

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

ACC

10000/120/95

G/21/

Open

NOV. -

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

10000/120/905

G/21/19 Liaison Reports AFHQ

Opened Nov. 29, 1944 - Closed Dec. 30, 1944

Nov. - Dec. 1944

MMIA - AFHQ LIAISON LOG No. 5

1.

G-3 Org

(a) Mobile CC RR for SICILY

A letter is on the way agreeing to all our proposals.

(b) Unauthorized changes in designations of Italian Army Units

A letter is on the way asking for specific instances of such changes.

(c) Formation of 2 Guard Bns

Plan altered owing to Bns now being formed from British personnel. One British Guard Bn being used to replace two Italian Bns.

(d) SICILY Call-up

I expressed regret at the disappointing SICILY Call-up figures and explained that a fresh start was being made on 3 Jan and also that energetic steps were being taken by the Italian authorities to round up the absentees. In reply it was stated that the painting of red figures could be ever done and might lead to embarrassing explanations. I explained that MMIA had to rely on Italian estimates which were always reduced before being passed on to AFHQ.

(e) 7 Mountain Regt

A reply is awaited by G-3 Org from G-1 Br before a decision can be given as to whether the Italian Increment to this unit can be used as muleteers.

(f) GARIBOLDI DIV

Two ships are available to ship this Division to the mainland but the movement is held up temporarily owing to some shooting incidents. At the moment no other use is foreseen than "Rifts for Gruppi Combattimenti".

(g) IFT & Rft Meetings

The date for these meetings is fixed for 5 Jan.

(h) British Cadres for Rft Camps (BR-ITI)

Application should be made to G-1 Br for these personnel to be made available.

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G
A/3

G
G-III(SD)

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2 i/c
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A/Q

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2 i/c
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A/Q
Spec Sec

2 i/c
A/Q
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Spec Sec

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G-III(SD)
See para 18 Command & Admin Cdr

2 i/c
G
A/Q(d) SICILY Call-up

I expressed regret at the disappointing SICILY Call-up figures and explained that a fresh start was being made on 3 Jan and also that energetic steps were being taken by the Italian authorities to round up the absentees. In reply it was stated that the painting of rosy figures could be ever-done and might lead to embarrassing explanations. I explained that MMIA had to rely on Italian estimates which were always reduced before being passed on to AFHQ.

(e) 7 Mountain Regt

A reply is awaited by G-3 Org from G-1 Br before a decision can be given as to whether the Italian Increment to this unit can be used as muleteers.

(f) CARIBALDI DIV

Two ships are available to ship this Division to the mainland but the movement is held up temporarily owing to some shooting incidents. At the moment no other use is foreseen than "Rifts for Gruppi Combattimenti".

(g) DWT & Rft Meetings

The date for these meetings is fixed for 5 Jan.

(h) British Cadres for Rft Camps (BR-III)

Application should be made to G-1 Br for these personnel to be made available.

(i) CC RR

I pointed out that there would be a discrepancy between the total of CC RR as shown by MMIA in orbat No 2/5 and that shown in Public Safety Sub Commission letter AC/14622/P.S. of 12 Dec. This discrepancy was accounted for by the fact that Public Safety figures do not include personnel on leave, in hospital, AWOL etc.

(j) Allied Commission illegally employing Italian Officers

It was requested by G-3 Org that specific instances of these unauthorised employments be submitted so that direct

2 i/c
G
A/Q
Spec Sec2 i/c
A/Q
G
Spec Sec2 i/c
G

2 i/c

5532

- 2 -

action can be taken.

(k) 810 Service Squadron - (Calderini Sec No 1) *ITI-ITI Page 15*
MMIA Exhibit A/Q
S & T

This unit is ITI-ITI but formed on a British WE
 AI/48/1 now NA/847/1.

The unit is employed on operational duty and works
 frequently in the German lines.

The following are required:-

1. 1 Car preferably civilian otherwise Italian Army.
2. 40 Suits of Battle Dress
3. 40 Greatcoats

Will we please let G-3 Org know ~~SD~~ whether these
 items can be supplied. *Spekulation cam. Send in the 3rd change*

Q Maint.

