

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

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EME /1403 "VISITS + REPORTS"

MAR. 1945 - JAN. 1946

11913

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

REME

SUBJECT : Periodical Reports, (ref Appx 'D' MHA Directive No 2 dated 7 Dec 45)

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (MHA)

G/37

12 Jan 46

TO : List 'B' - ACTION

Copy to : List 'A' - INFO. less serials 17, 18, 19

ONE/1403

Ref this HQ SD/115 of 27 Dec 45.

1. Ref paras 2 and 5. Any para of your report requiring ACTION by MHA will, in addition to being so annotated in the margin, also be the subject of an entirely separate letter under appropriate file reference to the appropriate branch of this HQ.

Below 'ACTION' in the margin of the Periodical Report should be added (e.g.) "My Q/2/3 dated 1 Jan refers"; and Q/2/3 dated 1 Jan should include (e.g.) "Periodical Report No 2 dated 1 Jan para 7 refers".

2. Ref para 4, sub-para (a) and (c): In order to save BLUs unnecessary labour only AMENDMENTS to ITALIAN Location Statements and ITALIAN Staff Lists need be submitted monthly.

OSC BLUs will use their discretion as to when this Location Statement or Staff List becomes amended to such an extent as to require submission of a complete new document.

3. It is emphasised that this HQ require FOUR repeat FOUR copies of all Periodical Reports with their Appcs. BLUs will please comply with this instruction.

3658

Agg. and X
for Brig 66

ARCS/abc

R
12/1/46

11914

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

FROM : MMIA

DATE TIME
04/670 A

TO : 1 BLU 7 BLU
 2 BLU 8 BLU
 3 BLU 9 BLU
 4 BLU 10 BLU
 5 BLU 11 BLU
 6 BLU 12 BLU

REF : 0 160

UNCLASSIFIED

WARNING ORDER (.) A CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT HQ MMIA
 ROME ON 28 AND 29 JAN (.) AGENDA FOLLOWS (.) ALL
 OFFRS COMMANDING BLU'S TO ATTEND (.) IN ADDITION TO OSC
 BLU'S A/Q REPS FROM 'A' TYPE BLU'S ONLY MAY ATTEND IF
 DESIRED (.) NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFRS ATTENDING TO MAJOR FEAK
 HQ MMIA TELE 478187 BY 21 JAN (.) MAJOR FEAK WILL MAKE ALL
 ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY FOR ACCOMMODATION OF OFFRS AND OTHER
 RANKS WHETHER BRITISH OR ITALIAN AND WILL
 ARRANGE TRANSPORT OR GARAGE FOR CARS OF OFFRS ATTENDING (.)
 VISITORS SHOULD REPORT ELISEO HOTEL TELE 478871
 NEAR PORTA PINGIANA ON ARRIVAL

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

AUTHENTICATED

Authentic 3656

INTERNAL: LIST '...'

FILE : G/33/3

jw

LFCC

GS

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5/1/46

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1
RECEIVED 19/12/45
341
ME/1403
Hewe
15
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
Central Mediterranean Force
REME

FREELOM 382

Subject:- Regular Commissions for
Telecommunication Personnel

ME/D/2360

To:- List 'F'

17 Dec 45

1. Further to my DO letter of 1 Aug under ME/D/2360 (not to all) on the above subject, attached as an appendix is an extract from Maj-Gen ROWCROFT's closing address to the 5th Telecommunication Engineering Conference.
2. The parts of the extract not bearing on the subject of Regular Commissions for Telecom Officers, have been given as they are of interest to all concerning future policy of REME Training.
3. Please give this information a wide circulation within REME units, especially to all Telecom personnel.

Ca 40.15
R.A. HOLI, Brigadier,
DDME,
for Major-General,
Director of Mechanical Engineering.

Encl.

3654
19/12/45

APPENDIX TO ME/DI/2360
DATED 17 DEC 45

EXTRACT FROM CLOSING ADDRESS BY MAJOR GENERAL
E.B. ROUNDELL CB, CBE, MC MACH 2, MBE, DFC
WAR OFFICE TO THE 5th TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ENGINEERING CONFERENCE ON 17th NOVEMBER 1945

Then there is the need for strong REE representation in design and development. Well if we can get that, and if the REE representation is given its head, you will find that the points on which I have touched would be very easily accomplished. We have already a fair-sized REE Representation in the Ministry of Supply Branches which we value very highly. I am pressing now for a kind of permanent allotment of a proportion of seats in Research and Design Establishments to the REE. It has not been definitively settled one way or the other yet but I hope it will be, and when we do get it we can press for the reforms in design and so on that you all find necessary.

Now to consider Training. Dealing first with Schools you recommended provision should be made to maintain training schools in the main Overseas Commands, and I agree with that. Although War Office policy on the question has yet to be decided. I shall recommend that for the REE it is desirable to retain training schools in the major Overseas Commands to cater mainly for Theatre requirements of minor specialist training on equipment, upgrading and refresher courses. These schools of course will be subsidiary, but complementary, to the U.K. training organisation which will cater for all basic training and training in new techniques. With regard to the selection, training and employment of instructors your recommendations have been noted and we will try and work them into our post-war planning investigations and see how far we can meet them.

Secondly dealing with the general future of REE officers several interesting points come up. Some doubts have been expressed on the future of the REE as a Corps and the lot of the specialist officer in the Army, so I can repeat here and now what I told you on the 5th November. That was that the Corps is part of the post-war Army and I have got it in writing that it is going to go on as a separate combatant corps and that it is going to stay. As an indication towards that we have been consulted over certain post-war matters such as dress and so on and we have just been given approval to make our band an official band. That will not make much difference to the development of Telecommunications Engineering except to indicate that we shall be left in peace to develop it as a Corps; so you need not worry about the future of the Corps. Then I think I can assure you that whatever changes are made in the future, a specialist officer will have just as good prospects in the Army as his non-specialist comrades and in some instances, he will be better off than his civilian associates.

Talking of that specialisation, I think it is a good place to

Now to consider Training. Dealing first with Schools you recommended provision should be made to maintain training schools in the main Overseas Commands, and I agree with that. Although War Office policy on the question has yet to be decided. I shall recommend that for the RME it is desirable to retain training schools in the major Overseas Commands to cater mainly for Theatre requirements of minor specialist training on equipment, upgrading and refresher courses. These schools of course will be subsidiary, but complementary, to the U.K. training organization which will cater for all basic training and training in new techniques. With regard to the selection, training and employment of instructors your recommendations have been noted and we will try and work them into our post-war planning investigations and see how far we can meet them.

Secondly dealing with the general future of RME officers several interesting points come up. Some doubts have been expressed on the future of the RME as a Corps and the lot of the specialist officer in the Army, so I can repeat here and now what I told you on the 5th November. That was that the Corps is part of the post-war Army and I have got it in writing that it is going to go on as a separate combatant corps and that it is going to stay. As an indication towards that we have been consulted over certain post-war matters such as dress and so on and we have just been given approval to make our band an official band. That will not make any difference to the development of Telecommunications Engineering except to indicate that we shall be left in peace to develop it as a Corps; so you need not worry about the future of the Corps. Then I think I can assure you that whatever changes are made in the future, a specialist officer will have just as good prospects in the Army as his non-specialist comrades and in some instances, he will be better off than his civilian associates.

Talking of that specialisation, I think it is a good place to add here a little clarification to what I told you the other day about the specialist and the super-specialist which I am told was not quite understood. What I meant to say was that from now on all the RME officers will be getting a grounding in both mechanical and electrical engineering including Telecommunications Engineering. There will be a general tendency to take more interest in one side or the other, just as people do now. You develop a bent for one or the other or you may have started off in that line when you were young. When officers have received their basic electrical and mechanical engineering training they will revert to the standard RME's work. But a man tends to be known after a time as Smith, a first-class man on Telecommunications, when if we can we will put on a Telecommunications job; Jones is red-hot on tanks and is obviously better employed in a tank shop. That is not what I call full specialisation. It means that within the range of RME's you tend to be employed in the job at which you are most useful. If you want to concentrate your energies particularly, and pin your hopes for the future on to research, design, inspection and experiment you can do so by taking higher technical training, if you come into the Army not higher technically trained. Then you become what I meant by a super-specialist;

Sheet 2

that is you do not dream of being a DME slapping your leg at El Alamein, you dream rather of being a superintendent of a research establishment and rubbing shoulders and mixing with the highest technical brains in the country in and out of the Army. You will still be a soldier and there will be a number of vacancies in what you might call the Higher Command of the super-technical side which will be open to people with the higher technical training only. That, I think, makes it clear what I mean by specialists and super-specialists.

In this connection I know some of you feel a man cannot become a super-specialist unless he has a University training and rather special science degree. I do not think that is entirely true, except that it may be very largely true of the super-specialist. But I would remind you that in the future Army we shall be getting a small proportion of our regular officers from the Universities. They will have engineering degrees or possibly natural science degrees, and I think you will find your super-specialist will come very largely from those two sources, especially if a natural science degree is accepted as a qualification. If there is a shortage of specialist officers after that, they will be made up from the "cream", speaking in the higher electrical engineering sense, of the normal entry who will be awarded training by the Army; it may be in an Army College or it may be in a University. I do not know which.

Now as regards Other Ranks. There has been some talk about the training of them and I am glad to know you agree in principle with the proposals of the post-war Planning Committee since you recommended that the Class 3 standard there should be a minimum of 3 types of Telecommunication Mechanicians converging to a single type of Armament Artificer level. I know some of you do not like the word Armament Artificer, it does seem rather far fetched applied to some of our staff-sergeants and warrant officers of the higher category and you recommend we drop the word Armament. The post-war Planning Committee are bending their brains to thinking of a better name for these higher grade other ranks.

Before leaving training I would just like to add one last word on the subject of Regimental training. We are taking steps, which have been more or less consolidated since the conference began to sit, to make firm the standards already reached in this sphere of the Corps' activities. A firm directive is now being prepared to apply to REG throughout the Army both at Home and Abroad. When we get that directive out it will mean that a fairly simple syllabus of military training, spread over a number of months, will start on a certain date. It will start in every unit at Home and Abroad. If an other rank is posted from Caterick to Gibraltar and he finishes lesson fourteen at Caterick, then if he gets to Gibraltar within a week, he will do lesson 15 at Gibraltar. To prevent staleness if a man happened to be in a Unit for many months or years he would be made to do a lesson in a

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/Sheet 3.....

