

ACC

10000/100/288

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

10000/100/288

AAI ROUTINE ORDERS
MAR., APR. 1944

68

785015

NOT TO BE
PUBLISHED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either direct or indirectly to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Service.

HQ Canal (Leas)

20 MAR 1944 - MRS 6-14

308V

A.A.I. ROUTINE ORDERS

By General The Hon. Sir HAROLD R. L. G. ALEXANDER
G.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C.

Commander-in-Chief Allied Armies in Italy

Serial No. 2

17 Mar. 44

Part I—GENERAL STAFF

6. War Diaries—Preparation and Submission

1. Some doubt still appears to exist as to the methods of preparing and disposing of war diaries. The war diaries of all British, Indian and Colonial forces under command will be prepared in accordance with the method prescribed in ME Form 160 (Amended). Particular attention is called to paras 4-7 (incl) of these instructions.

2. ME Form 160 (Amended) will be used as a cover for both original and duplicate copies. Army Form C 2112 will not be used, but the use of Army Form C 2118 will continue.

3. War diaries will be disposed of as follows:—

- (a) All branches of HQ, AAI; Army, Corps and District Headquarters. Originals: To GHQ 2nd Echelon, BNAF.

Duplicates: To Historical Records, HQ, AAI.

- (b) Headquarters of other formations and all units.

Originals and Duplicates:

- (i) British: To GHQ 2nd Echelon, BNAF.
(ii) Dominions and Indian: To respective 2nd Echelon.

The original copy will be forwarded to 2nd Echelon by the 15th of the month following that to which it refers. The duplicate will be forwarded, as directed, by the 15th of the following month. Three weeks should be allowed to elapse between the despatch of the original and the despatch of the duplicate, in order to ensure that both copies are not in transit at the same time.

4. The responsibility of preparing a war diary is incumbent on:

- (a) each branch of the Staff and all Services and Directorates of headquarters.
(b) commanders of all units and of all detachments of headquarters or units.

(Applicable to UK, Indian and Colonial Troops.)

(RM25/G(OPX))

785015

7. Bridge Load Classification of Vehicles

1. In order to safeguard Military Equipment bridges from damage due to excessively heavy loads crossing them, and to enable Traffic Control personnel properly to execute their duties in this respect, all Military vehicles other than "A" vehicles will be provided as soon as possible with bridge load classification signs.

2. Instructions on the classification and marking of British vehicles are contained in "Bridge Load Classification of Vehicles other than 'A' Vehicles, 1942."

3. In the I. of C (Communication Zone), civilian vehicles of a bridge load classification greater than 24 only will be marked. These will bear a sign "OVER CLASS 24."

4. Armies will make such arrangements as they consider necessary for the marking of civilian vehicles in their areas.

(Applicable to U.K. Dominion and Indian Troops)

(1706/1/SD2)

8. Mail Censorship Release

1. In order that troops who have taken part in certain major operations, which have been given wide publicity at home, may inform their families and friends of their participation in such operations, it has been decided to relax censorship regulations to the extent of allowing, in specific instances, the fact to be mentioned in private mail.

2. All troops who took part in the following operations may now mention the fact of their individual and personal participation in their letters home.

- (a) Salerno landing.
- (b) Crossing of Volturno.
- (c) Crossing of Sangro.

(d) ANZIO bridgehead operation.
(Up till 2 Mar 44 only.)

(e) Cassino battle.
(Up till 2 Mar 44 only.)

3. In connection with any mention of individual and personal participation in such operations, the following censorship rules will be observed by all ranks, and unit censors will be held responsible for an intelligent interpretation thereof:

(a) No geographical location other than the Sector authorised will be identified, e.g., in the case of 2(c) above the Sangro may be mentioned, but not the names of villages, etc., on or near the river.

(b) When there is a limiting date as in 2 (d) and (e) above, troops whose participation in the operation commenced after the limiting date, may NOT mention participation.

(c) No military formation or unit (even the writer's own) will be identified except by correct return address.

(d) No mention of participation in the above operations is permitted:

- (i) In Green envelope mail and privilege air letters.
- (ii) In letters addressed to countries other than the United Kingdom, Eire, British Empire, Continental United States of America.
- (iii) In telegrams.

4. Further releases of this nature will be notified from time to time.

(Applicable to all Troops under Comd.)

