

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

ACL

10000 | 120 | 346

Q15312

Opened

July. 64

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

10000 | 120 | 346

©153/23

L.O. 230 DIV - FLORENCE / CAPT. THRUPP BOLOGNA

Opened July 23, 1945 Closed Oct 20, 1945

July - Oct 1945

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

Subject: Liaison Report - 20 Oct 45

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

Rel/3 20 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(LAFIA) ROMA

copy sent MILIA DO MILAN
MILIA DO FIRENCE

Handwritten initials and scribbles

AGGREGATION

The Genio have made an inspection of the barracks in PANO, provisionally earmarked for a PFC, 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.

Good

RAILWAY WORKERS

The disbandment of the 217 Area 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 "supergroup" 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 come from 217; what date will this be effective?).

209 DIVISION

When orders eventually arrive for the contraction of 209 Div HQ (29 officers, 25 Cpls, 30 sergeants to 217 Regt HQ (7 officers, 24 Cpls, 3 sergeants), it is planned to have the new HQ in BOLOGNA. Will the Regt be w/c 217 Div?

CLOTHING

I am taking up with Comiliter Bologna the question of stocks of winter clothing in the clothing & equip. depot. There have recently been insufficient to order for large extra commitments (30 Bns and mine-clearance Coys).

209 Div have now applied for rail tpt to send their old clothing at 217 Regt's back to 217. 209 Div also have an accumulation of old clothing both in 217 Regt and in BOLOGNA.

and that damage is repairable at a cost of a few million lire.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS

The disbandment of the 114 Regt 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 "grupponamento" in MOVI. 109 Div have hitherto considered themselves clothing responsibility only, and now they have been absorbed 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 own tickets (I see that they are now to draw fuel from CII; what date will this be effective?).

109 DIVISION

When orders eventually arrive for the contraction of 109 Div Regt (29 offrs, 27 CAs, 20 vabs) to 717 Regt Bn (7 offrs, 24 CAs, 3 vabs), it is planned to have the new Regt in BOLOGNA.

CLOTHING

I am taking up with Comiliter Bolzoni the question of stocks of winter clothing in the clothing & equip. depot. There have recently been insufficient to cater for large extra commitments (to the 1st and 2nd clearances Coy).

109 Div have now applied for rail tps to send their old clothing at CASARSA back to BARI. 109 Div also have an accumulation of old clothing both in GUSINA and in BOLOGNA.

BT

There are still a number of Italian Army vabs 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 Espersante Bologna.

It would be appreciated if plenty of warning could be given of probable commitments of parking and repair in BOLOGNA of vabs ex BELLARIA, CURETE and VIGEVANA.

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

Q/23/23

Ray Johnson

Capt
MIA LO

3165

109

1127

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

Subject: Liaison Report - 13 Oct 45

Q/53/23

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

301/5 13 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AG
(MILIA) ROME.

copy Senior MILIA LO FLORENCE
" " " MILAN

OK
A Ross
12/12

ACCOMMODATION

Two barracks (the "Qua d'Arto" in MODENA and the "Pensuolo del Friuli" in FERRARA) have finally been released by 217 Area and the gd on problem is now solved; please disregard therefore my letter Bof/7 of 3 Oct. It has been decided to send 507 Gd Bn to FERRARA. A certain amount of work is required to make the buildings habitable but the Gdnic are being told to get on with it as a priority job. 507 Bn may eventually be required in MODENA.

The reply from 217 Area to my enquiry regarding barracks in PAGO for a TIC 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 G staffs and Town Majors would be salutary.

RATIONS & FORAGE

5 Magazzino Viveri is now functioning at CAS-arsalta.

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 been

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

and the "Pomacolo del Friuli" in VERONA have finally been released by 217 Area and the 2d an problem is now solved; please disregard therefore my letter BOL/7 of 8 Oct. It has been decided to send 5th Co Bn to VERONA. A certain amount of work is required to make the buildings habitable but the Genic are being told to get on with it as a priority job. 507 Bn may eventually be required in VERONA.

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

Arbitrary occupation of Italian Army buildings by British units continues to be prevalent in SLOVENIA and TRIESTE. Presently 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 ferrit. 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.