Sheet 3

Well, that is really the end of the three subjects I was going to talk to you about, technicals, organization and training. But there are one or two small points which have come to my notice and I would like to touch on these. First of all during the course of the Conference I have heard that, a number of radio officers who came into the Army after service with the Ministry of Supply as civilian radio officers, are feeling that they are being unjustly treated by not being allowed to count their civilian radio officers service towards release and all the other advantages. I am awfully sorry about that and we have tried very hard to get the decision reversed. We started it a long time ago, I believe before the RAAF was formed it was taken up, and I had another drive when RAAF was first formed and then that was unsuccessful. Later on it was brought up to the Overseas by a Telecommunications officer who paraded and gave me his facts. That was in the Middle East. It was again brought to my notice by an officer in India a bit later, we took it up again and we took it right up to the top level but it was rejected by the Permanent Under Secretary of State, whose decision is final. So there is nothing more I can do about it.

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NOTES ON CONFERENCE - REME - HELD ON 12TH DEC. 1945

Present

Lt Colonel A. HUNT
Captain V.P. STOCKER
Captain A.L. WHITE
Captain P.H. NELSON

1. Employment of Recovery Commissions.

5 HLU state that 21 Recovery Commission are receiving vehicles and stores from Klagenfurt to Sacille.

The Milan Territorial Command is employing civilian recovery units to assist in recovering vehicles from the Inefficient Parks but the channels of release of these vehicles is not yet functioning properly. The Legnano Div. is assisting in recovery from the park at Verona with the use of its own recovery vehicles.

There is no objection to the Recovery vehicles of w/shops being asked to assist in recovery if the other commitments allow it.

No 2 Recovery Commission vehicles have not yet arrived at Milan from Rome owing to lack of petrol and lack of rail transportation.

2. Withdrawal of Training Increments.

The Legnano Division will still be able to function when the Training Increments are withdrawn as considerable amount of training has been carried out in the past, but the training will deteriorate owing to rapid demobilisation of personnel in the w/shops. The same applies to Polgore and Friuli Divs.

Friuli Division: Radio and instrument repairs are likely to collapse completely when the Training Increments are withdrawn. 36%

3. Training on British Lines to British Standards.

(1) The policy is that the Italian Army should be organised on British lines and trained to British standards, so far as is practicable.

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3. Training on British Lines to British Standards.

(i) The policy is that the Italian Army should be organised on British lines and trained to British standards, so far as is practicable.

(ii) It will obviously be some time before this reorganisation can be put into effect, but it is not practicable to have an army with two distinct systems of repair in being as is at present the case. The system at present organised inside the Divisions must be changed or the system outside the Divisions (which conform with the pre-war Italian organisation) must be altered to conform with British systems. It is appreciated that there are no tradesmen rates of pay at the moment in the Italian Army.

Captain NELSON reported that there is a tendency on the part of the Italian War Ministry to revert to the antiquated and inefficient Italian War Office system of administration and accounting employed prior to the last war. It will be appreciated that if the Gruppi are to remain efficient organisations

-ations, this must be avoided.

All three officers reported that engineers from civilian life are not allowed to go into the Corpo Automobilistico but are sent to the Genio or Artilleria, and consequently no skilled officers are available for Italian w/shops except by transfer from these arms.

All the officers reported that CME of the Gruppi is not given the same authority or status or staff as the CME of a British Division, and in the past has been used mainly as a keeper of vehicle census and other accountable items connected with MT. This is not in accordance with the Directive given by AFHQ on the duties of the CME of the Gruppi (ref Appendix "A" to ME/IA/1605/I dated 26 Feb. '45).

4. E.M.E.Is.

When the Training Increments are withdrawn the difficulty of EMEIs and other technical information will still remain. The translation, being done by an interpreter who is not an engineer, is not always a true translation. Captain NELSON suggested that EMEIs be translated by a technical interpreter before distribution to the Gruppi.

AFHQ is being asked that the distribution of EMEIs be made as follows:-

- No 1 ELU - CREMONA and MANTOVA Divisions.
- No 3 ELU - LEGNANO Division.
- No 4 ELU - FOLGORE and PRUFI Divisions.

In addition, copies of relevant EMEIs should be sent to EMEs with No 5 ELU and No 10 ELU so that the file copies of EMEIs are available at these ELUs for the use of the EMEs there.

5. 3rd Line Maintenance of Gruppi Equipment of Allied origin.

The Italian War Ministry plans to set up a Base W/3647 and Stores Depot at BOLOGNA for repair of Divisional equipment ELN in Gruppi w/shops. The site chosen (a pre-war Italian Heavy Repair w/shop for vehicles) is in the San Vitale at Bologna. The bulk of this is at present occupied by the w/shops of British ANG and by a RE Maintenance Coy. Providing suitable accommodation

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- No 4 HLU - FOLGORE and FRIULI Divisions.

In addition, copies of relevant EMEIs should be sent to EMEs with No 5 HLU and No 10 HLU so that the file copies of EMEIs are available at these HLUs for the use of the EMEs there.

5. 3rd Line Maintenance of Gruppi Equipment of Allied origin.

The Italian War Ministry plans to set up a Base ^{W/2667} and Stores Depot at BOLOGNA for repair of Divisional equipment ^{HLR} in Gruppi w/shops. The site chosen (a pre-war Italian Heavy Repair w/shop for vehicles) is in the San Vitale at Bologna. The bulk of this is at present occupied by the w/shops of British ARG and by a RE Maintenance Coy. Providing suitable accommodation can be offered to ARG and RE Coy w/shops, both as regards location for the work they have to do and as regards the quality of the accommodation, AFHQ are prepared to consider releasing the San Vitale to the Italians. The Italians also plan to have an In-efficient Vehicle Park at MURIO, near Bologna, to which vehicles ^{HLR} from the Gruppi can be sent.

In the Folgore, Friuli and Legnano Divisions there are at least 70 vehicles awaiting back loading and unless a very good spares supply is available this will be increased to approximately 170.

Regarding the scaling of British spares, ADOS 2 District had already requested the HLUs to supply information.

The officers present reported that the Italians would have difficulty in providing this information, as in any case vehicles

were often without contract numbers, and in addition, the lack of trained Italian staff would render the compilation of the information very slow. It is important that EMUs should not be burdened with the detailed checking of equipment in possession of the Italians but should supply such information as they already hold in their old records.

The present system of maintenance through ADOS, 2 District, etc will continue until 31st Dec. and all demands submitted to ADOS by that date will be honoured so far as stores are available at the Depot. It is proposed to hand over maintenance to the Italians at the British EOD where checking and identification can most easily be carried out.

The transportation of the spares from British EODs to Stores Depots will be the responsibility of the Italians.

The meeting considered that it would be most advisable if a representative from the Stores Section of each w/shop be made available at the British EOD when stores were handed over.

6. Carabinieri.

The proposed establishment for Carabinieri includes a large number of motors and motor-bikes of various makes, and in the case of the mobile Italian Bns, also includes armoured cars. The static legions are likely to have their repairs carried out by the Command w/shops. In the case of the mobile Bns., it is probable that a L.A.D. or Light w/shop will be provided to be attached.

The following points were raised:

Captain STOCKER reported that No 1 Mobile Park at PESCHIERO have got about 100 soldiers and appears to be unemployed at present. They are mobile with 30 or more vehicles.

Captain STOCKER also raised the question of maintenance of Carabinieri equipment. They are equipped with armoured cars and shortly to be issued with German motor cycles.

Answer: Until a decision is reached, the Allied vehicle repair load must be divided between Inf. Divisional w/shops according to work capacity and nature of vehicle and Command w/shops.

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Answer: Until a decision is reached, the Allied vehicle repair load must be divided between Inf. Divisional w/shops according to work capacity and nature of vehicle and Command w/shops.

Captain STOCKER also reported that the U.M. Inspectorate in Milan is handicapped by lack of petrol from Italian sources.

Captain WHITE reported that the absence of his one and only clerk makes it difficult to cope efficiently with his work.

Captain WHITE also reported that the supply of spares which stopped on the 15th Nov. had not re-started.

Captain STOCKER raised a number of other points which were settled.

Captain NELSON reported that in an average Inf. Regt. in the Legnano Division there are at present 20 vehicles out of 138 requiring engine changes, and it is likely that this rate of

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engine replacements will continue if supplies are not increased. This is an indication of the average Inf. Division MT.

All officers reported that all tool kits with the Gruppi w/shops are about 50% of 1098 scale.

Lt Colonel,
A.D.M.E.

AB/ccc.

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NOTES ON CONFERENCE - REME - HELD ON 12TH DEC. 45

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Captain W.P. STOCKER
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Captain P.H. WILSON

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recovery units to assist in recovering vehicles from the
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-icles is not yet functioning properly. The Legnano Div.
is assisting in recovery from the park at Verona with the
use of its own recovery vehicles.

There is no objection to the Recovery ^{vehicles} W/shops being
asked to assist in recovery if the other commitments allow it.
No. 2 ~~two~~ recovery ^{Commission} vehicles have not yet arrived at Milan from
Rome owing to lack of petrol and lack of rail transportation.

2. Withdrawal of Training Increments.

The Legnano Division will still be able to function when
the Training Increments are withdrawn as considerable amount
of training has been carried out in the past, but the training
will deteriorate owing to rapid demobilisation of personnel
in the W/shops. The same applies to Foligno and Triuli Divs.

3. Training on British Lines to British Standards.

(i) The policy is that the Italian Army should be organ-
-ised on British lines and trained to British standards
so far as is practicable.

(ii) It will obviously be some time before this reorganis-
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Captain WILSON reported that there is a tendency on the part of the Italian War Ministry to revert to the antiquated and inefficient Italian War Office system of administration and accounting employed prior to the last war. It will be appreciated that if the Gruppi are to remain efficient organizations, this must be avoided.

All three officers reported that engineers from civilian life are not allowed to go into the Corpo Automobilistico but are sent to the Genio Artilleria, and consequently no skilled officers are available for Italian W/shops except by transfer from these arms.

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not given the same authority or status or staff as the ~~one~~ ^{CREME} of a British Division, and in the past has been used mainly as a keeper of vehicle census and any other accountable items connected with MT. This is not in accordance with the Directive given by AFHQ on the duties of the CRE of the Gruppi (ref Appendix "A" to ME/LA/1605/I dated 26 Feb. '45).

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In addition, ~~see~~ copies of relevant EMEs be sent to EMEs with No 5 HLU and No 10 HLU so that the file copies of EMEs are available at those HLUs for the use of the EMEs there.

5. 3rd Line Maintenance of Gruppi Equipment of Allied origin.

The Italian War Ministry plans to set up a Base W/shop and Stores Depot at BOLOGNA for repair of Divisional equipment in AFHQ Gruppi w/shops. The site chosen ~~was~~ a pre-war Italian Heavy Repair W/shop for vehicles) is in the San Vitale at Bologna. The bulk of this is at present ~~working~~ ^{being worked} by the w/shop s of British ARC and by a RE Maintenance Coy. Prov-iding suitable accommodation can be offered to ARC and RE Coy w/shops, both as regards location for the work ~~36V~~ ^{36V} have to do and as regards the quality of the accommodation, AFHQ are prepared to consider releasing the San Vitale to the It-aliens. The Italians also plan to have an inefficient Ven. Park at EUDRIG, near Bologna, to which HLR vehicles from the Gruppi can be sent.

