

0805

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

ACC

10000 | 120 | 534

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

785020

10000 | 120 | 534

SD/26 PATRIOT UNITS (GENERAL)

Opened - Ap. 26, 1944 - Closed Aug 31, 1944

Ap. 1944 - Aug. 1944

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

785020

Translation

From War Dept
To: Camilit Campdina

Ref. 7951

Date Sept 13

Please order urgent assignment
of shipment to 2009 Service, Platoon
209 Div, of one Corporal and two
Privs. for M M S O Names,
Units from which they came,
and Date of movement must

be reported immediately to SMRE
of this Ministry

cpl (24)

Gen. Butta

1700 1/2
9.
Gr

2148

0-8-0-3

De

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

COPIA

AT COMITAT CAMPANIA

AT 2009 PLOTONE SERVIZI PRESSO
209^a DIVISIONE

AT STAMAGGIORE - PERSONALE

NAPOLI

(per telegramma)

P.M. 185

(per teletscritto)

P.M. 151

(a mano)

MM A. S/D/26
Data Rec. 169

GUERRA TRUPPA NR° 7981 ALT DIRETTO AT COMITAT CAMPANIA ET PER CONOSCENZA
2009 PLOTONE SERVIZI ET STAMAGGIORE RIFERIMENTO SUO FOGLIO 4094/21 ALT
PREGASI DISPORRE URGENTE ASSEGNAZIONE ET AVVIAMENTO AT 2009^o PLOTONE
SERVIZI 209^a DIVISIONE UN CAPORALE ET DUE SOLDATI PER SOTTOCOMMISSIONE
ESERCITO A.C.C. ALT NOMINATIVI (,) REPARTO PROVENIENZA ET DATA MOVIMENTO
DEBONO ESSERE COMUNICATI SUBITO AT STAMAGGIORE ET QUESTO MINISTERO ALT
PROMINISTRO GENERALE BUTTA.

d'ordine

IL CAPO DIVISIONE

F/to col. Bartolini

11, 13 settembre 1944

=====

STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO

- Ufficio Segreteria e Personale -

no 4172/12/SP di prot.

P.M. 151, 14 settembre 1944

ALLA SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER L'ESERCITO
COMANDO A.C.C.

R O M A

for info -

.....per conoscenza in esito al foglio S/D 26 del 31 agosto u.s.

2147

1789 1/4

IL GENERALE ADDETTO
-Alessandro Santi-



11, 13 settembre 1944

d'ordine
IL CAPO DIVISIONE
F/to col. Bartalini

=====

STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO
- Ufficio Segreteria e Personale -

n° 4172 / 12/SP di prot.

P.M. 151, 14 settembre 19

ALLA SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER L'ESERCITO
COMANDO A.C.C.

R O M A

for info -

Ref - 17

.....per conoscenza in esito al foglio S/D 26 del 31 agosto u.s.

21:7

W. G. 2

IL GENERALE ADDETTO
-Alessandro Santi-



[Signature]

0811

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

17
SUBJECT:- 2009 services platoon - Italian increment to 1 District

Army sub Commission (MIA)
H.Q. A.O.C.
R O M E.
SD/26
31 AUG 44

S M R E

COPY to:- 1 District (ref H/97/A of 26 Aug 44)
MIA LO 1 District

1. Above platoon is at present under strength :-

One Corporal
Two Privates.

2. please arrange for replacements as above, informing this HQ on what date they will be despatched and from what location and unit.

AC

Major General
Army sub Commission ACC
MIA

COPY to:- "A"

See Folio 2140.

0812

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

SUBJECT: Dilution of Br Units with Italian Military Personnel.

10/27/44 SD/26
26 Aug 44 G/

Army Sub Commission MEMA,
HQ AGC,
- Rome.

RECEIVED	18 8 1
FILED	
DATE	

Reference your AQ/11 of 23 Aug 44. D

1. No 2009 Services Platoon, Italian Army, is at present under strength;
One Corporal, Two Privates.
2. My replacements, as above, please be provided.

CMF
CAS/DK

Robert H. Lee
Major General,
Commanding,
No 1 District.

Copy to:- 'G' MEMA

REP 21
21 4 5

08131

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

Subject:- Dilution of British Units with Italian
Military Personnel

50/26
15
Army Sub Commission MMIA
HQ A.C.C.
R O M E
AQ/11

23 Aug 44

HQ No. 1 District

Ref your ID/97/A dated 18 Aug 44.

1. A system to provide a pool of reinforcements, within the Army ceiling, so that Italian Units under Allied Comd may be kept up to strength, is under preparation at HQ AAI.
2. Meanwhile, if No. 1 District will submit a list of requirements to bring 2009 Service Pl up to strength, MMIA will treat as an exception, and provide reinforcements according to availability.

FJN/jrp

Copy to:- "G" MMIA

F.J. Noakes
F.J. NOAKES Lt Col
for Major General
Army Sub Comm. A.C.C.
(MMIA)

2144

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

Army Sub-Comm

M.M.I.A.	23
FILE REF	501X
Date Recd	9/18/44

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT: Dilution of War Establishment
with Civilians

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED ARMY IN ITALY,
1701/66/G(SD2)

8 Aug 44

- 1 District
- 2 District
- 3 District

1. With reference to this HQ 1701/66/G(SD2) dated 3 Jun, it was intended that HQ's Districts should submit recommendations solely in respect of their own HQ's, subordinate Area and Garrison HQ's and any units under their command other than those for which heads of services at this HQ are responsible in accordance with para 5 of the above letter.

2. Recommendations have been received through staff channels in respect of both categories of units. Those relating to District and Area HQ's will shortly be considered by the War Establishments Committee, whilst those relating to service units have been passed to the heads of services concerned.

3. (a) It is desired to make the policy regarding dilution absolutely clear. Dilution may be effected by one of two methods, or by a combination of both. See (b) and (c) below.

(b) Method A - Dilution with Italian Military Personnel.

This is clearly explained in this HQ letter 1701/42/G(SD2) dated 26 Jul 44, and will be used whenever the extent of the proposed dilution warrants an Italian military increment. In the case of NA or ME WEs, proposals will be submitted for the amendment or re-writing of the WE. In the case of Standard WEs, HQ Districts or Heads of Services at AAI as the case may be, will submit draft establishments for both the "IL" British Unit and the Italian increment, and if approved conversion from the Standard to new or existing NA WEs will be effected. In both cases, draft WEs for the "IL" British Unit and the Italian increment are required.

(c) Method B - Dilution with Italian Civilians

0815

units under their command other than those for which heads of services at this HQ are responsible in accordance with para 5 of the above letter.

2. Recommendations have been received through staff channels in respect of both categories of units. Those relating to District and Area HQ's will shortly be considered by the War Establishments Committee, whilst those relating to service units have been passed to the heads of services concerned.

