Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ACC 10000/120/229 AQ/86/11

Dept - N

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000/120/229 AG/56/16 Liaison log. (Capt Thrupp) BOLOGNA
Sept - Nov. 1945

Subject:- Formation of Units.

CONFIDENTIAL

6 B.L.U. BELGIUM,
c/o 217 Area.

Phone: [illegible].

[illegible], 25 Nov 45.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C. (M.M.I.A.).

1. HQ 217 Area letter 217/533/A of 24 Nov, enclosing SHAEF Letter 1150/A1(Ser 3712) of 17 Nov, orders me to supervise the formation of No 6 B.L.U. (Type A).

2. In view of your S/T of 15 Nov, I do not intend to take any action until I hear further from you, but I could well make some preparations for the B.L.U. if you wish.

3. At present I and my driver are living with 217 Area. I have an office in Area HQ. Since accommodation is in great demand here, it would be advisable for me to look out now for a place for the B.L.U., if you could give me any idea of when it is likely to open up. I could also ask Territorial Command for office space. If it is intended that the B.L.U. should work in the same building, could you put me in touch with the prospective CO I so that I may show his place?

4. Will you please let me have your comments on the above.

Capt.,
OC 6 B.L.U.

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Memorandum 3/12) of 17 Nov, orders me to supervise the formation of No 6 B.L.U. (type A).

2. In view of your O/7 of 15 Nov, I do not intend to take any action until I hear further from you, but I could well make some preparations for the B.L.U. if you wish.

3. At present I and my driver are living with 217 Area. I have an office in Area HQ. Since accommodation is in great demand here, it would be advisable for me to look out now for a place for the B.L.U., if you could give me any idea of when it is likely to open up. I could also ask Territorial Command for office space, if it is intended that the B.L.U. would work in the same building. Could you put me in touch with the prospective CO I am that I may know his plans?

4. Will you please let me have your comments on the above.

Capt.,
OC 6 B.L.U.

ANNEX 'C'

OBO 2 (W/S)

OBO 3 (SO) 8145

OBO 3 (Wing)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject:- Liaison [illegible] part No 0/3. [illegible]

[illegible] S.L.U. [illegible],
c/o 217 Area.

Phone: [illegible] 115.

[illegible]/3/0, 2 Dec 45.

Liaison Report for week ending 1 Dec 45.

1. General.

[illegible] 1 Dec reports of this type will be discontinued and reports and returns as laid down in HQL Circular No 2 will be rendered monthly from this office.

On 27 and 28 Nov I visited Amoya, calling on 218 (special) and 61 Areas. Orders have just been received by 61 Area and the formation of Tib Area Court. Hitherto Tib Area Court has been looking after the 48 IPI troops in Amoya area.

2. 'G' Joines.

It is intended Detachment is ready to receive 567 GD Bn in Fukien as soon as 2 District moves it.

Disembarkation of 92 Cdy is awaiting the of the remaining vessel; 1 92 Cdy, which I visited, is still waiting for directed instructions from 218 Area (I am preparing this letter); ship-shore are in process of converting [illegible]. The [illegible] Cdy [illegible] is still in Saigon area, waiting for orders for movement of 267 & 268 Coys; and for disembarkment of [illegible] and 289 Coys as never from [illegible] of [illegible] finally closed the Remains of 305 Div, and 727 Det has the job of clearing it up.

3. 'L' Lines.

I inspected 70 Tood Depot at Amoy. It appears very satisfactory, the rations well stacked in a clean and airy shed. A close copy of the [illegible] system.

[illegible] Depot, which I visited, is very fully accommodated. See my [illegible] of 2 Dec.

4. 'A' Lines.

It is hoped during this week to move 2 D.I.T. operating on a proper footing with full staff. No difficulty is anticipated in providing office accommodation.

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[illegible] and [illegible]
dered monthly from this office.

On 27 and 28 Nov I visited Ancona, calling on CIB (Special) and 61 Area. Orders have just been received by 61 Area for the formation of 716 Aux Sqdn. Hitherto 716 Aux Sqdn has been looking after the [illegible] troops in Ancona area.