(a) Pelignano Driving School

Explained that instructions had not yet reached 54 Area
 that this school was not to be closed. Unfortunately Major
 BARNISH was not available and I spoke to someone else who
 knew nothing about it. However I was assured that, in con-
 sultation with G-3 Org, something would be done to keep the
 school open.

Patriots

At a C.A.O's conference held on Wednesday 27 Dec it was
 laid down that all Patriots from the time they cross the line
 to the time that they are finally disposed of, would be an
 MMIA responsibility. This period is estimated at 3 weeks.

This responsibility includes clothing, feeding, housing
 but not screening. QAE and G-4 are instructed to boost cloth-
 ing and food to meet this new commitment.

In view of ITI-ITI ceiling being full, these patriots would
 have to be considered as US-ITIs and ER-ITIs since neither of
 these ceilings were yet full. *7*

It was estimated that 2% would be available for the Army
 26% for civilian labour. The remainder unsuitable for employ-
 ment and would be returned to their homes.

G-5

(a) Italians in AFMIA

G
 S & T

Comd
 2 i/c
 A/Q
 G

Will we please let G-3 Org know ~~whether~~ whether these items can be supplied. *Yes, they can. Send what the channels?*

2. Q Maint.

(a) Polignano Driving School

Explained that instructions had not yet reached 54 Area that this school was not to be closed. Unfortunately Major BARNISE was not available and I spoke to someone else who knew nothing about it. However I was assured that, in consultation with G-3 Org, something would be done to keep the school open.

3. Patriots

At a C.A.O's conference held on Wednesday 27 Dec it was laid down that all Patriots from the time they cross the line to the time that they are finally disposed of, would be an MIA responsibility. This period is estimated at 3 weeks.

This responsibility includes clothing, feeding, housing but not screening. QAB and G-4 are instructed to boost clothing and food to meet this new commitment.

In view of ITI-ITI ceiling being full, these patriots would have to be considered as US-ITIs and ER-ITIs since neither of these ceilings were yet full.

It was estimated that ~~2%~~ would be available for the Army 26% for civilian labour. The remainder unsuitable for employment and would be returned to their homes.

4. G-5

(a) Italians in ALBANIA

Discussed reports received from Force 399 LOS. These reports had not reached Major DRIFFIELD WHITE however he was conversant with the matter and had taken steps to effect the movement of all Italian personnel, including military, to the mainland. The difficulties at the moment are shipping and vehicles in ALBANIA.

Lt. Col. BOUVIERIE S.O.M. has asked Force 399 for reports to be sent direct to G-5.

(b) ST ANDREWS Camp

A query was raised as to whether the two British Capt's lent to this camp, had returned to RAID. If not will we please return them at once and inform G-5 of the "fast accomplishment"

5. MOV shipping(a) Vehicles in GREECE

S & T

After much searching the alleged signal on this subject was produced. The signal referred to personnel only no mention of vehicles appeared. Our signal must therefore have arrived corrupt.

(b) SARDINIA Call-up

2 1/c

C A/Q

G-3 Org had passed on our request to Mov Shipping who in turn had passed it to C in C Med. Upon enquiry as to why no answer had been received from the latter, it transpired that the letter had never reached them. A reply will now be given soonest. It was confidently expected that 2 cruisers would be able to be made available for this Call-up.

6. Q AX(a) 93,000 Battledress

A/Q

The ship from UK with this B.D. is due to arrive at the end of Dec but probably will not arrive until the middle or even end of January.

(b) Stocks of ER-ITI Clothing

A/Q

Handed letter to Col. SLOAN, and explained position re Battle Dress. He expressed a wish to know what Italian stocks were in existence and where. It would appear that this question is about to be fully dealt with!!!

