

TITLE: ROUTING OF TONNAGES THROUGH VENICE INSTEAD OF TRIESTE.

Memo by US C/S - Reference NAF 115 - There is some question in the minds of US C/S concerning the proposed reversal of our previous position vis-a-vis the Yugoslavs, that there is a military requirement for Trieste. Also the developments in the Venezia Giulia situation make it desirable that the CCS know General Morgan's estimate & plan. They propose therefore the dispatch of the fol message to SAC, Allied Force Hqrs: "With ref to NAF 115, the CCS question the advisability at this time of transferring the military maintenance from Trieste to Venice. In order that the CCS may evaluate the entire situation, it is requested that you submit immediately your appreciation of the Venezia Giulia situation & your plan of action in case Yugoslav forces attempt to advance across the Morgan Line."

6 Nov 47
HHH