NATIONS & FORAGE

Magazine (iveri) is now functioning at CAS- aralta.

The recent confusion has helped to disclose a pitiable lack of system in the Commissariate 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 re-assigning in error by 521 to 93 DID ALLAN. The search for the missing waggon continues.

CLOTHING REPAIR

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

3161

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 BRUHICO. 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 ~~XXXX~~ staff would be appreciated.

At present a disused factory in POLICENA is being used as a temporary ~~ERS~~. I discovered that work on the BUONIC territ. R. At BUONIC 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 SAIA Lt, a Branch SAIA and movements.

Handwritten notes:
 1/10/45
 1/10/45
 1/10/45

Handwritten signature:
 Cephman

Capt
 SAIA IC

VCJ7/ VCJ7

1430

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

At present a disused factory in BOLICHA is being used as a temporary SVE. I discovered that work on the BUDVIC site had not even begun and I have taken the matter up with the Territ. Hq. At BUDVIC 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-1712

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 CIV HQ to a Regt HQ at this stage will only result in more unnecessary work for the MIA IC, a Branch MIA and Movements.

Wepthman

Capt
MIA LO

VOJT/VOJT

3163

Subject: Liaison Report - 6 Oct 45

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Com
(MIA)
BOLIGNA
c/o W. 17 Area
Tel. Vicksburg 119

Bel/S 5 Oct 45

To: Land Forces Sub Com AC
(MIA) ROME

copy Senior MIA Lt FLORENCE
" " " MILAN

0/53/3

Handwritten initials: "N" and "G" with a flourish.

ACCOMMODATION

The position has not been improved by the sudden influx of Poles. The barracks for 52nd SA 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 PAVENA which might be suitable for 52nd Bn. Other alternatives are MODENA and REGGIO both of which have reasonable barracks controlled by 32nd 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 DENICA thinks the climate, being milder there, will be more suitable). I have approached 13 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.

E.O.L.

Some confusion was caused by the sudden termination of petrol issues to Gruppi vehs at PTC, 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

Handwritten notes at bottom right: "for info" and "7 Oct 45".

ACCOMMODATION

The position has not been improved by the sudden influx of Poles. The barracks for 52 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 52 Bn. Other alternatives are MODENA and REGGIO both of which have reasonable barracks controlled by 32 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 POC, Territorial HQ have their eyes on PANO (Gen CERVICA thinks the climate, being milder there, will be more suitable). I have approached 18 Area about the release of two barracks at PANO for this purpose. They were not very encouraging because of the problem of accommodating Balkan refugees there, but are letting me know.

Z.O.L.

Some confusion was caused by the sudden termination of petrol issued to Gruppi vehs at ZPs, and there was a little bit of difficulty in sorting out one category from another. War Min instructed Territorial HQ to issue to transient Gruppi vehs from own stocks until 7 Oct. Is any provision made for transient vehs in the monthly allocation? Several thousands of litres are issued in this way every month.

BR-101

Difficulties have arisen over the disembarkment of 2 QI Coy, which will probably mean that the HQ personnel due to go to Mantova and Vigonza next week will not be available. The unit (without a Brit Cadre) has, it seems not been under command of anyone. BR 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 101. In fact almost precisely the same difficulties are being encountered over the disembarkment of this unit as arose nearly a year ago when it was formed at APRAGOLA.

I believe some unit is being ordered 3182

the

*File
BR-101
3182*

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-BULZANO, have to be submitted to the local AREA LO; is it intended that the AREA LO should forward these to North Moves? Do they have to be screened? I should appreciate some information on this point.

John

GENERAL INTEREST

The BOLOGNA Military Tribunal has applied to COME for permission to use a Teclucorio 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 occurred 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.

VOJZ/vcjt

John

Capt
AREA LO

11134

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

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

WJH/vojt

[Handwritten signature]

Capt
WJH LA

1916

Subject: Liaison Report - 29 Sep 45

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Com
(MMIA)
BOLOGNA
c/o HQ 217 Area
Tel: Vicksburg 119
Sol/3 29 Sep 45

2/55/3

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

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 adm 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, a large 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.R.E.") is a scene of great activity largely directed towards repairing the sheds to enable the workshops 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 EVP. There are approximately 350 vehs in the repair sheds and the "inefficient park", all potential efficiencies.

