

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

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AG/86/5 Liaison Group - Capt. Bourne 1 District

Ap. July 1945

INTERIM LIAISON LOG

Liaison Officer,
Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.O. (AMIA)
O/A HQ, I District
Tel : 22602
Ref IO/86

19 July 45.

To:- Land Forces Sub Comm. AO.
(M.E.I.A.) R O M E. (4 Copies)
AMIA IO., 230 Div (1)

G & A POINTS.

1. Rfts. Conference with Major VAN KIRK for taking over US-IFI rfts. A considerable number of these units were not ready on 1 July. About a half have arrived. Further Rfts not yet to hand.
2. I District Labour is considering abolishing 20 Pioneer Coys by 1 Aug 45 and another 10 by 15 Aug 45. German Pte to be used if necessary but work requirements are greatly diminishing. With this factor in mind, the weekly bid for rfts becomes impossible to ascertain with accuracy. Sigs propose to abolish one or more of their Line Sections. The DPM wants to disband a Road Maintenance Coy.
3. Engr units are often inefficient and ineffectively officered. The C.E. has spoken in strong terms. He regards authorisation of 28 and 502 Bn HQs as essential and urgent to ensure efficiency. The units invariably have a British Cadre to get results. Few can work on their own. It is hoped that specialists from US-IFIs will help but they will probably get disgruntled at lack of specialised work.
4. Sigs and Provost units are good. Pioneer morale satisfactory. Guards not too good. For example, more material is

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3. Bugr units are often inefficient and ineffectively officered. The C.E. has spoken in strong terms. He regards authorisation of 28 and 302 Bn HQs as essential and urgent to ensure efficiency. The units invariably need a British Cadre to get results. PWs can work on their own. It is hoped that specialists from US-ITF will help but they will probably get disgruntled at lack of specialised work.

4. SIGS and Provost units are good. Pioneer morale satisfactory. Guards not too good. For example, more material is being lost from a dump at NESTER now that it is guarded than when without a guard. The widespread scattering of Dets and inadequacy of tpt militates against efficiency.

5. 831 Transit Camp moved from ARIZZO to FORLI as former is dying. DML says that one or two Labour Coys could handle all labour commitments.

6. Need for specialised dets to destroy small amounts of ammo as laid down in directive. At present none exist.

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7. MAIELLA.

After the rejection of their request to be disbanded at ROME, they refused to be disbanded at FORLI. Since then the disbandment has taken place near PAENZA. They have an exaggerated idea of their importance. It is thought that the C.O. Avv. TROILLO is out to make political capital. I saw no reason to satisfy their incident for a new clothing outfit just for the parade. Their application for 'ufficio stralcio' which has been turned down, included a job for each of the officers - TROILLO to be at ROME to contact the Govt, another TROILLO in CHIETI to keep in touch with the TROILLO in ROME and the others keeping in general mutual contact. They want to present decorations to 3 British officers.

8. At request of GOC, I District, the question is being gone into of the move of HQ 228 Div out of I District at PADOVA into the Army Area under whose command it is. The GOC would then like HQ 209 Div in PADOVA.

9. Enquiries re Co-operators diminishing. 209 Div seem to have the matter in hand.

Q. SAT POINTS.I. Clothing

Substantial clothing consignments have eased matters.

It is hoped they will continue as it is a matter of highest importance here. Anticipated discontent among US-ITIs in cases where a small number are drafted as rfts to a unit which is in KD and they cannot have any. 1128

District asked for 3,000 sets of grindery to keep boot repair shops going. NMIA asked for dubbin to help with issue of new boots.

Early disbandment of 252 & 253 Tpt Groups rumoured. This will remove a distinct clothing menace.

Following withdrawn by 209 Div from VISERBA :-
16,375 Twill jackets, 363 KD shorts, 3,244 caps. Samples will

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Q. S&T POINTS.

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Following withdrawl by 209 Div from VISERBA :-
16,375 Twill jackets, 363 KD shorts, 3,244 caps. Samples will be sent to you when received.

Can 209 Div use 'fuorinus' depots at ANCONA and BOLOGNA instead of sending all to BARI.