(1061/1/GSI(a).)

A. F. HARDING,
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL,
GENERAL STAFF.

785015

(a) No. 25 FPC (later to be converted to No. 25 FP and DC), GUGLIONESE, (temporarily).
At present EIGHTH Army unit.

(b) No. 2 FP and DC, PORTICI, near NAPLES.
No. 3 District.
Tel: NAPLES 55186.

(c) No. 3 FP and DC, LUCERA.
No. 2 District. Not yet open. Date when ready to receive SUS will be notified in these orders.

2. These Camps will receive soldiers sentenced to Field Punishment for 29 days and over and detention for 29 days and less than 6 months.

3. Before despatching a soldier under sentence, the OC unit will ascertain from the Commandant that a vacancy is available. He will then despatch the soldier to arrive NOT later than 1800 hrs on the day of admission.

4. Whenever possible OC unit will forward to the Commandant a statement as to the state of training of the soldier and any recommendations as to the type of training which he should undergo whilst carrying out his Field Punishment.

5. Paras 4, 5 and 6 of Routine Order No. 12 also apply.
(Applicable to UK troops.)

(5066/APS)

14. Local Purchase Powers of Unit Commanders

1. The terms of ACI 1365 of 1940 will not be applicable in this theatre. This decision has been dictated by the following considerations:—

(a) The necessity for price control, which can only be ensured by centralised purchasing.

(b) The necessity for ensuring that essential civilian requirements are not prejudiced by Military purchases.

2. Hence, in general, powers of local purchase will be restricted to delegated Service representative.

3. This ruling does not affect the right of a Commander to make local purchase of commodities which are a vital operational necessity and which, at the time, are not available from normal military sources. In such cases a certificate as to the "operational necessity" will accompany the account.

(1000/Q)

B. H. ROBERTSON,
MAJOR GENERAL,
C.A.O.

785015

13 APR RECD

OFFERS 40-48

RESTRICTED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly to the Press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

A.A.I. ROUTINE ORDERS

By General The Hon. Sir HAROLD R. L. G. ALEXANDER
G.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C.

Commander-in-Chief Allied Armies in Italy

Serial No. 5

7 Apr. 44

Part I—GENERAL STAFF**40. Bombs ML 3-in Mortar HE Long Range**

1. The following batches of 3-in. Mortar HE have been found on inspection to be packed in boxes marked "long range" inside the lid, whereas they are only fitted with 6 by 100 Gr. NCY Cartridges.

Brigand Manufacture

Batches B 7060
B 7066—B 7074
(inclusive)
B 7076
B 7077
B 7079

2. Although depots have been instructed that the above and neighbouring batches must be examined, some units may have received some of this ammunition.

3. The ammunition itself is not faulty and can be used, but with the old range tables up to 1600 yards.

(1901/12/G(SD))

41. Mail Censorship Release

Troops may say that they have witnessed the eruption of Vesuvius in their letters home, provided that no dates are mentioned, and that the writers' units or HQ are not linked in any way with their personal accounts, other than by correct use of proper return address. For example, it is forbidden for a writer to state that his unit or HQ was either far from or near to the eruption.

(1067/1/GSIa)

A. F. HARDING,
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL,
GENERAL STAFF.

Part II—ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERALS' BRANCHES**42. ATS Personnel Serving in CMF**

1. A return in respect of all ATS personnel (including ATS employed by EFD), will be rendered by all employing units, etc., direct to this HQ by 20 April, 44.

2. The return will show Officers and OR separately and give the following information:—

Part I Officers

Rank, Name, Number, Employment, Unit.

785015

Part II Other Ranks
Number employed by ranks and trades/employments.

(Applicable to all formations and units employing ATS.)

(3041/A(O))

Blood Donors

1. The Army Blood Transfusion Service will carry out blood grouping of troops in selected Units in AAI in order to ascertain which are suitable to volunteer as blood donors.

2. OsC units, etc., will give full facilities and co-operation in this work.

(Applicable to British and Dominion Troops only.)

(3066/A(O))

44. Inspectorate of Army Equipment

1. Nos 1, 5, 6 and 8 Inspectorates of Army Equipment (Mediterranean Theatre) will operate in ITALY and SICILY.

2. Terms of reference:—

(a) To carry out inspections of all units and base installations as directed and report details of all Army Equipment held in excess of authorised scales to the HQ of the formation under which the unit or installation is operated. The term "Army Equipment" used in this connection comprises every item which a unit or individual is authorised to hold, and includes rations, vehicles, clothing and unit dumps.