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.

The 15th Cent. Gen. is well

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 adms 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, a large supply establishment once of great importance but now mostly in ruins. It is planned to transfer all the Commissariat depots to CASARALTA eventually, including the clothing and equipment depots now occupying very congested premises in the Cavalry Bks.

RT AND REPAIR UNITS

The Repairs Unit (old "O.A.R.E.") is a scene of great activity largely directed towards repairing the sheds to enable the wkps 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 MVP. There are approximately 350 vehs in the repair sheds and the "inefficient park", all potential efficiencies.

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.

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

ACCOMMODATION

The situation is generally not bad in spite of the claims of British units, refugees and DPs. 503 Gd Bn is shortly moving into the Masini Bks which is being vacated by 6 PDD. 58 Transit Camp is opening up with room for 700 in a large barracks just outside BOLOGNA partly occupied by CC.RR.

Territorial HQ are making a "studio" of the ⁵⁶ Italian Army barracks and buildings which might be given together.

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 restricts the mileage. 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 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 522 Bn in the Gorizia Eks RAVENNA but so far it has not shown up.

BRITIS

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, FORLI and CESENA).

I am not happy about 209 Div. To begin with, the HQ 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 MIA disbandment orders since early September, so I am really quite out of the picture.

is waiting for 522 Bn in the Gorizia Bks RAVENNA but so far
it has not shown up.

BR-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,
FORLI and CESENA).

I am not happy about 209 Div. To begin with,
the HQ 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 MMIA disbandment
orders since early September, so I am really quite out of the
picture. Could copies of the relevant ones be sent to me
please?

VCJT/vcjt

Capt
MMIA 10

3139

Subject: Report no 3
15 Aug 45.

To: Land Forces Sub Com.
AC (AMIA)

R C K 3

AMIA 10 230 II DIVISION
C/O MORGAN COMMAND
Phone 1393
Ref 230/19
15 AUG 45

9/53

G A
[Handwritten initials]

GENERAL

230 Division is a formation of idle men. Generally speaking, units are well up in strength, but there is very little work for them. Furthermore several units are now completing certain jobs, after which there will be nothing for them to do. The policy therefore of making Adm Divs absorb personnel of their own disbanding units only aggravates the problem.

Many ex-occupator increments are now being relinquished. To avoid necessity for tpt, these men are generally transferred to nearest BR-IFI unit. On the whole it would be helpful if the disbandment of unnecessary BR-IFI units could be speeded up, and the men sent to some reorg centre.

LEAVE

Many of the latest reinforcements from LAGOS have apparently not had leave for a considerable time. This is especially so of ex-occupators who thought they were entitled to sixty days restriction leave. The 12w restriction has caused a considerable number to absent themselves "arbitrarily".

Several applications for leave and discharge permits for soldiers resident in VANDERLA GIULIA have been made, but to date no permits have been forthcoming.

MY MAINT

In accordance with your 2/5 of 14 Jul 45 I am paying particular attention to this on visits to units. It is very noticeable that the standard of care varies directly with the degree of interest and supervision of the British unit or cadre. The tendency to "flog" and measure that is slightly on the upgrade. This is particularly so in 757 Lt Coy (ex-ages) which is reported

230 Division is a formation of idle men. Generally speaking, units are well up in strength, but there is very little work for them. Furthermore several units are now completing certain jobs, after which there will be nothing for them to do. The policy therefore of making Adm Divs absorb personnel of their own disbanding units only aggravates the problem. Many ex-cooperator increments are now being relinquished. To avoid necessity for tpt, these men are generally transferred to nearest BR-III unit. On the whole it would be helpful if the disbandment of unnecessary BR-III units could be speeded up, and the men sent to some reorg centre.