General decision awaited as to availability from Italian sources of standard G 1098 equipment items. My IO/Q4 of 3 July 45 refers. This is a perpetually arising problem. My IO/Q3 of 21 June also asked for this information.

Clothing position of CG.RR in this area is bad. I am often asked if I can help. Their own channels seem to be blocked up. They need rifles; amm and instructors, and seem to get nothing. Am I to interest myself in them?

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SUPPLIES

I. Shortages in 210 Sub Area of cigarettes, soap and wine. ST state that 8 Army - the supplying base for this area is very short and not able to fill all demands. It is proposed to improve matters by basing on ANCONA, where it will all be a District commitment. For the present, continual Italian unit complaints.

Request for substitution of margarine for olive oil for Welfare items not acceptable.

Investigation of units suspected illegally drawing from VERONA and RIMINI.

Conferences with ADST and Q re feeding strengths and sites for DIDs at FORLI and ANCONA. Location of BGD still undecided. Sig to NW Italy re units of US-ITIs to be fed by I District. FLORENCE DID functions well and feeds about 8,000.

Great delay and work is caused in allocation of welfare and hospital diet items. A bulk allotment for units in I District is insufficient material for me or 209 Div to work out the sub allotments unless MMIA give details as to what units or strengths they use to arrive at their bulk allotment. I often cannot tell what Combat Groups are included in the allotment particularly as FRIULI and POLSONE are not territorially in I District but are maintained by I District. Also some hospitals are included in the allotment which are not in I District. The result is that the final release by District is obtained when the month is half through. District insist on details to ensure there is no overdrawing. It has to be split up among various DIDs to facilitate distribution to units.

7727

BOLOGNA and UDINE seen about POL allotments from CIP. In case of UDINE; they have had to get temporary help from WD sources as CIP hasn't received order to release the POL although it has abundant stocks. This used to happen at ANCONA. Can the ARHQ get an channel with CIP be cleared.

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TRANSPORT.

Collection of Italian Army material. 5 Territorial Command want to publish a 'bando' in District Territory warning civilians to denounce material under penalty of fine. Conference with AMG and GEN DAQM. Matter referred to AFHQ as Italian Recovery Commissions do not fit in with AFHQ directive.

TRANSFERS (cont'd)

Repeated visits to District Q(AR) and AQMG to accelerate return of Italian Military vehicles from German VPO at BELLARIA. For cars not too much optimists as large number needed to replace withdrawn Jeeps. Assistance to Recovery Commission to get vans from units and Salvage. Request for 200 Div to have a dozen returned Italian Military vans. 50% of their rpt is off the road. The same applies to 230 Div. The theory of exchanging inefficient for efficient vans does not work out. There aren't the efficient vans. Administration of IRI-III units depends a lot on an efficient RM-III Adm Div, and the latter has a job to keep going. Releases to Guard Bns in this area are being made from NAPLES. It is virtually impossible for them to send all that way for 6 bicycles, for example. Vehicles break down on route. Arrangements in hand for withdrawing 206 vans from the German Park.

MEDICAL

247 2d Hospital was ordered by me on instructions from HQIA to pack up and be prepared to move. It has been standing since 22 April.

Approx 19,000 mosquito nets have been obtained and distributed, including release by District of 5,000 for IRI-IIIs.

Anti-malaria propaganda is being pushed. ADM has 8726 out posterist posters in Italian but not very appetizing as they advocate extensive use of soap, polishing of kitchen utensils, wearing of overalls and use of gauze netting on cookhouses - all of which are invariably beyond the Italian resources.

[Signature]
Capt.
HQIA 10, 1 District.

Subject: Inter/ Report No. 1.

To: Land Forces Sub-Comm., A.O.
H.Q. M.M.I.A. ROME. (1)

Tolson Officer,
Land Forces Sub-Comm.,
A.O. (M.M.I.A.)
c/o 1 District.
Ref. 10/35.
18 June 45.

Reference your G/31 of 4 June 45.

"G" Points.

1.)
 2.)
 3.)
 4.)
- Not applicable.

