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Information Section,
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10th October 1945

The War Office,
Whitehall,
London.

Subject: Re-imbusement to Italian civilians for
services rendered to escaping British PW.


A few days ago I received the enclosed letter from Signora Baio who helped me, together with Major Fieldhouse, RASC, (address: 9/6 District Bank, Head Office, Manchester) and Major Ian Branson (address: 61 Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne) to escape from German-occupied Italy to Switzerland in November 1943.

Our party of three was guided to the house of Signora Baio in Bettola (Piacenza) by an Italian named Silvio Nuvoloni (address: Via Tibini 14, Piacenz) who also took refuge in Switzerland.

We arrived at Signora Baio's at about 0600 hours, were given food and drink and some clothing to enable us to travel on the train. We left at about 0800 hours accompanied by two brothers Franco and Giovanni Pareti of Bettola. These two guided us as far as Como, where they handed us over to a Signor Maschetti (address: Via Cardina 15, Como), were paid by Major Fieldhouse and departed. Maschetti put us in contact with a smuggler whom we paid to help us cross the frontier.

During the night march from Tornarezza near Ferriere di Piacenza (where we had been in hiding) to Bettola, Nuvoloni called at a house en route and hired a man with a horse and cart as transport. This must be the man mentioned in the enclosed letter, though I do not know any further details about him, either his name or address. He was paid by Major Fieldhouse, brought us to Bettola by dawn and delivered us to the house of Signora Baio in time to catch the train.

If it is possible to give any assistance to Signora Baio, I should be much obliged if you will take the necessary action.


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D. Cotton, Capt.,