LEAVE

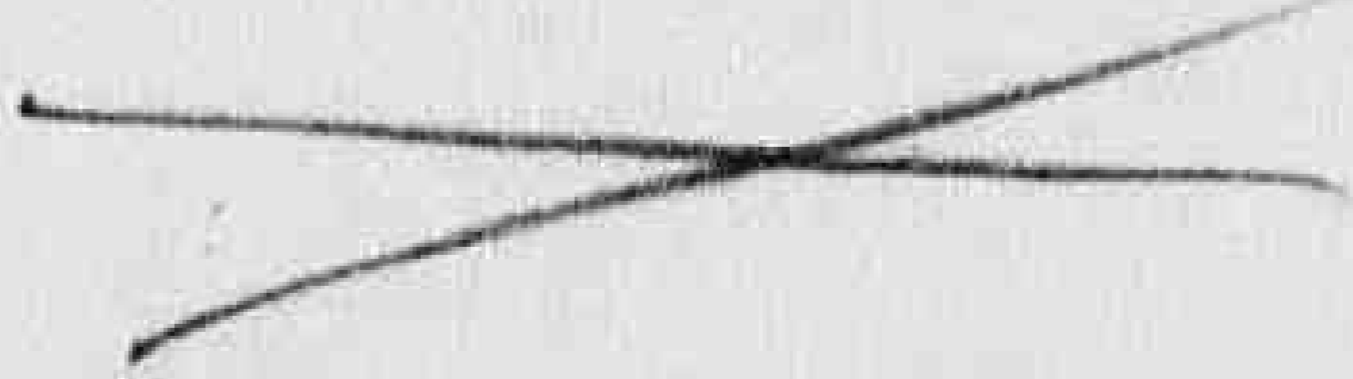
Many of the latest reinforcements from LORRAINE have apparently not had leave for a considerable time. This is especially so of ex-cooperators who thought they were entitled to sixty days retraining leave. The 14 restriction has caused a considerable number to absent themselves "arbitrarily". Several applications for leave and discharge permits for soldiers resident in VASSALLA GIBLIJA have been made, but to date no permits have been forthcoming.

SET MAIN

In accordance with your 3/5 of 14 Jul 45 I am paying particular attention to this on visits to units. It is very noticeable that the standard of care varies directly with the degree of interest and supervision of the British unit or cadre. The tendency to "flog" and reprove tpt is slightly on the upgrade. This is particularly so in 757 Coy (ex-000) which is reported to have seen a first class unit before its conversion to BR-III status. Now watch with the inclusion of new elements, and the inevitable lapse in the disciplinary control exercised by BR cadre, offences grow in number and are inadequately punished.

1915 CLASS

According to the latest available figures, the number of men of the 1915 class in the division is 378. 3158



GUARD UNITS

521 Gd Bn (PERUGIA) is being released shortly. In the FLORENCE - AREZZO area the following units will be available:

- a) 535 Gd Coy ARREDO available now
- b) 513 Gd Bn BOLOGN S. LORENZO)
 1 Coy FIANO) available
 2 " VIGCHIO) very
 4 " BOLOGN S.L.) soon
- c) 515 Gd Bn ARREDO) available later when
) all sub area have
- d) 4 Coy 522 Gd Bn FIORENCE) been able to replace.

Is anything known yet of the eventual destination of these units?

(Signature)

(V.O.J. THORPE)
Capt. MILIA LC.

Copy to MMIALO
3 District

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

very
soon

- e) 515 Gd Bn ARSALD) available later when
- f) 211 sub area have)
- d) 4 Coy 522 Gd Bn VIOYENCA) been able to replace.

Is anything known yet of the eventual destination of these units?

(Signature)

(V.O.) THORP
Capt. MILA LG.

Copy to MMIALO
3 District

3157

Subject: weekly report n 2
(1 August 45)

To: Land Forces Sub Comm
AC (AMIA)

R O M E (4 copies)

AMIA LC 230 DIVISION
C/O FLORENCE COMMAND
Phone 1393
Ref 230/19
4 August 45

RFTS

The intake of ex US-ITIS has now been practically completed, except for a few more which Capt. CLARK may be able to "sell" locally in LÉCHON, and one or two odd dets from 3 Army. The consignment of men from LÉCHON was smaller than expected and instead of 650 for ARMAZCO/PANUGIA only some 500 arrived. Of these a large number promptly deserted leaving a net intake of 330. The "undisciplined element" was chiefly provided by 7041 Truck Battalion which I understand was an ex-cooperator unit.