3. (a) It is desired to make the policy regarding dilution absolutely clear. Dilution may be effected by one of two methods, or by a combination of both. See (b) and (c) below.

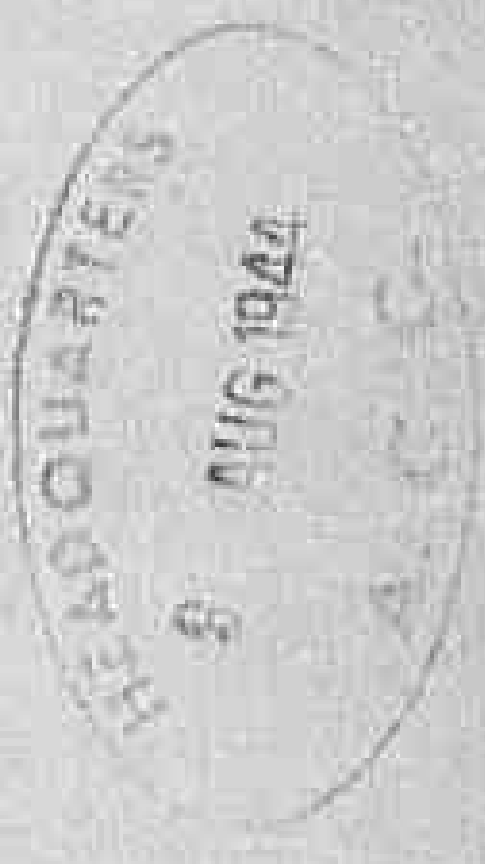
(b) Method A - Dilution with Italian Military Personnel.

This is clearly explained in this HQ letter 1701/42/G(SD2) dated 26 Jul 44, and will be used whenever the extent of the proposed dilution warrants an Italian military increment. In the case of NA or ME VEs, proposals will be submitted for the amendment or re-writing of the VE. In the case of Standard VEs, HQ Districts or heads of Services at AEL as the case may be, will submit draft establishments for both the "IE" British Unit and the Italian increment, and if approved conversion from the Standard to new or existing NA VEs will be effected. In both cases, draft VEs for the 'IE' British Unit and the Italian increment are required.

(c) Method B - Dilution with Italian Civilians

(i) See 1701/66/G(SD2) dated 3 Jun 44, above referred to. This method will be used when the extent of the proposed dilution does NOT warrant an Italian Military Increment, and its main object is the release of British other rank personnel in such categories as Cooks, Butcher, Drivers and general Outmen by replacement with Italian civilians. (See Instructions for the employment of Civilian Labour in ITALY and SICILY, March 1944, Groups 1 and 2). In the case of NA or ME VEs, proposals will be submitted for the amendment to the VE concerned in accordance with this HQ 1701/55/G(SD2) dated 13 May. If the proposal involves the use of more than 20 civilians, a separate new VE will be submitted for the 'IE' British unit and the Italian increment. In the case of Standard establishments, IE action will not be taken. Recommendations will be submitted to this HQ through staff channels giving full details of the personnel it is proposed to replace by civilians.

2143



- 2 -

Official approval will be conveyed to all concerned by this HQ (A Branch), with a copy to GHO 2nd Echelon. Since clearly the British vacancies in the WE which need not be filled owing to replacement by civilians, and the rate at which the British personnel thus rendered surplus may be withdrawn.

(ii) Civilians should normally be substituted for Army personnel on a one for one basis, but, in exceptional cases, proposals involving a number of civilians slightly larger than the number of British personnel released will be considered.

[Signature]
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of General Staff.

Copy to:- Main Eighth Army
Rear Eighth Army
Main 5 Corps
Rear 5 Corps
2 Polish Corps
HQ 26 ELU att 2 Polish Corps
Allied Control Commission
(Army Sub-Commission)
GHO, 2nd Echelon
List B (loss serials 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,
15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 28, 31, 41, 42)

0314

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602

Ref para 7 which presumably refers
to 12 Corps HQ (Gen. MARIOTTI), no
objection was ever reported to us,
but I can quite understand any
Italian formation objecting to troops
being selected without any authority,
as happened in the case of No 1 Dist
who picked their duty platoon from
the SABONA div, and then applied
for a WE/TIO when the thing was
a fait accompli.

This for your info only

1/8

61

!!!
2/1

Handwritten
again
2/1

2122

SUBJECT: Dilution.

RESTRICTED

1D/1580/2/G(SD)

29 Jul 44

Headquarters,
AAI 'G' (SD2)

Reference your 1701/42/G(SD2), dated 26 Jul 44.

1. The revised WE of this HQ, NA/77/2, provided for a separate Italian Increment. This Increment has been formed and has been designated 2009 Service Platoon. It has a separate War Establishment, No. NA/447/1. A corresponding reduction in British personnel has been effected and individuals now surplus are being disposed of under instructions Adv. Rfts. CMT.

2. It is considered that a similar Italian dilution should take place in the HQs of Areas and Sub-Areas. As the Italian personnel will require certain individuals for their own administration your suggestion that there should be a District Pool appears to provide the most economical solution.

3. I therefore propose that the Italian Increment to this HQ shall be expanded and that WE NA/447/1 shall be amended as under. The approximate number of British personnel who will be eventually released in addition to those already rendered surplus at this HQ will be 90.

4. Details of the proposed District Pool organized as a Company of four Platoons, are given at Appendix 'A'.

5. While it is proposed to avoid a permanent allocation of Italian personnel and to post individuals where they will be of the greatest use, it is intended that the initial distribution shall be as shown in Appendix 'B'. This will involve a corresponding reduction in the British personnel on the WEs of the following HQs.

55 Area
59 Area
61 Area
71 Sub Area
151 Sub Area

Separate proposals for the necessary amendment to these WEs will be submitted if my proposal is approved. 21.1

6. (a) The total number of officers will be increased by 4 to a total of 5; the total number of Other Ranks will be increased by 116 to a total of 162.

No increase in transport is involved.

(b) One of the additional officers should be a Captain. One of the additional Other Ranks should be a CSM. No other upgrades are proposed.

(c) (i) While the increase of 116 Other Ranks is apparently offset by a

3. I therefore propose that the Italian Increment to this Hq shall be expanded and that WE NA/447/1 shall be amended as under. The approximate number of British personnel who will be eventually released in addition to those already rendered surplus at this Hq will be 90.

4. Details of the proposed District Pool organised as a Company of four Platoons, are given at Appendix 'A'.

5. While it is proposed to avoid a permanent allocation of Italian personnel and to post individuals where they will be of the greatest use, it is intended that the initial distribution shall be as shown in Appendix 'B'. This will involve a corresponding reduction in the British personnel on the WEs of the following HQs.