5. It is presumed that all Italian units new with 8 Army will be left behind.

6. Four new Searchlight Coys are being formed for Guard duties with PW.

93 Camouflage Pl and 508 Smoke Coy are performing various duties. Otherwise, all units as far as is known are performing their correct functions.

7. Engns are fairly satisfactory but more specialists are urgently needed. The Police units are good owing to close supervision by Provost. G.T. Coys are sadly in need of more competent drivers. Pioneer units are working well and there are seldom any complaints in this direction. Guard Bns are only fair.

8. Easily. It is the most urgent need. Most units are very much under-strength owing to absentees. One Pioneer Group has its Coys averaging 38%. Possibly a diminution in the number of Coys would enable the others to attain a workable strength. 725

9. Mantova Group have only recently arrived from BADDA and are in the CERVIA area. Prulli and Polgore Gps are in 5 Army area. No contact has therefore been attained but the question will be discussed with the B.L.U.'s when opportunity occurs.

10. Terr HQ Florence seems to be functioning satisfactorily. Terr HQ Bologna, which will shortly be included in 1 District, are in need of Guard Coys (My 10/G17/1 of 26 May 45 refers).

12. There is a large and well-organised Partisan HQ in Bologna. Enquiries will be put in hand to obtain lists of other bands.

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OK 200 'A' 4/4

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12. There is a large and well-organised Partisan HQ in Bologna. Enquiries will be put in hand to obtain lists of other bands.

13. It is thought that only a proportion of the older types of weapons have been handed in, and that there are still a lot concealed. Possibly the idea is that the future of Italy is so uncertain that it is best to be armed. There is also the excuse for rounding up Fascists. Furthermore there is the national childish characteristic in that they delight in possessing or handling a weapon.

An unconfirmed report recently stated that partisans, on the pretext of taking a Fascist to prison in FERRARA, entered it and killed 17 other Fascists inside.

On 16 June, in PADOVA, the trial was held of six Fascists. Before the finding of the Court, the audience broke down, the

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Prisoners took and removed the prisoners in a battered condition. They were then led through the streets by the mob to the Piazza del Insurrezione, one prisoner being summarily executed in front of District HQ on the way.

The remaining five were put up against a wall for execution, but were removed just in time by the C.M.P.

It is difficult to say whether the executioners were patriots or ordinary citizens, but it is certain that no attempt was made by the Carabinieri to disarm them.

It is evident that these executions are carried out in order to make certain that the accused do not escape justice. There are however undoubtedly many murders of a purely "personal grievance" type.

14. This point will be looked into.

15. Yes, they are urgently required in the North and in my opinion all Terr HQ's and most Military Districts should have one. Three or four requests have been made by LO & Army during the past month, and delay has been caused by not having a screening detachment on the spot.

16. Morale of troops working for the Allies is higher than of those working for Ministry of War, owing to :-

Better amenities.

Better clothing.

In some cases, better messing allowances.

Morale in the Combat Groups has always been high.

In certain types of units such as Pioneers, Engineers and other units doing definite work under British parent units, morale is fairly good.

The standard falls in IRI-III units as they are not so well looked after. They are (except for Guard Bns) at a strong disadvantage for clothing.

There is general discontent at non-arrival of Rfts to enable demobilisation to be carried out.

17. Not known.

18. Nil.

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 Morale in the Combat Groups has always been high.
 In certain types of units such as Pioneers, Engineers and other units doing definite work under British parent units, morale is fairly good.
 The standard falls in LTL-LTL units as they are not so well looked after. They are (except for Guard Bns) at a strong disadvantage for clothing.
 There is general discontent at non-arrival of Rfts to enable demobilisation to be carried out.
 17. Not known.
 18. Nil.

"A" Points.

I consider that the best way of raising the quality of the Italian Army would be to make it an attractive proposition, i.e. better paid, better fed and better clothed.

Selection of Other Ranks should be through Recruiting Centres with a fairly stiff standard of physical fitness, character, etc. The old system of conscription for all should be abolished but Classes should continue to be registered for National Emergency. Some form of O.F.C. or Territorial Association could well be formed for volunteers.

