

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

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10000/120/994

6/21/19

Opened

NOV. 194

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6/21/19 LIAISON REPORTS AFHQ

Opened NOV. 24, 1944 - Closed NOV. 29, 1944
NOV. 1944

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

Subject: Capt Bird's Report

TO:	Comd	Special Sec	OR
	2 i.c.	Q(AE)	Q(Maint)
	G.S.O.1 ✓	ST	

1. Herewith Capt. Bird's report.
2. Attd to Q(AE) copy only is clothing state.
Attd to GSO 1 copy only is Muleteer Rfts Appx.
Attd to 2 i.c. copy only is draft directive.

29 Nov 44.

Col.
D.A. & Q.M.G.

5514

REPORT No. 1

Date: 27 Nov 44

FIFTH ARMY MR-ITIS

1. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Att is a state showing :-

- (a) First allotment from Lt.Col. Moriarty. This was passed direct to 15 Corps and distributed by them (not incl in total).
- (b) Amounts held in 13 Corps P.H.S.
- (c) Second allotment from Lt.Col. Moriarty. This is now being collected, and will be held by 210 Div, till 231 Div can take over.
- (d) Third allotment from HQ, due 5 Dec.
- (e) Fourth allotment from HQ (MIA AQ2267 of 26 Nov refers)
- (f) Issues made by ORD (not incl in total)

NOTES.

- (a) SAMOIS clothing was allocated and distributed by "Q" through ORD.
- (b) 81 x 56 lbs Dubbin to all BRITIS (this will be a regular supply) was issued by ORD on 23 Nov.
- (c) 18 bicycles have been loaned by ORD to BRIT pioneers, until replacements can be made available from ITALIAN sources ("Loan" is the word used, but not entirely meant.)

2. SOAP.

There is a soap shortage - or was. 210 Div, however, found 2000 extra rations for BRITIS today. Hospitals require more than 300 grams per man per month, as laundry is high, and patients don't bring their soap. Suggest there should be a hospital scale, additional to normal ration.

- 3. 894 Rd Amb is now at SIGMA nr FLORENCE, ready to operate.

When "our" ship comes home, a proposed W/S for vans is :-

Staff cars	1
5-tonners	1
Ambulances	2
Water oarb	1

The ADPS here thought that would be nice when possible, and meanwhile is helping them out.

collected, and will be held by 210 Div, till 201 Div can take over.

- (d) Third allotment from HQ, due 5 Dec.
 - (e) Fourth allotment from HQ (MIA AQ2267 of 26 Nov refers)
 - (f) Issues made by ORD (not incl in total)
- NOTES.
- (a) SARGIS clothing was allocated and distributed by "Q" through ORD.
 - (b) 31 x 56 lbs Dubbin to all BRITIS (this will be a regular supply) was issued by ORD on 23 Nov.
 - (c) 18 bicycles have been loaned by ORD to BRITIS pioneers, until replacements can be made available from ITALIAN sources ("Loan" is the word used, but not entirely meant.)

2. SOAP.

There is a soap shortage - or was. 210 Div, however, found 2000 extra rations for BRITIS today. Hospitals require more than 300 grams per man per month, as laundry is high, and patients don't bring their soap. Suggest there should be a hospital scale, additional to normal ration.

- 3. 394 Pd Amb is now at SIGMA nr FLORENCE, ready to operate.

When "our" ship comes home, a proposed W/E for vehs is :-

Staff cars		1
3-tonners		1
Ambulances		2
Water cart		1

The ADMS here thought that would be nice when possible, and meanwhile is helping them out.

4. BLANKETS

- (a) All 13 Corps BRITIS have three blankets. I am checking to find their origin.

(b) Most other units also have three, and none less than **3**.
Again checking origin.

(c) Where it is definitely considered units should have THREE, I intend to issue, where possible, one comforter, and to withdraw one blanket. It has been found that a blanket over a comforter will stand the weather.