2. 'B' Points.

[illegible] Detachment is ready to receive 507 Sd Bn in Solera as soon as a district cover it.

Disembarkation of [illegible] Coy is getting rid of its remaining vehs; 1 PT Coy, which I visited, is still waiting for electrical instruments from 210 Area (I am pressing this matter); all ammn are in process of converting into the [illegible] converted Cover and [illegible] is still in Bologna area, waiting for orders for movement of 256, 257 & 258 Coys, and for disembarkment of 31 and 269 Coys on upper Tiber. 4 of 3 Aux finally closed the receipt of 209 Div, and 717 Sqdn has the job of clearing it up.

3. 'C' Points.

I inspected 70 Coy Depot at Arezzo. It appears very satisfactory, the rations well stacked in a clean and airy area, a close copy of the British system.

Sol Transit Camp, which I visited, is very badly overcrowded. See my 30/7/3 of 2 Dec.

4. 'A' Points.

It is hoped during this week to have a H.L.C. operating on a proper footing with full staff. No a territorial Command to providing office accommodation.

[illegible]
Capt.,
[illegible]

Distribution: [illegible] (1)
File

8144

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject:- Liaison Report N° G/2. CONFIDENTIAL.

6 B.L.U. BOLOGNA,
c/o 217 Area.

Phone: VICENZONE 119.

BOLOGNA, 25 Nov 45.

Liaison Report for week ending 24 Nov 45.

1. General.

I think I have succeeded in establishing in the minds of 217 Area and 6 Territorial Command the extent of their responsibilities towards 717 Adm Regt. Area has published a helpful letter defining the functions of 717 and of 6 B.L.U. Instructions from the Ministry of War on changes from BR-IIIs to ITI-IIIs status of units are somewhat slow in coming through and consequently there is still some confusion about who administers whom. The Ministry keeps on sending unhelpful signals to 717 laying down its location. It might be pointed out that this is an operational matter for 2 District to decide.

2. 'G' Points.

Area has ordered 717 to send a rep to VERONA with a view to moving its HQ there shortly.

Disbandments: 1 and 2 GT Coys are still held up over handing in their transport. The fault is not theirs, but is due to the difficulties encountered in getting orders for disposal out of the British authorities. The Ty Engineers are in the process of listing their stores and having their vehicles classified.

3. 'Q' Points.

As noted last week, the Italian Depots are drawing rations in bulk from DIDs for BR-IIIs. On 24 Nov I was informed over the phone by Capt.Craig that Air Force units are no longer to draw rations from the Depots in this Command.

4. 'A' Points.

I have received from 217 Area an order, enclosing GHQ letter 1160/A1(Ser 3712) of 17 Nov, to supervise the formation of N° 6 B.L.U. (Type A). I do not propose to take any action on this until I receive further guidance from you. I am writing you a letter on this subject.

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towards 717 and Regt. Area has published a helpful letter defining the functions of 717 and of 6 B.I.U. Instructions from the Ministry of War on changes from BI-ITI to III-ITI status of units are somewhat slow in coming through and consequently there is still some confusion about who administers whom. The Ministry keeps on sending unhelpful signals to 717 laying down its location. It might be pointed out that this is an operational matter for 2 District to decide.

2. 'C' Points.

Area has ordered 717 to send a rep to VERONA with a view to moving its HQ there shortly.

Disbandments: 1 and 2 GT Coys are still held up over handing in their transport. The fault is not theirs, but is due to the difficulties encountered in getting orders for disposal out of the British authorities. The Ely Engineers are in the process of listing their stores and having their vehicles classified.

3. 'D' Points.

As noted last week, the Italian Depots are drawing rations in bulk from DIDs for BR-ITIs. On 24 Nov I was informed over the phone by Capt.Craig that Air Force units are no longer to draw rations from the Depots in this Command.

4. 'A' Points.

I have received from 217 Area an order, enclosing GHQ letter 1160/A1(Ser 3712) of 17 Nov, to supervise the formation of N° 6 B.I.U. (Type A). I do not propose to take any action on this until I receive further guidance from you. I am writing you a letter on this subject.