55 Area
59 Area
64 Area
74 Sub Area
151 Sub Area

21.1
Separate proposals for the necessary amendment to these WEs will be submitted if my proposal is approved.

6. (a) The total number of officers will be increased by 4 to a total of 5; the total number of Other Ranks will be increased by 116 to a total of 169.

No increase in transport is involved.

(b) One of the additional officers should be a Captain. One of the additional Other Ranks should be a CSM. No other upgrades are proposed.

(c) (i) While the increase of 116 Other Ranks is apparently offset by a corresponding reduction of not more than 90 British personnel it will be seen from reference to Appendix 'B' that No. 4 Platoon is intended to incorporate Italian Military personnel on existing WEs. For example, WE NA/293/1 at present authorises eight Italians and this can be deleted if my proposal is approved.

(ii) Personnel are to be Italian Military personnel.

(d) The existing units affected by my proposal are the Area and Sub-Area HQs referred to above, the Animal Management Training Team (NA/293/1) and the 'A' School of Farriery (A1/6/1). In addition any other units whose existing WEs at present authorises Italian personnel and who may come under command of this Hq in the immediate future.

7. The success of this scheme is entirely dependant on the release of suitable Italian personnel and maximum co-operation by Commanders of Italian formations. It will not succeed if the release of selected personnel is obstructed, as was the case recently with a particular Italian Corps HQ.

In the Field.
RAC/RLL

Copy: MIA ✓

C.A. Heyden
Major General,
Commanding,
No 1 District.

0820

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Appendix 'A'

Italian Increment to HQ No 1 District
Proposed Addition to Form "DISTRICT POOL"

Detail	Coy HQ	No 1 Pl	No 2 Pl	No 3 Pl	No 4 Pl	TOTAL (by Ranks)	Deduct (2) already auth leaves addition now prop
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
OFFICERS: Captains	1					1	1
Lieutenants		1	1	1	1	4	3
OTHER RANKS : WO Class I	1					1	1
Sergeants		2	1	1	1	5	3
Corporals	1	1	2	2	1	7	6
Privates		50	38	38	30	156	106
TOTAL (All Ranks)	3	54	42	42	33	174	120

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Appendix 'A' to 1D/1580/2/G(SD) dated 29 Jul 44

Italian Increment to HQ No 1 District
Proposed Addition to Form "DISTRICT POOL"

Pl No			Pl No			TOTAL (by Ranks) (6)	Deduct (2) already authorised leaves addition now proposed. (7)	Remarks (8)
2	Pl	(3)	3	Pl	(4)			
		(3)			(5)			
						1	1	
						4	3	
1			1					
						1	1	
						5	3	
1			1			7	6	
2			2			156	106	
38			38					
						174	120	
42			42					
						33		

For details as
to trades see Appx. 'B'

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Detail by Trades of Proposed Addition to Italian Increment,
H.Q., No 1 District - Showing Proposed Distribution.

DETAIL	Coy HQ	No 2 Platoon		No 3 Platoon		No 4 Platoon
		Area	Sub Area	Area	Sub Area	
CO - Captain	1					
- Lieutenant		1		1		1
W.O. Class I	1					
Serjeants (a)			1		1	
Corporals (b)	1	1	1	1	1	
General Dutymen		2	2	2	2	
Sanitary Dutymen		1	1	1	1	
Mess Orderlies		3	2	3	2	
Batmen		7	5	7	5	
Drivers, I.C.		5	5	5	5	
Cooks (c)		3	2	3	2	
TOTAL	3	23	19	23	19	

Notes : (a) for supervision Italian personnel
(b) Clerk/Interpreter
(c) including cook for Italian personnel.

0823

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as of Proposed Addition to Italian Increment,
District - Showing Proposed Distribution.
C2

Appx 'B' to 1D/1589/2/C(3)
of 29 Jul 44

Platoon	No 3 Platoon		No 4 Platoon		TOTAL
	Sub Area	Area	Sub Area	Misc	
					1
		1	1		3
					1
	1		1	1	3
	1	1	1		6
	2	2	2	9	19
	1	1	1		5
	2	3	3		13
	5	7	7		31
	5	5	5		25
	2	3	3		13
	19	23	19	10	120

ision Italian personnel
preter
cook for Italian personnel.

0824

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

RESTRICTED

2
13

SUBJECT:- platoon

Army Sub Commission (MMIA)
H.Q. A.C.C.
R O M B.
SD/26
29 Jul 44

AAI

Ref para 2(a) of your 1701/42/G(SD2) of 26 Jul 44.

It is agreed that civilians can be employed by this HQ in lieu of the 9 Italian military personnel authorised by WE NA/241/2 33 Military Mission (MMIA).

ABC

W.P.S. fu
Major General
Army Sub Commission A.C.C.
MMIA

2139

0823

SUBJECT:- Dilution

9 Civilian Service can be used in place of quite a number of British

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY. 1701/42/G(SD2)

26 Jul 44

- Main Eighth Army
- Main 5 Corps
- 2 Polish Corps
- HQ 26 HLU att 2 Polish Corps
- 1 District
- 2 District
- 3 District
- Rome Allied Area Command (British Element)
- 1 Armoured Replacement Group

MAIN A.	27/2
REF	27/2
Date Recd	27/2/44

1. To overcome administrative difficulties it has been decided that Italian Army Service units serving under British command in AAI theatre will be organised on British WEs in accordance with the following principles. This HQ 1605/50/47/G(SD1) (not to all addressees) refers.

- (a) Piecemeal substitution of Italians for British on existing British establishments will not normally be permitted.
- (b) Where it is necessary to dilute a British unit, separate establishments will be drafted for the British and Italian portions.
- (c) The British unit will retain its existing designation with the suffix (LE); the Italian unit will be designated as an Italian increment.
- (d) Units will be administratively self-contained.
- (e) Only the minimum amount of transport will be included on the War Establishments.

2. Attached at Appendix 'A' is a table of units whose existing WEs at present authorise a small number of Italian Military personnel. Addressees affected will state, not later than 5 Aug, whether:-

- (a) It is agreed that civilians will be substituted, in which case disposal instructions will be issued by this HQ for any Italian Military personnel at present employed,

2135

1. To overcome administrative difficulties it has been decided that Italian Army Service units serving under British command in AAI theatre will be organised on British WEs in accordance with the following principles. This HQ 1605/50/47/G(SD1) (not to all addressees) refers.

(a) Piecemeal substitution of Italians for British on existing British establishments will not normally be permitted.

(b) Where it is necessary to dilute a British unit, separate establishments will be drafted for the British and Italian portions.

The British unit will retain its existing designation with the suffix (IE); the Italian unit will be designated as an Italian increment.

(c) Units will be administratively self-contained.

(d) Only the minimum amount of transport will be included on the War Establishments.