5. 231 DIV.

- (a) Leon is prepared - a barracks in good condition, except for some windows. Admirable for all purposes, incl Transit Camp. The latest

- 2 -

rits have been housed there already. Name COSTA DI S. GIORGIO, via Leonardo, FLORENCE.

(b) I have written a directive for 231 Div on Clothing (copy att) which has passed all comment by "Q" here, incl Col. Rich. This will await them on arrival. I have also prepared a memorandum of priority local tasks for them.

(c) Br Inc are meeting the question of passing PRIULI rits etc through 231 Div Transit Camp. Rations seem the only difficulty, and I have brought this to their notice. In general, I think it would be a good thing, and would help to prevent possible ill feeling arising in various parts of the Italian Army (see also Welfare).

5. WELFARE

Free seats and occasional free performances are now given to Italian tps in the local cinemas. Likewise ENSA parties, run by ENSA but Italian performers, are giving occasional performances to Italian tps. No distinction is, or will be made between any categories. This is essential and fully realised here.

7. CO-OPERATORS

A Co-operator Whips has arrived at FLORENCE under comd Br Inc, to look after HQ vshs. It's a pity.

8. GENERAL

With the imminent arrival of PRIULI, there is a danger in the background, of tps in Green B/D becoming a lesser breed, and it is a possible source of ill-feeling, which might give certain Italian parties political propaganda.

~~There~~ This will be combatted by making Welfare General. That includes Clubs and so on. It would be a good thing if the following could happen too.

(a) HPI to all tps in Combat Area (I know!)

(b) Battle Dress cease to be dyed - at least for fwd tps.

In this connection I feel it would do good if the Transit Camps of Adm Div HQs could be used as, or extended to embrace Combat transit personnel and perhaps fwd rft centres. Rations and MAFI would be the great problem.

9. IMPLEMENTS

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- (a) ENI to all tps in Combat Area (I know !)
- (b) Battle Dress cease to be dyed - at least for fwd tps.

In this connection I feel it would do good if the Transit Camps of Adm Div Hqs could be used as, or extended to embrace Combat transit personnel and perhaps fwd rft centres. Rations and NAAFI would be the great problem.

9. MULTEERS

Two reports from Italian sources on the Muliteers re-inforcements are att.

almost
Maj. Barbato, Italian CC 21 Pack Gp was ~~in~~ in tears. He loves his Gp and is proud of it, and rightly so. On the new Call Up from ABRUZZI (hous of Muliteers, I'm told), he would like to come down and choose his fellows. Under AFHQ letter Command and Administration, setting up BRITI rft centres, this becomes a British responsibility, and ~~5312~~ put his wishes to the authorities here.

Both in the rfts and in his present Gp, there are a number of overage personnel. The Ministry of War has said they should be demobilised. Their wishes will be respected, when

- (a) they conform themselves.
- (b) replacements become available.

(sgd) J.G. BIRD S/Capt.
Att Br Inc S Army. 27.11.44.

TRANSLATION

210th ITALIAN DIVISION H.Q.

Serial number: 01/4311

I.P.O. 179 22 Nov. 1944

SUBJECT : Report on replacements mulsters arrived on 18 Nov. 1944 from "Puglia e Iadania" H.Q.

C.G. FIFTH ARMY (ACTION)

DELEGAZIONE 4^{ta} DELLO S.M.R.2. (INFO)

1. Number of replacements who supposed to move from Bari:

It is not exactly known: likely 554; coming from different units of Puglia.

2. Number of replacements who really moved from Bari on November 14th in the morning.

360 of Lecce 47th Inf. Regt. Dep.
43 of Lecce Garrison Company
37 of Brindisi Special Company
85 of Lecce, Taranto, Bari different units

Total 525

Deficiency is due to the fact that notice was given only on the 13th November at 1200 h. for departure at 0630 of the 14th November. Several men allotted as replacements were absent and have been replaced by other available.