In the Folgore, Triuli and Legnano Divisions there are at least 70 vehicles awaiting back loading and ~~unloading~~ ^{unloading}.

made as follows:

- No 1 HLU - CREMONA and MANTOVA Divisions.
- No 3 HLU - LEGNANO Division.
- No 4 HLU - FOLGORE and TRIULI Division.

In addition, ~~may~~ copies of relevant EMEIs be sent to EMEIs with No 5 HLU and No 10 HLU so that the file copies of EMEIs are available at those HLUs for the use of the EMEIs there.

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In the Folgore, Friuli and Legnano Divisions there are at least 70 vehicles awaiting back loading and unless a very good spares supply is available this ~~scale~~ will be increased to approximately 170.

Regarding the ~~supplying~~ ^{supplying} of British spares, ADCS 2 District had already requested the HLUS to supply information

The officers present report that the Italians would have difficulty in providing this information, as in any case vehicles were ~~without~~ ^{contract} numbers and in addition the lack of trained Italian staff would render the compilation of the information very slow. It is important that EMEIs should not be burdened with the detailed checking of equipment in possession of the Italians but should supply such information as they already hold in their old records.

It is likely that 60 days maintenance ~~at contract rates~~ ^{current} ~~90%~~

will be made available to the Italian War Ministry for maintenance of Allied vehicles now with them. The present system of maintenance through ADCS 2 District, etc will continue until 31 Dec. and all demands submitted to ADCS by that date will be honoured so far as stores are available at the Depot. It is proposed to hand over ~~60 days~~ maintenance to the Italians at the British HOD where checking and identification can most easily be carried out.

The transportation of the spares from British HODs to Stores Depots will be the responsibility of the Italians.

The meeting considered that it would be most advisable if a representative from the Stores Section of each W/shop be made available at the BR HOD when stores were handed over.

6. Carabinieri.

The proposed establishment for Carabinieri includes a large number of motors and motor-bikes of various makes, and in the case of the mobile Italian Bns, also includes armoured cars. The static legions are likely to have their repairs carried out by the Command W/Shops. In the case of the mobile Bns, it is probable that a L.A.D. or Light W/shop will be provided to be attached.

The following points were raised:

Captain STOCHE reported that ~~the~~ Mobile Park at PESCHIERO have got about 100 soldiers and appears to be unemployed at present. They are mobile with 30 or more vehicles.

Captain STOCHE also raised the question of maintenance of Carabinieri equipment. They are equipped with armoured cars and shortly to be issued with German motor cycles.

Answer: Until a decision is reached, Allied vehicles and repair load must be divided between Inf. Divisional W/shops according to ~~work~~ capacity and ~~weight~~ load.

Captain STOCHE also reported that the U.M. Inspectorate in Milan is handicapped by lack of petrol from Italian sources.

Captain WHITE reported that the absence of ~~one~~ ³⁰ one and only clerk makes it difficult to cope effectively.

number of motors and motor-bikes of various makes, and in the case of the mobile Italian Ens, also includes armoured cars. The static legions are likely to have their repairs carried out by the Command W/Shops. In the case of the mobile Ens, it is probable that a L.A.D. or Light W/shop will be provided to be attached.

The following points were raised:

Captain STOCKER reported that ^{the} Mobile Park at PESCHIERO have got about 100 soldiers and appears to be unemployed at present. They are mobile with 30 or more vehicles.

Captain STOCKER also raised the question of maintenance of Carabinieri equipment. They are equipped with armoured cars and shortly to be issued with German motor cycles.

Answer: Until a decision is reached, Allied vehicles and repair load must be divided between Inf. Divisional W/shops according to ^{and command} ~~space~~ capacity and ^{nature of vehicle} ~~work load~~.

Captain STOCKER also reported that the U.M. Inspectorate in Milan is handicapped by lack of petrol from Italian sources.

Captain WHITE reported that the absence of ^{30%} ~~one~~ and only clerk makes it difficult to cope efficiently with his work.

Captain WHITE also reported that the supply of spares which stopped on the 15th Nov. had not re-started.

Captain STOCKER raised a number of other points which were settled.

Captain NELSON reported that in an average Inf. Regt. in the Legnano Division there are at present 20 vehicles out of 138 requiring engine changes, and it is likely that this rate of engine replacements will continue if supplies are not increased. This is an indication of the average Inf. Division MT.

All officers reported that all tool kits with the Gruppi W/shops are about 50% of 1098 Scale.

Lt Colonel,
A.D.M.E

SECRET

7/1/92

12 Dec 45

NOTES ON MEETING BETWEEN G.O.C. M.M.I.A. AND
MAJOR P. P. REPORTED MILITARY M.M. short of boots and
under clothing.

13

Info or
Action

1. Both officers reported M.M. very short of transport.
2. Major P. reported MILITARY M.M. short of boots and under clothing.
3. New Zealand Division departing very shortly.
4. Vehicle recovery in FLORENCE area. G.O.C. instructed to look for cover for vehicles.
5. Patrol difficulties with Prefect, MILITARY.
6. G.O.C. advises to send all M.M. to copy of his address to the Ministry and staff and meetings of Territorial Commanders.
7. Action to be taken re "scotching" of rumors.
8. Possible locations for FLORENCE Division suggested by FLORENCE Territorial Command - FLORENCE, ARCADE, STAMPA, FLORENCE, MILITARY.

P. P. to G.O.C.
M.M.I.A.

7/1/92 3640

1935

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3. New Zealand Division departing very shortly.
4. Vehicle recovery in FLORENCE area. G.O.C. instructed to look for cover for vehicles.
5. Petrol difficulties with Prefect, ROMAIA.
6. G.O.C. advises to send all A.I.Us copy of his address to the Ministry and staff and meetings of Territorial Commanders.
7. Action to be taken re "awaiting" of repairs.
8. Possible locations for FLORENCE Division suggested by FLORENCE Territorial Command - ROMAIA, ARNOLD, ROMAIA, ROMAIA.

G
G.O.C.
G.O.C.
G.O.C.
G.O.C.

[Signature]
F.O.C. to G.O.C.,
M.A.I.A.

7 B.V. state - 3640
Vehicles coming from Leghorn - 13.5
Petrol is insufficient
S.T. state are allocation of petrol petrol
has already been made, and are
investigating the position.

Distribution : G.O.C.
Rep. Cdr.
Col. 4/4.
G
G
G.O.C.

WB 13/12

13/12/48

1938

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

REME

EME/1403

043

(12)

Subject: Monthly Liaison Letter.

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

ROME.
DET/107.

11 Dec 45.

To: ALL BLUs.

1. It is hoped that monthly conferences will be held between M.M.I.A. H.Q. and the B.L.Us, therefore the Monthly Liaison Letter will be discontinued as from 1 January, 1946.
2. In order that B.L.Us may be kept informed of the latest political situation arrangements are being made to include B.L.Us on the distribution list for the A.C. Weekly Bulletin.

A. H. Smith
for Major General
M. M. I. A. *L. H. C.*
CS

Internal:

ALL Branches MMIA.

rjd

P
12/12/45

3639

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

EME/1403

SUBJECT: Monthly Liaison Letter and Monthly Report.

REME

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

INT/107.

Dec 45.

TO: ALL BRANCHES, MMIA.

1. Branches are reminded that points for the November Monthly Liaison Letter are now due. It is intended to curtail drastically the length of the Liaison Letter and to eliminate from it all duplicated material. Branches are therefore requested to confine themselves to points of which the B.L.U.s have not already been informed or matters which require fuller clarification than they have perhaps received in the normal correspondence of the month.

2. The material for the Monthly Report is due on the 5th Dec. It would be appreciated if this were rendered separately from the Liaison Letter material as the field covered is rather different, being a resume of the main events of importance during the month.

3637

L.G.A. Groun. Rumin
p Lt-Col, G.S. Capt

AGR/rja

R 3/12/45

1938

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

1 Bk Sept 26

SUBJECT: Monthly Liaison Letter.

REME
P/A Vols 2 Bk 6 CME/1403

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (AMIA)

G / 31

14 Sep 45

10

TO : All Branches,
M.M.I.A.

1. A monthly liaison letter will be sent from HQ AMIA to all outstation I.Os, E.L.Us etc during the first week in each month. The letter is intended briefly to review the present affairs of the Mission and to give an indication as far as possible of "future" even though these "futures" may subsequently be changed. By this means it is hoped to keep outstations as fully in the picture as possible.
2. The draft of this letter will be coordinated by GSC III(I) and Branches will submit draft papers as under :-

Action

- (a) Political situation as it affects Govt in ROMS
(Civil Affairs Sec A.C. may be consulted if necessary)

GIII(I)

- (b) War Ministry Outlook

G II(L)

- (c) 'G' (Ops, SD and I) Points

G (SD)

- (1) AFHQ policy on handover of territory/tps etc
(11) disbandments and formations, especially independent IS Regts
(111) categories and breakdowns and WEs

- (d) G(Trs) Points

G (Trs)

Incl progress at I.T.C. GERAMO

- (e) 'A' Points

- (1) Demobilisation and Rets
(11) Ctr's
(111) Personal services

3636

1939

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

as far as possible of "future" even though these "future" may subsequently be changed. By this means it is hoped to keep outstations as fully in the picture as possible.

2. The draft of this letter will be coordinated by GSC III(I) and Branches will submit draft paras as under :-

	Action
(a) <u>Political situation as it affects Govt in Rome</u> (Civil Affairs Sec A.C. may be consulted if necessary)	GIII(I)
(b) <u>War Ministry Outlook</u>	G II(L)
(c) <u>'G' (Ops, SD and I) Points</u>	G (SD)
(i) AFHQ policy on handover of territory/tps etc	
(ii) disbandments and formations, especially independent IS Regts	
(iii) categories and breakdowns and VEs	
(d) <u>G(Trs) Points</u>	G (Trs)
Incl progress at I.T.C. CESANO	
(e) <u>'A' Points</u>	
(i) Demobilisation and Rfts	
(ii) Offrs	
(iii) Personal services	
(f) <u>'S' Points</u>	
(i) Rations	
(ii) Clothing	
(iii) Accommodation	
(iv) Tpt	

3636

2

3. Draft paras are required to reach G III(I) by the first day of each month. Branches will make their own arrangements for coordinating any information required from advisors or Services.

15/9/45

L.M. Longfellow
Lt. Col.
GS.

Report on Visit to Catanzaro on 23 Sept 1945.

On arrival at Catanzaro I inspected the following units:-

a) Detachment of No 10 Tpt. Coy (From Naples)

b) No 4 Repairs Unit

c) Catanzaro Food Distribution Depot (Commissariato)

(a) Det. No 10 Tpt. Coy.

