

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

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May - Aug

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G12118 Weekly Liaison Log POLCORPS
opened May 14, 1944. Closed Aug. 20, 1944
May - Aug 1944

SECRET.

M.M.I.A. L.O.,
Rear HQ Polcorps.
20 Aug 44.

M.M.I.A.	9
PLS REP.	12/18
Date Recd	3/8/81

Liaison Log No 17.

A. Arrivals.

- (i) II5 and II6 Coys of 2 Bn 401 I.P.L
Regt have arrived in ANCONA to work with 87 Pnr Gp.
(ii) 247 Fd Hosp has arrived in OSIMO from
TERLOLI.

B. Movements.

HQ 410 I.P.L Regt from ANCONA to FALCONARA.

C. Visits.

To 410 and 413 I.P.L Regts. Troops at the moment are reasonably clad, though the fact that each man has only one shirt makes things unpleasant for them at night when the day's work is over. The coys are spread over a wide area, which renders it very difficult for the C.O's to maintain contact owing to their transport position, the M.T on establishment of Regt and Bn HQs not yet being available. 413 Regt has an incidence of 80% malaria caught in SARDINIA.

- D. W.e;f 21 Aug this branch will close down.
I have been recalled to join Lt-Col MORIARTY at Army.

G O'Donnell
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

5414

(K)

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2 copies rec'd
SECRET
13
L.M.I.A. L.O.,
Rear. HQ Polcorps.
13 Aug 44.
G/21
16 8 44
Weekly Liaison Log No 14.

A. Arrivals and Departures.

- (i) 410 I.P. Regt has arrived at ANCONA to work with SOUTH AFRICAN Rly Engineers.
(ii) 413 Arty Regt has also come to ANCONA to work with S.A.E.C.

B. Visits.

Visited O.C 410 I.P. Regt, O.C I Bn and one of the British Pioneer Liaison Officers attached.

6th to note yes!
The HQ and two coys of I Bn moved from area ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ TERNI to ANCONA approximately a fortnight ago. No notification of the move reached either this branch or HQ 209 Division, and the unit was found only by chance.

410 and 413 Regts are both on the new scale of rations effective from 1 Aug. The troops are engaged on the railway running NORTH from ANCONA. This being a No 1 priority task, troops work an average of 11 hours per day, and the Italian authorities here state that the ration is not enough for troops engaged on such heavy work? I am informed by Q Branch, HQ 6I Area that they have written AAI asking for authority to put these troops back on the Combat Scale, as has already been done in the case of troops under command EIGHTH ARMY and Polcorps.

A considerable number of these men belong to the older age groups that are due to be demobilised. This has an adverse effect on their morale.

I am informed that the British transport released to 410 Regt when it was known as 522 Regt - release authority Main EIGHTH ARMY signal SD3110 dated 27 Mar - was retained by the British officer i/c transit camp at MINERVINO DI PUGLIE. The Regt HQ has now no

(2)

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British transport, nor have the Bn Hq's, though the coys
have one 15cwt and one motorcycle.

Go Donnell
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

5412

SECRET

M.B.I.A L.O.,
Rear HQ Polcorps.
6 Aug 44.

Weekly Liaison Log No 13.

- A. Arrivals. NIL.
B. Movements.

MM &	9.
FILE REF	12
Date Recd	10/8/44

The Quartiere Generale of 209 Div has moved into the billets found for them in OSIMO. Main body will move some time during this week, delay in movement being due to the fact that Gen PROPERZI is acting as chief of Delegation A in the absence of Gen DI STEFANIS.

C. Visits.

Visited 567 Fd Coy R.E. to check up on 2 Coy 28 Bn Artieri. This coy is in need of boots and clothing, since they have received very little since early winter. This had a bad effect on morale, coupled with the proposed reduction in rations (the postponement of this last has been welcomed by Italian troops). The coy is being used - rather more intelligently than sometimes happens - on work of an engineer nature on bridges. This in itself is a good thing for the morale of an engineer unit, and I believe that if they receive the clothing needed - and already requested from SMRE - it will be a good unit.