5. Domestic.

During the coming week I propose to make a short tour of my area of responsibility, visiting 218 (Spec) Area and 61 Area.

8143

Capt.,
CO 6 B.I.U.

Distribution: HQ M.S.I.A. (4)
File.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject:- Liaison report N° C/1. CONFIDENTIAL.

A.M.L.O. BOLOGNA,
c/o 217 Area.

BOL/3/G, 18 Nov 45

Liaison Report for week ending 17 Nov 45.

1. General.

I took over this office from Capt. Thrupp in Milan on 10 Nov, and opened here on 13 Nov. During the week I have contacted most of the 217 Area Staff, Gen. Cerica and some of his staff and Col. Meriani, Cmdr of 717 Adm Regt. With Gen. Cerica I made a short tour of ex-POW from Russia (I could not altogether share the Italians' horror at their condition. Those I saw were certainly badly dressed, but I did not notice any marks of starvation); the new and roomy Casa del Soldato; the Officers Club; the troops reception room in the station, on which work is still in progress. Gen. Cerica is an officer who looks at lavatories.

2. 'G' Points.

I find some confusion, which I am engaged in sorting out, over the role and responsibilities of 717 Adm Regt. Up to now it has been in Bologna, w/c 231 Dtr in Milan, and with some, but not all, Br-Iti troops in the Bologna Territorial Command under its command. 217 Area was not even aware of its existence. During the next few days I shall be checking the orbat of Br-Itis and seeing that every-one concerned knows that they are w/c 717. I have suggested to 2 District that, in view of its new commitments, the Regt would be better placed in Verona than in Bologna.

Disbandments: Delaying tactics are anticipated from the Sly Engineers, who will probably (I offer this only as surmise) not feel satisfied with the retention of only two Coys. 252 Pomp Gp took over its animals on 13 Nov and is awaiting posting orders for its personnel. 2 GT Coy attempted to hand in its Class 4, 5 & 6 vehs this week but met with refusal from 10 TVP. Literally no office in this HQ knows how these should be disposed of. I have written hopefully to 5th Veh Coy.

3. 'Q' Points.

2 District has decided that the Britina portion of the ration for Br-Itis shall be handed over in bulk from DID to Magazzino. No difficulties are anticipated because each of the three Italian stores concerned is close to a DID.

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was opened here on 15 Nov. During the week I have contacted most of the 217 Area Staff, Gen.Cerica and some of his staff and Col.Bertoni, Cmdr of 717 Adm Regt. With Gen.Cerica I made a short tour of ex-POW from Russia (I could not altogether share the Italians' horror at their condition. Those I saw were certainly badly dressed, but I did not notice any marks of starvation); the new and roomy Casa del Soldato; the Officers Club; the troops recreation room in the station, on which work is still in progress. Gen.Cerica is an officer who looks at lavatories.

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I find some confusion, which I am engaged in sorting out, over the role and responsibilities of 717 Adm Regt. Up to now it has been in Bologna, w/c 231 Div in Milan, and with some, but not all, Br-Iti troops in the Bologna Territorial Command under its command. 217 Area was not even aware of its existence. During the next few days I shall be checking the orbat of Br-Itis and seeing that everyone concerned knows that they are w/c 717. I have suggested to 2 District that, in view of its new commitments, the Regt would be better placed in Verona than in Bologna.

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3. 'Q' Points.

2 District has decided that the British portion of the ration for Br-Itis shall be handed over in bulk from DID to magazine. No difficulties are anticipated because each of the three Italian stores concerned is close to a DID.

I visited the CAME Workshops at S.Vitale with DAQMG 217 Area to investigate the possibility of handing back to the Italians the parts now occupied by 1 AED Workshops. Since this latter unit is heavily operationally engaged the conclusion was reached that it can be displaced only if Territorial HQ can offer equal or better accommodation for it elsewhere.

4. 'A' Points.

MMIA letter 33/35/2 of 14 Nov leads me to believe that I shall shortly be the sole representative of 6 BLU Bologna Type A and 6 BLU Bologna Type B. Until further orders I retain the name and functions of MMIA LO, but I should be grateful for clarification of this point.

