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INT / 105/2 REPORTS CERMONA

Opened Jan. 20, 1945 - Closed Jan 30, 1945
JAN. 1945

TOP SECRET.

CREMONA COMBAT GROUP.

SIXTH 22-30 Jan 45.

Night 21/22 Jan. Patrols from 11/21 advanced to left and right of RICCIBITTI 4849 and TOSCHI 4849 and reached dyke, no enemy were encountered. Other patrols reached the Fossa VETRO and P. VECCHIO in four other points without opposition, but one patrol was fired at on 1/21 front.

At 0415 however it was found that RICCIBITTI was occupied by enemy. Two MG's opened fire from front of house and two from sides, when our patrol approached a red flare was sent up and enemy DG mortar fire brought down.

22 Jan. At 0630 hrs enemy were reported at 11 MAGGIARENO 4952, also at 493507, TOSCHI and RICCIBITTI. Area 475480 mined.

A patrol was established between 475480 and 477480 but was later withdrawn to MERCATELLI on account of enemy mortar fire.

GLAZOL 4951 reported unoccupied. House 493508 had one MG in it but was clear of enemy by 0730 hrs.

C. LOLLII contained two MG's but C. MARTINI 4951 clear.

During the day attempts were made to capture RICCIBITTI but failed.

At 1400 hrs two Tks of RHV and 15 men moved against C. PILLIONE 5355 and were met with bazooka fire; Tks withdrew.

Night 22/23 Jan 45. During 22 Jan and night 22/23 Jan, 2 Cdm Mde relieved Cremona in part of its sector, thus narrowing the rather extended front hitherto held by the Gruppo. New left bdy of Gruppo now established as under:-

486506 - Incl S. MARIA 497495 - stream 507490 - Incl C. PERNANILA 517475.

The area between left bdy of Gruppo and S. ALBERTO 5352 **52442d** (H to L) by 11/21, 1/22 and 11/22.

11/22 in res area 10 STABIALE 5742.

11/21 in area 14 CASCIANA 5054 with outposts to north on line of PENO.

1/21 in res area PORTO CORBINO 5346.

Change over was complete by first light 23 Jan.

During night patrols of 11/22 found GLAZOL 4951 and LOLLII 4950 occupied by enemy.

23 Jan. At 1415 hrs air CE entered about 70-80 enemy in area

withdrawn to MERCATELLI on account of enemy mortar fire. CIAZOL 4951 reported unoccupied. House 493508 had one MG in it but was clear of enemy by 0730 hrs.

C.IOLLI contained two MG's but C.MARTINI 4951 clear.

During the day attempts were made to capture RICCIBITTI but failed.

At 1400 hrs two MGs of NIN and 15 men moved against C.FILIPPONE 6355 and were met with machine fire; The withdrew.

Night 22/23 Jan 45. During 22 Jan and night 22/23 Jan, 2 Odn Bde relieved Gremons in part of its sector, thus narrowing the rather extended front hitherto held by the Gruppo. New left bdy of Gruppo now established as under :-

486506 - incl S.MARIA 497495 - stream 507490 - incl C.BERARDINELLA 517479.

The area between left bdy of Gruppo and S.ALBERTO 5352 **52442** (N to I) by IIL/21, I/22 and II/22.

IIL/22 in res area IO STABIALE 5742.

II/21 in area IA GASCINA 6054 with outposts to north on line of BENO.

I/21 in res area PORTO CORSIANI 6346.

Change over was complete by first light 23 Jan.

During night patrols of II/22 found CIAZOL 4951 and IOLLI 4950 occupied by enemy.

23 Jan. At 1415 hrs air CP engaged about 70-80 enemy in area 473547. Later stretcher parties were seen conveying wounded from this point.

Night 23/24 Jan. Enemy patrol approached partisan outpost at 585546 and fire was opened; no cas reported. Patrols from 2 Odn Bde on left reported both COSUMI and RICCIBITTI blown up.

Patrols from II/22 located enemy in C.MARTINI 4951 and were fired on from CIAZOL 4951 and IOLLI 4950.

During night a partisan patrol crossed BENO at 595529 and reached houses at 528527. An enemy attempt to destroy IA VOLIANDARA 585547 was beaten off. Enemy cas two wounded. Enemy left various arms & equipment on ground. Partisans established outposts at 528527 and 579543.

TOP SECRET.

Page 2.

24 Jan. C-MARTINI was occupied by own tps by midday. During the day reports of various explosions on left of Gruppo sector were received, indicating possible withdrawal on part of the enemy.

Own total cas to 2359 hrs 24 Jan.

	Offrs	O.R's
Killed	2	25
Wounded	3	100
Missing	2	47

25 Jan. A platoon attack on C-IOILLI 4950 sp by arty failed. This appears to have been due to inexperience on the part of the Inf, who failed to follow up arty concs and instead waited on the start line until arty had finished. When the attack was eventually launched it was met by well-directed enemy small arms fire as well as arty DP's. Own cas. Two offrs w, 5 OR's w, 1 CR m.