(b) To report waste and misuse of Army Equipment.

(c) To assist units who have any difficulty or delay in supply of Army Equipment and to report any such instance.

(d) To be in possession of all available AFs G1098 and to invite

units to make full use of these to check that their own are accurate and up to date.

(e) To discuss with Unit Commanders any items in the AF G1098 in excess of requirements, and items not in the AF G1098 which it is considered would improve the efficiency of the unit.

3. The following officers are authorised to carry out inspections of units without prior notice:—

Lt Col. K. L. S. LAWTON, The East Surrey Regiment (13006).

Lt Col. H. C. R. BUNNETT, The Durham Light Infantry (61007).

Major J. M. C. MANSON, RAOC (162305).

Major W. L. TEGETMEIER, RAOC (157320).

Major S. F. BURNELL, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (11041).

Capt. R. W. VOWLES, RAOC (216239).

Capt. F. L. BIRCHNELL, RA (115504).

Capt. C. VAUGHAN - PALMER, RAOC (122267).

4. Each officer will be in possession of a form of authority signed by CAO, HQ, AAI.

(Applicable to UK, Dominion, Indian and Polish Units.)

(3223/Q(AE))

45. Readings of Meters and Payment of Gas, Electric Light and Water Accounts

1. Arrangements have been made whereby payments for gas, electric light and water consumed in premises requisitioned by the Allied Forces, will be made by the Italian Commando Genio Militare.

785015

2. There will therefore be no direct contact between units and supply companies.

3. In order that Area and Sub-Area HQ may exercise control over consumption, units will check all meter readings at the time of occupation and thereafter on the last day of each month, and forward details through the usual channels to the HQ concerned.

4. Area and Sub-Area HQ will prepare a consolidated return in duplicate and forward it to the local Hirings Office for onward transmission to the Commando Genio Militare.

(2062/6/Q2)

46. Damage to Railway Property and Occupation of Railway Premises

1. All railway premises, including transit sheds, sidings, station buildings and yard, and equipment are reserved for the use of the Military Railway Service (MRS) and British Transportation Service. This applies not only to the Italian State Railways, but to all railways, either standard or narrow gauge, whether they are being operated or not.

2. All Ranks are forbidden to remove or interfere in any way with railway property, unless authorised to do so by an officer of MRS or British Transportation.

3. No railway premises may be occupied by troops until:

(a) A written application has been made to British Movements or U.S. Transportation Staff Branches of the Base Section, Area or Sub Area concerned.

(b) British Movements or U.S. Transportation Staff Branches have obtained the consent of the MRS or

British Transportation Service as the case may be, and have notified the unit accordingly.

4. To be repeated in all Formation and Unit Orders.

(2120/Q2)

47. EFI Supplies

Amendment No 1 to EFI Bulletin No 1 which was promulgated in Serial 4 GRO's 1944 will be implemented in this theatre so far as stocks permit with effect from 16 April 44.

(49/Q)

48. Electrification of Foggia-Benevento Line

1. The railway line FOGGIA-BENEVENTO is now being run by electric traction. The overhead cables are therefore live.

2. Drivers of vehicles will be cautioned to ensure that no part of their vehicle or load comes into contact with the overhead cable at level crossings. A warning to this effect will be included in all road movement orders.

3. Clearance signs on either side will indicate the level crossings involved.

4. O&C trains and O&C units travelling on trains will ensure that their men do not travel on the roofs of railway carriages or trucks.

(QOM3/121)

B. H. ROBERTSON,
MAJOR GENERAL,
CAO.

785015

This establishment will shortly be conveyed to an official Military Prison.

2. Allotment of Vacancies.

- (a) When accommodation for a SUS is required the formation or unit will apply to the HQ of the District in which the Prison is situated. Normally formations and units situated in the EAST side of ITALY should apply to No. 2 District and those on the WEST side to No. 3 District. Formations and units in No. 1 District will apply to No. 1 Military Prison, BNAF. Confirmation of the vacancy must be received from District HQ before the soldier is despatched from his unit.
- (b) If there are no vacancies in the Prison or Prisons in the District to which application has been made, such District will itself apply to the other District and will notify the unit of the result.
- (c) Soldiers should if possible be despatched so that they reach the Prison by 1800 hours.