Copy to: MMIA N.Italy.

Capt., Liaison Officer.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Liaison Report - 5 Nov 45

MMIA LO BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area
Bol/3 6 Nov 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(MMIA) ROME.

copy Senior MMIA LO MILAN

GENERAL

Discussions on the New Army have aroused considerable interest here. Gen CERICA's views are largely in agreement with those of the CGC, but he feels quite strongly on two points: the importance of keeping the Military Districts and cutting down the services by greater reliance on civil services eg. hospitals, transport services etc.

I have heard the view expressed here that the sooner the different categories of the Italian Army are abolished the better. The continued existence of Br-iti Service Tps ("Ventoni") with their divided loyalties and separate adm, causes confusion and lack ofcohesion.

BR-ITI ORG.

W.e.f. 10 Nov 209 Adm Div closes down PADUA and comd is taken over by 717 Adm Regt (Col BERIONNI ex 40? Pioneer Regt) with HQ in BOLOGNA. Initially the 'present' strength of the Regt will be almost 4000. But with the dissolution of 250 Pack Gp, the final disappearance of units now disbanding and the move of 518 Gc Bn, the strength should fall rapidly to 1400. Demob of 1920 class has not been taken into account in the above figures.

DISBANDMENTS

1 and 2 GT Coys are still not disbanded. In the case of 1 Coy there seems to be a hitch in the orders for the disposal of the vehs. 2 Coy is going ahead but orders for disposal of the vehs are still awaited from District. The CO of the latter coy has recieved an order from the War Ministry to have his unit liquidated "improrogabilmente" by 8 Nov. I have told him not to worry unduly about this as the thing is not in his hands.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS

If these units are to remain in being (Monthly Liaison Letter No.1, para 3 (ii)), I feel something should be done to put them on a better footing. The chief evils seem to be:-

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the different categories of the Italian Army are abolished the better. The continued existence of Br-Ital Service Tps ("Verdoni") with their divided loyalties and separate adm, causes confusion and lack of cohesion.

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W.e.f. 10 Nov 209 Adm Div closes down PADUA and coad is taken over by 717 Adm Regt (Col BERIONNI ex 402 Pioneer Regt) with Hq in BOLOGNA. Initially the 'present' strength of the Regt will be almost 4000. But with the dissolution of 253 Pack Gp, the final disappearance of units now disbanding and the move of 518 GS Bn, the strength should fall rapidly to 1400. Demob of 1920 class has not been taken into account in the above figures.

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RAILWAY ENGINEERS

If these units are to remain in being (Monthly Liaison Letter No.1, para 3 (ii)), I feel something should be done to put them on a better footing. The chief evils seem to be:-

(a) Too little interest on part of the Inspectorate in ROME.

(b) Too many HQs. With only three bns left, one of the Gp HQs should be scrapped. I Gp ("Perotti") in BOLOGNA could effectively look after the three bns.

(c) 2 Bn (VERONA) had all its American tpt and now has only a lot of old crocks, mainly German, salvaged last Spring from the banks of the Po. This bn should be completely re-equipped with Italian vehs.

I am told that 3 and 6 Bns are now non-existant. Brit stores (incl vehs in case of 6 Bn) have been transferred to the remaining units.

Captain
MMIA DO

8141

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Liaison Report - 27 Oct 45

AMIA LO BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area

Bol/3 28 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(AMIA) Rome.

copy Senior AMIA LO MILAN

ACCOMMODATION

217 Area have notified the release of the Cialdini barracks in REGGIO EMILIA. For the moment Territorial Command can think of no use for it, so they are going to occupy it with a holding party.

Gen CRRICA is going to ROME today to try to settle the question of PARO. I fancy he wishes to renew acquaintance with Maj ZIMLAN.

I.S. REGIMENT

Brain GS Control have confirmed that 507 Rn will shortly be released. They have also reported unfavourably on its discipline, attributing the trouble mainly to bad adm. I have warned Territorial Command of this and we agree that it will be better to move it to MODENA where it will be directly under the supervision of the 15 Regt HQ.