26 Jan. C-PASTOGI 5051 occupied at dawn. Bridge at 545475 was shelled by enemy during the day.

Own tps occupied CHIAVICA SCIRROCCA 582599 and C-DIAVOLO 592556 by 1330 hrs. During the day own arty engaged enemy mortars north of the RENO in this area.

Outpost at TERRA PRONESSA 5152 was attacked at 2030 hrs by enemy patrol who were repelled. One man was k and one w at C-DIAVOLO by enemy mortar fire.

Night 26/27 Jan. During night the enemy broadcast music and propaganda in Italian from loudspeakers at 499529.

At 0215 hrs heavy enemy shelling and mortar fire was brought down on II/22 sector lifting later to Cdn sector.

27 Jan. At about 1120 hrs two Churchill's and a Sherman went to shoot up C-IOILLI; enemy DP brought down after red were ~~524~~ fired and the withdrew. Quiet day.

Night 27/28 Jan. Enemy mortar fire on area 51475213 at about 2015 hrs also on 587554 at 2120 hrs. At 0300 hrs I/22 area shelled and a small enemy patrol was reported at 509524. Both sides fired and enemy threw grenades; one man of Crenona k and one w.

Platoon at 510519 sent out patrol and enemy withdrew.

C-PASTOGI 5051 was mortared from direction of IL MACCAGNINO 4952. Patrol from II/22 reached vicinity of C-IOILLI 4950 and were fired on. They reported that fresh posns had been dug there.

Inf, who failed to follow up arty concs and instead waited on the start line until arty had finished. When the attack was eventually launched it was met by well-directed enemy small arms fire as well as arty DF's. Own cas. Two offrs w, 5 OR's w, 1 CR m.

26 Jan. C.BASTOGI 5051 occupied at dawn. Bridge at 545475 was shelled by enemy during the day.

Can tis occupied GULAVICA SCIRROCCA 582599 and C.DIAVOIC 592555 by 1330 hrs. During the day own arty engaged enemy mortars north of the SEVO in this area.

Outpost at TERRA PROMESSA 5152 was attacked at 2030 hrs by enemy patrol who were repelled. One man was k and one w at C.DIAVOIC by enemy mortar fire.

Night 26/27 Jan. During night the enemy broadcast music and propaganda in Italian from loudspeakers at 499529.

At 0315 hrs heavy enemy shelling and mortar fire was brought down on IL/22 sector lifting later to Cdn sector.

27 Jan. At about 1120 hrs two Churchill's and a Sherman went to shoot up C.IOLLI; enemy DF brought down after red very ~~5234~~ fired and the withdrew. Quiet day.

Night 27/28 Jan. Enemy mortar fire on area 51475213 at about 2015 hrs also on 587554 at 2120 hrs. At 0300 hrs I/22 area shelled and a small enemy patrol was reported at 505524. Both sides fired and enemy threw grenades; one man of Cremona k and one w. Platoon at 510519 sent out patrol and enemy withdrew.

C.BASTOGI 5051 was mortared from direction of IL MAGGIORNO 4952. Patrol from IL/22 reached vicinity of C.IOLLI 4950 and were fired on. They reported that fresh poems had been dug there.

Enemy who infiltrated on left of IL/22 during the night were driven off by fire.

28 Jan. Quiet day. A new enemy propaganda pamphlet was fired into the Cremona sector during the day. This was a more elaborate affair than previous ones and was headed with a life-size replica of the Cremona shoulder flash, in colours. The pamphlet referred to Gen. Primieri by name, and said that although he might get a "Viktoria Cross" the men of the Combat Group were more likely to get one of plainer design, made of wood.

TOP SECRET.

Page 3

Night 28/29 Jan. Some mortar and arty fire on our own posns at 509524 and 510519. The latter house was set on fire. Enemy fighting patrol of about 40 then attacked 509524; the post withdrew towards 510519. The enemy got within 200 yds of this point but were then forced to withdraw by own mortar fire.

Own cas 1 Cifra and 2 CR's wounded. Post at 509524 was re-occupied by 0500 hrs.

Another enemy patrol of about 15 men attacked HASTOGL 5051 but was driven off by fire. Own cas 2 CR's wounded.

29 Jan. During day houses at 493507 were reported unoccupied. C.10111 4950 strongly held.

30 Jan. At 0705 hrs a platoon attack up by arty and one tp of NIK was launched against C.10111 4950.

Own Inf encountered wire obstacles in ditches but worked fwd and occupied small buildings on right of objective and cleared some haystacks in rear. Pl. Comd. was wounded but went on until wounded a second time. His Pl. Seret. was then also wounded and two section comds killed.

Intense enemy MG fire opened from dyke North of objective and from exposed right flank and attack was held. Enemy DF then came down and further cas were caused. Platoon withdrew. Later a carrier with Red Cross flag went fwd and was allowed to recover dead but not some of the wounded.