2. Attached at Appendix 'A' is a table of units whose existing WEs at present authorise a small number of Italian Military personnel. Addressees affected will state, not later than 5 Aug, whether:-

(a) It is agreed that civilians will be substituted, in which case disposal in the above conditions will be issued by this HQ for any Italian Military personnel at present employed,

or (b) Whether the Italian personnel together with other Italian Military personnel on existing WEs can be deleted and eventually formed into a small Army or District "Pool" Ws.

3. Sponsors replies to para 2 above together with proposals if any for an Army or District "Pool" WE are required in the form of proposals for amendments to WEs vide this HQ letter 1701/55/G(SD2) of 18 May 44.

L. M. T. D. for
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of General Staff.

DISTRIBUTION/..... overleaf

- 2 -

DISTRIBUTION:-

G-3 Org AFHQ
Rear Eighth Army
Rear 5 Corps
MMIA
A
Q
RE
Wks
X
Svy
Mov
Tn (Brit)
Postal
ST

Prints

Med

Ord

REME

Pay

V & R

Lab

Pro

Sal

AKS

HQ RAC

HQ Inf

DMT

1605/50/47/C(SD1)

2137

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

785020

Unit		No of Italians on WE	
13 Military Mission	NA/24/2	9	Army Sub Commis
HQ 1 Armoured Replacement Group RAC	NA/382/1	1	Eighth Army
HQ 1 Armoured Delivery Regt RAC	NA/336/1	3	Eighth Army
HQ 200 Armoured Delivery Regt RAC	NA/336/1	3	Eighth Army
273 Corps Delivery Squadron RAC	NA/337/1	2	Eighth Army
274 Corps Delivery Squadron RAC	NA/337/1	2	Eighth Army
275 Army Delivery Squadron RAC	NA/337/1	2	Eighth Army
276 Army Delivery Squadron RAC	NA/337/1	2	Eighth Army
"B" Army Delivery Squadron RAC	NA/337/1	2	Eighth Army
British Cadre for HQ 21 Italian Pack Tpt Group	AI/8/1	11	2 Polish Corps
Animal Management Training Team	NA/293/1	8	1 District
"A" School of Farriery	AI/6/1	1	1 District
A Surgical Dressing Sterilisation Unit RAMC	NA/294/1	14	3 District
1 Armoured Reinforcement Regt RAC	NA/383/1	22	3 District
"A" Command Depot of Medical Stores RAMC	NA/428/1	12	3 District
6 Reception Station (Class 'A') RAMC	NA/295/1	8	3 District

0 8 2 9

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RESTRICTED

Appendix 'A' to 1701/42/G(SD2)
dated 5 Jul 44

Sponsor

No of Italians on WE

2100

24/2	9	Army Sub Commission (ACC) through ACC (Main) to AFHQ
382/1	1	Eighth Army
336/1	3	Eighth Army
336/1	3	Eighth Army
337/1	2	Eighth Army
337/1	2	Eighth Army
337/1	2	Eighth Army
337/1	2	Eighth Army
337/1	2	Eighth Army
8/1	11	2 Polish Corps
293/1	8	1 District
6/1	1	1 District
294/1	14	3 District
383/1	22	3 District
428/1	12	3 District
295/1	8	3 District

0810

SECRET

SUBJECT: - Reinforcement and Reorganization of Engineer Units.

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/3098/30/A(O).

19 Jun 44

HQ 1 District
1 2 District (11)
3 District (7)
Rfts CEF.

Reference this HQ letters of even reference dated 10, 23 May and 11 Jun 44.

1. With effect from the date of this letter the transfer of personnel from L of C to Field Units, RE, within the terms of the above quoted letter, will be held in abeyance pending review of the situation and further instructions from this HQ.
2. This ruling is given on account of the improvement in the engineer units situation as a result of dilution and the fact that wastage generally in Field Units has been lower than expected.

Cy. (A. B.)

Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

TY

Encls 20

AAI/3098/30/A(O)
HQ 2nd Echelon, BNAT.
Main HQ EIGHTH Army
HQ 5th (US) Army (Br Incr)
Main HQ 5 Corps
JULIA (4)
SPAT
REMO
CE HQ AAI
G (AD)
G (AT)
G (AT)
G (AT)

2133

and 11 Jun 44.

1. With effect from the date of this letter the transfer of personnel from I of C to Field Units, RE, within the terms of the above quoted letters, will be held in abeyance pending review of the situation and further instructions from this HQ.

2. This ruling is given on account of the improvement in the engineer site situation as a result of dilution and the fact that wastage generally in Field Units has been lower than expected.

IV.

Copies to:-

AFHQ - 3.1 (Br)
CHQ 2nd Echelon, BNAT.
Main HQ EIGHTH Army
HQ EIGHTH (US) Army (Br Inscr)
Main HQ 5 Corps
ASFA (4)
ASG
ASD
CE HQ AM
G (SD)
Q (AF)
Pay
PA
Work
WFO
Ord
War Diary (2)
File: 506559/A(0).

2130

Cy. R. L. B. G.
Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

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

0832

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

SUBJECT: Dilution

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED ARMY IN ITALY.
1605/50/10/1/G(SDI)

2 District
3 District

30 May 44

SB/8

(Italian Line Sec)

Three copies of my 1605/50/10/1/G(SDI) of 29 May
are forwarded for info.

W. M. C.
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of General Staff.

Copy to: AMIA

A Q(AE)
Q Ord

213

0 8 3 3

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

SD/26

9

SUBJECT: Reinforcements and Reorganisation -
Engineer Units

SECRET
HQ, ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/3098/30/A(0)

23 May 44

65
76/5

27/5

HQ, 1 Dist
" 2 Dist (11)
" 3 Dist (7)
Rfts GMP

Ref this HQ 3098/30/A(0) dated 10 May 44, para 1 B (i) and (ii).

Only medical category 'A' personnel under 30 years of age who are surplus to WE will be withdrawn for employment in Fd Units.

[Signature]
Major-General

TW/JLH

Chief Administrative Officer.

Copies to: AMHQ - G1(Br)
GHQ 2nd Ech BNAF
Main HQ Eighth Army
HQ 5 (US) Army (Br Incr)
Main HQ 5 Corps
MHA (4) -
SME
REED

CE HQ AAI
G(SD)
Q
Q(AE)
FA
Sigs
OS
War Diary
File 3065/39/A(0)

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

File 50/96
18/5
Spare
8

SUBJECT - Reinforcements and
Reorganisation - Engineer
Units

SECRET

H.Q. ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/3098/30/A(0).

15 May 44.

HQ 1 Dist
HQ 2 Dist
HQ 3 Dist
Rttn CMT

This HQ AAI/3098/30/A(0) dated 10 May 44 will not apply to
the under-mentioned Units which will remain on existing IEs with
100% British personnel.

- (a) 709 Art Wks Coy under 3 Linfield Cons Gp
- (b) 703 " " " " 14 " " "
- (c) 725 " " " " 15 " " "
- (d) 682 " " " " 69 " " "

TW/JLR

[Signature]
Brigadier.
D.A.C.