No part of 5FF Rn has yet reached FORLI. With British MT assistance, it could move in echelons with intervals allowing work to proceed on the barracks. Florence Command have confirmed that the fourth coy is now free.

RP

War Ministry have given the "go ahead" for work on the BUONIO park.

A Repair Unit, with the assistance of a mechanical excavator, is clearing a parking space which can be expected to accommodate some 150 to 200 vehs in the open.

The old O.A.R.E. Spares Depot at PIACENZA is being put on its feet again, and may, I am told, receive some of the vehs ex CHIETI. I am also told that it is to "depend from" MILAN Territorial Bde. Is this so?

COMMISSARIATO

Gen PELLIGRA's recent visit was a timely one and

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the question of P.W.O. I fancy he wishes to renew acquaintance with Maj MEDLAM.

I.S. REGIMENT

Train Gp Control have confirmed that 507 Bn will shortly be released. They have also reported unfavourably on its discipline, attributing the trouble mainly to bad adm. I have warned Territorial Command of this and we agree that it will be better to move it to MODENA where it will be directly under the supervision of the IX Regt HQ.

No part of 568 Bn has yet reached FERRARA. With British MT assistance, it could move in echelons with intervals allowing work to proceed on the barracks. Florence Command have confirmed that the fourth coy is now free.

MT

War Ministry have given the "go ahead" for work on the MODENA park.

A Repair Unit, with the assistance of a mechanical excavator, is clearing a parking space which can be expected to accommodate some 150 to 200 vehs in the open.

The old O.A.R.E. Spares Depot at PIACENZA is being put on its feet again, and may, I am told, receive some of the vehs ex GHEDI. I am also told that it is to "depend from" MILAN Territorial HQ. Is this so?

CONGISSARIATO

Gen PELLIGRA's recent visit was a timely one and should liven them up a bit. The stocking of the Clothing Depot should also improve in consequence.

WIRE-CLEARANCE COMPANIES

8140

I am arranging for these coys (561, 563, 564) working in the RAVENNA area to be placed directly under the Genio of the Territorial Command for adm and to cease having anything to do with 209 Div.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS

The disbandment of 6 Bn is going ahead. The plan is to make 13 Bn swallow it whole. The personnel, not being very numerous, should prove quite digestible, but as regards Brit stores and vehs I have told Gruppo "Perotti" that a District authority must first be sought.

Captain
MMIA LO

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Liaison Report - 20 Oct 45

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Com
(AMIA)
BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area

Bol/1 20 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(AMIA) ROME

copy Senior AMIA LO MILAN
AMIA LO FLORENCE

ACCOMMODATION

The Genio have made an inspection of the barracks in FANO, provisionally earmarked for a PTC, and have confirmed that 3000 men can be comfortably accommodated between the two and that damage is repairable at a cost of a few million Lire.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS

The disbandment of the Rly Engrs is likely to cause a bit of trouble. For a long time now these units have been in the nature of a "private army" owing allegiance to a Raggruppamento in ROME. 209 Div have hitherto considered them a clothing responsibility only, and now they have been abandoned by the Br or US units which previously looked after them. Recently I have had to deal with domestic problems of these units including signing their Work Tickets (I see that they are now to draw POL from CIL; what date will this be effective?).

Q

209 DIVISION

When orders eventually arrive for the contraction of 209 Div HQ (39 offrs, 235 ORs, 30 vehs) to 717 Regt HQ (7 offrs 74 ORs, 3 vehs), it is planned to have the new HQ in BOLOGNA. Will the Regt be u/c 231 Div?

G

CLOTHING

I am taking up with Comilitter Bologna the question of stocks of winter clothing in the Clothing & Equip. Depot. These have recently been insufficient to cater for large extra commitments(6d Bns and Mine-clearance Coys).

228 Div have now applied for rail tpt to send their old clothing at CESENA back to BARI. 209 Div also have an accumulation of old clothing both in CESENA and in ANCONA.

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[redacted] inspection of the barracks in FANO, provisionally earmarked for a PTC, and have confirmed that 3000 men can be comfortably accommodated between the two and that damage is repairable at a cost of a few million Lire.