D. Miscellaneous.

It is proposed by 209 Div to transfer 247 Hosp from TERNOLI to OSIMO at some time in the future. The building of the military hospital in OSIMO is intact and judicious lying on the part of an Italian medical officer kept the medical stores from being pillaged by the enemy. 521 Hosp would stay at CHIETI for the time being until it too could be moved up.

Some
plust
chay
R.R.

Yes
OK
Med?

YES.

Wam.
10/8/44

Very good.

(1)

60 Donnell
Capt.

SECRET.

REAR HQ;

Rear HQ Polcomps.

30 Jul 44.

Weekly Liaison Log No 12.

A. Arrivals.

- (i) 209 Div Engineer HQ moved from VASTO to ROSETO (MR C0253);
- (ii) Det IO5I Tk Bn moved from TORINO Stn to MR ~~5720275~~ 5720275.

B. Visits.

Went to see 209 Div HQ at CHIETI to find out what steps the General was taking in view of the continuing bad state of boots and clothing among troops under his command, particularly since his original indent of 15 Mar was only partly met, and there has been considerable deterioration in clothing since that date. Incidentally, the almost total lack of boot repairing facilities results in boots becoming unusable long before they should. Gen PROPERZI informed me that in the course of a visit to ROME in the early part of the week he had given to Col QUERCIA a pro-memoria setting out the situation, with a copy of the original indent, a statement of what had actually been received and a new indent for the division's present requirements. He had also asked for soap (the division's old source at COTONA has now dried up), razor blades etc. He viewed with alarm a new ration scale to be put into effect on 1 Aug and was afraid of the effect on troops who had been on Scale A and were continuing at the same work on the new scale.

C. Miscellaneous.

- (i) O.C British Centre, 21 Pack Gp informs me that 5 (an) congedati under the various Ministry of War decrees have had to be sent away in uniform owing to the fact that none of them had any other clothes, and that replacements have been arriving badly equipped.
- (ii) The total lack of any Welfare organisation for Italian troops causes adverse criticism of the Italian higher authorities among troops working with British units.

(iii) I C informed by an officer of C.I.L that there is a rumour circulating among Italian troops ~~at~~ at the front that according to the terms of the Armistice, Italy will be under Allied military control for five years, and that furthermore, Germany will be occupied for a period of ninety years.

Go Donnell
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Army Sub Commission.
(three copies)

5.09

SECRET.

4
M.M.I.A.,
HQ 5 Corps.
4 Jun 44.

G/21/07/2

WEEKLY LIAISON LOG No 4.

A. Movements.

NIL.

B. Arrivals.

During the past week the C.I.L has been moving into this Corps area. The whole of NEMBO Para Div has arrived, and most of it has moved into the line, in relief of 4 Ind Div. Gen. UTILLI's own group has now almost completely arrived. It is still in the concentration area.

C. Visits.

I paid several visits to NEMBO before it moved into the line. In the first few days there was a certain amount of mild chaos, but thereafter the Div staff got into the run of things, and order was restored. Officers and men seemed very keen to get into action after a long period of inactivity - the Div as such has never fought but there is quite a proportion who are ex-members of FOLGORE. Morale is very high, and the ex-FOLGORE people seem to be proud of the fight the division put up at EL ALAMEIN. Their present contacts with 4 Ind Div have increased this feeling. The general appearance of the troops is good, and they ought to give a good account of themselves. Main problems were the scanty tpt at their command and the lack of good M.T repair facilities. These are being examined by Corps H.Q.

5408

D. Conferences.

(i) A whole series of conferences has been held here during the week. A complete summary of the question discussed and the decisions reached is being forwarded to A.A.I. copy to you.

(ii) I attended a conference at 209 Div HQ to discuss the organisation of 410 Labour Regt. Those present were G.O.C and Chief of Staff of 209 Div, Lt-Col. MORIARTY, A.D. Labour and D.A.Q.M.G of 5 Corps. Agreement was reached on the establishment and on the best way to create cadres for I2 coys out of the existing units, these cadres to be diluted with sbandati in sufficient quantity to bring the coys up to full strength.

E. Miscellaneous.

The arrival of Italian combat troops and the war news from the West coast has raised the morale of the local Italian troops and of the civil population to an very great extent. A number of sbandati have come forward asking

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E. Miscellaneous.