This is a unit of 12 ORs under command of a Warrent Officer with an establishment of 12 vms (load carriers) to perform local garrison duties.

On 25 Aug there were 7 efficient vms on the road and 5 in w/shops. The main worry is question of tyres which if not issued to this unit will find the whole 12 vms off the road within 3 months. Naples has been informed but no action has been forthcoming.

(b) No 4 Repairs Unit.

This unit is in a most lamentable state and is performing no useful work whatsoever.

Lt. Col. ZUPPI with 5 officers & 5 ORs runs this unit. There are only 3 mechanics without the necessary tools to perform any repairs to other than normal repairs to Class 1 vms. There is a large number of inefficient class 3 & 4 vms in the inefficient Veh Parks at Catanzaro and also at Cosenza and Castrovillari. NO work can be done on any of these vms except recovery of useable parts.

Lt. Col. ZUPPI's recommendation which seems very reasonable is that (1) No 4 Repairs Unit is closed down and set up in some more central position in another part of Italy where tools and machinery can be made available, where more civilian trade can be employed and where distance from towns does not hinder repair w/shops functions. Catanzaro is not a place where a w/shop should be sited.

(11) That ordinary repairs to vms in Catanzaro area be undertaken by contract with civilian firms under the supervision of 1 Lt. Army ST officer.

P14 Visits & Reports.

9

423

(b) No 4 Repairs Unit.

This unit is in a most lamentable state and is performing no useful work whatsoever.

Lt. Col. ZUPPI with 5 officers runs this unit. There are only 8 mechanics without the necessary tools to perform any repairs to other than normal repairs to Class 1 vehs.

There is a large number of inefficient class 3 & 4 vehs in the inefficient Veh Parks at Catanzaro and also at Cosentino and Castrovillari. NO work can be done on any of these vehs except recovery of useable parts.

Lt. Col. ZUPPI's recommendation which seems very reasonable is that (1) No 4 Repairs Unit is closed down and set up in some more central position in another part of Italy where tools and machinery can be made available, where more civilian trade can be employed and where distance from towns does not ^{make a} repair w/shops functions. Catanzaro is not a place where a w/shop should be sited.

(11) That ordinary repairs to vehs in Catanzaro area be undertaken by contract with civilian firms under the supervision of 1 Lt./Major or officer.

I would wish to point out that if given the facilities, the personnel of No 4 R.R. are very keen workers.

The one complaint registered is that the deep ration for the mechanics is insufficient and that an extra ration be given to personnel performing heavy and oily tasks.

No 4 RR monthly out put of vehs is on an average of 10/12.

(c) Catanzaro Food Distribution Depot.

Inspected Catanzaro distribution Depot with Lt. Cardone acting for Lt. Col. Fias away on duty in Reggio.

There appeared no difficulties and the Commissariato section is working very smoothly.

The Depot itself is very well kept and is very clean. Rations are stacked according to variety in good order and cards showing receipts and issues are up to date.

Rations are held, as ordered, for 45 days with the exception of the following items as at 20 Aug:-

11 9 4 2

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Salt	16 days	E & V	31 days	Dried Veg.	30 days
Coffee	7 "	Cheese tinned	22 days	Tea	37 "
Cheese grated	111	Fish tinned	26 "	oats	37 "
Brax	27 days.				

All supplies items as had been held have been despatched as follows:-

From Reggio Depot to Catania
" Catanzero Depot to Naples
" Cosenza Depot to Rome.

Ascertained that the central depot in Catanzero had been closed down.

It is the opinion of the writer that a good work be put in for Lt.Col.Riso and his staff for the excellent way the depot is being kept at the present moment. It is to be seen that interest is had in their work.

Adyand
Major

4/9/45

S I/C
AQ/G
S & T
DADT
DADNE —

KFB/ab

3632

1943

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

Tel: Bari 13484

Subject:- Weekly (M.T) Report

MMIA Liaison Office
Land Forces Sub Comm. AC.
C/o 54 Area, C.M.F.

ST/42A

14 July 45.

To: HQ, Land Forces Sub Comm: AC. (MMIA)

Herewith please find brief report on Transport and Work Shops:-

(1) Vehicle Shortages - Approx, deficiency against organic
-27

(11) Recovery of Vehicles - Recovered from U.S.A.F.O.D.
Manfredonia (Foggia) - 3

(111) Work Shop Progress

No 3 Repairs Unit Slight reduction on previous week

due to moving one section into the Barracks from the town, taking this move into consideration however; production is reasonable (For detail information on MT Maintenance see my letter ST/41 dated 13 July 45)

1 Mobile Park. Production has been seriously held up due to quantity of men being on leave. this has now

improved, and the workshop is working at almost full pressure, and by the end of next week we should have approx. 10 to 15 Lorries ready for the E.V.P.

3630

TT:baw

Major REME

for SENIOR LO
Eastern Italy

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C.
(L.M.I.A.)

Commander, Major-General L. BROWNING, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

Report No 19 - Activities during the
month of JUNE 1945

Ref Maps: 1:250:000
ITALY, Sheets 27 - 28

For easy reference activities are grouped under subject
headings, and information under each heading is in chronological order.

I. ITALY LOCATIONS

Main HQ

ROME 7457

Outstations

Naples, Bari, Rear 5 Army, 5 Army (Br Iner)
Rear 8 Army, Lt Col ALBERTI in Cagliari,
SARDINIA; Major LONG in SICILY. Also ROMA
HQs with Eighth Army, 54 Area, HQ 1 District
HQ 2 District, HQ 3 District, 56 BLU and PW
Italy.

II. ITALIAN ARMY - ORBAT - STRENGTH

(a) Strength

The Italian Army strength state as reduced under reference
SD/92/1 showed a total strength of 296,158 excluding the
54,541 CC.RR in Cat 7 ITI-III.

(b) Combat Groups

Combat Gps continued in their role of Internal Security.
PRIDDI Gp moved to TRENTO while the SOLCORE remained in the
BOLZANO area with the task of guarding the BRESCIA PASS.
The LERANO Gp remained in the BERGAMO area whilst the CREMONA
Gp moved from under command 8 Army to under command 1 Dist
at ALESSANDRIA. The LIVIGNO Gp, which was helping to guard
German PW's in the RIMINI area will move shortly to GENOVA.
One Regt has already moved up in advance. The GARIBOLDI Inf
Regt which was to have moved north to carry out Internal Sec-
-urity has now been placed under command 54 Area and will move
to BARI on 10 July to be at the disposal of the Italian Govern-
-ment for duties in S.E. ITALY.

(c) Patriots

There was a cry at the beginning of the month from Allied and
Italian authorities in N. ITALY to cancel leave numbers of

II.

ITALIAN ARMY - ORBAT - SURRENDER

(a) Strength

The Italian Army strength state as ordered under reference SD/92/1 showed a total strength of 296,158 excluding the 54,544 CC.RR. in Oct 7 ITI-III.

(b) Combat Groups

Combat Gps continued in their role of Internal Security. TRIULI Gp moved to TRENTO while the POLCORE remained in the BOLZANO area with the task of guarding the BRESCIA PASS. The LERIANO Gp remained in the BERGAMO area whilst the CREMONA Gp moved from under command 8 Army to under command 1 Dist at ALESSANDRIA. The MANTOVA Gp, which was helping to guard German PW's in the RIMINI area will move shortly to GENOVA. One Regt has already moved up in advance. The GARIBOLDI Inf Regt which was to have moved north to carry out Internal Security has now been placed under command 54 Area and will move to RARI on 10 July to be at the disposal of the Italian Government for duties in S.E. ITALY.

(c) Patriots

There was a cry at the beginning of the month from Allied and Italian authorities in N. ITALY to enrol large numbers of Patriots into the Italian Army. Arrangements were made through MELA for 4,000 to be accepted in N.W. ITALY. The response proved to be very small and by the end of the month only some 400 had in fact been enlisted.

(d) Censorship

Except for certain Frontier Areas in N.W. ITALY censorship of Italian military mail has been lifted. Allied censorship at ROME and NAPLES is to cease and Nos. 7 and 9 Base Censor Offices at NAPLES and ROME respectively will be closed. All mail requiring censorship will pass through Allied Censorship Control Offices. Consequently the whole Italian Army Postal system will function more speedily and civilian channels will be used wherever possible.

1946

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Sheet 2.

II. ITALIAN ARMY - ORDER - STRENGTH (Contd)

(e) Control of Movement

The Security Control Line has now moved to the Western Boundary of VENETIA GIULIA. The Province of UDINE is thus open to military movement except in the Frontier Zone. The UDINE Territorial HQ is functioning with its full staff.

III. CEDINGS AND CATEGORIES

(a) Transfer of Cooperators (Italian Service Units)

In accordance with AFHQ AG 387.4/379 GGT-0 of 15 June action was taken to transfer some 17,000 Italian cooperators serving in ITALY from POW to ER-ITI status as from 1 July. Of those 17,000 about 6,000 are of demobilizable age. It was decided by AFHQ that these could only be demobilized with the agreement of employing units who were instructed to forward nominal rolls to MIA of personnel who could be demobilized and those who could not. The nominal rolls are forwarded to the Ministry of War who have instructions to forward them to the Admin Divs. On 1 July approximately 18,000 Italian service units (POW) assigned to American formations changed their status to US-ITI. In preparation for the handover of all Administrative matters from US to Italian HQs, commissions were appointed by the Italian War Ministry upon orders of this Mission for the purpose of:

- i. Contacting each cooperator unit to explain the meaning of the change of status.
- ii. Assure travel orders and necessary documents to that personnel due to be discharged.
- iii. Screen all officers and Regular Army non-commissioned officers.

The above was duly accomplished efficiently. On 1 July former cooperator units passed under administrative control of 21st Italian Command and 805 Administrative Div HQs. Approximately 7,900 men will be demobilized when released by the employing unit.

(b) Transfer of US-ITI's to ER-ITI Formations

Arrangements have been made by the end of the month to transfer some 10,000 US-ITI's from FIFTH Army direct to ER-ITI formations. MIA rep visited MIA 10 FIFTH Army 28 and 29 June in this connection.

(c) Changes in the Reinforcements System

Action was taken to close down PROSINCE ITH-ITI Rainft Depot as the ITH-ITI category is being reduced and recruits can in General be found from surplus personnel within the category. ASHROH Camp, KAFES the US-ITI personnel.

3626

On 1 July approximately 18,000 Italian service units (EOW) assigned to American formations changed their status to US-ITI. In preparation for the handover of all administrative matters from US to Italian HQs, commissions were appointed by the Italian War Ministry upon orders of this Mission for the purpose of:

- i. Contacting each cooperator unit to explain the meaning of the change of status.
- ii. Assure travel orders and necessary documents to that personnel due to be discharged.
- iii. Screen all officers and Regular Army non-commissioned officers.