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Q

209 DIVISION

When orders eventually arrive for the contraction of 209 Div HQ (39 offrs, 235 ORs, 30 vehs) to 717 Regt HQ (7 offrs 24 ORs, 3 vehs), it is planned to have the new HQ in BOLOGNA. Will the Regt be u/c 231 Div?

G

CLOTHING

I am taking up with Comiliter Bologna the question of stocks of winter clothing in the Clothing & Equip. Depot. These have recently been insufficient to cater for large extra commitments(GC Bns and Mine-clearance Coys).

228 Div have now applied for rail tpt to send their old clothing at CESENA back to BARI. 209 Div also have an accumulation of old clothing both in CESENA and in ANCONA.

MT

There are still a number of Italian Army vehs in the hands of Br-Iti units circulating in this area without windshield labels. As the units disband I am having them all called in and turned over to Riparauto Bologna.

It would be appreciated if plenty of warning could be given of probable commitments of parking and repair in BOLOGNA of vehs ex BELGARIA, GHEDI and AUSTRIA.

BUDMIO is still at a standstill owing to a dispute between the War Ministry and a firm of contractors. Gen CEMICA is taking the matter up with the War Ministry.

Capt
MMIA LO

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Liaison Report - 13 Oct 45

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Com
(MMIA)
BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area

Bol/ 3 13 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(MMIA) ROME.

copy Senior MMIA LO FLORENCE
" " " MILAN

ACCOMMODATION

Two barracks (the "Duca d'Aosta" in MODENA and the "Pozzuolo del Friuli" in FERRARA) have finally been released by 217 Area and the gd bn problem is now solved; please disregard therefore my letter Bol/7 of 8 Oct. It has been decided to send 502 Gd Bn to FERRARA. A certain amount of work is required to make the buildings habitable but the Genio are being told to get on with it as a priority job. 507 Bn may eventually be required in MODENA.

The reply from 218 Area to my enquiry regarding barracks in FANO for a PTC has been negative.

Arbitrary occupation of Italian Army buildings by British units continues to be prevalent in BOLOGNA and PIACENZA. Frequently work has begun on repair to the buildings with some future use in view, and the manner in which they are requisitioned without so much as the knowledge of the Territ. HQ causes justifiable resentment. A letter from 2 District on the correct procedure for the instruction of Q staffs and Town Majors would be salutary.

Q. to take up with 2 Dist

RATIONS & FORAGE

6 Magazzino Viveri is now functioning at CASaralta.

The recent confusion has helped to disclose a pitiable lack of system in the Commissariato in checking consignments. They are definitrly not on top of the job. I have told them to keep a careful record of all consignments notified and of actual arrivals, and to keep me informed of both. Some

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ACCOMMODATION

Two barracks (the "Duca d'Aosta" in MODENA and the "Ponzuolo del Friuli" in FERRARA) have finally been released by 217 Area and the gd bn problem is now solved; please disregard therefore my letter Bol/7 of 8 Oct. It has been decided to send 5[illegible] Gd Bn to FERRARA. A certain amount of work is required to make the buildings habitable but the Genio are being told to get on with it as a priority job. 507 Bn may eventually be required in MODENA.

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RAQ

RATIONS & FORAGE

6 Magazzino Viveri is now functioning at CASarelta.

The recent confusion has helped to disclose a pitiable lack of system in the Commissariato in checking consignments. They are definitely not on top of the job. I have told them to keep a careful record of all consignments notified and of actual arrivals, and to keep me informed of both. Some consignments of forage have clearly never been received; it is probable that they have been reconsigned in error by S&T to 93 DID MILAN. The search for the missing waggons continues.

CLOTHING REPAIR

Capt BORTONE has arrived and taken over the repair installations, and expansion is planned. The old winter clothing which should have come up from CESENA ex 228 Div has not been received. I am checking.