3. 53 men went absent during the journey. Following men arrived at Colle Salvetti on the 18th at 1600 h.:

352 of Lecce 47th Inf. Regt. Dep.
41 of Lecce Garrison Company
36 of Brindisi Special Company
22 of Taranto Garrison Company
23 of Bari Garrison Company

Total 474

14 men arrived at Scarperia later on.
Total replacements arrived at: 488

1523

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Total	474
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14 men arrived at Scarpieria later on.
Total replacements arrived are: 488

Replacements come from following units:

Lecce 47th Inf. Regt. Dep.	
Lecce Garrison Company	
Brindisi Special Company	
Taranto Garrison Company	
Bari Garrison Company	

5511

Military districts which replacements are belonging to:

District of Catania.....	2	District of Brescia.....	4
" " Aversa.....	2	" " Genova.....	3
" " Campobasso.....	2	" " Ferrara.....	3
" " Cosenza.....	3	" " Pisa.....	3
" " Benevento.....	2	" " Verona.....	6

PAGE TWO

District of Tripoli.....	2	District of Foggia.....	14
" " Mestre.....	3	" " Piacenza.....	14
" " Ragusa.....	3	" " Ivrea.....	1
" " Rovigo.....	2	" " Chiavari.....	2
" " Belluno.....	3	" " Varese.....	2
" " Napoli.....	3	" " Casale.....	3
" " Roma.....	6	" " Chivasso.....	3
" " Sassari.....	2	" " Secile.....	3
" " Cagliari.....	2	" " Cuneo.....	2
" " Mantova.....	2	" " Pinerolo.....	4
" " Frosinone.....	5	" " Novara.....	1
" " Perugia.....	1	" " Vicenza.....	3
" " Potenza.....	14	" " Treviso.....	3
" " Lecce.....	70	" " Sondrio.....	3
" " Bari.....	28	" " Parma.....	3
" " Taranto.....	41	" " Apuania.....	3
" " Trento.....	9	" " Vercelli.....	2
" " Treviglio.....	4	" " Sulmona.....	5
" " Torino.....	2	" " Bologna.....	1
" " Viterbo.....	1	" " Milano.....	3
" " Pavia.....	3	" " Spoleto.....	1
" " Ragusa.....	1	" " Lodi.....	3
" " Livorno.....	3	" " Trieste.....	2
" " Catanzaro.....	4	" " Cosenza.....	3
" " Trapani.....	2	" " Padova.....	13
" " Cristiano.....	5	" " Pesaro.....	2
" " Aversa.....	2	" " Nola.....	2
" " Monza.....	9	" " Firenze.....	3
" " Udine.....	2	" " Caltanissetta.....	3
" " Palermo.....	7	" " Crenone.....	10
" " Venezia.....	2	" " Tortona.....	6
" " Modena.....	8	" " Litoria.....	4
" " Avellino.....	3	" " Lucca.....	1
" " Aquila.....	2	" " Teramo.....	3
" " Montefiore.....	1	" " Pistoia.....	3
" " Reggio Calabria.....	1	" " Forlì.....	2
" " Arezzo.....	1	" " Bergamo.....	1
" " Reggio Emilia.....	10	" " Gorizia.....	2
" " Barletta.....	9	" " Messina.....	1

Total does not correspond to the number of men, because for some men the military district is not indicated in the travel list.

4. Replacements' age.

144 men are 1908 and 1914 classes inclusive
 103 men are 1915 and 1917 classes inclusive
 238 men are 1918 class and younger.