The above was duly accomplished efficiently. On 1 July former cooperator units passed under administrative control of 212 Italian Command and 205 Administrative Div HQs. Approximately 7,900 men will be demobilised when released by the employing unit.

(b) Transfer of US-ITI's to BR-ITI Formations

Arrangements had been made by the end of the month to transfer some 10,000 US-ITI's from FIFTH Army direct to BR-ITI formations. MOCIA rep visited MIA LO FIFTH Army 28 and 29 June in this connection.

(c) Changes in the Reinforcements System

Action was taken to close down PROGNOME ITI-ITI Reinf Depot as the ITI-ITI category is being reduced and reinforcements in general be found from surplus personnel within the category. ASTRONI Camp, NALES the US-ITI Replacement Depot was disbanded on 15 June as no more replacements are being held in US-ITI category. Following AFHQ decision to close down 803 and 804 ERD's at RAVISCAKINA and TRANI all personnel, reliefs and permanent staff were placed at disposal of 3 Dist as reinforcements. 802 ERD becomes a centre for formations and reorganisation of units. Together with the influx of large numbers of US-ITI's this has necessitated a change in the BR-ITI reinforcements system, and for some time to come reinforcements for Adm Divs will be supplied from disbanded units within the Div or bulk allotments from US-ITI's and other sources.

(d) Demobilisation

Demobilisation of the first four months of the 1914 and older classes proceeded. At the end of the month it was estimated that 20,000 out of 50,000 still remained to be demobilised. With the influx of US-ITI's as replacements there will now be released quickly. It was recommended to AFHQ that the rest of the 1914 class should be demobilised forthwith, and other classes later, depending on the reduction in the services required.

1948

Sheet 2.

IV. "C" SERVICES

(1) Italian Postal Services

Owing to the lifting of postal censorship except in certain Frontier districts in the North, postal services were reorganised. Approval was given for the formation of a Base P.O. at BOLOGNA and AFHQ raised no objection to Italian military postal services operating the mail delivery through the three principal P.Os at ACME - NAPLES and BOLOGNA utilising to a far greater extent the civil postal system. British and US APS will accept Italian mail in areas where Italian transport facilities are not available.

(2) Officers Shops

MIA was informed by AFHQ on 1 June that no special issue of new EO to Italian Officers of 234 1st Div in the IR-IT Service Category would be made. Offers would purchase from the authorised Italian Officers Shops, bulk allotment of clothing for these officers shops operating in Fifth and Eighth Army areas was completed during the month.

(3) Accommodation

(a) Owing to the large numbers of repatriates arriving at TURIN camp accommodation proved inadequate. It was decided that no further soldiers were required and AFHQ was notified that personnel could be dispersed to their homes as civilians.

(b) The Italian Army barracks in TURIN were temporarily allocated to AC as a Refugee Centre for Allied Nationals. The CASTELLI MONCALIERI Barracks were handed back to the Italian Army by AC in exchange. The RAGGIO Hospital in MILAN was occupied temporarily by the Allies as it was not required by the Italian Army. The Allies will provide for the safe storage of movable equipment.

(4) Italian Army Horse Transport

3624
A Conference was held at MIA 9 June with War Ministry reps to discuss future holdings. War Ministry estimated that some 9,000 animals, in addition to those at present held by IR-IT Units, will be

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(4) Italian Army Horse Transport

3624
A Conference was held at MEIA 9 June with War Ministry reps to discuss future holdings. War Ministry estimated that some 9,000 animals, in addition to those at present held by ITI-ITI Units, will be required. The preliminary move to establish units required by the War Ministry will be the disbandment and conversion of existing Pack Tpt Units.

(5) Black BD

Owing to short supply of black eye only 3000 sets of black BD are available for issue to demobilised BR-ITI troops. ITOMSA decided to demobilise troops in clothing already held and AFHQ gave authority to demobilise men in their oldest port worn green BD.

Sheet 4/....

IV.

"Q" SERVICES

(6)

SUPPLIES

Sheet 4.

Local Resources

- (a) Contracts for macaroni by British Forces discontinued w.e.f. 1 July. Arrangements for the manufacture of above will become ITI-III or BR-III responsibility. Flour to be issued in lieu.
- DST AFHQ (Local Resources) have arranged a contract that will enable them to supply all tomato paste required by BR-III's from Italian tomato crop. When cooperators and US-III's become BR-III's they will be still be able to supply. Delivery will be in barrels and thus make considerable saving in tinning.
- (b) Arrangements have been made w.e.f. 1 July that all cooperators becoming BR-III will go on to Italian Army ration scale and draw from III-III Depots where possible; where not possible they will draw from DII's but on Italian Army ration scale and indent on ST/8.

Bulk Depots

- (a) Arrangements made as result of conference with General PELLIGRA on 26 June that three new Bulk Depots be opened at GENOA, VENICE and LEGHORN with new Distribution Depots at GENOA, ALESSANDRIA, MILAN, TURIN, BOLZANO, VERONA, ULINE and VERICE to operate w.e.f. 1 August, if possible. This will mean that with the exception of a small area near ALCONA and near LEGHORN provision will have been made for the final distribution of food to all the Land Forces from Italian depots.
- (b) The distribution of forage will also be made on similar lines in the very near future and will probably be based on Dist Depots. Firm figures for final holdings and location of quadrupeds required first.
- (c) Italian Navy rations now delivered direct from British ESD BRINISI by pack train to TARANTO Italian portion of the ration from Italian Bulk Depot EARL.

(7) ITALIAN ARMY TRANSPORT

and thus make considerable saving in tinning.

- (b) Arrangements have been made w.e.f. 1 July that all co-operators becoming BR-ITI will go on to Italian Army ration scale and draw from ITI-ITI Depots where possible; where not possible they will draw from DID's but on Italian Army ration scale and indent on ST/C.

Bulk Depots

- (a) Arrangements made as result of conference with General PALLIERA on 28 June that three new Bulk Depots be opened at GENOA, VENICE and LEGHORN with new Distribution Depots at GENOA, ALESSANDRIA, MILAN, TURIN, BOLZANO, VERONA, UGINE and VENICE to operate w.e.f. 1 August, if possible. This will mean that with the exception of a small area near LACONA and near LEGHORN provision will have been made for the final distribution of food to all the Land Forces from Italian depots.
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- (c) Italian Navy rations now delivered direct from British BSD BRINDISI by pack train to TARANTO Italian portion of the ration from Italian Bulk Depot BARI.

(7)

ITALIAN ARMY TRANSPORT

- (a) Organisation of Units

Arrangements were made for the formation of three new ITI-ITI Territorial Adm Transport Coys, for TURIN, BOLZANO and UGINE Territorial Commands. This was effected without any nett increase in the number of personnel authorised to be held against ITI-ITI M Units, by the disbandment of No 3 Special Transport Coy, and the conversion of No 4 Special Transport Coy to the BR-ITI Category. Owing to demobilisation, some difficulties were experienced in the provision of personnel for these units, but it was anticipated that deficiencies would be made up from disbanded Allied Commission Transport Coys, during the month of July.

IV. "D" SERVICES

Sheet 5.

(7) ITALIAN ARMY TRANSPORT (Contd)

- (b) No 6 Efficient Vehicle Park was established in TURIN by 1 June and No 7 Efficient Vehicle Park moved to MILAN on 2 June.

Proposed Establishment of cooperator Tpt Units were revised in order to ascertain their suitability on conversion to MR-IMI status.

Provision and recovery of Tpt

- (a) The status of Italian Army Tpt becoming available as a result of recovery and repair was still insufficient both to provide replacement for vehicles becoming beyond local repair and to complete existing IMI-IMI Units to WS/TO.

MMIA LOs reported difficulty in obtaining replacements for British vehicles in use by MR-IMI service troops. It was confirmed, however, by IMHQ that any replacements required should be demanded in the usual way through British channels. LOs were advised accordingly.

- (b) The quantity of Italian Army Tpt recovered in the North up to the end of June was negligible; the only Command which had made any appreciable progress in this direction being GENOA, who reported their holding as:

30 Load Carriers
8 Cars
10 Motorcycles.

Registration

- (a) As a result of discussions with the Ministry of War and CC.RR, it was agreed that requisitioned vehicles bearing civilian targa numbers, operated by CC.RR, should, in addition to their civilian registration number, bear a separate number plate displaying the letters "CC.RR", in order that they could be easily recognised by military repair Units as entitled to military repair facilities.

securing beyond local repair and to complete existing IRI-III units to WE/TO.

MAHA IOs reported difficulty in obtaining replacements for British vehicles in use by ER-III service troops. It was confirmed, however, by AMHQ that any replacements required should be demanded in the usual way through British channels. IOs were advised accordingly.

- (b) The quantity of Italian Army Cpt recovered in the North up to the end of June was negligible; the only Command which had made any appreciable progress in this direction being GENOVA, who reported their holding as:

- 30 Load Carriers
- 8 Cars
- 10 Motorcycles.

Registration

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POL

- (a) Estimates were prepared to show the probable future requirements of POL by the Italian Army. These were based on the assumption that all Italian Army Units with the exception of ER-III and US-III service troops would be required to draw from GIP depots against a bulk allotment given to the Italian Government. Hitherto only IRI-III Units have drawn POL in this manner, ER-III and US-III troops being provided from Allied sources.

Sheet 6.

IV. "Q" SERVICES (Contd)

(7) ITALIAN ARMY TRANSPORT (Contd)

POL

- (b) By the end of June, C.I.P. depots were functioning in all the Territorial Commands, and in most of the Provincial Capitals. Authority which had been obtained as a temporary measure, for some ITI-ITI troops to draw POL from Allied sources, in the absence of CIP depots, lapsed on 30 June 45.

V. MOVEMENTS

(1) Details of traffic dealt with:-

Personnel	190,399	
Stores	20,665	(tons)
Vehicles	416	
Animals	1,705	
Shipping	1,112	(tons)

Small moves of personnel and stores moving over lines not controlled by the Priority of Movements Conference are not included in the above figures.

- (2) Leave The granting of Liberation Leave has resulted in a substantial increase of movement of personnel. Additional accommodation has been bid for each week, and in all cases the requests have been met.

During the month 158,430 journeys for leave personnel have been made over lines covered by the PCM. Conference at AFHQ.

(3) Sardinia Shipments

1. Personnel

The S/S 'GARIBOLDI' has been nominated to make three round trips from NAPLES to SARDINIA on behalf of MMIA, to clear the back-log of personnel awaiting shipment there. It will also lift 450 civilian refugees from NAPLES to SARDINIA if space is available.

(4) Italian Movement Control

Italian Movement Control in Northern Italy commenced its duties on the 20th June. Delegazioni have been established at BOLOGNA, VENICE, and MILAN with Commandi Stazioni at various key points dictated by the present Italian Army requirements.