The Specialist situation is brighter and it is hoped to make up all driver and mechanic deficiencies from personnel of 7041 Truck Battalion and 417 Veh Park (ex-coop) which is shortly to be disbanded.

GUARD UNITS

A reduction in the guard units is required in this area is anticipated. 211 Sub Area (now responsible for ARMAZCO Area) is going to review the whole position. As a result 555 Gd Coy will most likely be up for sale. It is a poor unit and might well be disbanded. 515 Gd Bn. (ALGALLO) is also unsatisfactory and heavy cases of pilferage have occurred. The bn has been in the area too long and the relations with the civilian population are therefore too cordial. A swap with 521 Bn at PANUGIA has been suggested as a solution to the problem. Any thing of that kind will now have to be arranged with 61 Area.

CW1818U

I have informed Gen. VIVALDA that CW1818U now comes within his sphere of responsibility and he intends to visit it early date. He has applied to SAIZ for a "vice comando" (colonel or Brig. with a small staff) to be located in PANUGIA. This seems to be a good idea as it is possible that some of the units in the ARMAZCO Area may have to pass to 230 Div. for adm if 200 Div H.Q. moves to PANUA.

CURE

RPTS

The intake of ex US-ITIS has now been practically completed, except for a few more which Capt. CLARK may be able to "sell" locally in LECHON, and one or two odd dets from 5 Army. The consignment of men from LECHON was smaller than expected and instead of 650 for ARSANO/PERUGIA only some 500 arrived. Of these a large number promptly deserted leaving a net intake of 330. The "undisciplined element" was chiefly provided by 7041 Truck Battalion which I understand was an ex-cooperator unit.

The Specialist situation is brighter and it is hoped to make up all driver and mechanic deficiencies from personnel of 7041 Truck Battalion and 417 Veh Park (ex-coop) which is shortly to be disbanded.

GUARD UNITS

A reduction in the guard units is required in this area is anticipated. 211 Sub Area (now responsible for ADL240 Area) is going to review the whole position. As a result 535 Gd Coy will most likely be up for sale. It is a poor unit and might well be disbanded. 515 Gd Bn. (ADL240) is also unsatisfactory and many cases of pilferage have occurred. The bn has been in the area too long and the relations with the civilian population are therefore too cordial. A swap with 521 Bn at PERUGIA has been suggested as a solution to the problem. Any thing of that kind will now have to be arranged with 61 Area.

CIVILIAN

I have informed Gen. VIVALDA that CIVILIAN now comes within his sphere of responsibility and he intends to visit it early date. He has applied to SALT for a "vice comando" (colonel or Brig. with a small staff) to be located in PERUGIA. This seems to be a good idea as it is possible that some of the units in the ALCONA Area may have to pass to 250 Div. for adm if 202 Div H.Q. moves to PADUA.

CCRR

Do I or 250 Div have to take any interest in the FICHERACS CCRR Bdes? All the local CCRR units are indulging in the sinister practice of deluging me with strength returns, brought round by DR and addressed personally to me.

MISC

My driver is still in ROMA waiting for veh. If there are no vehs to be had, could I have a motorcycle?

3158

(V.C.J. THURFF)
Captain. 221A IC.

Subj: Weekly Report n° 1
(22 July 1945)

MMIA IG 230 Division
c/o FLORENCE Command
Phone: Florence 1393
File 230/19
22 July 1945

To: Land Forces Sub-Comm. (4 Copies)
(MMIA)
R O M E

REINFORCEMENTS:

The programme of absorbing some 2000 ex US-ITIS into the Division is going ahead. By 23 July all 1000 from Leghorn should have been received. Having about 1000 to come from 5 Army. Discharge of 1914 Class should be over soon after latter are received. Generally speaking it is only Guard and 1st Units which require to be kept up to strength. Work for the Pioneers is diminishing.

EX - COOPERATORS:

All Units and dets. in the area have now been taken over. Total numbers about 1000 all ranks. Only three constituted Units with Officers were taken over. Remainder are awkward detachments.

DIV. SUB.- DEPO:

Stock at moment consists mainly of boots, blankets and returned clothing. Two generous allotments of clothing are however due shortly from Naples. The local Centro Recuperi is still unable to accept returned clothing and we are having to backhaul to Naples.