AFRAGOLA CAMP

Visited this camp with Capt THURFF. Total in Camp Thurs-
day 28 Dec (inclusive of the days departures ----- 4200
The following were moving on that day

For ORVIELO (SICILIAN Call-up)	790
For AREZZO (Labour Rfts)(ex South of FRANCE)	200
For PASSO CORESE (Potential Farriers)	
(50 ex SICILIAN Call-up)	55
For ROME Rly Engr personnel	92
For ORVIELO (Permanent Staff)(CSMs)	12

The state of Coys was:-

1 Provisional Coy	227
2 "	283
3 "	449
4 "	354
5 "	189

Q AE

(a) 93,000 Battledress

The ship from UK with this B.D. is due to arrive at the end of Dec but probably will not arrive until the middle or even end of January.

(b) Stocks of BR-ITI Clothing

Handed letter to Col. SLOAN, and explained position re Battle Dress. He expressed a wish to know what Italian stocks were in existence and where. It would appear that this question is about to be fully dealt with!!

AFRAGOLA CAMP

Visited this camp with Capt THURPP. Total in Camp Thurs- 2 1/c
day 28 Dec (inclusive of the days departures ----- 4200 G
The following were moving on that day

For ORVIETO (SICILIAN Call-up) ----- 790
For AREZZO (Labour Rfts)(ex South of FRANCE) ----- 200
For PASSO CORESE (Potential Farriers) ----- 55
(50 ex SICILIAN Call-up) ----- 92
For ROME Rly Engr personnel ----- 12
For ORVIETO (Permanent Staff)(CSMs) -----

The state of Coys was:-

1	Provisional Coy	227
2	"	283
3	"	449
4	"	354
5	"	189

The same formed units as listed last week were still in the camp. 1007 GT Coy has been reformed into 1 and 2 GT Coys for the Gruppi. Equipment is awaited. Some Rft drivers remain unassigned. These are being used in batches of approx 10 to bring "unfrozen" vehicles to ROME. On arrival the drivers are attached to 8 Autieri Coy and are available for onward reuniting to CESANO. So far 20 have been sent to ROME, a further 11 will be arriving in a few days.

To run the camp efficiently the following are required:-

3 Captains (Regulars)
8 Subalterns "

Could we please bring "pressure" on War Ministry to find 11 suitable officers.

Capt PACINI and I had a talk to the Col commanding the Camp. He bemoaned the fact that so few facilities were available. No heating, insufficient tents, insufficient cigarettes - no recreation tents - no shower baths etc etc. He said that this would not matter so much if people were only there for 2 or 3 days but some remain for 2 or 3 months. E.G. 99 Telegraphist Coy - 519 Field Bakery, 33 Medical Sec.

Capt THURPP is endeavouring to move some huts previously occupied by AA Batteries and troops.

30 Dec.

G. Pax.
Capt.
AFHQ 10.

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5529

30 Dec.

G. Fox.
Capt.
AFHQ IO.

G-3 CTE

SARDINIAN Call-up

QAE and MCV & TI are being consulted regarding the proposed recalls in SARDINIA. Until their reply is received no answer can be given to this HQ

1925 Call-up

Informed this Branch that we were sounding Italian General Staff on the subject of calling up 1925 class without releasing 1914.

Minutes of Rft Meeting

Made two observations on the minutes as requested

1. Re G II Training
2. * Transit Camps at IESI and AREZZO both being ER-ITI.

Leave for Muleteers sent to FIFTH ARMY

Nothing had been done requesting FIFTH Army to allow leave to the recent batch of muleteers who had come from GREFCE. A signal was written in my presence.

Overall orbat

Obtained 4 extra copies of File 922.2 dated 3 Dec. (Handed to G III (O)) Requested 15 copies of all such documents in future.

Obtained amendment No. 2 to overall order of battle (Handed to G III (O))

Availability of Italian Mines

A reply is still awaited reference a request for Italian Mines. See Log No 2 and para 1 d Log No 3.

ITI-ITI Orbat

A reminder was handed out that the ITI-ITI Order of Battle, asked for some time ago has now expected in the near future.

Changes in WE's

Minutes of Rft Meeting

Made two observations on the minutes as requested

1. Re G II Training

2. " Transit Camps at IESI and AREZZO both being
HR-III.

Leave for Muleteers sent to FIFTH ARMY

Nothing had been done requesting FIFTH Army to allow leave
to the recent batch of muleteers who had come from GREECE.
A signal was written in my presence.