362

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Vehicles 446
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Shipping 1,112 (tons)

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(5) Air Passages

Air bookings are being arranged to Northern Italy, for MMIA officers travelling on duty and Italian officers travelling at the request of the War Ministry with the approval of MMIA.

VI. MEDICAL

(1) Inspection tours of Italian medical units in the North were carried out during the month by the ADMS who found conditions satisfactory. The principal Italian matron inspected nursing and hospital conditions in Northern Italy, calling in at the newly opened hospital of 100 beds at GENOVA.

contd sheet 7/.....

Sheet 7.

VI. MEDICAL (contd)

(2) A forecast in requirements of medical supplies for the next 6 months was submitted to AFHQ. During the month 50 tons of supplies were received from UX and the Middle East.

(3) Five Italian Army Evacuation hospitals were released to AC for the use of repatriates in N. Italy. Two more hospitals will be released shortly.

VII. WELFARE

(1) During the month nine Italian officers attended a welfare course at the Italian Army Welfare Training Centre.

(2) Two vehicles were released for mobile cinemas and one for a mobile theatre.

(3) During the month three mobile canteens were despatched from Rome fully staffed by volunteers of the CAF for servicing Italian troops. A canteen for Italian troops was opened at UDINE.

(4) The "Casa di Sordiano" in Rome ceased to function as a rest centre for Combat Eng. It is now a rest house for Italian servicemen operating upon supplies from Italian sources.

VIII. HANDING IN OF ARMS BY PARTISANS

While undoubtedly large quantities of arms have been handed in, there is equally no doubt that large quantities (particularly automatics) have been hidden. The firmest action is necessary now to ferret out hidden arms and by proclamation and convictions to frighten people into giving up their arms or informing the CC.RR. privately where such are hidden.

It is obvious that this matter presents a new and I fear permanent (as in the case of EIRE) problem in Italian life. Only the sternest measures now and in the future can, in my opinion, keep it in check.

trs

DISTRIBUTION:

Executive Commissioner, AC - 40
Soviet Representative, AC - 1

261 General
MMLA

(3) During the month three mobile caissons were despatched from Rome fully staffed by volunteers of the GAP for servicing Italian troops. A canteen for Italian troops was opened at UDIE.

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tvS

DISTRIBUTION:

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Internal:

MA to GOC
War Diary - 2

General
MILA

MONTHLY REPORT - REME BRANCH - JUNE 1945.

To: Staff Capt "Q".

EME/1403

1. Formation and moves of Units.

1. No 1 Mobile Park which arrived from Sardinia at the end of May, was completely installed at Bari and commenced work on June 12th.

2. Formation has been approved during the month for a second Recovery Section ready for recovery work at short notice when required. A Workshops Control Headquarters of 4 Officers and 7 OR's has been formed to employ civilians and recommence work at the pre-war Army Workshops at Bologna. No 4 and No 5 Territorial Repairs Directorates have been formed.

2. Italian Vehicles and Spares in the North.

Major Edwards, D.S.O., D.M.E. North, has been in North Italy throughout the month locating Italian Army Vehicles and Spares and keeping in touch with Liaison Officers and this Headquarters regarding their recovery for use by the Army.

3. 110 Army Vehicles in the hands of civilian firms.

The handing in of the above vehicles has been the subject of much discussion and to date 26 vehicles have been received. Arrangements are being made for the recovery of those which are non-runners.

4. Spares and Tyres.

Part of the spares from Alexandria have been received and are being dealt with at the Central Spare Parts Depot. Requirements of A.O. have been called for.

The present stock of tyres is being used to a greater extent to keep Army vehicles on the road. Experience has shown that 750 x 20 and equivalent sizes is the greatest demand. This was covered in the request to A.F.H.Q.

5. Personnel.

2. Italian Vehicles and Spares in the North.

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5. Personnel.

The question of provision of specialist personnel has been followed during the month, and permission to send ITI-ITI personnel to the school at GESANO has been requested.

6. Visits and Inspections.

Major Gen L. Browning has inspected No 1 Repairs Unit Rome and No 2 Mobile Park Naples during the month.

D.A.D.M.E. South has made liaison visits to Naples, Bari, Gesano, and Terna during the month.

6 July 45.
Major R.A.O.C.
for R.E.M.E. Branch,
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.O. (MMIA)

1950

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

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JH/50 June 45.

MA
3612

1961

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

EME/1403

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

12 June, 1945.

To : C (AE)
Q.1
Q.2
Q.(OS)
S.I.
Medical
R.E.M.S. ✓
Labor
Major Byatt.

P/A. Val Ro (4)

Branches will each detail a rep. to attend a meeting to be held immediately after the morning conference on Wednesday 13th June.

Branches and Services will bring forward any policy matters which have arisen during the absence of Colonel Noakes.

P.A. Curties
P.A. CURTIES,
Lt. Colonel
Q.2.

Copy to : A;
G.

3615

R
13/6/45

MONTHLY REPORT - ROMA BRANCH - MAY 1945.

AME/1403.

During the month liaison visits have been made to North Italy to investigate the position regarding vehicles, Workshop facilities, spares, and tyres. Further development of the Iti - Iti repairs organisation for maintaining Italian Army vehicles in possession of units and production of further Efficient Vehicles has been made.

MAY 6 : Major Edwards, accompanied by Col. Balanzino, of the Diva Tec. Motorizzazione, War Ministry, left for Bologna and North Italy.

MAY 8 : No 5 Repairs Unit Florence completely installed and working on unit vehicles in the Territorial Command.

MAY 9 : No 2 Mobile Park, formed from half the Mobile Workshops from Sardinia, completely installed and starts production in Naples.

MAY 10: Major Austin returns from Sardinia.

MAY 13: Major Austin proceeds to Milan to liaise with Major Edwards and Italian Patriots regarding the organisation for recovery and repair of vehicles in the North.

MAY 14: Capt. Truscott reported for duty.

MAY 16: Visit to Auxiliary Heavy Repair Workshops Roma, where repairs on inefficient vehicles has commenced.

MAY 17: Capt. Truscott leaves for Bari for duty as Transport Liaison Officer. Visit to Naples by DADMB, arrangements made with War Ministry for the return of 110 vehicles from civilians.

MAY 21: Major Austin returns from Milan and reports position.

MAY 22: Col. Balanzino, Ministry of War, returns from Bologna and reports on the condition of O.A.R.E. and whereabouts of machinery and spares ~~from~~ taken from it.

MAY 23: Discussion with Industry Sub Commission A.C. regarding the allocation to them of some of the spares expected from Middle East.

- on unit vehicles in the Territorial Command.
- May 9: No 2 Mobile Park, formed from half the Mobile Workshops from Sardinia, completely installed and starts production in Naples.
- May 10: Major Austin returns from Sardinia.
- May 13: Major Austin proceeds to Milan to liaise with Major Edwards and Italian Patriots regarding the organisation for recovery and repair of vehicles in the North.
- May 14: Capt. Truscott reported for duty.
- May 16: Visit to Auxiliary Heavy Repair Workshops Borki, where repairs on inefficient vehicles has commenced.
- May 17: Capt. Truscott leaves for Bari for duty as Transport Liaison Officer. Visit to Naples by DADME, arrangements made with War Ministry for the return of 110 vehicles from civilians.
- May 21: Major Austin returns from Milan and reports position.
- May 22: Col. Balanzino, Ministry of War, returns from Bologna and reports on the condition of O.A.R.E. and whereabouts of machinery and spares ~~from~~ taken from it.
- May 23: Discussion with Industry Sub Commission A.C. regarding the allocation to them of some of the spares expected from Middle East.
- May 24: DADME visits Naples to arrange the move of 1st Mobile Park, arriving from Sardinia, to work in Bari.
- May 28: Discussions regarding the rate of pay for civilian employees at the Repairs Units. Representatives of the Ministry of War and Civilian Labour leaders present.
- May 29: Information received that the first consignment of MT Stores - 47 Cases - from Massawa, were en route to Italy.
- May 31: War Establishment of the RTC ICF Workshops passed. War Establishments of Repairs Units showing breakdown by trade, also passed. Visit by Major Truscott to Mesagne to invest the number of repairable vehicles held on the Park for re by No 3 Repairs Unit.

[Signature]
Major,
R.A.O.C.

1964

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

Subject: Monthly Report - ROME Brande May 1948
RME 1003

During the month liaison visits have been made to North Italy to investigate the position regarding vehicles, workshops facilities, spare parts, and types of vehicles. Further development of the Ite-Iti repairs organization for maintaining Italian Army ^{improvements} ~~production~~ of vehicles has been made.

May 6 Majors Edwards, accompanied by Col. Balaguer of the Dow Ice Motor Garage, War Ministry, left for Bologna and North Italy.

May 8 MOS Repairs Unit therefore completely installed and working on unit vehicles in the Technical Command.

May 9 No 2 Mobile Payk, formed from half the Mobile Workshops from Livorno, completely installed and start production in Naples.

May 10 Majors Austin returns from Livorno.
13 Majors Austin proceeds to Milan to liaise with Majors Edwards and Italian Patrons in the ~~the~~ ^{regarding} the organization for recovery and repair of vehicles in the North.

- 14 Capt. Townsend reported for duty
- 16 Visit to And. Henry Repair Workshops Terni where repairs on inefficient vehicles has commenced.
- 17 Capt. Townsend leaves for Bari for duty as transport Liaison Officer. Visit to Naples by J.D.M.C.

of the Gas engine mounted
on Bologna and North Italy.
May 8 No. 5 Reprints sent therefore completely installed
and working on unit vehicles in the Technical
Command.

May 9
Command. 1
No 2 Mobile Payk, formed from half the Mobile
Workshops from Sardinia, completely installed and
start to produce in Naples
from Sardinia.

May 10 Major Austin returns from service + 1 day work

13 Major Austin forwards to Milan to travel with
Major Edwards and Italian Patriots ~~in the North~~
regarding the organization for recovery and repair
of hospitals in the North

- 14 of vehicles in the North
- 14 Capt. House reported for duty
- 16 Visit to And Heavy Repair Workshop
- 16 Workshop has commenced.

16 Frank & Andy Heavy Repair Works - where repairs on inefficient vehicles has commenced.

- 17 Capt Vincent's hands for Date of entry in
Division Office. Visit to Naples by DAME
Attainment made with War Ministry for the return
2013.

of 110 vehicles from, civilians. A-1.

21 Major Austin returns from Alham and reports

21 01/10/1901
prescription
- 22 Cal Balanzino, Min of War, returns from Bologna
and reports on the condition of O. A. R. E. and whereabouts
of ... and spores taken from it.

- 23 -
of machinery and spare parts for the
industry with Industry Dept. Commission HC
regarding the allocation between of some of the
addresses submitted from Middle East.

