

1446

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

ACC

10000 | 120 | 539

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SD/29 RFT-DEPOTS - GENERAL

Opened Ap. 11, 1945 - Closed Oct 12, 1945

Ap - Oct. 1945

1448

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

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: P.B.S.

111038 A

TO : SOS BRD ORVISTO

INFO: MMIA ROME

REF : C-919 CITE SPATG

IMPORTANT

UNCLASSIFIED

APPROXIMATELY 150 FORMER U S - I T I PERSONNEL
OF 7th Q M SERVICE BATTALION WILL ARRIVE
ORVISTO 12 OCTOBER (.) EXPECT ADDITIONAL
300 FROM SAME UNIT SHORTLY

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: SD/203

Info: A

Q (Two)

SD/29

INFO COPY

ONLY

ws 12 Oct 55

2591

INFO COPY

ONLY

INFO COPY

ONLY

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785020

9

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : M.M.I.A.

DATE TIME OF ORIGIN
11 1000 A

TO : PENBASE FOR M.M.I.A. LO

PENSOUTH FOR M.M.I.A. LO

INFO : BR CADRE REORGANISATION CENTRE

REF A 1335 (.)

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE AT ORVIE TO NOW FULLY BOOKED UP TO 25 OCTOBER (.) CONTACT
THIS H.Q. BEFORE ANY FURTHER DRAFTS ARE SENT EX DISBANDED UNITS

PRECEDENCE : IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED :

[Signature]

2590

COPY : G (SD) (2) ✓

FILE A 113/2

A 182

maf.

FILE:	50/29.
DATE:	R/11/10.

650 1
650 2 (Op)
650 2 (SD)
650 2 (SD)
650 2 (SD)
650 2 (SD)
650 2 (SD)
650 2 (SD)

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: All Ranks Strength - Combat Force.

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E
A 121
23 June 45

TO : Col. "A".

Ref attached note dated 21 June 45.

1. (a) Total All Ranks in Combat Groups and 'Tail'
Units when taken over in September 1944 . . . 60,000
- Posted to Combat Force between time taken
over and 31 May 1945 30,000

GRAND TOTAL 90,000

- (b) Average Strength of each Group* from September 1944
to May 1945 is :-

FRIULI	8,900
CREMONA	9,400
LEGHANO	9,800
FOLGORE	9,400
MANTOVA	8,750

'Tail' Units	4,300
Reinfts	7,200

Average Total) 57,750
Combat Force)

52/39
25/8

/s/ JAD
Major

*PICENO Gp average for 4 months from Sept/44 to Dec/44
Inclusive was 7,500.

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S I G N A L .

FROM : M.M.I.A.

18/215 B

50/29

TO : A.F.H.Q.

REF. A1069

RESTRICTED

REFERENCE YOUR G-1(BR)/1644/1/A-3 OF 2 MAY (.). MAY BRD FOR
230 DIV AND 2 DISTRICT UNITS BE AMENDED TO READ 302 BRD ORVIETO (.).
THIS WILL BE IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS ALREADY ISSUED TO MINISTRY
OF WAR (.). LETTER FOLLOWS TO PROPOSE MOVE OF EITHER 303 OR 304
BRD'S TO N W ITALY (.). CONVERSATION S TAD R E Y - D O B B S
REUTERS

2588

PRECEDENCE I M P O R T A N T

File. A110.

/SI

(JD)

AUTHENTICATED

GSO 1

GSO 2 (Ops)

GSO 2 (CO)

GSO 2 (W)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (SO)

GSO 3 (Crest)

GSO 2 (I)

MMIA - 'G'

FILE: 50/29

DATE: 14/5

OUTGOING SIGNAL

DATE/TIME: 12 1745 B

FROM : MILA

TO : AFHQ

REF NO: SD 2672

INFO : CG 15 ARMY CP FOR BRIT INOR
 RELAR EIGHTH ARMY
 CG FIFTH ARMY FOR BRIT INOR
 DISTONE
 DISTWO
 DISTTHREE

SECURITY CLASSN: SECRET

SUBJECT IS ADJUSTMENT OF ITALIAN ADM DIV HQS FOR ADM BR-ITI TBS AND ADJUSTMENT
 BR-ITI BASE RPT DEPOTS (.)