Overall orbat

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to G III (O)) Requested 15 copies of all such documents
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Obtained amendement No. 2 to overall order of battle (Handed
to G III (O))

Availability of Italian Mines

A reply is still awaited reference a request for Italian
Mines. See Log No 2 and para 1 d Log No 3.

III-III Orbat

A reminder was handed out that the III-III Order of Battle,
asked for some time ago was now expected in the near fut-
ure.

Changes in WE's

A comparison of the old AII overall order of battle and the
new AIII overall will give the necessary comparative table.
Otherwise, deduct 1 and add 800 to the middle number. EG
AI/43/1 becomes NI/242/1

Formation Order for Field Hosps for Gruppi Tail

Formation orders for 230 - 232 - 429 - 519 Field Hospitals
were forwarded from G 3 Org to GAE on 19 Dec.

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MOVEMENTS

P.O.M. Conference

MOV
S & T

Attended P.O.M. Conference. All bids for stores were accepted except for 50 tons of wine to ROME.

No bids "Out of CALABRIA WESTBOUND" were considered owing to the line still being out of action. This is the third week these bids have not been accepted for this reason.

MOV Shipping

S & T

Col GREENHILL

Italian Army Vehicles in GREECE

Was unable to contact Col GREENHILL as he was out on both occasions when I called. Nobody else knew anything about vehicles in GREECE. In any case no shipping would be available for 3 or 4 weeks.

Q AE

Col SLOAN

British Vehicles for FOLGORE and LEGNANO

S & T
Spec Sec

Position re issue of British Vehicles is:

At present issued 60%
To be issued by end of month 40%

Maj. BEASLEY

Had just returned from visit to England. Letter re pullovers vests etc despatched 19 Dec.

A/Q

ORD BRITISH

Jar Comd CUNNINGHAM REID

The confirming release to VR/723 of the 14 Dec was despatched on the 18 Dec. It should therefore now be in our hands.

S & T

Major Parsons

Release for anklets gloves etc despatched to this HQ 18 Dec.

A/Q

Q Maint

Maj BARNISH

The authority for the issue of fuel to Italians for cooking heating & lighting is receiving attention and will be sent to MMIA within 3 or 4 days.

S & T

Lt. Col. MC CLEAN

Was unable to contact Col GREENHILL as he was out on both occasions when I called. Nobody else knew anything about vehicles in GREECE. In any case no shipping would be available for 3 or 4 weeks.

Q AK

Col SLOAN

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Maj BARNISH

The authority for the issue of fuel to Italians for cooking heating & lighting is receiving attention and will be sent to MMIA within 3 or 4 days.

S & T

Lt. Col. MC CLEAN

Travel rations for personnel on leave

A/Q

A signal was sent to MMIA in my presence authorising the issue of not more than two days travel rations for leave personnel on the outward journey only.

MMIA Signal A/Q 2409 17 Dec

A/Q

This signal requesting movement of 2 tons clothing from BARI to AREZZO should have been sent to 15 Army Group and not to AFHQ. However as the amount was so small, the bid was accepted.

5327

G.1 British

Lt. Col. HIGGINS

Rifts Conference

Had a long and interesting chat in this office on the subject of the Italian Army. The usual troubles only too prevalent throughout AFHQ were encountered. Why are we bothering with the Italian Army etc etc. At the moment Col HIGGINS is acting Brigadier while he is away. The meeting is proposed for the 28 or 29 Dec and very possibly will be held in ROME in order to save a four hour journey for those coming from AAI. I said we would be able to arrange suitable accommodation for the meeting.

G.2

Col. HILL - DILLIAN

Was unable to contact Col HILL - DILLIAN as he was out when I called. Left message that I had called reference our letter re wireless sets in SPAIN, in case he had any comments.