- 24 - ADMF visits Naples to arrange the move of 1st Mobile Ede, arriving from Bardonia, to work in Bari

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- May 28 Discussions regarding the rate of civilian pay for work on employees at the Repair units. Representatives of the Min of War and Civilian labor leaders present.
- 29 Information received that the first consignment of M. Stars - 47 Cases - from Massawa, were en route to Italy.
- 31 Was Establishment of the R/C ICF Workshops passed.
Was Establishment of Repair units showing breakdown by trades also passed.
Visit by Major Touseott to Misaghe to investigate the number of irreparable vehicles held on the Park for repair by No 3 Repair unit

Major RAOC.

over repair?
Col Balazzone did not proceed North of Bologna.

Q/S 17 May. Austin with 1st Mobile Brigade left for Milan on May 13 to contact 1st Mobile Brigade, chief of staff to Gen Cordova re partisan vehicles.
Repair to be under same Repair Directorate

CCRR vehicles

② The priority of repair, but no replacements.
1st Mobile Brigade 37 on priority at Naples for issue

③ 1st Mobile Brigade vehicles split into three units
1st Mobile Brigade and 1st Recovery Section
1st Rec See working in Naples. 2nd Mobile Brigade started work in Naples that Sunday.
1st Mobile Brigade landing one unit to 1st Regiment preparatory to coming to maintain.
Naples concentrating on vehicles and started functioning

④ 1st Mobile Brigade 100 all sorted
beginning of month. W/E 100 all sorted

3611

⑤ Message practically clear and some commencing work in two or three days time

⑥ Capt. Foxworth retired and is on his way to Rome to act as transport L.B. Edwards went for 10 days in April.
Engine Section from Sardinia in Rome and 1st stops now includes the heavy school. Considerable progress made.

1969

Stores of types from ~~Messagne~~, Bari, and Naples
now centralized in Rome and items made to units
vehicles, early and other repairs units.

General stores progressing and ~~to~~ include drapery
retired by issue from Genoa Army unit while.

~~300 tons of spare parts detailed from ME, but no
receipts as yet~~

~~System of type and repairs returns now
working almost as required~~

(2) Question of Civilian Pay checked returned
War Ministry and conference held on subject with
labour leaders.

(3) Shortage of skilled personnel still acute.
Military civilians from Artillery transferred to help

Preparation for 110 Civilian vehicles to be received
Italian vehicles with 100 long passed to salvage

Crupper & Antelope

Discussion re repairs of vehicles at Casano

APHQ types

Hall in Naples.

UMI Unit to Zindia

1970

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③ Military equipment from Italy transferred to help
Preparation for 110 Civilian vehicles to be received
Italian vehicles with Italy passed to Chicago

Design & Antisense
Discussion re repair of vehicles at Casano

AP40 types

Hall in Naples

UMI link to Zimbi

3610

1971

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

MONTHLY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES - MARCH MARCH - MARCH 1945

1. GENERAL.

Progress in the complete reorganization of the Repairs Services of the Italian Army with the help of the British Officer reinforcements received at the beginning of the month.

No. 1 and 2 Repair Units being completely reorganised to ensure greater output and more efficient work.

Workshop lorries and Breakdown vehicles being prepared at No 1 Repairs Unit for issue to forward L.A.Ds.

Progress on the establishment of the Central M.A. Spares Depot in Rome. Stores received and pinned and issues have commenced.

Progress in the move of the Heavy Arm Repairs Unit from Messagne to Terni. The necessary M.A. Services and preparation of site tyres etc in hand and the movement of stores, machinery, vehicles, units etc from Messagne arranged.

The programme of handling over 65 vehicles to the RAF at the airport at Sardinia completed.

Process of clearing Sardinia of repairable vehicles nearing completion, and arrangements are being made to send the Recovery Section to Naples to assist in clearing their inefficient tanks, and to ship the Mobile Workshops in two sections to ease the load on the Repair Units on the mainland by quicker movement.

Arrangements have been made for the Repair Units, recently known as 38 O.M.P. to become a detachment of No. 1 Repairs Unit and change its location from ~~ANCONA~~ to Florence in order to be more centrally situated to serve a greater number of light workshops. This 1/4 will move from Ancona to Florence on the 15th April 1945.

55 Tanks have been delivered to the mainland from Sardinia - 65 Tanks are completed and awaiting shipment. The balance will be completed by the middle of May. Provisional arrangements have been made for the shipping of spares, Tank, as and when they arrive.

2. REMAINDER ACTIVITIES.

2 March - Meeting at M.I. Hq. presided over by DA A and, allotting duties to Officer reinforcements.

2-9 - 10 March - Visit to Mantova Combat Group at San Giorgio. This Combat Group is receiving spares and vehicle equipment and should be well equipped before changing location.

tyres etc from Messagne arranged.

The programme of handling over 85 vehicles to the RAF at the airport at Sardinia completed.

Process of clearing Sardinia of repairable vehicles nearing completion, and arrangements are being made to send the Recovery Section to Naples to assist in clearing their inefficient parks, and to ship the mobile workshops in two sections to ease the load on the repair units on the mainland by quicker movement.

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55 tanks have been delivered to the mainland from Sardinia - 65 tanks are completed and awaiting shipment. The balance will be completed by the middle of May. Provisional arrangements have been made for the shipping of spares, tank, as and when they arrive.

2. RETAINED ACTIVITIES.

12 March - Meeting at Villa R., presided over by MA à MO, allotting duties to Officer reinforcements.

12-9 - 10 March - Visit to Mantova Combat Group at San Giorgio. This Combat Group is receiving spares and vehicle equipment and should be well equipped before changing location.

3609

12 March - The first draft of the Italian directive on the new AF organisation examined at a meeting of the War Ministry.

14 March - Figures of stocks of tyres and tubes resulting from the census on February 5th, received from War Ministry. Particulars of the Battery situation requested from the War Ministry.

16 March - Accompanied ADOT on inspection of Transport Units in Rome. Directive sent to the War Ministry detailing affiliation of 1st-1st non AF Units to Repair Units, to Repair Units.

18 - 19 March - During this period the workshop units of Combat Groups were inspected and considerable improvement in maintenance and output was noticed. The backlogging of vehicles has been greatly reduced. The Italian personnel are showing great interest in their work and appreciate the interest being shown them by Allied visiting personnel.

...../2

1973

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

ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES - MARCH - MARCH 1945

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Progress on the establishment of the Central M.E. Spares Depot in Rome. Stores received and binned and issues have commenced.

Progress in the move of the Heavy Aux Repair Unit from Mesagne to Terni. The necessary M.E. services and preparation of site at Terni put in hand and the movement of stores, machinery, vehicles, tyres etc from Mesagne arranged.

The programme of handling over 85 vehicles to the RAF at the airport at Gardinina completed.

Process of clearing Gardinina of repairable vehicles nearing completion, and arrangements are being made to send the Recovery section to Naples to assist in clearing their inefficient tanks, and to ship the Mobile Workshops in two sections to ease the load on the Repair Units on the mainland by quicker movement.

Arrangements have been made for the Repair Units, recently known as 38 O.M.F. to become a detachment of No. 1 Repair Unit and change its location from ~~Messagne~~ to Florence in order to be more centrally situated to serve a greater number of light workshops. This S/L will move from Mesagne to Florence on the 15th April 1945.

55 Tanks have been delivered to the mainland from Gardinina - 65 Tanks are completed and awaiting shipment. The balance will be completed by the middle of May. Provisional arrangements have been made for the shipping of spares, tank, etc and when they arrive.

2. REPAIR ACTIVITIES.

1. March - Meeting at Liria H., provided over by DA A 400, allocating duties to Officer reinforcements.

12-13 March - Visit to Mantova Combat Group at San Giorgio Combat Group is receiving spares and vehicle equipment and should be well equipped before changing location.

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tyres etc from Messine arranged.

The programme of handing over 85 vehicles to the IAF at the airport at Sardinia completed.

Process of clearing Sardinia of repairable vehicles nearing completion, and arrangements are being made to send the Recovery Section to Naples to assist in clearing their inefficient Park, and to ship the Mobile Workshops in two sections to ease the load on the Repair Units on the mainland by quicker movement.

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55 Tanks have been delivered to the mainland from Sardinia - 65 Tanks are completed and awaiting shipment. The balance will be completed by the middle of May. Provisional arrangements have been made for the shipping of spares, Tank, as and when they arrive.

2. REPAIR UNIT

12 March - Meeting at MELA H., presided over by Lt. A. G. C., allotting duties to Officer reinforcements.

13 - 14 March - Visit to Mantova Combat Group at San Giorgio ³⁶⁰²⁸ Combat Group is receiving spares and vehicle equipment and should be well equipped before changing location.

14 March - The first draft of the Italian directive on the new organization examined at a meeting of the War Ministry.

14 March - Figures of stocks of tyres and tubes resulting from the census on February 5th, received from War Ministry. Particulars of the Battery situation requested from the War Ministry.

16 March - Accompanied ALBT on inspection of Transport Units in Rome. Directive sent to the War Ministry detailing affiliation of 111-111 Non AF Units to Repair Units to Repair Units.

18 - 19 March - During this period the workshop units of Combat Groups were inspected and considerable improvement in maintenance and output was noticed. The backloading of vehicles has been greatly reduced. The Italian personnel are showing great interest in their work and appreciate the interest being shown by Allied visiting personnel.

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- 24 March - Directive sent to the War Ministry detailing the new system of release of tyres and tubes through Repaire channels.
- 28 March - Visit to Macerata with Director of Motorisation, War Ministry, to arrange the move of 18 O.M.F.
- 19 March - Results of investigations into position of tyre supply and repair drafted as basis of letter to be sent to AFHQ requesting assistance.
- 11 March - Discussion at the War Ministry on their plan for detailed Workshop Statistics and Returns.

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MONTHLY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES - REPAIR BRANCH - MARCH 1945

1. GENERAL

Progress in the complete reorganisation of the repairs services of the Italian Army with the help of the British Officer reinforcements received at the beginning of the month.

No's 1 and 2 Repair Units being completely reorganised to ensure greater output and more efficient work.

Workshop lorries and Breakdown vehicles being prepared at No 1 Repairs Unit for issue to forward L.A.Ss.

Progress on the establishment of the Central M.O. Spares Depot in Rome. Stores received and binned and issues have commenced.

Progress in the move of the Heavy Aux Repairs Unit from Mesagne to Terni. The necessary R.A.S. Services and preparation of site at Terni put in hand and the movement of stores, machinery, vehicles, tyres etc from Mesagne arranged.

The programme of handling over 85 vehicles to the RAF at the airport at Sardinia completed.

Process of clearing Sardinia of repairable vehicles nearing completion, and arrangements are being made to send the Recovery Section to Naples to assist in clearing their inefficient Parks, and to ship the Mobile Workshops in two sections to ease the load on the Repairs Units on the mainland by quicker movement.