FIRST (.) IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ITALIAN SERVICE UNIT COMMITMENT IN 2 DIST
 WILL NOT BE AS GREAT AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED (.) IF SO SUGGEST FOLLOWING
 LAYOUT ADM DIV HQS (.)

A (.) 230 ADM DIV IN REMAINS FLORENCE AND PASSES TO UNDER COMD
 1 DIST (.) 230 ADM DIV FLORENCE AND 209 ADM DIV PERUGIA
 WILL BE VERY FULLY EMPLOYED ADMINISTERING UNITS II: NEW ENLARGED
 1 DIST AREA (.)

B (.) 231 ADM DIV MOVES TO NEW FIFTH ARMY AREA AS PLANNED (.) IN
 THE EVENT THAT FIFTH ARMY HQ BE WITHDRAWN OR THAT PRESENT
 ITALIAN UNITS UNDER FIFTH ARMY SHOULD PASS TO 2 DIST THEN HQ 2587
 231 ADM DIV WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND SUITABLE TO PASS TO 2 DIST
 AS WELL (.)

SECOND (.) RECOMMEND THAT 804 ELST RPT DEPOT TRAIN BE CLOSED IN NEAR FUTURE
 AND RE-OPENED IN NEW 231 DIV AREA (.) LAYOUT WOULD THEN BE (.)

A (.) 228 DIV AND 231 DIV BASED ON 804 DEPOT IN NEW AREA (.)

B (.) 230 DIV AND 209 DIV BASED ON 802 DEPOT PRESENT LOGN ORVITO (.)

C (.) 227 DIV BOTH EAST AND WEST BASED ON 803 DEPOT PRESENT LOON

1453

785020

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DECLARATION: A. M. J. Deland PRECINCT: 8th

DECLARATION: A. M. J. Deland PRECINCT: 8th

DECLARATION: A. M. J. Deland PRECINCT: 8th

DECLARATION: A. M. J. Deland PRECINCT: 8th

1454
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

FROM : DISTONE

DATE
18

TIME
1800 B

TO : ACTION MMIA

INFO : IT RPT DEPOT ORVIETO
COPY MMIA LO

Q 6 RESTRICTED.

REF YOUR Q 187 OF 17 NOT TO ALL(.) MAX CAPACITY ORVIETO BRD
USING TENTAGE AND VACATED HOSP⁴ ACCN CONSIDERED TO BE 7000
INCL PERMANENT STAFF

COPY TO :

G.

A.

Q.2.

13/4.

MMIA-C
FILE: 50/29
DATE: R ²⁰ 4

2/4

2580

CONFIDENTIAL

3 District
Ext 10
766/G

4 Apr 45

MMIA-G

FILE: 50/42/1

DATE: 4/4

SUBJECT: Italian Base Reinforcement Depot.

Gen Rossi, Comd 227 Italian Adm Div.

Copies to: AFHQ (C4-Br)

AFHQ (C3-ORG-FOR)

AFHQ - DMT

MIAA

MIAA - Naples

Comd 56 Area

Brit Centre 803 Italian Base Rft Dep

A

Q

Wel

MIAA LO

Italian Liaison Offr, 5 Dist.

1. Following my visit to the ATRACOLA Camp this morning I think it might be helpful if I were to put on paper some of the comments and suggestions which I made during our talks at the camp. Those comments and suggestions are made not so much in a spirit of criticism as out of a desire to assist in setting the HHD on its feet in order that it may properly fulfil the functions which it is intended to serve, and especially to ensure that, co-incident with the move to RAVISCHANKA, all possible steps are taken to put right all those matters which at present give cause for complaint.

2. My chief criticisms, based on what I have seen and heard at the Depot, are:-

- (i) The almost complete lack of parades, training or any other useful occupation for the men.
- (ii) The state of indiscipline prevailing.

To a great extent these two factors are interdependent, for, unless they are usefully employed indiscipline is bound to result, and unless they are disciplined it is very difficult usefully to employ them.