- Copies to
- ATTN G1 (br)
 - CHQ 2nd Ech BEA
 - Main HQ Eighth Army
 - HQ 5 (US) Army (Br Inor)
 - Main HQ 5 Corps
 - SME
 - RETD
 - CE HQ AAI
 - G(ED)
 - Q
 - PAY
 - PA
 - Works
 - Sigs
 - OS
 - War Diary
 - File 3065/39A(0)

2132

0835

Subject: Reinforcements and Reorganisation -
Engineer Units.

SECRET

FOR ALLIED SERVICES IN ITALY.

ALI/3098/30/A (C)

- HQ 1 Dist
- " 2 Dist
- " 3 Dist
- Refs C&F

10 MAY 44

1. Owing to the shortage of reinforcements for Field and L of C units, the following schemes have been approved to provide a further reinforcement of the process of dilution of L of C Units:-

A. DILUTION OF BRITISH ART WKS COS

- (i) Selected British Art Wks Cos will be diluted to the extent of 2 Cos and part of HQ in each Coy, by an equivalent number of Italians in accordance with the VE at Appendix 'A' to this letter.
- (ii) Those selected for transfer to Field Units will be despatched to RHD, and given one month's training and posted by the VE to the Field Units with CE, HQ ALI.
- (iii) Those unsuitable for transfer to RE (RA) Units will be cross-posted to L of C Units to make good deficiencies and/or release personnel suitable for transfer to RE (RA) Units.
- (iv) All personnel of 'A' Medical Category and under 30 years will be provided as suitable for transfer to RE (RA) Units.
- (v) CE, HQ ALI will make the necessary demand on C (RD) for Italian military personnel in replacement.
- (vi) A period of five weeks "double banking" will be allowed, during which period acting rank will be retained by other ranks.

B. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL OF L OF C TO FIELD UNITS, RE

- (i) All personnel of 'A' Medical Category and under 30 years of age will be withdrawn from L of C Units and despatched to RE (RA) Units for training and subsequent posting to Field formations.
- (ii) Deficiencies caused as a result of this will be met from L of C personnel under scheme (A) above, who are unsuitable for transfer to Field Units.
- (iii) As long as a vacancy exists in their Unit, personnel released will remain acting rank until they are absorbed into Field Units; otherwise they will revert to WS rank on despatch to RHD.

2. The following Appendices are attached showing the principles of dilution of Schemes A and B, with effective dates of reorganisation of the Art Cos concerned:-

21.1

CE, HQ AAI.

- (iii) Those unsuitable for transfer to RE (RA) Units will be cross-posted to L of C Units to make good deficiencies and/or release personnel suitable for transfer to RE (RA) Units.
- (iv) All personnel of 'A' Medical Category and under 30 years will be regarded as suitable for transfer to RE (RA) Units.
- (v) CE, HQ AAI will make the necessary demand on G (SP) for Italian military personnel in replacement.
- (vi) A period of five weeks "double banking" will be allowed, during which period acting rank will be retained by other ranks.

B. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL ON L OF C TO FIELD UNITS, RE

- (i) All personnel of 'A' Medical Category and under 30 years of age will be withdrawn from L of C Units and despatched to RE (RA) Units for training and subsequent posting to Field formations.
- (ii) Deficiencies caused as a result of this will be met from L of C personnel under scheme (A) above, who are unsuitable for transfer to Field Units.
- (iii) As long as a vacancy exists in their Unit, personnel released will retain acting rank until they are absorbed into Field Units; otherwise they will revert to WS rank on despatch to RE (RA).

2. The following Appendices are attached showing the priorities of implementation of Schemes A and B, with effective dates of reorganisation of the AF boys concerned:-

- APPX 'B' - Order of Priority for sending out AF boys
- APPX 'C' - Order of Priority of Units to be provided with boys
- APPX 'D' - Order of Priority of British Units selected for dilution.
- APPX 'E' - List of Italian Units to be exchanged for boys

3. Full scale of Venetian, technical equipment and G.1098 will remain with the AF boys on reorganisation.

TV/TP

Copies to: AFHQ - G.1 (Br) Main HQ 5 Corps G (SP) Sign
GHQ 2nd Ech EMEF SUE 3 OS
Main HQ Eighth Army RE (RA) War Diary
HQ 5 (US) Army (Br Incr) CE HQ AAI PA File 3065/39A (C)

for
Shaw
Major-General
Chief Administrative Officer

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HQ	Two Secs each	Total
Officers	1	4
ORs	52	148
Total	53	152
MC's	-	-
Vehicles	-	-
Trailers	-	-

ARTISAN WORKS COMPANY

(This unit is intended to be employed under command of an Artisan Works Company P.M. (Diluted).)

War Establishment

Personnel

Headquarters

DATE

[illegible]

Personnel

Headquarters

DETAIL

Captain	Officers	Warrant Officers	Class II	Staff Sergeants	Sergeants	Corporals	Lance-Corporals	Privates	Total
1	1							1	1
1	1							1	1
2	2							2	2
		1						1	1
Company sergeant-major			1					1	1
Company quartermaster-serjeant				1				1	1
Serjeant		1							1
Total, warrant officers, staff sergeants and sergeants		1	1	1					3
Corporals (includes one for transport)					3			3	3
Sappers								32	32
Drivers IC								5	5
Total, rank and file		1	1	1	1	3	1	37	41
Total, other ranks						3	1	37	41
Total, HQ Italian Increment for an Artisan Works Company	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	37	46
Distribution of rank and file by trades and duties									
Blacksmiths								2	2
Clerks						1		1	1
draughtsman (architectural)								2	2
Electrician (wiremen)								1	1
Painters and decorators								4	4
Steelbenders								4	4
Timbermen (public works)								2	2
Pioneers R.E.								2	2
Drivers IC								5	5
Boatmen (b)								6	6
Sanitary dutyman								1	1
Water dutyman								1	1
Cooks (c)								6	6
Total, rank and file						3	1	37	41

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Personnel Continued

Two Sections (each)

DETAIL

	Officers	Warrant Officers Class II	Staff Sergeants	Sergeants	Corporals	Lance-Corporals	Sappers	Total
Subaltern	1							1
Total, officers	1							1
Serjeant				1				1
Total, serjeants				1				1
Corporals					4			4
Sappers							47	47
Total, rank and file					4		47	51
Total, other ranks				1	4		47	52
Total, Section Italian Increment for an								
Total, Artisan Works Company	1			1	4		47	53

Distribution of rank and file by trades and duties

Bricklayers								4
Carpenters and joiners				1			3	10
Concretors				1			9	4
Linemmen (power)							4	1
Masons							2	2
Painters and decorators							2	2
Plumbers and pipefitters							2	2
Steelbenders, ferro concrete							2	2
Engine hand, IC							1	1
Pioneers R.E.				2			19	21
Bagman (able to drive)							1	1
Cook							1	1
Total, rank and file				4			47	51

Total, rank and file

- (a) For duty as interpreter
 (b) Four for duty with British Artisan Works Coy RE (diluted)
 (c) Four for duty with British Artisan Works Coy RE (diluted)

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APPENDIX "B".