The life of repaired boots is found to be very short. Is the Ministry able to lay hands in any form of grease or

Handwritten notes: 9/23, G, A, 9-10, 12, 10/20

(AC)

REINFORCEMENTS:

The programme of absorbing some 2000 ex US-ITIS into the Division is going ahead. By 23 July all 1000 from Leghorn should have been received. Having about 1000 to come from 5 Army. Discharge of 1914 Class should be over soon after latter are received. Generally speaking it is only Guard and 1st. Units which require to be kept up to strenght. Work for the Pioneers is diminishing.

EX - COOPERATORS:

All Units and dets. in the area have now been taken over. Total numbers about 1000 all ranks. Only three constituted Units with Officers were taken over. Remainder are awkward detachments.

DIV. SUB.- DEPOT:

Stock at moment consists mainly of boots, blankets and returned clothing. Two generous allotments of clothing are however due shortly from Naples. The local Centro Recuperi is still unable to accept returned clothing and we are having to back ~~up~~ to Naples.

The life of repaired boots is found to be very short. Is the Ministry able to lay hands in any form of grease or animal fat to soften them? District will not release dubbin.

(Ac)

FORMATIONZ AND DISBANDMENT OF UNITS:

- 1) Personnel for 871 & 872 Graves Platoons are ~~39135~~ gathered together in Leghorn. In a day or two they will sent to Florence

for equipping.

II) 61 & 62 Forestry Corp have been disbanded. All Stores have been handed and the personnel are awaiting disposal at Isted na (Arezzo). They will most likely be posted to local Engineer Coy's. III) The precise drill to be followed in the case of formations and disbandments still does not appear to be understood by British Area Staffs. Nobody knows exactly who does what; some delay misunderstanding and duplication is frequently the result.

WELFARE:

Gen. Vivalda has expressed concern that his Division should have been allotted only 50,000 Lire for "Assistenza" for the present 3 months period. This paltry sum compares unfavourably with the million Lire allotted to each of the combat Cps and the Adv Dvs in the North. The effective strength of the Division is approx. 10,000 all ranks (likely to rise to 11,000 very shortly) which is similar to that of the Combat GPs.

This grievance together with the fact that they receive less pay, less soap, fewer cigarettes and a smaller "quota miglicramento rancio" than the men further north has tended to create an impression in the minds of officers and men that they are being discriminated against.

GENERAL AND DOMESTIC:

I have not received a copy of your G/31 of 4 June laying down headings, etc. for reports; meanwhile I hope this is sufficient.

I have now got a large siring office of my own and am employing a lady secretary. With her assistance and that of a newly acquired typewriter, I hope to be able to keep you better informed.

I am still immobile. The Standard taken over from Col. Egerton has been in workshops for over a fortnight with broken piston rings. On instructions from Capt. Gary I have seen had it

all the precise details followed in the case of promotions and disbandments still does not appear to be understood by British Area Staffs. Nobody knows exactly who does what; some delay misunderstanding and duplication is frequently the result.

RELAYS:

Gen. Vivalda has expressed concern that his Division should have been allotted only 50,000 Lire for "Assistenza" for the present 3 months period. This paltry sum compares unfavourably with the million lire allotted to each of the combat Cps and the Ada Divs in the North. The effective strength of the Division is approx. 10,000 all ranks (likely to rise to 11,000 very shortly) which is similar to that of the Combat GPs.

This grievance together with the fact that they receive less pay, less soap, fewer cigarettes and a smaller "quota miglioramenti rancio" than the men further north has tended to create an impression in the minds of officers and men that they are being discriminated against.

GENERAL AND DOMESTIC:

I have not received a copy of your G/31 of 4 June laying down headings, etc. for reports; meanwhile I hope this is sufficient.

I have now got a large airing office of my own and am employing a lady secretary. With her assistance and that of a newly acquired typewriter, I hope to be able to keep you better informed.

I am still immobile. The Standard taken over from Col. Egerton has been in workshops for over a fortnight with broken piston rings. On instructions from Capt. Cary I have been had it R.A.'d. I have sent Dvr Royds to Rome to wait for a replacement veh.

[Handwritten signature]

Captain
MRIA LC

3102

1149