Total 486

5. Replacements' fitness.

(A) Physical fitness

"	Trento.....	9	"	Vercelli.....	5
"	Treviglio.....	4	"	Verona.....	1
"	Torino.....	3	"	Vienna.....	9
"	Viterbo.....	1	"	Vigevano.....	9
"	Pavia.....	3	"	Spoleto.....	1
"	Reggio Emilia.....	1	"	Lodi.....	3
"	Livorno.....	3	"	Trieste.....	3
"	Catanzaro.....	4	"	Cosenza.....	3
"	Trapani.....	2	"	Padova.....	13
"	Cristiano.....	5	"	Pesaro.....	2
"	Aversa.....	2	"	Nola.....	2
"	Monza.....	3	"	Firenze.....	3
"	Udine.....	3	"	Calanissetta.....	3
"	Palermo.....	7	"	Cremone.....	10
"	Venezia.....	3	"	Tortona.....	6
"	Modena.....	3	"	Littoria.....	4
"	Avellino.....	3	"	Lucca.....	1
"	Aquila.....	2	"	Teramo.....	2
"	Monfalcone.....	1	"	Pistoia.....	3
"	Reggio Calabria.....	1	"	Forlì.....	2
"	Arezzo.....	1	"	Bergamo.....	1
"	Reggio Emilia.....	10	"	Gorizia.....	2
"	Barletta.....	9	"	Messina.....	1

Total does not correspond to the number of men, because for some men the military district is not indicated in the travel list.

4. Replacements' age.

144 men are 1908 and 1914 classes inclusive
 103 men are 1915 and 1917 classes inclusive
 239 men are 1918 class and younger.

Total 486

5. Replacements' fitness.

(A) Physical fitness

Men fit for muleteers : 151
 Men unfit for muleteers, but
 fit for military duty : 335
 Men unfit for military duty : none

(B) Training

Only about twenty men are trained muleteers.
 Most of these men are stragglers from Salcano, Greece, and
 ex prisoners of war belonging to all corps and services.
 No medical inspections have been made before departure.
 Someone states sickness or wounds, some other fitness for
 restricted service; none has documents to corroborate his assertion.

6. Clothing. (Approximative figures)

Completely equipped personnel.....	none
Personnel not completely equipped	
whose equipment might be easily completed.....	none
Personnel without shoes.....	about 10
Personnel in civil clothing or	
with clothing in very bad shape.....	about 130
Personnel without blankets.....	366
Personnel without mess kits.....	366

7. Rations.

Journey : from Nov. 14th to Nov. 18th, inclusive.
 Issue of six days rations ordered.
 Every man received the fixed number of rations except those of 47th
 Inf. Regt. Dep. who have not got the following rations:

600 meat rations,
1010 cigarette rations,
225 gallons of wine,
1 day fruit;

and received

22 rations of bread

in addition.

8. Conclusion

(A) US/ITI

Replacements allotted to 20th Pack Mule Group : 75
 Replacements available for other US/ITI units : 264
 Unfit replacements : must be checked among men allotted
 to other units.

(B) BE/ITI

Replacements allotted to 21st Pack Mule Group : 76
 Replacements available for other BE/ITI units : 71
 Unfit replacements : must be checked among men allotted
 to other units.

Signed :

Giuseppe Cortese
 Commanding General

600 meat rations,
1010 cigarette rations,
225 gallons of wine,
1 day fruit,

and received

22 rations of bread

in addition.

2. Conclusion

(A) US/ITI

Replacements allotted to 20th Pack Mule Group : 75
Replacements available for other US/ITI units : 264
Unfit replacements : must be checked among men allotted
to other units.

(B) BR/ITI

Replacements allotted to 21st Pack Mule Group : 76
Replacements available for other BR/ITI units : 71
Unfit replacements : must be checked among men allotted
to other units.

Signed :

Giuseppe Cortese
Commanding General

5309

270 INF DIVISION H.Q.

Serial number 01/1321

Subject: Replacements muleteers arrived from Afragola Camp on 22 November 1944.

TO : FIFTH ARMY ITALIAN L.O. (ACTION)
DELEGAZIONE W. S.M.R.E. (INFO)

Copy to: Cpt. Bird
MM 14 LO-B, Inc.

I.P.O. 179 24 November 1944.