AFRAGOLA CAMP

Visited AFRAGOLA Camp. Capt THURPP was not there nor any Italian Officer in the personnel office. The Sgt Clerk was present who gave me the following information

Departed WEDNESDAY 20 Dec to ASTRONI for PBS

M.T. Unit (Reparto Antieri)	No. arrived ex SARDINIA	No. departed to PBS
MACOMER ARTY Group	178	170
SANGAVINO Unit	286	283
13 Supply Coy (Sussistenza)	232	223

The following Units were in the Camp.

331 Field Hospital	53
520 Field Hospital	67
552 Service Battery	25
319 Field Bakery	53
33 Hygiene Section	42
1007 G.T. Coy	324

The following personnel are also in the Camp and formed into Provisional Coys. These provisional Coys are merely Convenient Units and correspond to A B C D Coys in a British Camp.

Was unable to contact Col HILL - DILLAN as he was out when I called. Left message that I had called reference our letter re wireless sets in SPAIN, in case he had any comments.

AFRAGOLA CAMP

2 1/c
C
A/Q

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M.T. Unit (Reparto Autieri)	No. arrived ex SARDINIA	No. departed to PBS
-----------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------

→ 55

MACOMER ARTY Group	178	52
SANGAVINO Unit	286	170
13 Supply Coy (Sussistenza)	232	283
		223

The following Units were in the Camp.

331 Field Hospital	53
520 Field Hospital	67
552 Service Battery	25
319 Field Bakery	53
33 Hygiene Section	42
1007 G.T. Coy	584

The following personnel are also in the Camp and formed into Provisional Coys. These provisional Coys are merely Convenient Units and correspond to A B C D Coys in a British Camp.

1 Provisional Coy	159
2 Provisional Coy	242
3 Provisional Coy	337
4 Provisional Coy	298
5 Provisional Coy	280

No's 1 & 2 Coys are unsuitable personnel from Combat Groups.

No's 3 & 4 Coys are ex prisoners from FRANCE.

A nominal roll by trades is being compiled but was not complete yesterday 20 Dec.

All the above personnel are available for employment by the Allies.

I was impressed by ABRACOLA Camp, it was clean and well organized. I was able to obtain answers to all questions asked. It appeared to me to be a very good effort to work harmoniously in accordance with Allied wishes.

O 2E COL THOMPSON

Visited O 2E re the non appearance of a Sgt Clerk. I arranged to phone particulars of the posting as I had not them with me.

Later arranged for Staff Capt A to pursue the matter.

Mentioned Staff Capt Q and was informed that there should be no difficulty in finding one.

Officers from PINEMONT

After over an hour I managed to locate "A/G personnel" who knew something about these officers. Little wonder that the SCHIAED brothers are still kicking their heels in ROME since so little is known about them at AFHQ.

A signal had been sent on the 19 Dec in answer to our E 1155 of 14 Dec which stated that the officers concerned must obtain visas from the French Authorities before application to G 2 AFHQ can be made.

It will therefore still be sometime before these officers do actually move.

21 Dec. 44

C. J. Fox
Capt.
AFHQ 10.

Mentioned Staff Capt Q and was informed that there should be no difficulty in finding one.

Officers from PLEMMONT

After over an hour I managed to locate "A/G personnel" who knew something about these officers. Little wonder that the SCHIABOD brothers are still kicking their heels in ROME since so little is known about them at AFHQ.

A signal had been sent on the 19 Dec in answer to our E 1155 of 14 Dec which stated that the officers concerned must obtain visas from the French Authorities before application to G 2 AFHQ can be made.

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21 Dec. 44

C. J. Pax.
Capt.
AFHQ LO.

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5325

LIAISON LOG MMIA - AFHQ No. 3

1. G 3 Org

(a) Rits System. The paper on this subject has been written and a meeting will be held in the near future - possibly on Monday next.

(b) Redesignation of 1 PL Regts. These Regiments are being redesignated and instructions will be published in a GRO soon.

(c) Shipping - SARDINIA. The leave ship ARAZZIA which is to run to and from SARDINIA will be available for any call-ups made in the island. If this is insufficient a cruiser can be recalled to this service. The original intention for the ARAZZIA was to run it entirely for military personnel (See Log No. 2 page 4), it has now been made available to A.C. and application for military personnel to travel will have to be made to A.C.