ORDER OF PRIORITY FOR COMBING-OUT INGR UNITS
IN L of C AND ARMY AREAS - FOR ENGINEER REINFORCEMENT PROGRAMME

L of C	UNIT	PRIORITY
(a)	Art Wks Coys	1
(b)	Army Tps Coys	2
(c)	Pipeline Operating & Maint Coys	3
(d)	Boring Secs.	4
(e)	Stores Secs.	5
(f)	Quarrying Coys	6
(g)	Rd Constr Coys	7
(h)	E & M Coys	8
(i)	Wksp & Plt Coys	9
(k)	Miscellaneous Units	10

Army		
(a)	Art Wks Coys	1
(b)	Army Tps Coys	2
(c)	Stores Secs	3
(d)	Quarrying Coys	4
(e)	E & M Coys	5
(f)	Miscellaneous Units	6

Notes: (a) Only British units are affected by combining-out.
(b) It is not intended, at present, to dilute Mech Eng Coys or Secs.

APPENDIX "C".

ORDER OF PRIORITY OF UNITS TO BE PROVIDED WITH REIN.
FROM COMBING-OUT OF L OF C UNITS.

L of C	UNIT	PRIORITY
(a)	Wksp & Plt Coys	1
(b)	E & M Coys	2
(c)	Rd Constr Coys	3
(d)	Quarrying Coys	4
(e)	Stores Secs	5
(f)	Boring Secs	6
	Miscellaneous Units	7

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

Miscellaneous Units

10

- Art Wks Coys
- Army Tps Coys
- Stores Secs
- Quarrying Coys
- E & M Coys
- Miscellaneous Units

1 2 3 4 5 6

Notes: (a) Only British units are affected by combing-out.
(b) It is not intended, at present, to dilute Mech Bn Coys or Secs.

APPENDIX "C".
ORDER OF PRIORITY OF UNITS TO BE PROVIDED WITH AMHE.
FROM COMBING-OUT OF L OF C UNITS.

L of C

UNIT

PRIORITY 2128

- Wasp & P: Coys
- E & M Coys
- Rd Constr Coys
- Quarrying Coys
- Stores Secs
- Boring Secs
- Pipeline Op & Maint Coys
- Army Tps Coys
- Art Wks Coys
- Miscellaneous Units

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- E & M Coys
- Quarrying Coys
- Stores Secs
- Army Tps Coys
- Art Wks Coys
- Miscellaneous Units

1 2 3 4 5 6

Army

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

Army

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

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

1 2 3 4 5 6

Art Wks Coys
Army Tps Coys
Stores Secs
Quarrying Coys
E & M Coys
Miscellaneous Units

Notes: (a) Only British units are affected by combining-out.
(b) It is not intended, at present, to dilute Mech Bn Coys or Secs.

APPENDIX "C".

ORDER OF PRIORITY OF UNITS TO BE PROVIDED WITH RELIEF.
FROM COMBING-OUT OF L OF C UNITS.

PRIORITY 2125

UNIT

Wksp & E- Coys
E & M Coys
Rd Constr Coys
Quarrying Coys
Stores Secs
Doring Secs
Pipeline Op & Maint Coys
Army Tps Coys
Art Wks Coys
Miscellaneous Units

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

L of C

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k)

Army

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

E & M Coys
Quarrying Coys
Stores Secs
Army Tps Coys
Art Wks Coys
Miscellaneous Units

1 2 3 4 5 6

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

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APPENDIX "E"

LIST of ITALIAN UNITS to be BARMAKED for ENIGR REYNT PROGRAM.

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(a) At present located in ITALIAN Military Depot, S. MARINO.
(b) Organised as Mixed (1/3 Sprs, 2/3 Sigs) Coys, Spr Str each Coy Offr 1 ORs 60.
If sigs pors are either not suitable or not available for dilution of Brit
Art Wks Coys an equivalent number must be provided from other resources.
(c) Stoppage Buys, 13 Gp allotted to 5 Corps; 164 Gp allotted 1 to FIGHTING ARMY.

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APPENDIX "E".

LIST of ITALIAN UNITS to be EAR-MARCHED for EMER REINT PROGRAM.

Priority List Serial Number	Unit	Approx Strength	Remarks
Nil	906 Lav Artieri Coy	144	(a)
Nil	907 Lav Artieri Coy	250	(a)
Nil	225 Mista Genio Coy	160	(a) (b)
Nil	226 Mista Genio Coy	141	(a) (b)
Nil	3 Pontieri Pl	61	(a) (b)
Nil	4 Pontieri Pl	56	(a) (b)
1500	13 Cp Artieri d'Arresto	196	(a) (b) 2127
1501	164 Cp Artieri d'Arresto	261	(a) (b)
2003	3 Artieri Coy	159	(a) (b)
2004	4 Artieri Coy	272	(a) (b)
2005	5 Artieri Coy	140	(a) (b)

Remarks:

- (a) At present located in ITALIAN Military Depot, S.MARY.
- (b) Organised as mixed (1/3 Sprs, 2/3 Sigs) Coys, Spr Str and Coy Offr 1 ORs 60. If aigs pers are either not suitable or not available for dilution of Brit Art Wks Coys an equivalent number must be provided from other resources.
- (c) Stoppage Engrs, 13 Cp allotted to 5 Corps; 164 Cp allot 1 to ENGINE Army.
- (d) Allotted to 3 District.
- (e) Allotted to 2 District.

3
Subject:- Dilution of British and American Units with Italians

To:- G.O.C.

INFORM

1. At present there are two distinct types of diluted units

(a) The complete Italian unit with an Allied Cadre such as Gen Tpt Coys, Mule Pack Tpt Coys, the new Labour Bns and Smoke Coys.

(b) The mixed British-Italian units under Allied Comd of which so far the two main ones are - 7 Mtn Regt RA and 786 Pack Tpt Coy.

2. Reports received on those in sub para(a) above indicate that they have generally been a success. The cadre act chiefly in an advisory capacity as a liaison unit between the Allied Comd and the Italian O.C. It is also responsible for accounting for ~~only~~ Allied eqpt issued to the Italians. The Italians are responsible for their own discipline and adm.

3. The Italians in those units in para 1(b) are under a British C.O. but may also have their own offrs for adm and discipline. Their position is somewhat confused and although efforts to clarify it have been made, no definite instructions have yet been issued. (HSD 424 of 15 Feb 44 refers)

4. No reports have been received of 786 Pack Tpt Coy which has been ^{functioning} ~~existing~~ for about 4 months, so it may be presumed to be working satisfactory.