Own cas in this encounter :

	Cifra	CR's
Killed		5 (incl 3 NCO's)
Wounded	1	13
Missing		3

(Original strength of Pl : 33 all ranks)

Known enemy cas :

Killed	2
Wounded	2

(Other wounded were seen being removed)

5246

More leaflets were fired during the day but owing to some mistake the Canadians received theirs printed in Italian.

Own inf encountered with casualties in ditches but worked fwd and occupied small buildings on right of objective and cleared some haystacks in rear. Pl. Comd. was wounded but went on until wounded a second time. His Pl. Sergt. was then also wounded and two section comds killed.

Intense enemy MG fire opened from dyke North of objective and from exposed right flank and attack was held. Enemy DF then came down and further cas were caused. Platoon withdrew. Later a carrier with Red Cross flag went fwd and was allowed to recover dead but not some of the wounded.

Own cas in this encounter :

Offrs CR's

Killed	5	(incl 3 NCO's)
Wounded	1	13
Missing	3	

(Original strength of Pl : 33 all ranks)

Known enemy cas :

Killed	2
Wounded	2

(Other wounded were seen being removed)

5240

More leaflets were fired during the day but owing to some mistake the Canadians received theirs printed in Italian, while the copies delivered to the Cremona were in English. The necessary exchange was effected.

John R. ...

Major,
M.M.I.A. L.O.
Cremona C.G.

SLIPPER 11-23 Jan 45.

Ref Maps ITALY 1:25,000 Sheet 89 - I, II, III & IV.

General.

Cremone Combat Gp came under comd of 1 Cdn Corps at 2359 hrs 11 Jan 45 and took over a section of the line as under by 0600 hrs 14 Jan 45.

From the sea at CASAL BOSSETTI 6372 along the line of CAMALE DI BONIPICA and LAMONE ARMANDORATO to S. ALBERTO 5382 thence SW through CONVENIENLO 4847 and to excl hwy line about STAZIONE DI GIORIE 473455, with outposts fwd of this line.

Sectors are allotted as under :

Right. 3rd Bn 22 Inf Regt. Area POSSESSO BASTOGI 9253 - LA CASOTRA 6054 - FONNA 5953 - LA PASTURARA 6054, with outposts on line of the R.R.M.C.

Partisans operate in the area from MANDRIOLA 5052 to excl S. ALBERTO 5352.

S. ALBERTO Sector. 1st Bn 22 Inf Regt. Incl S. ALBERTO - Pod. di MANDRIOLA 5051 - C. BAZZI 5151 with outposts line of R.M.C. - TERRA PROMESSA 5152 - C. MAFUCCI 5051.

2nd Bn 22 Inf Regt. Sector. LA GILLA 5051 - C. PULSA 5050 - MATT. RASPOI 5050 - C. LELLI 5050 with outposts line - Pod. ABILE 5051 - Pod. RIVALE 5051 - C. MAFUCCI 4950 - C. LELLI 491206.

1st Bn 21 st Inf Regt. Senior. Area C. BARCHIO 4943 - C. TADJURA 4848 - C. STABIOLO 4847 - LA PALAZZINA 4848 with outposts line - C. BARCHIO 4849 - C. MORINI 4849 - C. TOSCHI 4849 - C. RICCIARDI 4849 - C. GILAVOTTI 4848 - C. MARCHETTI 4745245

Left Sector. 2nd Bn 21 st Inf Regt. Area S. ANNA 4847 - Pod. CHIACCA 4846 - POSSESSO 4746 - Pod. MANDRIOLA 4846 with outposts Houses 481475 - MANDRIOLA 481473 - Houses 476469 - C. di MANDRIOLA 4746.

Res. 3rd Bn 21 st Inf Regt area MANDRIOLA 4947.

Sp. Gps. 17 Pd Regt RMA

24 Pd Regt RMA

North Irish Horse

Two A/Tk Bys 7 A/Tk Regt RMA.

~~SECRET~~
once not known
WP

Sectors are allotted as under :

Right. 3rd Bn 22 Inf Regt. Area POSSANOI BASTUCCI 6253 - La
CASSOINA 6354 - PORRA 5953 - LA FANTURANA 6054, with
outposts on line of the R.RMC.

Partisans operate in the area from MAURIMOLA 5652 to
excl S. ALBERTO 5152.

S. ALBERTO Sector. 1st Bn 22 Inf Regt. Incl S. ALBERTO - Pod. di
MUSCO 5051 - C. SALLI 5151 with outposts line of RMC -
PARRA PROCESSA 5152 - C. MATTIUCCI 5051.

2nd Bn 22 Inf Regt Sector. LA GILIA 5051 - C. PULONA 5050 -
PARRA PROCESSA 5050 - C. LOMI 5050 with outpost line
Pod. ADRI 5051 - Pod. RIVALE 5051 - C. MATTIUCCI 4950 -
C. LOMI 4950.