Conditions of service for Other Ranks should be improved; this was always sadly neglected. Many complain that their own people look down on them for being in the Army, and that their war effort is not appreciated.

One of the things that made the pre-war Italian Army so unpopular was that soldiers rarely served their term of

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military service anywhere near their homes. As the post-war Army will presumably be a static one, better facilities should be given to men to join their own provincial unit (foster the county spirit).

Officers. The great mistake in the Italian Army has been that senior officers are kept on regardless of age or ability and a promotion block is thus formed. Age limits should be introduced.

Junior officers are not given sufficient authority. Nobody can sign a letter if the O.C. is away. Junior officers are not taught to accept responsibility and consequently suffer from lack of initiative, and are often lazy and helpless.

This does not refer to the Combat Groups, amongst which there are many excellent types of junior officer.

Ruthless removal of inefficient officers should be carried out. There is always too much favouritism, and General Officers will not get rid of one of their officers unless pressure is brought to bear. I found this with the Combat Groups.

The Italian Staff system should be re-organised so that the Services are responsible for their own work, and should not send everything through the Chief of Staff.

Penal System. Military Tribunals have far too much work on hand and lack transport facilities at present. A Court-Martial system similar to our own should be introduced; but it is thought that a member of the Italian equivalent of the JAG's Branch should attend each Court.

There is a lamentable delay in bringing accused men to trial under the present arrangements.

Patriot Volunteers. In my opinion enlistments into the Army will be small unless the terms and conditions are improved. They are enjoying themselves too much in their present role.

Absorption of 6 Army units. Presumably those for retention by 1 District will be units whose function remains the same. Any unit whose importance ceases with the departure of Army should be disbanded to provide Rfts for others.

Leaves Personnel. Better facilities for travel would :-

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Absorption of 8 Army units. Presumably these for retention by 1 District will be units whose function remains the same. Any unit whose importance ceases with the departure of Army should be disbanded to provide Rfts for others.

Leave Personnel. Better facilities for travel would :-

- (a) Cut down absenteeism and "late from leave" personnel.
- (b) Cut down time spent in travelling.
- (c) Regularise leave and therefore make the Army a more popular institution.

AWOL problem. The Carabinieri should be prevailed upon to assist in arresting absentees. Until this Force becomes an efficient, painstaking and honest body, the only way to re-capture absentees is for the unit to catch them, which uses up a lot of time, petrol and energy.

Subject :- Liaison Log.

A

Liaison Officer,
Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.O. (MHA)
c/o HQ., I District
Ref 10/86

24 April 45.

ADAW's to use pour 10.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm. A.O.
(M.H.I.A.) R O M B.

Herewith my Liaison Log up to 28 April.

1. MOVES.

I Coy 521 GA BR VERUGIA to RIBINI
515 Line Section to ZALDONARA
I Bn 406 Regt to AREZZO
II Bn 406 Regt to ANCONA
1000 G.T. Coy to 3 Army Area
48 Engz Ingr now located in IMBI
4 Traffic Control Coy to PESARO
HQ., I Bn Rly Group to CIVITANOVA
HQ., I Rly Engz Group to ANCONA
253 Pack Group to PATRIGNONE
Mantova Group to RANOA.

2. CLOTHING.

1. 5 tons u/s tent material obtained suitable for making palisades also a few ground sheets.
2. Release, collection and distribution of 4,000 sets of underwear to repair centres.
3. Special releases of equipment for 3 and 4 Traffic Control Coys and for disciplinary police sections organised by 269 Div.
4. Depot established in ANCONA for return of winter clothing.

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1. MOVES.

I Coy 521 GA BR PARAGLIA TO RIMINI
 515 Line Section to FALCONARA
 I Bn 406 Regt to ARBIZO
 II Bn 406 Regt to ANCONA
 1000 B.T. Coy to 3 Army Area
 49 Regt 1st not located in 1951
 4 Traffic Control Coy to VERBANO
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 HQ., I Rly Regt Group to ANCONA
 253 Pack Group to PATRIGNONE
 Mantova Group to RADDA.