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TRANSPORT

6 Repair Unit is steadily increasing its output. It now turns out an average of 43 vehicles a week of which 6 are newly recovered machines. Potentially the output is much higher, and when work on the sheds is complete, a sharp rise should take place in spite of winter. They have managed to bring back some heavy machinery which had been removed by the Germans to BRUNICO. When this is properly installed, it is said that they will have the best equipped shop in Italy. The great problem is lack of spares. They have reached the point when it becomes uneconomical to cannibalise. A visit from one of the REME staff would be appreciated.

At present a disused factory in BOLOGNA is being used as a temporary EVP. I discovered that work on the BUDRIO site had not even begun and I have taken the matter up with the Territ. HQ. At BUDRIO there is parking space for a vast number of vehs but they would be very difficult to guard as it is all open. The repairable sheds can house about a hundred vehicles.

BR-ITIS

209 Division continues to display a high standard of incompetence in the Staff Duties department. As a result, it has been impossible to get correct and reasonably firm figures for men for disposal. They will keep meddling with the men at the last moment, and not infrequently achieve gross arithmetical errors. I think that a reduction of the Div HQ to a Regt HQ at this stage will only result in more unnecessary work for the MMIA LO, A Branch MMIA and Movements.

VCJT/ vojt

Capt
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Capt
MMIA LO

VCJI/ vojt

8137

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Liaison Report - 6 Oct 45

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Com
(MMIA)
BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area
~~Tel: Vicksburg 119~~

Bol/3 6 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(MMIA) ROME

copy Senior MMIA LO FLORENCE
" " " MILAN

ACCOMMODATION

The position has not been improved by the sudden influx of Poles. The barracks for 522 Gd Bn at RAVENNA which had apparently not been derequisitioned since the days when it was used by Cremona Gp, are now required for Polish troops. Territorial HQ are finding out about a building in PARMA which might be suitable for 522 Bn. Other alternatives are MODENA and REGGIO both of which have reasonable barracks controlled by DP Sub Commission, who however state that they cannot release them. I will send details separately by letter; perhaps you could approach AC about relinquishing one of them.

Having received instructions from the War Ministry to look around for a suitable location for a PTC, Territorial HQ have their eyes on FANO (Gen CERICA thinks the climate, being milder there, will be more suitable). I have approached 218 Area about the release of two barracks at FANO for this purpose. They were not very encouraging because of the problem of accommodating Balkan refugees there, but are letting me know.

P.O.L.

Some confusion was caused by the sudden termination of petrol issues to Gruppi vehs at PPs; and there was a little bit of difficulty in sorting out one category from another. War Min instructed Territ HQ to issue to transient Gruppi vehs from own stocks until 7 Oct. Is

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8136

BR-ITIS

Difficulties have arisen over the disbandment of 2 GT Coy, which will probably mean that the MT personnel due to go to Mantova and Folgore next week will not be available. The unit(without a Brit Cadre) has, it seems not been under command of anyone. S&T here were not prepared to assist in the disposal of British stores and vehs and actually had the effrontery to suggest that the responsibility should be that of the MMIA LO! In fact almost precisely the same difficulties are being encountered over the disbandment of this unit as arose nearly a year ago when it was formed at AFRAGOLA!

I believe some unit is being ordered to do

the

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the necessary work but it is unlikely that the personnel will be ready in time to move next week.

MOVEMENTS

Delegazione Trasporti 606 informs me that all Italian demands for moves north of BOLOGNA, excluding the line BOLOGNA- VERONA-BOLZANO, have to be submitted to the local MMIA LO;is it intended that the MMIA LO should forward these to North Moves? Do they have to be screened? I should appreciate some information on this point.

GENERAL INTEREST

The BOLOGNA Military Tribunal has applied to ROME for permission to use a Reclusorio near MILAN or set up a separate detention camp for military prisoners. This is because the Military Prison in Bologna is full to capacity with men awaiting trial or promulgation.

The guards at this prison have recently been issued with Berretta automatics owing to a rumour of an attempted liberation similar to that which occured recently in the civil gaol.

The Genio Pontieri at PIACENZA are constructing a ferry for the Po crossing as their present pontoon bridge has only a very limited capacity.