(d) Italian Mines. A reply is awaited ref the available of certain mines, details of which were stated in Log No. 2 page 4.

(e) 255/1 Services and MT Coys. It is finally agreed that these two Coys are ER-ITI. This subject is now closed.

(f) Combat Groups. Formation orders are to be published for the Combat Groups by G 1 Br. They require dates from MMIA for each group.

(g) Banda Patriota Maiella. Suggested that this force should be used for Combat when it becomes available on 15 Dec.

(h) A reply is awaited from MMIA to the letter from AFHQ on the subject of NUCLEO I.

2. Mov & Trn

(a) Attended P.O.M. Conference with Capt. WESTBURY. Personnel moves as under were all accepted.

2400	TARANTO	to	COLLE SALVETE
800	ORTONA	to	TRANI
1000	TRANO	to	ORTONA

The road move to get the 800 to ORTONA will be arranged by Q Maint (Maj. BARNISH) as soon as firm date has been given for the rail move.

Wait on B. WP with G.I. B. WP. Don't want it, and certainly NOT as a "force" WP.

Log No. 2 page 4), it has now been made available to A.C. and application for military personnel to travel will have to be made to A.C.

(d) Italian Mines. A reply is awaited ref the available of certain mines, details of which were stated in Log No. 2 page 4. A/Q

(e) 266/1 Services and MT Coys. It is finally agreed that these two Coys are ER-III. This subject is now closed. 2 i/c G

(f) Combat Groups. Formation orders are to be published for the Combat Groups by G 1 Br. They require dates from MMA for each group. Spec Sec

(g) Banda Patriota Maiella. Suggested that this force should be used for Combat when it becomes available on 15 Dec. *by AFHQ* Spec Sec

(h) A reply is awaited from MMA to the letter from AFHQ on the subject of NUCLEO I. *not done yet!* G

2. Mov & Tr

(a) Attended P.O.M. Conference with Capt. WESTBURY. Personnel moves as under were all accepted.

2400	TARANTO	to	COLLE SALVETE
800	ORTONA	to	TRANI
1000	TEANO	to	ORTONA

The road move to get the 800 to ORTONA will be arranged by Q Maint (Maj. BARNISH) as soon as firm date has been given for the rail move.

(b) SICILY call-up. No difficulties are anticipated re the move of the personnel except that it will not be possible to move as many as 4,000 on 22 Dec. Movements will let us know how many they can move and on what days.

There is feeling of doubt as to whether these target figures will be reached in view of the proximity of Christmas. Movements at the moment are being most helpful and it would be most unfortunate if they were let down and moved a lot of rolling stock to MESSINA and only a small proportion of the expected total turned up.

5324

G 3 Org would prefer to have a collecting centre at MESSINA where personnel can be housed and fed for a short period. When a suitable number are available, then rail tpt can be applied for and the correct number of wagons sent to collect.

3. G 5 Major DRIFFIELD WHITE

Italian personnel from FRANCE. The movement of Italian personnel from FRANCE is not being encouraged at the moment owing to other considerations of a secret nature. These have been mentioned verbally to G 1.

2 i/c
G

ALBANIA. There are reports that there are 15,000 military personnel in ALBANIA. If this is found to be true they will be returned to the mainland and treated in the same way as those from GREECE. ST ANDREWS Camp may be retained for this purpose.

2 i/c
G
A/Q

GARIBOLDI Div. This Division may be brought over as an organised Division in which case it will be handed over to MMIA. It should not require any organisation.

2 i/c
G

4. O 2E Col. THOMPSON.

Saw Col Thompson re filling MMIA staff vacancy

G 1
A/Q

7 Dec 44

Chas.

Capt.
MMIA LO AFHQ.

1554

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21/c
C

GARIBOLDI Div. This Division may be brought over as an organized Division in which case it will be handed over to MMIA. It should not require any organization.

4. 0 2E Col. THOMPSON.

Saw Col Thompson re filling MMIA staff vacancy

G 1
A/Q

Stacy being sent

C. J. Cox

Capt.
MMIA IO AFHQ.