Arrangements have been made for the Repairs Units, recently known as 38 O.M.F. to become a detachment of No. 1 Repairs Unit and change its location from ~~Messagne~~ to Florence in order to be more centrally situated to serve a greater number of Light Workshops. This W/S will move from Macerata to Florence on the 15th April 1945.

55 Tanks have been delivered to the mainland from Sardinia - 65 Tanks are completed and awaiting shipment. The balance will be completed by the middle of May. Provisional arrangements have been made for the shipping of spares, Tank, aa and when they arrive.

2. DETAILED ACTIVITIES

7 March - Meeting at Villa H., presided over by D.A. & G., allotting duties to Officer reinforcements.

8-9-10 March - Visit to Mantova Combat Group at San Giorgio. This Combat Group is receiving spares and vehicle equipment and should be well equipped before advancing location.

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The programme of handling over 85 vehicles to the RAF at the airport at Sardinia completed.

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2. DETAILED ACTIVITIES.

7 March - Meeting at MMIA H., presided over by DA & QMG, allotting duties to Officer reinforcements.

8-9 - 10 March - Visit to Santova Combat Group at San Giorgio. This Combat Group is receiving spares and vehicle equipment and should be well equipped before changing location.

12 March - The first draft of the Italian directive on the new MT organisation examined at a meeting of the War Ministry. 3607

14 March - Figures of stocks of tyres and tubes resulting from the census on February 5th, received from War Ministry. Particulars of the Battery situation requested from the War Ministry.

16 March - Accompanied ADST on inspection of Transport Units in Rome. Directive sent to the War Ministry detailing affiliation of MTI-MTI non MT Units to Repair Units, to Repair Units.

18 - 29 March - During this period the Workshop units of Combat Groups were inspected and considerable improvement in maintenance and output was noticed. The backloading of vehicles has been greatly reduced. The Italian personnel are showing great interest in their work and appreciate the interest being shown them by ~~visiting~~ visiting personnel.

22 March - Directive sent to the War Ministry detailing the new system of release of tyres and tubes through Repairs channels.

28 March - Visit to Macerata with Director of Motorisation, War Ministry, to arrange the move of 38 O.M.P.

10 March - Results of investigations into position of Tyre supply and repair drafted as basis of letter to be sent to AFHQ requesting assistance.

31 March - Discussion at the War Ministry on their plan for detailed Workshop Statistics and Returns.

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- 2 -

22 March - Directive sent to the War Ministry detailing the new system of release of tyres and tubes through Repairs channels.

26 March - Visit to Macerata with Director of Motorisation, War Ministry, to arrange the move of J8 C.M.P.

30 March - Results of investigations into position of Tyre supply and repair drafted as basis of letter to be sent to AFH, requesting assistance.

31 March - Discussion at the War Ministry on their plan for detailed Workshop Statistics and Returns.

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3601

EME/1403

Subject: Monthly Report - ROME Branch, April 1945.

3

The month has been spent in pushing forward the new Repairs organisation to increase output, and in putting into effect the directives issued during March.

Supplies of various repairs materials have been arranged. M.T. Spares and tyres are being centralised at the Central MT Spares Depot, ROME. Issues have commenced, and are increasing in number.

4 April:- Discussion with Col. Carnes of A.C. Driving and Maintenance School; re releasing of Centro Studio ROME, and occupation of Driving School at Via Guido Rini.

6 April:- Arrangements made for the Central MT Stores Depot to take over more spares to cope with intake of MT Spares.

8 April:- Major Hall returned from SARDINIA.

12 April:- Visit to War Ministry to discuss Artillery Workshops and Repairs policy matters.

13 April:- Visit with representative of War Ministry to civilian tyre repairing firms, with a view to increasing repairs for the Italian Army.

15 April:- Det No 1 Repairs Unit moved to Florence.

16 April:- Urgent repair of Searchlight lorries arranged.

Recovery Unit arrives NAPLES from SARDINIA and is put to work with No 2 Repairs Unit.

17 April:- ROME take over relative files from SAT and start as a separate office. Detailed instruction on Workshop Returns passed for despatch by War Ministry.

18 April:- Major Edwards, accompanied by Col. Balanzino, Ministry of War, proceeds to Bari.

19 April:- Army vehicles recovered from Civilian Garages in ROME Area and sent to No 1 Repairs Unit.

20 April:- Visit to Aux Heavy Workshops Terni, to inspect progress of RA Services and organisation of Workshops.

25 April:- Arrangements made to draw skilled personnel from No 3 Repairs Unit to increase personnel available for greater

- 8 April:- Major Hall returned from SARDINIA.
- 12 April:- Visit to War Ministry to discuss Artillery Workshops and Repairs policy matters.
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- 15 April:- Det No 1 Repairs Unit moved to Florence.
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- 17 April:- REME take over relative files from S&T and start as a separate office. Detailed instruction on Workshop Returns passed for despatch by War Ministry.
- 18 April:- Major Edwards, accompanied by Col. Balanzino, Ministry of War, proceeds to Bari.
- 19 April:- Army vehicles recovered from Civilian Garages in ROME Area and sent to No 1 Repairs Unit.
- 20 April:- Visit to Aux Heavy Workshops Terni, to inspect progress of RA Services and organisation of Workshops.
- 25 April:- Arrangements made to draw skilled personnel from No 3 Repairs Unit to increase personnel available for greater load at No 1 Repairs Unit.
- 26 April:- Personnel transferred from Artillery to Army Workshops.
- 27 April:- Major Edwards returns from Bari having completed re-organisation of No 3 Repairs Unit on the new basis. Meeting to arrange the repair of GCRH vehicles on priority. Necessary instructions sent to War Ministry.
- 30 April:- Arrangements made for the splitting of 1st Hy Mobile Workshops into 3 separate units. No 5 Repairs Unit created and surplus personnel held to form another Workshop if required elsewhere.

Call
Major,
D.A.D.M.A.

SUBJECT: April Monthly Reports

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MIA)

INT/107

26 APR 45

TO : (See Distribution)

1. Please let me have a typewritten summary of the main events and activities in your branch during the month of April.
2. The Summary should be set out in chronological order showing dates against all conferences and visits of importance, policy changes, directives, etc.
3. The importance of these summaries cannot be too greatly stressed as the consolidated MIA report goes to WASHINGTON, LONDON and AFHQ. Brevity should not be used at the expense of clarity.
4. Please submit your April reports NOT LATER THAN 7 MAY 45.

Distribution:

SOHE	MAJ COFFLESON
SOR oiss	MAJ CALVELEY
"A" Branch	Capt ARCHER
"B" Branch	J/Comd FARDELL
Med	Capt COOPER
S & T	MAJ NELSON
ORD	MAJ GREENWOOD
ORD Records	Capt HAMILTON
MOV	Capt Lora WESTBURY
LAB	MAJ SUIS
TELETYPE	LT COPPLE

F. C. S. G. S.
Lt. Col. G.S.

1986

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dates against all communications in areas of importance, policy directives, etc.

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7 R. S. Galt
Lt. Col. G.S. Galt

Distribution:

SORE	MAJ COFFLESTON
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ORD	MAJ GREENWOOD
ORD Records	Capt HAMILTON
MOV	Capt Lora WESTERY
LAR	MAJ SUYS
WELFARE	Lt COFFLE
HOUSE	MAJ TAYLOR
ARTY Records	LT WARD

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col.

EME/1003

R 27/4/45

1987

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Item 3.

1403 ①

To: C.O.S.

Herewith report from Major Hall.

Recommend that AFHQ be asked to arrange verification of para 1 so that more efficient use can be made of I.A.F. vans and spares for the war effort.

Gl.

Copy: 02
/T
RMS

31 Mar 45

Major Taylor
Major Edwards. n.m.b.

R

19/4/45

1988

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C O P Y

Subject: Workshops and Transport in Sardinia.

27th March 1945

To: Commanding General, MMIA.

From: Major C. A. HALL, D.A.D.N.E.

I am showing Major Austin the organisation here and expect to return to Rome next week.

Have arranged to finish programme of 85 vehicles for R.A.F. at the airport here by the end of this month. The R.A.F. are now asking for supply of tyres and spares and while I am assisting as far as possible I have recommended them to arrange their own supplies as I am almost out of tyres but can arrange spare parts from the cemetery of old vehicles.

My Shipping programme is in detail with L.O. here and is as follows:-

Period 1st April - 16 Mar.

Tanks approx 120 }
Vehicles approx 150 } total approx 270 - 300
1st half of No 1 Mobile Park - 75 vehicles.
Vehicles for Rome w/shops and Terni - 7.
Recovery Section of 1 Mobile Park - 17 vehicles.
Spares - 150 tons (1500 cases)

Grand total about 400.

In view of the parks being very thin of useful vehicles for repair and the growing situation on the mainland I have arranged

1. To send recovery section to Naples area to clean up all the dumps there and prepare for the 1st half of the 1st Mobile Park to operate and after to feed Terni with vehicles for repair.
2. To split the Mobile Park into two self contained sections to ease movement and commence operations on mainland while tailing off here. May be nice to work these two sections always separate and have two mobile parks No 1 and 2 especially in view of future commitments in the North of Italy.
3. To remove engine repair section from mobile park and send engine workshop in Rome to help build up engine stock in central stores and eventually work on replacement unit by item.

1989

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-2-

4. Send 1 mobile crane to Terni to assist in clearing this workshop area of engineer material.

I have had opportunity to investigate the position of vehicles and workshops in the I.A.F. here and for information report the following which, except where mentioned differently, I have seen myself:-

700 vehicles of various types in vehicle dumps of which it is estimated 150 serviceable could be produced in two months with existing I.A.F. workshop and stores on the site:

Estimated 200-300 vehicles at present on island in serviceable condition and of various types.

Stores contains about 80-100 tons of very useful spares for various types.

Tyres 200-300 tyres, 400-500 tubes, in serviceable condition many new and almost new.

Paint - Large quantity of various colours, principally green.

It is believed that there are about 2500 I.A.F. personnel in the Island but am not able to verify this figure.

The present workshop at this site, Montassaroto by Cagliari, has about 100 men of which about 50 are specialists and it is supplemented by 20-30 civilian specialists. It is believed that of the I.A.F. personnel on the island further specialists could be found.

Vehicles for repair are being handed out to civil enterprise and I am informed that the similar style of racket as on the mainland is operating i.e. giving four or five vehicles in payment for the repair of two or three. But I have not been able to get any definite proof of this yet.

Will you please consider this part referring to I.A.F. transport, workshop, spare part and tyre position in Sardinia with a view to the possible relief of the Italian military vehicle and spares supply to the R.A.F. at the Airport here.

Incidentally paint is very urgently required in the workshops at Abbasanta and would be grateful to get the opportunity to get supplies from the I.A.F. here.

(Sgd) C.A. HALL, Major.

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