The arrival of Italian combat troops and the war news from the West coast has raised the morale of the local Italian troops and of the civil population to a very great extent. A number of sbandati have come forward asking to be re-enrolled.

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.;
(three copies).

Go Downell.
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

(K)

SECRET.

M.M.I.A.,
HQ 5 Corps.
28 May 44.

WEEKLY LIAISON LOG No 3.

C/21
2815

A. Movements.

NIL.

B. Arrivals.

- (i) 152 Artillery Coy has arrived and is at SCERNI with 562 Pz Coy. It is a diluted unit, strength 5 officers 200 ORs, the British increment being 5 officers 49 ORs.
(ii) Adv party NEMBO Para Div arrived Corps area to-day. Remainder expected 28-30 May.

C. Visits.

- (i) I & 3 coys 9 M.G Bn at POSSAGLIA Stn. Are working in SAEC Stores dump. Camp well laid out - tents have been loaned by South Africans to implement coys' holding of ground-sheets. Boots in very poor condition - camp cobbler working overtime with scanty material. Work report good.

- (ii) Talked with Lt-Col; HARVEY-CONY, O.C 66 Pz Gp. He was perturbed at the state of clothing and boots. Usual complaints about Italian camp hygiene. (Italians must continually be chased up on this point). Stated that despite handicaps the Italian military labour was better than British or African, etc, Pz Coys.

- (iii) Talked with Lt-Col. EVANS and Maj. REYNOLDS, O.C 407 and 2i/c Rly Gen Engrs, S.A.E.C. They too deplored the inadequate clothing of Italians. Also stated that there was need for reinforcements to keep units up to strength since they are being constantly diminished by discharges, men evacuated sick, etc. 4 Coy 3/522 which has recently discharged all men due for discharge, is now reduced to 3 officers 25 ORs, largely the Coy HQ, only 7 men being available for work. Standard of Italian labour best in Gp's experience.

D. Miscellaneous.

- (i) Three sections of Traffic Control Coy have now been trained and are operating. Men remarkably efficient and keen. General satisfaction.

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Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
(three copies).

EO Donnell.
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

SECRET.

Ch 2

M.M.I.A.
HQ 5 Corps.
21 May 44.

WEEKLY LIAISON LOG No 2.

A. Movements.

- (i) Bn HQ I/515 moved to LANCIANO on 17 May. Strength 4 offrs 26 OR's.
- (ii) HQ, 3 & 4 Coys 2/522 are established at ORTONA.
- (iii) 3 Coy 3/522 have joined 2 Coy at CASAL-BORDINO Stn. 3 Coy HQ will NOT now be used as HQ T.C Coy.
- (iv) 3 Coy 2/541 moved from MR C.343I43 to MR C.3I3I93 (ITALY I/10000 Sheet I4I). Still u/c S.A.E.C. Date 19 May 44.

B. Arrivals.

- (i) 4 Coy I/541 -strength 4 offrs 86 OR's - moved in on 15 May 44 from 60 Sub Area to MR C.3I3I93 (as A(iv) above.

C. Visits.

- (i) Visited 692 Indep MG Coy. S.A.E.C report that this is the best of the coys employed by them. Very small but consists of men mainly over 30, almost all Tuscan. Officers are very keen and smart. Billets seemed crowded but well-kept.
- (ii) Revisited HQ MAIELLA Partisans. Most of arms recently arrived have been distributed to plns. Band is organised into 5 plns each approx 30 men. Operating in area where enemy is pulling out. Main complaint lack of light automatic arms for night patrols. Corps are asking for another 100 men to operate on right flank Corps sector. Men can easily be found as volunteers are offering themselves, probable reason being good record of Band. Understand that arrangements made to pay pensions to disabled and dependents of killed.

D. Miscellaneous.

- (i) Training of first batch of T.C Coy now completed. Standard of turn-out and performance satisfactory. Admn personnel will be found by I/522.
- (ii) Have interested 209 Div in new type of simple, clean and effective improvised field cooker. Arranged that offrs inspect it at Corps School of Cookery.
- (iii) 209 finally alive to necessity for maint-

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MR C.3I3I93 (ITALY I/100000 Sheet I4I). Still u/c
S.A.E.C. Date 19 May 44.