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2. Release, collection and distribution of 4,000 sets of grindery to repair centres.
3. Special releases of equipment for 3 and 4 Traffic Control Coys and for disciplinary police sections organised by 209 Div.
4. Depot established in ANCONA for return of winter clothing.
5. 2,500 mosquito nets made available by District. 21,500 indentated for on 557 B.O.D.
6. WD clothing satisfactory apart from some 700 sets now being repaired. Further 5,000 sets asked for in additional 14,000.
7. 209 Div prodded to produce own locally.
8. 2,500 small shirts, 500 vests wool, 1,400 drawers wool long, 1,500 boots, all grade III released to 209 Div by 35 A.O.D. under District arrangements.
9. Olivegrove and hurricane lamps indentated for after correction of 209 Div requests.

...../5 Sups.

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3. SUPPLIES.

1. District inquiring into non issues of matches.
2. Campo ^{Acacia} 3000, had been told they were not yet authorized unit and not to sign ST 03. District asked to submit their inclusion in BR-ITI units as authorized unit.
3. Milit cigarettes are poorly packed. Great confusion caused by M of War sending conflicting correspondence on the forwarding of these cigarettes. Details given to ABIA. Position here is not clear.
4. Authority for certain rations renewed and items being drawn.
5. Wine depot at AMOCHA now functioning satisfactorily for distribution of ration wine.
6. A section ready to take over same task at railroad AREZO when DID moves.
7. Strong warnings against units buying rationed goods on open market.
8. Hospital diet items allotted for May. Problem of the four hospitals which 228 Div plan to leave behind in District when Army goes forward. Correspondence on this with I.O. Rear 8 Army.
9. Laundry inquiries on DIDA not issuing correct loads of salt, rotten fruit, bad rice etc., etc.
10. 100 quintals of welfare wine arrived from SQUINIANO. Now that application for transport goes through M of War, little optimism is held for any future arrivals.

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4. TRANSPORT.

1. Enquiry into the past history of MD vehicles held by 209 Div. Report submitted as requested.
2. Letter written for allotment to 209 Div from ex 38 Oficina Mobile Pesante of vehicles repaired by them in last half of March.

4. Authority for rationing received and items being drawn.

5. Wine depot at ANCOHA now functioning satisfactorily for distribution of ration wine.

6. A section ready to take over same task at railroad ARIZO when BID moves.

7. Strong warnings against units buying rationed goods on open market.

8. Hospital diet items allotted for May. Problem of the four hospitals which 228 Div plan to leave behind in District when Army goes forward. Correspondence on this with L.O. Rear 8 Army.

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4. TRANSPORT.

1. Enquiry into the past history of 3D vehicles held by 209 Div. Report submitted as requested.

2. Letter written for allotment to 209 Div from ex 38 Officians Mobile Resante of vehicles reported by them in last half of March.

3. Greedy return requested of the 209 Div vehicles which the 209s used for its move to FLORENCIA.

4. Vehicle situation again getting chronic, especially 64 Bns.

5. Oddments eg tyre pumps obtained from District. Various returns on vehicle situations.

5. MEDICAL.

1. Little or no progress is being made with expansion of 91 Field Hospital at ORIZO.

2. Convalescent depot now open at OSIMO for 60 patients. Equipment awaited for further expansion. 247 Field Hospital ready to move.

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6. POSSORHONNE.

1. Continued trouble with inefficient subalterns. Ten have been sent away from 253 Pack Co. Replacements are slow in coming.

2. Poor material sent in men to be trained as subalterns. Out of 500 rfts 100 had to be rejected as medically unfit. As Pioneer units here are already 100% over strength, their disposal is difficult. State of clothing of men from 22400LA is bad. Do party had largely civilian unserviceable boots.

3. Mullen socks and boots have been a serious problem. Good supplies of boots are now in depot.

4. The ex 20 K from Middle East claimed to be U.S. operators. Have been pronounced as AR-1711.

5. Lt. Col. HONZIASO now installed as supervisor of training. He also takes an interest in the discipline.

6. 253 Depot is at PAMHONNE (5 km N ARHADO), awaiting further destination. I have supplied RD.