1st Bn 21 st Inf Regt Sector. Area S. BARNIO 4949 - G. VASSURA
4848 - C. SALLI 4847 - LA PALAZZINA 4948 with outpost line
C. BARNIO 4849 - C. MICHINI 4849 - C. TOSCHI 4849 - Casa
SICCHETTI 4849 - C. SALLI 4848 - C. SALLI 4744 5245

Left Sector. 2nd Bn 21 st Inf Regt. Area S. AXIA 4847 - Pod.
CASSOICA 4846 - POSSANOI 4746 - Pod. POSSANOI 4846 with
outposts houses 4847 - LUOGUZZO 4847 - House 4746 -
C. di MEXZO 4746.

Res. 3rd Bn 21 st Inf Regt area GRATTACCPA 4947.

Sp. Ops. 17 Ed Regt RCA
24 Ed Regt RA
North Irish Horse
Two Artillery Bys 7 Artillery Regt RCA.
7 Artillery Regt Cremona
Major RA Cremona.

Inf. Bdy between Cremona C. Op and 9 Arad Bde (excl Cremona)
Line of Rly RAVENNA - PARRA.

Notes re 7 Artillery Regt. The move to the line took place before
calibration was completed. Consequently at present only
the I Gruppo (25-pers) and V Gruppo (17-pers) are in
action.

Extracts from War Diary.

12-13 Jan. Two Bns of the 21 Inf Regt took over sectors of the line on 12 Jan and two Bns 22 Inf Regt did likewise on 13 Jan. The night 13/14 Jan during which the take-over was completed was marked by an intensification of enemy arty and mortar fire.

By previous agreement, Comd. 5 Cdn Armd Div remained in command of the whole sector until 0600 hrs 14 Jan when Gen. Primieri assumed command.

One enemy raid 50 strong was made on the 22 Inf Regt front in the sector held by No. 7 Coy between C. MATTEUCCHI 5051 & C. DIAZOLI 4951 after a bombardment by arty and mortars during which a few cas were sustained. The enemy withdrew after about 40 mins.

14 Jan. Enemy targets were engaged during the day by arty and mortar fire.

At 1330 hrs a recon patrol from I/21 was seen by the enemy and came under heavy MG fire. Retaliation with mortar fire was effected. Both 21 Regt HQ and I/21 HQ were shelled and mortared about this time.

At 1430 hrs enemy patrol approached 485500 and our outpost withdrew. The post was later re-occupied.

Another enemy patrol approached C. RICCIBITTI 481450, our post opening fire & killing two Germans. The remainder withdrew. Later the enemy approached this post in force and occupied it. Own patrol about 20 strong then went fwd and engaged enemy. Bren v. Spandau engagement resulted and 24 Fd put down concealed in ep.

Most of enemy withdrew. At 2300 hrs own tps re-occupied post, one dead German and one wounded (died later) being found. The wounded man was identified as belonging to the 40th Jaeger Regt.

During the night 14/15 Jan several enemy patrols were active and there was considerable mortar fire in widely scattered areas.

15 Jan. At about 1440 hrs the enemy occupied C. BERTALINI 478479, our outpost withdrawing. A pl attack was made on the house at about 1800 hrs, but enemy replied with heavy mortar conce and it was found impossible to enter. Later, at 2310 hrs, the post was re-occupied by own tps without a fight.

Various footbridges across the FOSCO VETRO and FOSCO VECCHIO as well as sounds of enemy working parties were located. One Bn & 4 two enemy posts were also confirmed. Several patrols from the Gruppe went out after dark to obtain confirmation. Enemy patrols also were active in various points and there was considerable mortar fire.

Enemy posts located included O.P's at 483498 and 483502; MG post at 484499; post at 515524; intact bridge at 478484; MG's at 485502 and 486503; and working parties between 478490 & 478491.

50 enemy were located in area 482492 by one of our patrols

came under heavy MG fire. Retaliation with mortar fire was effected. Both 21 Regt HQ and 1/21 Bq were shelled and mortared about this time.

At 1430 hrs enemy patrol approached 482570 and our outpost withdrew. The post was later re-occupied.

Another enemy patrol approached C. R. 481490, our post opening fire & killing two Germans. The remainder withdrew. Later the enemy approached this post in force and occupied it. Own patrol about 20 strong then went fwd and engaged enemy. Bren v. Spandan engagement resulted and 24 Rd put down cones in sp. Most of enemy withdrew. At 2300 hrs own tps re-occupied post, one dead German and one wounded (died later) being found. The wounded man was identified as belonging to the 10th Jaeger Regt.

During the night 14/15 Jan several enemy patrols were active and there was considerable mortar fire in widely scattered areas.

15 Jan. At about 1440 hrs the enemy occupied C. R. 478479, our outpost withdrawing. A pl attack was made on the house at about 1800 hrs, but enemy replied with heavy mortar cones and it was found impossible to enter. Later, at 2300 hrs, the post was re-occupied by own tps without a fight.