5. 7 Mtn Regt is just completing its training. The SMRE went to some trouble to provide good men for it (as also for 786 Coy) and one of the Bty Comd visiting here reported very favourably on them, and on their morale.

VIEWS

6. I believe that the Italians like serving under Allied C.Os. or with Allied Cadres and the SMRE always seem more enthusiastic about forming units which are to have Allied cadres. The reasons for this are probably

(a) that the troops are looked after better
(b) that they and the SMRE feel that they are working or fighting on equal terms with the Allies, which will put them on a better basis at the eventual Peace Conference.

(c) they dislike Port Labour in which I think they feel that they are being used as slaves. This task is turned over almost exclusively to them

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3. The Italians in those units in para 1(b) are under a British C.O. but may also have their own officers for adm and discipline. Their position is that confused and although efforts to clarify it have been made, no definite answer has been received (para 10 of 15 Feb 44 refers)

Instructions have yet been issued. (Ref 424 C) *functioning*

No reports have been received of 786 Pack Tpt Coy which has been ~~reth-~~^{functioning} assumed to be working satisfactory.

7 Mtn Regt is just completing its training. The SMRE went to some trouble to provide good men for it (as also for 786 Coy) and one of the Bty Comd visiting here reported very favourably on them, and on their morale.

VALUES

VIEWS I believe that the Italians like serving under Allied C.O.s. or with 6. Allied Cadres and the SMRE always seem more enthusiastic about forming units which are to have Allied cadres. The reasons for this are probably

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(a) that the troops are looked after better

(b) that they and the SMRE feel that they are working or fighting on equal terms with the Allies, which will put them on a better basis at the eventual Peace Conference.

(c) they dislike Port Labour in which I think they feel that they are being used as slaves. This task is turned over almost exclusively to them and civilians, and Allied troops are only used in emergencies when sufficient Italians are not available.

7. Assuming that the Int Sec Divs remain untouchable there are unlikely to be sufficient Italian cadres, or frameworks of units left, on which to form new units. It would appear, therefore, that future Allied policy must be directed along the line of para 1(b). I foresee

along the line of para I(b). I received

(a) that the Allies will be disappointed with the men they receive, since only poor material is now available.

(b) that it will be more difficult eventually for the Italians to reform their Army.

2

8. To make the best of a bad job the following are necessary
- (a) An equal ration for Allied and Italian soldiers working side by side.
 - (b) A clear cut directive on the powers of the Allied C.O. or Cadre comd, and status of Italians (particularly the officers) in diluted units.
 - (c) Return of specialist PWs and those that can speak English, of which there were reputed to have been hundreds in N.AFRICA. Demands for interpreters already far exceed the supply, and will increase rapidly when dilution really starts. No help has yet been forthcoming in this respect in spite of repeated requests.
9. Finally I would suggest that the Italian General Staff be consulted on all aspects of this matter, in order to get their fullest co-operation.

18 Apr 44

Lt Col
GS

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when dilution really starts. No help has yet been forthcoming in this respect in spite of repeated requests.

9. Finally I would suggest that the Italian General Staff be consulted on all aspects of this matter, in order to get their fullest co-operation.

18 Apr 44

[Signature]

Lt Col
GS

*I have been very interested in the information
by dilution of which is A-448 signed A-448
of 17 April to LCC, defining Class E*

*Italian personnel employed to build
works is direct company from a few
was in a preliminary building work to
can't be followed by a British soldier when
the bulk of the personnel are Italian.*

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[Signature]

SUBJECT:- Inspectorate of Manpower - British

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SECRET

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50/26
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
1701/66/G(SD2)

13 Jul 44

1. Under authority AFHQ 253/Org-3 dated 20 March 44, Colonel R.B. RATHBONE was appointed Colonel GS, Investigator of Manpower at AFHQ (G-3 Org Section).
2. This Officer is now attached to and under the orders of this HQ (SD Branch), though remaining on the WE of AFHQ.
3. His duties are to take all possible steps to economise British manpower, (the position in regard to which is acute and is likely to become progressively worse) including the following :-
 - (a) Review of WEs with a view to effecting savings by reductions or dilution.
 - (b) Visits to units and establishments (whether under comd of this HQ or AFHQ) in Italy and the islands in order to discuss possible economies, including dilution of units with Italian military or civilian personnel.
 - (c) To advise on War Establishment matters generally.
4. Although, as stated above, Colonel Rathbone's principal duty is to effect economies, he will always be ready to help if a good case can be made out for up-gradings (which do not of themselves increase the manpower commitment) or, where a suitable off-set can be found, for proposals involving a net manpower increase if operationally essential.
5. Tours will whenever possible be arranged in consultation with the formation, District, Service etc concerned.
6. Every possible assistance will be afforded to Col Rathbone in the exercise of his duties.

DISTRIBUTION:- List "A"

07 Hastings
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Lieutenant-General,
Chief of General Staff.



SECRET

APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION
RESULTING FROM LARGE-SCALE DILUTION OF BRITISH & AMERICAN
UNITS WITH ITALIANS

by Maj C.F. Baumann,
IC Italian Gen Staff

LEQUILE, 28 Apr 44.

OBJECT

1. To consider the political, psychological and morale implications of large-scale dilution of British and American units with Italian personnel.

DEFINITION

2. Dilution is taken to mean:-

- (a) inclusion of Italian personnel in units on British and American ests and under British or American OSC.
- or (b) Italian units with British or American cadres.

INFM

3. Extent of present Allied control over various secs of Italian Army:

AAI provisional programme envisages following categories:

- (a) 115,000 combat and internal security tps under Italian offrs and overall control by Italian Gen Staff, except for operational purposes;
- (b) 45,000 for Italian adm and under Italian cmd for all purposes;
- (c) 180,000 tps emp or to be emp by Allies with Italian offrs and at present generally under cmd Italian Regt and div HQs for adm and discipline.

This appreciation is directly concerned with the 180,000 men at (c), though also indirectly with those at (a).

FACTORS AFFECTING THE SITUATION

4. Relations between the Italian Gen Staff and tps working for the Allies;
The longer Italian units work alongside Allied units, the more the Italian personnel

INFM

and under British or American CBO.
or (b) Italian units with British or American cadres.

3. Extent of present Allied control over various secs of Italian Army:
AAI provisional programme envisages following categories:
- (a) 115,000 combat and internal security tps under Italian ofrs and overall control by Italian Gen Staff, except for operational purposes;
 - (b) 45,000 for Italian adm and under Italian cmd for all purposes;
 - (c) 180,000 tps emp or to be emp by Allies with Italian ofrs and at present generally under cmd Italian Regt and div HQs for adm and discipline.

This appreciation is directly concerned with the 180,000 men at (c), though also indirectly with those at (a).