1. Total replacements arrived from Casoria (Afragola Camp) on November 22nd.

Originating units	Replacements checked in move	Replacements who moved	Replacements who arrived
521 Security Guards Bn	225	225	217
519th " " "	203	203	200
516th " " "	30	42	38
517th " " "	48	45	45
Group of Division "Cremena"	30	30	26
Group of Services of Nuoro	80	80	80
Group of Services of Ozieri	100	98	98
1st Temporary Co of Afragola Camp	70	70	69
Total	806	793	773

Men missing went absent or were evacuated to hospital. One man died during the journey.

Replacements belong to different provinces and different branches.

2. Replacements' age.

Originating units	Classes 1908 1914 inclusive	Classes 1915 1917 inclusive	Class 1918 and younger
521 Security Guards Bn	118	21	78
519th " " "	83	23	94
516th " " "	8	7	23
517th " " "	2	-	43
Group of Division "Cremena"	4	2	20
Group of Services of Nuoro	15	5	60
Group of Services of Ozieri	3	13	82
1st Temporary Co of Afragola Camp	22	12	35
Total	225	83	435
	255		

3. Replacements' fitness

(A) Physical fitness	
Men fit for muleteers	365
Men unfit for muleteer but fit for military duty	360
Men unfit for military duty (evacuated to hospital for check)	28

Personnel coming from Division "Cremena" Group (25) are not fit for military duty.

Group on services of Ozieri	80	80	80
1st Temporary Co of Afragola Camp	100	98	98
	70	70	69
Total	306	793	773

Men missing went absent or were evacuated to hospital. One man died during the journey.

Replacements belong to different provinces and different branches.

2. Replacements' age.

Originating units	Classes 1908	Classes 1915	Class 1918
521 Security Guards Bn	118	21	78
519th " "	83	23	94
516th " "	8	7	23
517th " "	2	-	43
Group of Division "Cremena"	4	2	20
Group of Services of Ruoro	15	5	60
Group of Services of Ozieri	3	13	82
1st Temporary Co of Afragola Camp	22	12	35
Total	225	83	435

3. Replacements' fitness

(A) Physical fitness

Men fit for muleteers 365
 Men unfit for muleteer but fit for military duty 360
 Men unfit for military duty 28
 (evacuated to hospital for check)

Personnel coming from Division "Cremena" Group (26) are not fit for military duty.

(B) Training

About 120 men are trained muleteers.

4. Clothing

Completely equipped personnel 5508
 Personnel not completely equipped but whose equipment might be easily completed none
 Personnel without shoes 773
 Personnel without blankets 12
 Personnel in civilian clothing 100
 Personnel without mess kits none
 150

4. Clothing (continued)

Personnel without cap
Personnel with two blankets

180
200

Generally everyone has jacket, trousers, underwear.
Nearly everyone has one pair shoes in not very bad conditions, one pair
drawers, one undershirt, one shirt, one pair socks.
Someone has two undershirts and two shirts.
Several men have no shirt.
30% shoes are to be replaced.

5. Rations.

Journey : 4 days.

6 days rations were issued to every man.

6. Conclusion.

(A) US/III

Replacements allotted to 20th Pack Mule Group
Replacements available for other US/III units
Unfit replacements : waiting for result of hospital inspection

166
17
17

(B) PR/III

Replacements allotted to 21th Pack Mule Group
Replacements available for other PR/III units
Unfit replacements : waiting for result of hospital inspection

199
213
11

20 men went absent in Florence.

Signed :

Giuseppe Certese
Commanding General

6. Conclusion.

(A) US/III

Replacements allotted to 20th Pack Mule Group
Replacements available for other US/III units
Unfit replacements : waiting for result of hospital inspection

146
47
17

(B) ER/III

Replacements allotted to 21th Pack Mule Group
Replacements available for other ER/III units
Unfit replacements : waiting for result of hospital inspection

199
313
11

20 men went absent in Florence.

Signed :

Giuseppe Cortese
Commanding General

5:07

1532