Various footbridges across the POSSO V. 478479 and 483502 as well as sounds of enemy working parties were located. One Gruppe went out after dark to obtain confirmation. Enemy patrols also were active in various points and there was considerable mortar fire.

Enemy posts located included C. P's at 483498 and 483502, MG post at 484495, post at 515524, intact bridge at 478484, MG's at 485502 and 486503; and working parties between 478490 & 478491.

50 enemy were located in area 478492 by one of own patrols and arty fire was brought down at this point.

At 2040 hrs enemy arty and mortar fire preceded hostile patrols; our outpost at TERRA PROMESSA 5152 withdrew, one man being wounded. Arty fire was brought down and enemy dispersed.

Night 15/16 Jan. During night enemy patrols preceded by arty and mortar fire visited at least four of our posts. There was much small arms fire on the part of 21 Inf Regt and enemy replied with mortars. Own arty fired arty target on bridge work at 478495. Own outpost at 484493 withdrew but re-occupied post at first light.

Right sector of 11/22 more heavily shelled than previously.

16 Jan. C. MATTEUCCI 497303 was blown up by the enemy, probably using bazooka. 11 of the Cremona were in the houses at the time. Of these, first reports stated 3 were captured, 3 wounded, one killed, and 4 missing, presumably in the ruins of the house. C. TOSCHI 484492 was occupied by own oos patrol, also MARCATELLI 478473.

The enemy put in strong fighting patrols and occupied C. BARONIO 482301 and C. MORINI 482497 after mortaring them. These were re-occupied by own tps shortly afterwards, some German equipment and signs of fresh digging being found.

At 1615 hrs of 11th shot up houses 610558. Enemy retaliated with one Bty 105 mm, spandau & mortar fire.

At 1700 hrs heavy gun and mortar fire was brought down by the enemy in vicinity of 21 Regt HQ and left Coy area of 11/22. This lasted about 15 mins.

At 1815 hrs of 24 Pd at 494511 was reported surrounded and out of touch. Later however it was found that its R/T had been put out of action by wild firing from the rear.

About 30 enemy reported in areas 505518 & 504519 and own DF was brought down. Some heavy shelling by the enemy in areas 509224 & 506527.

At 1820 C. BARONIO 482509 was reported in enemy hands. An enemy pl reported at 502519 and 506518 and our own outpost in that area withdrew. C. BARONIO was again in our hands by 1910 hrs.

By 2030 hrs the houses at 510520 & 514523 were re-occupied by own tps.

Between 1900-1915 L/21 reported that they were being heavily shelled. This appeared to be the start of a fire plan.

Enemy infiltrated between two Coys of L/21 and penetrated to 482491, 481490, 486491 & 485497. Our patrols pulled back to main line of resistance. Arty Bn and mortar fire put down and a Coy from Res Bn moved fwd but was later withdrawn and patrols sent fwd. Garrison of C. TOSCHI 482491 consisting of 1 Ofir & 15 men were reported missing and believed to be later captured. Later the garrison reach this house but were fired on and withdrew. Later the garrison returned safely, having occupied an alternative position close by. During the day a party consisting of 2 Ofirs and 17 men of the 1st Bn were surrounded and captured by the enemy.

Night 16/17 Jan. On 22 Inf Regt front at 2230 hrs a pl of No. 7 Coy 11/22 was surrounded, but after own arty and mortar fire the enemy withdrew. C. MATTEUCCI 506517 and C. GLAZOL 495511 were occupied by the enemy. Considerable enemy mortar fire brought to bear on own positions.

At 0120 the enemy resumed attack in 506517 area and DF was fired. At 0210 house at 502514 was attacked by enemy pl supported by spandaus. Enemy withdrew again before first light and own tps with Tk support re-occupied outposts morning 17th.

On 11/22 front enemy penetrated with a patrol to house 635536 and then withdrew.

action by wild firing from the rear.
About 30 enemy reported in areas 505518 & 504519 and own DF was brought down. Some heavy shelling by the enemy in areas 505522 & 506527.

At 1820 C. BARONIO 486500 was reported in enemy hands. An enemy pl reported at 502519 and 506518 and our own outpost in that area withdrew. C. BARONIO was again in our hands by 1810 hrs.
By 2030 hrs the houses at 510520 & 514523 were re-occupied by own tps.

Between 1900-1915 L/21 reported that they were being heavily shelled. This appeared to be the start of a fire plan.
Enemy infiltrated between two Coys of L/21 and penetrated to 482451, 481490, 488491 & 485497. Our patrols pulled back to main line of resistance. Arty DF and mortar fire put down and a Coy from Rase Bn moved fwd out was later withdrawn and patrols sent fwd. Garrison of C. 708CHI 482491 consisting of 1 Ofir & 15 men were reported missing and believed to be. Later our patrol attempted to reach this house but were fired on and withdrew. Later the garrison returned safely, having occupied an alternative position close by.
During the day a party consisting of 2 Ofirs and 17 men of the 5243 Bn were surrounded and captured by the enemy.