3. As regards para. 2 (i) above the difficulties to be overcome in this respect are fully appreciated, but it appears to me that at present little effort is being made to do so. The training facilities at the disposal of the depot are admittedly limited, but much can be accomplished in the matter of drill and physical training (including organized games), training with the rifle, education (designed to improve the standard of military and general knowledge), etc. In order to make the best possible use of the facilities available, however, it is necessary that properly co-ordinated training programmes be arranged; especially is this so in the case of training with the rifle, of which only a limited number is available.

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As regards the quality of the officers and NCOs on the permanent strength of the depot, it is appreciated that in many cases this is low. Representations have been, and will continue to be, made with a view to improving this state of affairs, but for the present the situation must be accepted, and steps must be taken to improve the state of efficiency of those that are available. To this end it is obviously necessary that they themselves should undergo some training.

In order to assist in the training, both of the recruits and of the officers and NCOs of the permanent staff, I am endeavouring to arrange to reinforce the British Cadre at the depot by the attachment of a number of British officers and NCOs. These, I hope, will be made available for a period of about six weeks, after which I hope that the permanent staff will itself be better able to undertake the further training at the depot.

4. As regards para 2 (ii) above, it appears to me that under existing conditions little or nothing is done in the way of punishing wrong-doers, and that one of the chief deterrents against crime is, therefore, lacking. I am astonished that there are at present no facilities which enable the Camp Commandant to make use of the power to award terms of detention and confinement to barracks which is vested in him. This state of affairs must be quickly rectified, and I have instructed my staff to take up the question with the appropriate authorities.

- 2 -

In the absence of permanent arrangements some temporary arrangement should be made. I cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity for adopting prompt and firm measures in order to improve the state of discipline in the depot.

5. I have referred only to what I regard as the fundamental causes of trouble at the depot; other problems remain to be solved. These include:-

- (i) The disposal of the (apparently) large number of absentees and deserters now shown on the strength of the depot.
- (ii) Arrangements for dealing with drafts in transit.
- (iii) Measures to prevent absentees and deserters obtaining meals at the transit camp, wherever it may be.
- (iv) The provision of welfare amenities at RAVISCANINA.

6. The move of the depot to RAVISCANINA affords an opportunity of rectifying most of the present troubles, and it is incumbent on all concerned to use their utmost endeavour to do so.

I am providing substantial assistance in the shape of British personnel and facilities, and I look to you to give all assistance in your power, and to the permanent staff of the depot to give loyal and whole-hearted service with a view to making the depot one of which the Italian Army may be proud.

Maj Gen.
Casal.

1458

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

OUTGOING SIGNAL

3

FROM: MMIA
TO : 1 DIST
REF : SD 2603

Date Time
15 1745 B

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Restricted

IN REPLY YOUR 1D/29/3/A OF 11 APR (.) DOCUMENT ENTITLED
FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF BRITISH CADRES IS NOT BINDING (.)
SUGGEST THAT IN THIS INSTANCE YOU ISSUE LOCAL INSTRUCTIONS
TO MEET YOUR REQUIREMENTS

PRECEDENCE Routine

AUTHENTICATED J.M. Ingledew
H. Cl

Internal: File: SD/29

WB

258*

R 16/4

SUBJECT:- Channels of Communication

SD/29.
1D/29/3/A

11 Apr 45

Land Forces Sub Commission (MMIA) ✓

1. Your SD/42 of 1 Mar 45, regarding the function and duties of British Cadres of Base Reinforcement Depots (Bri-Iti), has been interpreted by OC 802 British Cadre as meaning that the channel of communication between himself and this HQ is direct.
2. While it is agreed that on the subject of Reinforcement Procedure and Policy he has direct access to this HQ, this unit is under HQ 71 Sub Area for local Admin, and he should therefore deal with that HQ on such matters.
3. Would you please consider the desirability of issuing a further instruction in order to make this clear to OSC British Cadres.

4.1. I would say that District HQ should issue their own instructions regarding local admin. The BRD is C.M.F. under Command of the District

Copy to:- HQ 71 Sub Area.
and as any other unit. OC British Cadre, 802 Base Rft Depot.

MMIA-'G'
FILE: SD/29
DATE: 12/4

[Signature]
Major General,
Commanding,
No 1 District.

258

[Signature]
15/4.

1460