7 Dec 44

5523

LIAISON LOG NMIA - AFHQ NO. 2

G-3 Org

ACTION

Rfts Systems: The paper being written, this subject is not yet available but should be in our hands by the end of this week.

G
A/Q

407 and 408 Inf Regts: The total of these Regts is now 21 offs 568 ORs and not 959 as per AFHQ previous letter. In view of the fact that the Air Force Sub Commission has stated that there is no room in the Air Force ceiling for these personnel to be transferred to the Air Force the following is recommended by AFHQ in accordance with para 3 of their AG 091.711/189 GCT.O of 21 Nov. (Folio 266 on NMIA 3D/47)

1. ~~589~~ 189 offs and men of 407 and 408 Inf Regts removed from ER-ITI order of battle.

2. ~~589~~ 189 offs and men of 407 and 408 Inf Regts to form part of the 6,500 personnel of 205 Div US-ITIS on loan to US AAF/LTC.

3. ~~589~~ 589 offs and men from the 6,500 personnel of 205 Div: originally intended to be on loan to US AAF/LTC to go to PES.

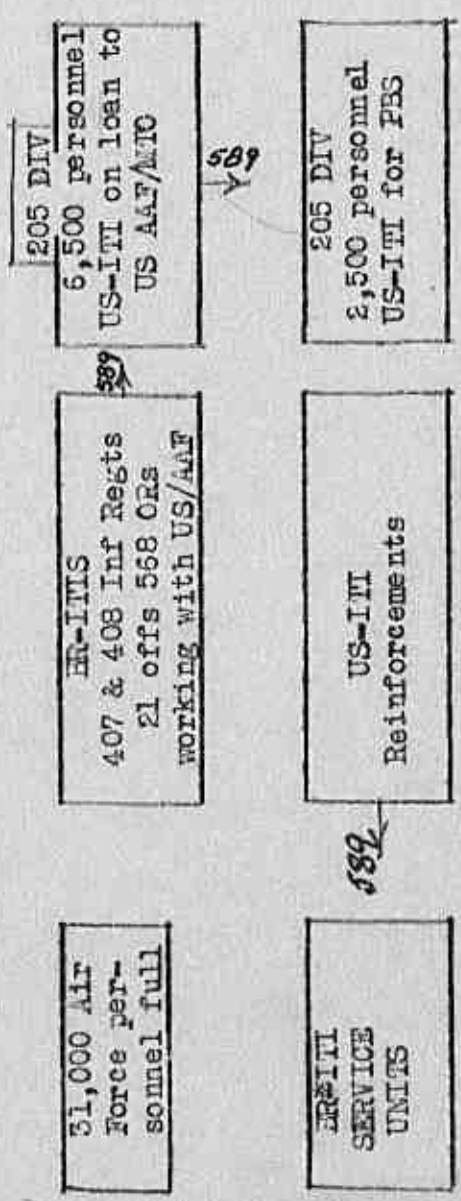
4. ~~589~~ 589 offs and men from rfts originally destined for PES to go to ER-ITI Service Units. The following diagrams may help to make a clearer picture.

31,000 Air Force personnel full

ER-ITIS
407 & 408 Inf Regts
21 offs 568 ORs
working with US/AAF205 DIV
6,500 personnel
US-ITI on loan to
US AAF/LTCER-ITI
SERVICE
UNITSUS-ITI
Reinforcements205 DIV
2,500 personnel
US-ITI for PBS

The result of this is that the present ER-ITIS working for the Air Force will become US-ITIS. Since part of 205 Div US-ITIS are working for the Air Force, these 589 personnel may as well form part of the total of 6,500 so allotted. The 589 ER-ITIS could be replaced out of 205 Div: but in order to keep the division together as much as possible, it is thought better to assign 589 personnel out of US-ITI rfts to ER-ITI

1. ⁵⁸⁹ 589 offs and men of 407 and 408 Inf Regts removed from HR-ITM order of battle.
2. ⁵⁸⁹ 589 offs and men of 407 and 408 Inf Regts to form part of the 6,500 personnel of 205 Div US-ITIS on loan to US AAF/MTC.
3. ⁵⁸⁹ 589 offs and men from the 6,500 personnel of 205 Div: originally intended to be on loan to US AAF/MTC to go to PES.
4. ⁵⁸⁹ 589 offs and men from rfts originally destined for PES to go to HR-ITM Service Units. The following diagrams may help to make a clearer picture.