Night 16/17 Jan. On 22 Inf Regt front at 2230 hrs a pl of No. 7 Coy 11/22 was surrounded, but after own arty and mortar fire the enemy withdrew. C. 547MB001 506517 and C. 5120L 485511 were occupied by the enemy. Considerable enemy mortar fire brought to bear on own pawns.

At 0120 the enemy resumed attack in 506517 area and DF was fired. At 0210 house at 502514 was attacked by enemy pl supported by spandaus. Enemy withdrew again before first light and own tps with Tk support re-occupied outposts morning 17th.
On 11/22 front enemy penetrated with a patrol to house 535536 and then withdrew.

17 Jan. Air CP's reported details of bridges and works on 50880 YETRO and 5. YECUHO and enemy pawns in rear. Air attacks by Spitfires bombing and strafing were carried out on various targets during the afternoon.

Situation in 4849, where enemy appeared to have formed small bridgehead, was reported as follows: C. 5100IBITTI 422490 in our hands; houses 485493 & 486500 not occupied by either side.

At 1500 hrs right sector of 11/22 came under heavy mortar fire and some cas were sustained. C. 5120L 494510 was re-occupied by own tps.

At 1815 hrs right fwd Coy of 11/22 were shelled and a mild attack was put in by the enemy, who were held and repulsed.

TOP SECRET.

At 1920 hrs an enemy patrol of 20 infiltrated between C. TOSCHI 4849 and C. RICCI BIFFI 4849 and were mortared. Attacks by the enemy were reported at 505516 at 2000 hrs and at 505515 at 2045 hrs. Situation in hand.

Night 17/18 Jan. During night considerable movement of enemy vehs and working parties reported along the dyke. A strong enemy patrol contacted a Coy of 1/21 at 0100 hrs and DP's were fired. After about 50 minutes patrol withdrew across the canal. Outpost of 11/21 at MARCATALLI 477479 withdrew under heavy pressure. Further enemy patrol reported at 483496.

18 Jan. Morning report of outpost line disclosed that Casa BANCHIO 485506, MORINI 485496, TOSCHI 484492, RICCI BIFFI 4849, BALAVOTTI 481483 and MARCATALLI 477479 were unoccupied by either side. TOSCHI had been completely destroyed.

During the morning MARCATALLI was re-occupied by own patrol who found two enemy dead there. Patrol later withdrew.

By midday our patrols were within 50 yds of BANCHIO & MORINI, and TOSCHI & RICCI BIFFI were again in our hands.

At 1430 enemy were seen at MARCATALLI - two men with field-glasses and two men digging. Mortars engaged and six hits were recorded on the house. Enemy were also reported holding house at 474473.

11/11/22 sector. During the day a patrol supported by Iks sent to C. del DIAVOLO 5955. This opened fire and six or eight Germans left. When patrol entered house they were fired at from CHIAVICA SCINACCA 5855 and enemy mortar DP was brought down.

Further air reports regarding enemy pens, footbridges, etc came in during the day.

Cremona sent out evening patrols.

Night 18/19 Jan. From 0330-0430 considerable gun and mortar fire on both sides. MARCATALLI 477479 found by our patrols to be occupied by the enemy.

Enemy attempted infiltration at about platoon strength along Rly line (left bdy of Cremona).

During the night the enemy withdrew from MARCATALLI 4747 which was then re-occupied by own tps.

Small enemy patrols in 11/21 and 11/22 sectors, dispersed by 5247 fire. Enemy working parties very active.

19 Jan. 11/22 reported that Pod. ADAL 503517 & C. MATTEUCCI 497509 are held by us but that C. GLAZOLE and C. MARINI out in front are unoccupied.

At 0920 hrs own patrol established itself south of RICCI BIFFI 484490, the enemy being in position just north of the house. The house was occupied by own tps by 1300 hrs.

At about 1400 hrs the enemy fired pamphlets printed in Italian into the area 505516. (Copy attached at Ann. 18)

By midday our patrols were within 50 yds of MARCONI & MARTINI, and TOSCHI & RICCIARDI were again in our hands.

At 1430 enemy were seen at MARCAILLI - two men with field-glasses and two men digging. Mortars engaged and six hits were recorded on the house. Enemy were also reported holding house at 174473.

11/22 sector. During the day a patrol supported by Tks went to C. del DIAVOLO 5955. Tks opened fire and six or eight Germans left. When patrol entered house they were fired at from CHIAVICA SCINACCA 5655 and enemy mortar IF was brought down.

Further air reports regarding enemy posns, footbridges, etc came in during the day.

Cremena sent out evening patrols.

Night 12/19 Jan. From 0330-0630 considerable gun and mortar fire on both sides. RASVOCI 52518 found by our patrols to be occupied by the enemy.

Enemy attempted infiltration at about platoon strength along Rly line (left bdy of Cremena).

During the night the enemy withdrew from MARCAILLI 4747 which was then re-occupied by own tps.

