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

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Opened
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G/21/15 Weekly Liaison Log Y.O. 3 Dist
Opened Sept. 17, 1944 - Closed Sept. 24, 1944
Sept. 1944

Subject:- Weekly Liaison Log No. 2.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

3DLO/5
24 Sep 44

Military Mission Italian Army, (3)
R O M E .

(a) (b) Elements of CIL continued to arrive by rd and ry throughout the week.

Balance of 417 Pnr Lab Regt departs 25 Sep for Ancona.

(c) Attended conference at MMIA on Lab and Manpower problems (20 Sep 44).

(d) I visited 125 Vet Hosp (ex 125 Infermeria Quadrupedi) at Persano on 24 Sep 44. This unit has only recently been taken over by the Brit cadre and the unit is having the usual teething troubles most important of which is that out of a WE of 99 all ranks (Italian) 76 are due for demobilization on age grounds and a further 9 are AWOL. A request for rfts will be made in due course.

(e) NTR

(f) At an interview with OC Brit Cadre 1003 (It) GT Coy RASC and ST 3 District, it was decided that in view of the large number of desertions in that coy (88 since it was formed and the expressed intention of a further 120 Bolognese of deserting as soon as Bologna is liberated) to transfer it to some other part of Italy, probably Sicily, to take over the vehs and employment of some other coy of 3-tonners. At present, since 1003 Coy is equipped with tippers, it is necessarily spread out over an extremely large area and the necessary control over the personnel is almost entirely lost.

Steps are meanwhile being taken to allow the OC Coy to proceed into the Army zone to arrest and bring back deserters who will be awarded summary and exemplary punishment with the unit.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining good trained dvrs for the Brit/Italian Line Secs now forming, 3 District

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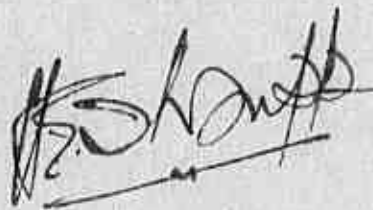
2.

(f cont) are about to establish a driving school for these at Nocera on "private Army" lines.

HQ 56 Area are leaving Sicily on 25 Sep and will take over from 57 Area by 1 Oct when 57 Area becomes inoperative. Wef 22 Sep 70 Sub Area assumed comd of Sicily and Calabria.

A bn of 46 Inf Regt Sabauda Div moves from Palermo to Calabria on 24 Sep 44 to take over gd duties on the Sila installations from the two bns of 76 Inf Regt Mantova Div.

2 Bn 417 Pnr Lab Regt which left recently for 5 Army, each man equipped with one blanket, was found upon arrival to be over 300 blankets short. There is as yet no news as to the cause of the disappearance but Lab 3 District is investigating.



Major,
MMIALO,
3 District.

Subject:- Weekly Liaison Log No. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

3DLO/5
17 Sep 44

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Main HQ MMIA, (3)
ROME.

MMIA	G/21
FILED	
Date Recd	189

RGA
1/2

Ref your G/21 of 9 Sep 44, herewith report called for.

(a) (b). There has lately been by mov of Italian Units into and out of the area, the most important of which are the arrival of the CIL in the Piedimonte d'Alife area and the Cremona Div to Benevento - Altavilla. Strong rfts (principally for 2 and 3 District lab) have arrived from Sardinia.

417 Lab Regt is in the process of moving fwd to under comd 5 Army and 412 Lab Regt, less two HQs, has already gone to Leghorn, also to 5 Army.

10 Artieri Coy (ex Sabauda) and 3 Artieri Coy have both arrived to under comd CIL.

(c). Apart from the normal thrice weekly District conference I attended the following :-

1. A District conference on Calabria at which was discussed the eventual removal of Mantova Div and the taking over of its gd duties by a bn of Sabauda Div. Also discussed was the ~~stripping~~ policy of stripping Calabria of all unnecessary Italian tps. The conference was attended by CE 3 District and Comd 56 Area. I later managed to obtain the assistance of Capt Gentle who gave a clear picture of the situation in Calabria especially from an E pt of view.

2. A conference at the CMP Depot at Ottaviano regarding the fm of Italian Traffic Control Coys. This was principally to clear up their rather hazy picture of channels of sup, adm and comd vis à vis the British and Italian Armies and MMIA.

(d) On 14 Sep I inspected the Italian Wing of the CMP Depot where three coys are trg for TC duties. I found itd a remarkably well run establishment. Dinners were excellent, and latrines tidy and spotless.

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(d) On 14 Sep I inspected the Italian Wing of the CMP Depot where three coys are trg for TC duties. I found it a remarkably well run establishment. Dinners were excellent, cook houses, sleeping accn and latrines tidy and spotless. The Italian personnel seem happy and willing and show a considerable aptitude, given the right treatment, for the work. It was, in fact, a good example of what can be done with unselected Italian tps in a few weeks.

(e)

NTR.

5488

(f). (i) I find it as hard as ever to make British units employing Italian units as well as the Italian units themselves, understand for what purpose MMIA exists. It is only by personal visits that this difficulty can be cleared up. This will take time in view of the extent of my parish.

(ii) Liaison with Comando Militare Calabria is proceeding satisfactorily by means, for the present, of TPMs. Later I shall pay them a visit with GSO I, 3 District.

(iii) 56 Area is in the process of handing over Sicily to 70 Grn. The latter is being up-graded to Sub Area status.

(iv) The hosp sit in Campania is at present bad. No suitable accn has so far been found for even 200 beds in any one place except two locns that have been offered both very inaccessible and both under snow during the winter months, and the rds to them frequently blocked. I am at present tapping PBS and am in close touch with Col Ferri (Italian DMS). This matter will be the subject of an early letter.

(v) Tpt requirements for moving Italian tps arriving from Sardinia and elsewhere have at times only been met by 3 District through the most energetic appeals by the MMIALOs concerned. I get the impression that 3 District do not realize the extent to which we need their assistance if we are to org and maint the Italian Army properly with the limited means at our disposal. The same attitude is apparent in their dealing with the hosp sit mentioned above.

(vi) This outstation is at present not 100% efficient. My veh is off the rd but I hope to get the necessary spares for its repair shortly, my batman-dvr is sick and it has not yet been possible to release my future clerk from his duties at HQ. When these matters are rectified work and results should show a considerable improvement.

[Signature]
Major,

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Major,
MMIALO,
3 District.

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