

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 745023  
 By JP NARA Dated 2-29-08

Unclassified

(Classification)

*Shaw Cole*  
 ENCLOSURES

Copy No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (For Record Section only)

**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION W. D. C. S.**

**MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT Tunisia**

(Country reported on)

Subject Naturalization of Italians in Tunisia I. G. No. 2020  
 (Brief descriptive title)

From WKA JIC.MI Report No. 11571 Date 21 April 1944

Source and degree of reliability  
Mr. MANUELLI, of French Chancellery in Tunis, and personal conversations.

SUMMARY.— Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.

1. The response of Italians in Tunisia is very slight to the opportunity of becoming French citizens by enlisting in the French Army.

2. After the war, from present indications, there will not be any extensive naturalization of Tunisian Italians. Instead, many of them will probably seek to leave Tunisia if possible.

Pouch No. 93  
 JIC.MI No. 11571  
 Army \_\_\_\_\_  
 Navy \_\_\_\_\_  
 AF \_\_\_\_\_  
 OSS \_\_\_\_\_  
 FEA \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

JIC.MI  
 Distribution by WKA JIARC; G-2; PH; Civil Affairs; ComNavNew (MIU); File

Routing space below for use in M. I. D. The section indicating the distribution will place a check mark in the lower part of the recipient's box in case one copy only is to go to him, or will indicate the number of copies in case more than one should be sent. The message center of the Intelligence Branch will draw a circle around the box of the recipient to which the particular copy is to go.

AGF	AAF	ASF	ACoS G-2	Chief IG	Eng. At <u>13</u>	Far East	N. Amer.	Air	Dissem.	AIC	FLBR	OSS
MA Sec.	CIG <u>2</u>	Rec. Sec. <u>1</u>	ONI <u>3</u>	BEW	ENG.	OPD	ORD	Sig.	State <u>2</u>	QMG		

Enclosures:  
None

JHB/bh

Unclassified

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 745023  
 By JP NARA Date 2-29-08

### naturalization of Italians in Tunisia

1. Italian response thus far has been negligible to the opportunity offered by the French about a month ago when a 1939 French law was revived which provided that foreigners of military age may become naturalized French citizens without delay if they contract an enlistment in the French Army. The enlistment becomes effective only when naturalization has been accomplished. Mr. MARULLI, of the French Chancellery in Tunis, through whose office requests for naturalization must pass after they have been investigated by the local Civil Controllers, states that no requests from Italians have yet reached his office, but that about a half dozen or so are in the hands of Civil Controllers of various localities.

2. Mr. MARULLI also said that, inasmuch as the French still consider Italians as members of the axis, the matter has not yet been clarified as to whether the French government in Algiers which has the question under consideration will approve Italian requests for naturalization. The French in Tunisia are not interested in naturalizing large numbers of Italians because they don't trust their motives. Numerous Frenchmen say they don't believe there are more than a handful of truly anti-Fascist Italians in this country.

3. Among the Italians with whom the matter of French citizenship has been discussed, two families in very modest circumstances living in different parts of Tunis both stated emphatically that neither they nor any of the people they knew wanted French citizenship even if military service were not involved. They both said that after war, many Italians will leave Tunisia if they can, especially the young people. They want to go to the United States if permitted; if not, they talk of South America or some European or other North African country, though not necessarily Italy which many of them have never seen and where they know there is not enough food for the population.

4. An Italian Jewish doctor, on the other hand, who was naturalized French about 1939, said that if the difficulties of naturalization were removed many Italians would promptly request French citizenship. He said that numerous requests made by Italian Jews just before the war were interrupted by the war and would be renewed at the first opportunity when enlistment in the French Army is not required.

5. Comment: It is the opinion of the reporting officer that the number of enlistments of Tunisian Italians in the French Army, coupled with naturalization, will remain insignificant because of strong anti-French feelings among them and because they see little to be gained. Also after the war, though there may be a number of requests for naturalization among Italian professional circles, no extensive naturalization of the mass of Italians should be expected in Tunisia.

Report prepared by:  
 Capt. Noel H. Bowen, JIC  
 JIC, Scetion, Tunis  
 (SCN-51)

BYRON A. BRITTON  
 Colonel, ...C.  
 Chairman, JIC ...

AND 745023  
 2-29-08

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AMD 745023By JP NARA Date 2-29-08

22X File: 2020 FR. M. Afr.

The following is apparaphrase of a confidential cable from Algiers, 8/29/43, CR-IN-22160, to Sherwood for Barnes from Hazeltine cite FRQTO:

Following is in answer to your ~~6234~~ 6234 of 8/27. All indications point towards the majority of Tunisian Italians being not so much involved in Italian politics as in local matters. This is mainly caused by especially severe French requisitions against Italian Nationals in Tunisia and against naturalized Frenchmen of Italian origin now. Anti-Fascist and Fascists are equal covered by these demands. The fact that soldiers of Italian occupying armies were less Fascist than Tunisian Italians, is however, known. It is possible that, if it were not for reaquisioning and other local pressures, more moral distress would have been aroused over the fall of Mussolini and the abolition of the Fascist party than has been reported. There is an indication in scattered reports that an Italian victory, a rebirth of Fascism and a return of Axis armies to Tunisia are still being hoped for by some of the more ignorant Tunisian Italians. This, however, should be construed more as a hope for return of a strong Italian government that can protect the interests of Italians in North Africa than expression of reliant vote for Fascism. North African French considered the fall of Mussolini more as the commencement of just rewards for the 1940 "stab in the back" than as the overthrow of Fascism.