Small enemy patrols in 11/21 and 11/22 sectors, dispersed by 5247 fire. Enemy working parties very active.

12 Jan. 11/22 reported that Pod. ADRIA 50317 & C. MATTEUCCI 497509 are held by us but that C. CLAZOL and C. MARTINI out in front are unoccupied.

At 0920 hrs our patrol established itself south of RICCIARDI 481490. The enemy being in posn just north of the house. The house was occupied by own tps by 1300 hrs.

At about 1600 hrs the enemy fired pamphlets printed in Italian into the area 505516. (Copy attached at App. "a")

At about the same time our own tps re-occupied RASVOCI 5051.

A heavy enemy concentration was put down between C. TOSCHI 4849 and C. RICCIARDI 4849 at about 1500 hrs and about 10 own troops were wounded. Enemy followed up with about 20-30 men. Later increased to 60-70, who were engaged by arty and Tks.

Penetration reached C. RODIGLIANI 486439 before enemy were driven back. Own tps then re-occupied TOSCHI but attempts to reach RICCIARDI were prevented by heavy mortar fire. Own tps dug in in vicinity, the enemy doing the same.

At 1700 hrs an enemy patrol of strong re-occupied MARCAILLI 4747 and later another enemy patrol approached TOSCHI. Own tps re-occupied MARCAILLI by 2100 hrs, finding it empty.

At 2300 hrs a patrol set out to re-capture MATTEUCCI 505516. This was effected by 0115 hrs, own cas 3 killed, cas of 1/21 during the day were 3 k 17 w (incl 2 effrs).

Page 5

TOP SECRET.

20 Jan. Morning reports showed C. TOSCHI and C. RICCIBITTI both occupied by enemy. Own tps in MORINI, BARONIO and MARCATELLI. Partisans in occupation of 515526 which dominates C. di GUARDIA 252 and the strip north of the RENO. This post to be permanently manned.

At 1800 hrs RICCIBITTI was still occupied by the enemy. The enemy carried out an air raid at dusk. Six JU 87's dropped bombs in 21 Regt area and also West and N.E. of RAVENNA. No damage or cas reported. Two enemy aircraft were shot down plus 1 probable. Considerable movement of enemy tpt and tracked vhs north of Fosse VACCO and F. VACCINO reported during the day.

At 2000 hrs a patrol from 111/21 got to within 50 yds of F. VETRIO between C. MORINI 4849 and C. BARONIO 4850.

There was heavy shelling in area 4843 between 2300 hrs & midnight. A second pamphlet printed in Italian was fired into the Cremona lines during the day. (Translation at App. "B").

Casualties of Combat Gp to 2359 hrs 20 Jan 45.

	Cifrs	O.R's.
Killed	1	20
Wounded	2	67
Missing	2	15

21 Jan. During the morning HAF bombed and machine-gunned IL MAGGIANO 4952.

Heavy track movement was heard along F. VACCINO.

During afternoon the area 4843 was subjected to continuous long-range shelling by the enemy.

One of own mortar posns at EASTURARA 6055 got a direct hit from enemy mortar located at IL CASINO 6156. Two L and two M. Mortar undamaged.

During the evening several large fires were observed north of the canals in enemy territory.

Lack of enemy activity during the day and lack of small arms fire suggested that a withdrawal might be taking place.

At 2040 hrs a fighting patrol went to FOSCHI 4849 and got within 100 yds. finding it occupied in strength.

C. MAGGIANO 4950 was mortared by enemy at 2150 hrs.

Further movement of enemy vhs reported at about 2300 hrs.

Two patrols found Red. ABILE 503517 and Red. BASTOCC 502518 occupied by enemy at 2300 hrs. Some mortar fire on 22 Regt front.

11 Jan - Tamm
Major.

	Cas	O.R's.
Killed	1	20
Wounded	2	67
Missing	2	19

21 Jan. During the morning RAF bombed and machine-gunned IL MAGGIORNO 4552.

Heavy truck movement was heard along F. VACCHIO. During afternoon the area 4843 was subjected to continuous long-range shelling by the enemy.

One of our mortar positions at PASTURARA 6055 got a direct hit from enemy mortar located at IL CASINO 6156. Two L and two M. Mortar undamaged.

During the evening several large fires were observed north of the canals in enemy territory.

Lack of enemy activity during the day and lack of small arms fire suggested that a withdrawal might be taking place.

At 2040 hrs a fighting patrol went to FOCCHI 4849 and got with 3241 100 yds, finding it occupied in strength.

C. MATHUCCI 4550 was mortared by enemy at 2130 hrs. Further movement of enemy vehs reported at about 2300 hrs. Own patrols found Pod. ABILA 503517 and Pod. PASTOCCI 502518 occupied by enemy at 2330 hrs. Some mortar fire on 22 Regt front.

Ann. Emerici Major,
I.C. with Cremona Combat Group.

TOP SECRET.

APPENDIX "A"

Translation of pamphlet fired into "Cremona" area 19 Jan 45.