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VOJT/vojt

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OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : MMIA

DATE TIME
10 1600 A

TO : MMIA LO MILAN

INFO : 217 AREA FOR MMIA LO

REF : SD 3004

UNCLASSIFIED

PLEASE ACCEPT ACTION ON QUESTION OF 209 AIM DIV IN PENULTIMATE PARA OF THRUPPS REPORT BOI/3 DATED 29 SEP

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

AUTHENTICATED

INTERNAL : A

6/21/78

JC

8134

Subject: Liaison Report - 29 Sep 45

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Com
(MMIA)
BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area

Tel: Vicksburg 119

Bol/3 29 Sep 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(MMIA) ROME.

copy MMIA LO FLORENCE
MMIA LO MILAN

GENERAL

6 Territorial HQ is on the whole a well established and smooth-running HQ with a realistic grasp of local problems. I have met all the heads of services and visited all the principal sub units in the neighbourhood. I have found efficiency and some enthusiasm.

COMMISSARIATO

This is not a very active body but the depots appear to be managed adequately. 6 Food Depot is about to be moved out of town to CASARALTA, alarge supply establishment once of great importance but now mostly in ruins. It is planned to transfer all the Commissariato depots to CASARALTA eventually, including the clothing and equipment depots now occupying very congested premises in the Cavalry Bks.

MT AND REPAIR UNITS

The Repairs Unit (old "O.A.M.S.") is a scene of great activity largely directed towards repairing the sheds to enable the shops to function in winter, and on salvage work. For this reason the output is not yet large. No vehicles are yet being turned over to the EVF. There are approximately 350 vehs in the repair sheds and the "inefficient park", all potential efficients.

Vast quantities of spares are being salvaged from the rubble, cleaned and catalogued by an expert civilian staff. It is hard to see what the military personnel will do when they arrive to form a separate spares unit.

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The Adm Tpt Coy is well housed, up to strength in vehs and functioning effectively.

ACCOMMODATION

Thev situation is generally not bad in spite of the claims of British units, refugees and DPs. 583 Gd Bn is shortly moving into the Wasini Bks which is being vacated by 6 FLD. 58 Transit Camp is opening up with accn for 700 in a large barracks just outside BOLOGNA partly occupied by CC.RR.

Territorial HQ are making a "survey" of the Italian Army barracks and buildings which might be given up altogether.

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BATTLEFIELD CLEARANCE

This work is proceeding very slowly. One of the reasons for the slowness is lack of petrol; Territ. HQ can only allocate a small quota which severely restrets the milage. There is also some confusion of thought over regulations and responsibilities. May I please be sent some paper on this subject, clearly showing what the responsibilities of the Italian Army are?

I.S.BRIGADE

The Brigade HQ is in MODENA and it is planned to leave it there ,if possible housed in an annexe of the Academy. 523 Bn, being the only ~~xxxx~~ sizeable body of troops under command of the Territorial HQ, is having to provide numerous guards and services (one coy is providing depot and rly guards in ANCONA and FORLI). Doubtless when all three bns are available, training will not suffer. Acon is waiting for 521 Bn in the Gorizia Bks RAVENNA but so far it has not shown up.

RE-ITIS

The main problem here is the disposal of the personnel of disbanding units. There was a danger that the Brit cadres of the Pioneer coys, also disbanding, would have to go before the troops could be cleared, leaving them without tpt. However an arrangement has been made with the Pioneer Gp HQs whereby sufficient tpt is retained until all the men are away.

Demobilisation of the 1918 and 1919 classes will help to relieve congestion (mainly at BOLOGNA, FERRARA? FORLIand CESENA).

I am not happy about 209 Div. To begin with, theHQ is wrongly situated at PADUA to deal effectively with problems in this area. One also gets the impression that 2 District are not greatly interested. 3 District took pains to establish direct comms with 230 Div through an ILO at NAPLES. The Div was then placed on the distribution list for all orders affecting them, incl disbandment orders. A similar arrangement would have worked very well here.

I have had no copies of MAIA disbandment orders since early September, so I am really quite out of the picture. Could copies of the relevant ones be sent to us please?

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8132

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MMIA LO

VCJT/vcjt

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