FACTORS AFFECTING THE SITUATION

4. Relations between the Italian Gen Staff and tps working for the Allies;
The longer Italian units work alongside Allied units, the more the Italian personnel will become imbued with Allied methods and absorbed into the Allied war machine, the harder it will be for the Gen Staff to maintain contact with these tps. It is undoubtedly in the long-term interests of the Allies, as helping the stability of the Italian Govt, to assist the Gen Staff in maintaining control over these 180,000 men. These moral and disciplinary ties are maintained solely through the Italian ofrs of the unit, who are thus a big factor in the situation. Appointments in the Italian Army carry low rank by British and American standards, hence the anxiety of the Gen Staff to strengthen this link by bn and regt HQs. It is important that Italian units working with the Allies or Italian personnel in diluted units should continue to be commanded

THEREFORE

2.

by Italian ofrs, and their influence should be strengthened by a limited number of bn and regimental HQs.

5. Adm

The Gen Staff is already very concerned with the problem of keeping track of their tps working with the Allies, and unless Bn and Regimental HQs are organized to take care of records of personnel with diluted or cadre units - even on a strictly limited basis - the situation is likely to get out-of-control. Their conscription system seems to require considerable documentation.

THEREFORE some bn and regimental HQs are required to be maintained for adm purposes.

6. Influence of the individual ofr

Unfortunately the present ofr cadres are composed of indifferent material and leave much to be desired. This must be evident even to the Italian tps by comparison with Allied ofrs in their midst. The best Italian regular ofrs available to the Allies are in PW camps. It is all the more necessary therefore, that the authority and status of Italian ofrs in diluted units be fully maintained, or their influence will be completely lost. For instance, it is reported form 7 Mtn Regt that British ofrs and WOs are mounted, whereas Italian ofrs have to march with their men. This is NOT lost on the men and undermines the Italian ofrs posn.

THEREFORE the posn of Italian ofrs in diluted units or in units with Allied cadres must be supported, and every effort made to secure better Italian ofrs.

7. Psychological aspect

The reactions of Italian tps in diluted units or with Allied cadres will depend entirely on the particular treatment they receive. If discrimination is used against them it will be intensely resented. 24 Oct 44

much to be desired. This must be evident even to the Italian tps by comparison with Allied ofirs in their midst. The best Italian regular ofirs available to the Allies are in PW camps. It is all the more necessary therefore, that the authority and status of Italian ofirs in diluted units be fully maintained, or their influence will be completely lost. For instance, it is reported from 7 Mtn Regt that British ofirs and WOs are mounted, whereas Italian ofirs have to march with their men. This is NOT lost on the men and undermines the Italian ofirs posn.

THEREFORE the posn of Italian ofirs in diluted units or in units with Allied cadres must be supported, and every effort made to secure better Italian ofirs.

7. Psychological aspect

The reactions of Italian tps in diluted units or with Allied cadres will depend entirely on the particular treatment they receive. If discrimination is used against them it will be intensely nationalistic, but the fair treatment the results will be favourable to the Allies in the long run. The Italians are a beaten nation, which makes it difficult for Allied tps, in many cases, to treat them other than an inferior race, which is strongly resented. However, owing to the very probable limitation of the size of the Italian Army after the war, it should NOT be necessary for the Govt to incorporate these particular men in whatever forces they are allowed to retain for police duties. At home their particular reactions are NOT likely to affect whatever forces the Italian Govt is allowed to retain.

THEREFORE it is NOT considered that psychological reactions will be important in the military tactical or strategic sense, though important in the political field.

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3.

8. Standard of living and pay

The improved standards of pay, food and clothing of the men in diluted units or with Allied cadres will produce a favourable reaction among the men so placed, but may cause discontent among the 100,000 on whom the Italian Govt and the Allies may have to depend for ~~XXXXXXX~~ internal security.

WHEREFORE it should be a subject for examination depending on the long-term political picture whether the internal security tps can be allowed to continue with their present inferiority of pay, clothing and rations.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE SITUATION

9. Long term posn of Italian Govt

Assuming the Allied interest in a stable Italian Govt capable of maintaining law and order after the war, and assuming that the internal security divs will be the instrument for implementing the policy of the Italian Govt, it follows that a situation must NOT be allowed to arise whereby the internal security tps become ineffective, for any of the following reasons:

- (a) insufficient number of internal security tps in relation to
 - i. numbers of other tps employed by the Allies, in the event of the latter being increased at the expense of the former;
 - ii. area of territory to be covered.
- (b) disaffection of internal security tps on account of
 - i. actual low standard of clothing, rations and trg
 - ii. relative low standard compared with diluted units.

THEREFORE any policy which radically effects the relations Italian Govt and Italian tps in diluted units must take into account the security tps on which the Italian Govt is depending for implementing its policy.

Italian Govt capable of maintaining law and order after the war, and assuming that the internal security divs will be the instrument for implementing the policy of the Italian Govt, it follows that a situation must NOT be allowed to arise whereby the internal security tps become ineffective, for any of the following reasons:

(a) insufficient number of internal security tps in relation to

- i. numbers of other tps employed by the Allies, in the event of the latter being increased at the expense of the former;

ii. area of territory to be covered.

(b) disaffection of internal security tps on account of

- i. actual low standard of clothing, rations and trg
- ii. relative low standard compared with diluted units.

THEREFORE any policy which radically effects the relations Italian Govt and Italian tps diluted units must take into account the security tps on which the Italian Govt is depending for implementing its policy.

10. Reactions of the Gen Staff.

The dilution or cadre system will tend to break down still further the somewhat slender connections between Italian Gen Staff and Italian units working with the Allies, so their first reactions to any scheme of this kind will NOT be very favourable. However their co-operation is very necessary, if only from an adm angle.

THEREFORE it is recommended that they be fully informed as soon as possible of our intentions and given an opportunity to express their views.

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

SUBJECT: Dilution of British and American Units with Italians.

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main HQ (MMIA)
LEQUILLE (IECCE)
SD/26
26 Apr 44.

To : G. AQ. RE. Sigs.
L.O. SIRE L.O. Min of War.

1. I can see the whole matter of dilution as above looming up in the offing and we should have our minds and policy clear as to what we think can or should be done, together with the implications.
2. It seems to me to be a thorny problem because results and action taken will affect the Italian Army and Nation not alone now but post-war also. I start off on the assumption that the post-war aspect is a major one and although certain action may be apparently very desirable, it may not by any means necessarily be so taking the long view. Moreover we have to consider not alone the tactical and technical aspects but also psychological.
3. Would you therefore think over this matter and let me have by 0900 hrs Saturday 29th April a short statement of your views on the matter. I will then discuss the whole problem with Colonel KERR and we will formulate a suggested comprehensive policy on paper and send it to A.A.I. so that they may make any decisions with full knowledge of the factors and implications.

trvs.LB.

A. Brown
Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

Copy to: Colonel KERR.

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