AN ENGLISH STORY.

To make a soldier requires 20 years. To manufacture a gun a few days are enough. Therefore it is better to save English blood and arms Indian, Negro, Australian and New Zealand auxiliaries with English area and uniform, and make them die in England's interests.

Do you also, soldiers of the "Cremona" Division, and of the "Friuli" and "Ascoli Piceno" Divisions, wish to belong to the English auxiliary troops?

YOUR COUNTRY CALLS YOU.

Come over to this side of the front with this safe-conduct, and return to your families, your homes and your country. Come quickly. The German troops are informed and you will not be running any risk.

Peace, and return to your family ! An end to war & death !

SAFE CONDUCT.

The Italian soldier who bears this ticket does not wish to continue fighting for the Anglo-Americans, oppressors of his country. He is to be treated as a comrade and to be moved from the danger zone. The army must supply him with food and if necessary give him medical aid and send him to the Committee of the Division of "Italian soldiers returning home".

The Army Commander.

5240

(Followed by German translation of above safe-conduct).

TOP SECRET.

APPENDIX "D"

Translation of pamphlet fired into "Cocaina" area 20 Jan 45.

SOULS OF THE CRIMONA DIVISION.

WHY DO YOU FIGHT? For the liberation of your Fatherland from the horrors of war? Then do not aid the destruction of Italy, now being undertaken by the Anglo-Americans by means of terroristic bombing.

WHY DO YOU FIGHT? For a free Italy, an Italy in which order and security reign? Then avenge yourselves on those who have carried chase, hunger and famine to southern Italy, and who now aim at northern Italy, where order and peace reign and where bread is found for all!

WHY DO YOU FIGHT? For an Italy, strong and independent? Then don't lend yourselves to the traitors who want to give away your country, a part to Jugoslavia, another to the Hapsburgs and another to France, and who want to steal your colonies and turn Italy into one of their naval and air bases. Why do your liberators not reveal to you the Armistice terms? Because you would throw them out of your country if you were to learn those humiliating conditions. Consequently, whom are you fighting? You fight for an Italy which should be free of either Germans or Anglo-Americans. The Germans have no interests in Italy, except that it is from here that they have to guard their southern boundary against enemy threats. At the end of the war no German soldier will remain any longer in Italy. The Anglo-Americans need your colonies and bases in Italy to dominate Africa and the Mediterranean, and for this reason they want to make you their slaves for ever.

COME TO US. Your wives and your sons wait for you, just as your trade and your country has need of your work. On our part, no one is obliged to fight. Only volunteers are needed to fight the Anglo-American oppressors of Italy. The others pursue their work in peace.

COME QUICKLY! German troops are aware of all this and will welcome Italian soldiers treating them as friends! The safe-conduct on this leaflet will enable you to cross the front without risk. As a matter of fact you may also come over without this leaflet and still be allowed a safe passage.

Remember these things! Throw away your helmet! Throw away your arms! Have this leaflet or a white cloth. Come singly or in groups up to three.

Peace and return to your family! To the end of war and death!

SAFE CONDUCT.

Germany Italy! Waste order and peace reign and where bread is found for all!

WHY DO YOU FIGHT? For an Italy, strong and independent? Then don't lend yourselves to the traitors who want to give away your country, a part to Jugoslavia, another to the Hapsburgs and another to France, and who want to steal your colonies and turn Italy into one of their naval and air bases. Why do your liberators not reveal to you the Armistice terms? Because you would throw them out of your country if you were to learn these humiliating conditions. Consequently, whom are you fighting? You fight for an Italy which should be free of either Germans or Anglo-Americans. The Germans have no interests in Italy, except that it is from here that they have to guard their southern boundary against enemy threats. At the end of the war no German soldier will remain any longer in Italy. The Anglo-Americans need your colonies and bases in Italy to dominate Africa and the Mediterranean, and for this reason they want to make you their slaves for ever.

COME TO US. Your wives and your sons wait for you, just as your trade and your country has need of your work.

On our part, no one is obliged to fight. Only volunteers are asked to fight the Anglo-American oppressors of Italy. The others pursue their work in peace.

COME QUICKLY! German troops are aware of all this and will welcome Italian soldiers treating them as friends! The safe-conduct on this leaflet will enable you to cross the front without risk. As a matter of fact you may also come over without this leaflet and still be allowed a safe passage.

Remember these things! Throw away your helmet! Throw away your arms! Have this leaflet or a white cloth. Come singly or in groups up to three.

Peace and return to your family! To the end of war and death!

SAFE CONDUCT.

The Italian soldier who carries this leaflet does not wish to continue to fight any longer for the Anglo-Americans, oppressors of his Fatherland. He is to be treated as a comrade and to be removed from the danger zone. The army should supply him with food and if necessary give him medical aid and send him to the Committee of the Division of "Italian soldiers re-patriated".

The Corps Commander.

(Followed by German translation of above safe-conduct).

11 3 2 5