B. Arrivals.

- (i) 4 Coy I/54I -strength 4 offrs 86 OR's - moved in on
15 May 44 from 60 Sub Area to MR C.3I3I93 (as A(iv)
above.

C. Visits.

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this is the best of the coys employed by them. Very small
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themselves, probable reason being good record of Band.
Understand that arrangements made to pay pensions to
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D. Miscellaneous.

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completed. Standard of turn-out and performance satis-
factory. Admn personnel will be found by I/522.
(ii) Have interested 209 Div in new type of simple,
clean and effective improvised field cooker. Arranged that
offrs inspect it at Corps School of Cookery.
(iii) 209 finally alive to necessity for main-
tenance of camp hygiene.
(iv) As result of strong complaints, Gen PROPERT
has threatened with heavy penalties any officer guilty of
infringement of Control of Movement regulations.
(v) Maj B.G. CAREW-HUNT has taken up duties as
D.A.Q.M.G (I).

Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.
(three copies).
(1)

E. O'Donnell,

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

SECRET

102
C. 17/5
M.M.I.A.,
H.Q., 5 Corps.
14 May 44.

WEEKLY LIAISON LOG No 1.

A. M6vements.

- (i) Billets have been found for Bn HQ I/515 in LANCIANO. The HQ will move from TERMOLI in the next few days.
- (ii) HQ 28 Artieri has moved from LANCIANO to join 3 Coy at MOZZAGROGNA.
- (iii) 2 & 4 Coys I/515 have come back into the Corps area and are now located at ORTONA.
- (iv) HQ, 3 & 4 Coys are due to move to ORTONA. I & 2 Coys are temporarily at CALPOMARINO (but still under a 5 Corps unit). ADDENDUM - of 2 Bn 522 Regt.

B. Arrivals and departures.

- (i) Bn HQ, I & 4 Coys of 3/522 have come into the area. The HQ is at ROCCA and the coys are at ORTONA with the S.A.E.C.
- (ii) Simultaneously, 2&3 Coys I/541 Regt moved out and came under 60 Sub Area.
- (iii) "D" Pln I051 Tk Regt have arrived and are with "B" Tank Delivery Squadron near TORINO Stn.
- (iv) A pln of I001 G.T Coy has come under 5 Corps HQ is temporarily at VASTO, with one section; the other section is at TORINO. Strength I offr 77 O.R's.

C. Visits.

- (i) Visited the pln of I051 Tk Regt just after their arrival. Strength I offr 54 O.R's. Men seemed tired but need some clothing; an indent has just been submitted by 208 Div for them. Camp well laid out, they had almost enough tentage. Unit is in possession of cooking utensils.

- (ii) Visited the HQ of the MAIELLA partisans. A consignment of arms and ammo had just come in from Italian Army sources. Was informed that they need boots, though apparently this cannot be authorised. However, O.C "D" Force is very impressed by their performance. There are 8 men at HQ and 155 Partisans in the line.

D. Miscellaneous.

- (i) I am informed by AMG Evacuation Officer that

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area and are now located at ORTONA.
(iv) HQ, 3 & 4 Coys are due to move to ORTONA. I & 2 Coys are temporarily at CAMPOMARINO (but still under a 5 Corps unit). ADDENDUM - of 2 Bn 522 Regt.

B. Arrivals and departures.

- (i) Bn HQ, I & 4 Coys of 3/522 have come into the area. The HQ is at ROCCA and the coys are at ORTONA with the S.A.E.C.
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D. Miscellaneous.

(i) I am informed by AMG Evacuation Officer that an Evacuation Camp staffed by Italian military personnel - strength 4 offr 56 O.R's - will be set up shortly at TORINO Stn.

(ii) It is proposed to form a Traffic Control Coy of 100 men in Corps area. The few remaining O.R's of 3 Coy 3/522 Regt are being transferred to 2 Coy and the Coy HQ used for the new Coy.

Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.
(three copies).

E.O. Donnell.
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

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