3. Types of Sentences.

The above Prisons will only accept soldiers sentenced to penal servitude, imprisonment and detention cases of six months or more.

4. Clothing and Equipment.

O&C units or unit providing the escort will ensure that all soldiers sent to the Prisons are clothed and equipped in accordance with King's Regulations, 1940, para 747 (i), and War Clothing Regulations 1943, para 119. Two blankets and a greatcoat will also be in possession of the soldier. Rifles or pistols, but not ammunition, will be taken by all soldiers who are normally issued with them.

5. Document.

The following documents, duly completed, will be in possession of the soldier:

- (a) AFB 122 (Ad Conduct Sheet).
- (b) AFC 355 (Assessment of Character, Description of Soldier and Medical Officer's Certificate).
- (c) Committal Warrant.
- (i) Penal Servitude (when a direction has been given by the appropriate authority under Section 58, Army Act, that part of the sentence is to be served in a Military Prison): AF C384A (Form 1B on page 773 of MML) signed by an officer not under the rank of Brigadier in or under whose command the military convict may be, or by a Staff Officer acting under the orders of the Confirming Officer.
- (ii) Imprisonment: AF C385 (Form C on page 774 of MML) signed by the soldier's CO, or any officer in or under whose command the soldier may be, provided he does not hold a command inferior to that of the CO.
- (iii) Detention: AF C385A (Form D on page 775 of MML) signed as in (ii) above.
- (d) AF H1157 or AF B253 (Inventory of Kiti in duplicate).

6. Disposal on Release.

On termination or suspension of sentence the Commandant of the Prison will arrange for the soldier to be despatched to the nearest Transit Camp for onward routing to the Depot of his arm of the Service. Transport for this purpose will be provided under Area arrangements.

(Applicable to UK Troops.)

(506/5/A/PS)

13. Field Punishment and Detention Camps

1. The following Field Punishment and Detention Camps are established in AAF.

785015

Part II—ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERALS' "RANCHES"

9. Improper Employment of Officers Awaiting Discharge from Medical Units

1. A number of cases have been reported of officers leaving General Hospitals and Convalescent Depots without authority, and also failing to proceed to RTDs on discharge.

2. The result leads to delay and confusion when the officers are required and cannot be found.

3. In some cases officers have been attached without authority to HQs and other establishments. In other cases officers have proceeded to Transit Hotels instead of RTDs.

4. Officers in General Hospitals and Con Depots are under Comd of O&C medical unit concerned and will not be employed or attached to any other unit or establishment without authority of this HQ.

5. Officers on discharge from General Hospitals and Con Depots will proceed to their respective RTD to await posting orders.

6. Disciplinary action will be taken against any officer who fails to comply with these instructions.

(Applicable to UK Officers.)

(3021/4/A(O))

10. Dress.

Warrant Officers will not wear collars and ties with battle dress.

(Applicable to UK Troops.)

(5016/A/IPS)

11. Pack Transport Companies RASC

1. There are vacancies for Officers (below the rank of Major) and other

ranks in the British Cadres of Pack Transport Coys RASC.

Other ranks are required as horse transport personnel, saddlers and farriers.

2. Candidates should have the following qualifications:—

- (a) Medical Category "A."
- (b) Satisfactory personal record of service.
- (c) A good knowledge of Animal Management and if possible horse transport.

A good knowledge of Italian will be an asset.

3. Applications giving full particulars of qualifications should be forwarded in duplicate through normal channels. It is essential that such applications are forwarded immediately for operational reasons:—

In the case of Officers: to DDSE, AAI (Adm Echelon).

In the case of other ranks: to HQ Adv Reinforcements, AF1.

4. To be repeated in unit orders.

(Applicable to UK Troops.)

(3065/6/A(O))

12. Military Prisons and Detention Barracks—AAI.

1. The following Military Prisons and Detention Barracks have been established in AAI.

- (a) No. 56 Military Prison and Detention Barracks BRINDISI, No. 2 District.
- (b) No. 55 Military Prison and Detention Barracks NISIDA, near NAPLES, No. 3 District.
- (c) 57 Area Penal Establishment, PORTICI, near NAPLES, No. 3 District. Tel. No. NAPLES 55322.