7. ORVITO.

1. Discussions with District re S.K. The appointment of a Colonel will solve problem of previous O.O. Lt Col PAPADIA with whom 209 Div were dissatisfied because of lack of command experience.

2. O.O.O. I District found that certain medical stores there were lacking. This was quickly put right from PAMHONNE Hospital.

3. Correct procedure laid down, namely that apart from rft questions, the depot deals through 71 Sub Area and not direct to District.

8. GENERAL.

1. Serious problem of soldiers sent to see their homes in now liberated territory but still Army area.

an officer

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2. Lt. Col. RUDZIANOV now installed as supervisor of training. He also takes an interest in the discipline.
3. 253 Group is at PATRIGNONE (5 km S ARMAJO). Resulting further destination. I have supplied 2D.

7. ONVINO.

1. Discussions with District re U.S. The complaint of a Colonel will solve problem of previous O.C. Lt Col PAPADIA with whom 209 Div were dissatisfied because of lack of command experience.
2. O.C.O. I District found that certain medical stores there were lacking. This was quickly put right from PERUGIA Hospital.
3. Correct roadhouse laid down, namely that apart from rifle questions, the depot seems through 71 Sub Area and not direct to District.

8. GENERAL.

1. Serious problem of soldiers wanting to see their homes in now liberated territory but still Army area. Permission asked from ARMAJO for me to send an officer and two or three men on a welfare mission to collect information on behalf of others. Otherwise, men will inevitably go absent.
2. Question being treated of Italian O.C. 1993 d.f. Coy when 209 Div tried to post away but O.C. British Cadre and Sub Area wish to retain.
3. Cross postings arranged of about 250 skilled men from Pioneer Coys to 209 units.

...../ 8 GEN cont'd

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8. GENERAL (cont'd)

4. Enquiry into difficulties of admin through dispersal of Pioneer Corps. Battering is inevitable but is reduced to the minimum.
5. Lack of U.S. is continually holding up formation of new units and conversions.
6. L.O. Rear 8 Army contented reference future changes in locations.
7. Prison accommodation obtained for about 60 men each in ANCONA, IMBI, PERUGIA and FOLIGNO. Civil prisoners mainly cleared and position much easier.
8. Assorted OMP reports on deserters, traffic incidents and offenses, discipline etc.
9. A 'discipline' Italian Military Police section operating satisfactorily and smartly in ANCONA. Two similar sections now being trained by arrangements with DFM for ARREZZO and SIENA to cope with Maritime visitors.
10. The military newspapers are still sent in bulk to PERUGIA and not to ARREZZO, VERUGIA and ANCONA as was requested as requested. Result is many units get their copies a day or more late.
11. A very strong Divisional representative football team is helping morale.
12. A mobile canteen is operating but lacks supplies. Fixed canteens in most towns where Italian units are and are functioning well.
13. Considerable confusion about move back of Italian men from IMBI. War of War arranges the wagons but District will not allow move until a British rep has certified the men safe. An officer is being called from NAPLES to do this. Italian band grenades are not considered safe for U.S. transport.
14. Local section asked for an information from General Officer re absentees.

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incidents and offenses, discipline etc.

9. A 'discipline' Italian Military Police section operating satisfactorily and mostly in ARONA. Two similar sections now being trained by arrangements with DPM for ARONZO and BIGNA to cope with Santova visitors.

10. The military newspapers are still sent in bulk to PERUGIA and not to ARONZO, PERUGIA and ARONZO areas separately as requested. Result is many units get their copies a day or more late.

11. A very strong Divisional representative football team is helping morale.

12. A mobile canteen is operating but lacks supplies. Fixed canteens in most towns where Italian units are and are functioning well.

13. Considerable confusion about move back of Italian men from IRLI. Most of the arrangements the weapons but District will not allow move until a British rep has certified the men safe. An officer is being called from NAPLES to do this. Italian band grenades are not considered safe for U.S. transport.

14. Local station asked for an information from Censor Officer re absences.

15. Some units still drawing Combat Pay allowance although Army area had moved on. A source of discontent with the other Corps. Extra allowance has now been withdrawn.

16. General information bureau to Services and Areas.

W. B. Brown
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