The result of this is that the present HR-ITIS working for the Air Force will become US-ITIS. Since part of 205 Div US-ITIS are working for the Air Force, these 589 personnel may as well form part of the total of 6,500 so allotted. The 589 HR-ITIS could be replaced out of 205 Div: but in order to keep the division together as much as possible, it is thought better to assign 589 personnel out of US-ITM rfts to HR-ITM Service Units.

Will we please confirm that this is being done or put forward counter proposals.

266/1 Service Coy 266/1 MT Coy

These Coys are to be ITM-ITM and carried under Internal Security together with other AC units. A letter to this effect will be sent out.

21/c
G

5522

30 Maltese Officers for Gruppi

30 Maltese Officers have been requested by AFHQ to act as interpreters for the Gruppi. This was done in a hurry and we were not consulted. Suitable apologies offered and accepted by me. AFHQ now want to know whether we have any objections.

Shipping List 7

Information is required by AFHQ to bring List 7 up to date. There are a number of serials which require deleting owing to their having arrived or having been disbanded etc. An amendment is being published covering the last three shipments i.e. Highland Princess on 13 Nov: Fort Meductic 15 Nov: Montecuccoli 15 Nov.

Q Maint. Lt. Col. SHELDON

Accommodation for ARRUZZI call-up

Endeavoured to stir up some action on the vexed question of accommodation for the ARRUZZI call-up. I was shown a signal FX 58878 of 27 Nov: which stated that the barracks at TRANI had been allocated for this purpose. In view of the fact that there are already Italians in these barracks, this did not appear to me to be a satisfactory solution. I phoned Col. NOAKES from AFHQ who was deciding what was to be done. I did not therefore take any further action.

The attitude of disinterest in matters concerning the Italian Army was rather marked in this office. A large degree of doubt existed as to whether 3 District were aware that these barracks were to be handed over to MMIA for occupation by Italians. In fact they were not in the picture at all.

Q Maint. Major BARNISH

Visited Major BARNISH with a view to obtaining assistance in moving clothing from British Depots to ITI Depots. I pointed out that any arrangements which could be made would probably only be temporary since a number of vehicles were on their way from SARDINIA.

Major BARNISH was very helpful and agreed to assist in any possible way but there were difficulties. If the journeys are not too long he thought he could help.

Arranged that when transport was required the NAPLES Office could contact Major BARNISH to see what could be done. This is necessarily somewhat vague as I did not know of any specific requirements of the moment and/or distances to be covered etc. but at any rate this ice is broken and something more definite can very likely be laid on.

A/Q
C

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Undeavoured to stir up some action on the vexed question of accommodation for the ARRUZZI call-up. I was shown a signal FX 58878 of 27 Nov: which stated that the barracks at IRANI had been allocated for this purpose. In view of the fact that there are already Italians in these barracks, this did not appear to me to be a satisfactory solution. I phoned Col. NOAKES from AFHQ who was deciding what was to be done. I did not therefore take any further action.

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Q AE Major BEASLEY

A/Q

Could not obtain wastage rates but matter was well in hand and a reply from Ordnance awaited.

Major BEASLEY was somewhat alarmed at the time taken to collect clothing allocated to MMIA. He fully appreciated the transport difficulties but pointed out that if things were not collected quickly they were likely to be issued to someone else by the issuing clerks etc.

I mentioned this fact to Q Maint. when asking for transport assistance.

G-1 Br. Major THORPE

Exemptions from Call-up

A/2

My visit here coincided with that of Staff Capt. "A" 3 District on this subject. The number of unskilled exemption certificates appears now to be a much larger body than at first anticipated. There was a pile amounting to about 700 in 3 Dist HQ. These under the new directive are passed to MMIA for approval.

It was suggested:

(a) That MMIA IO's be authorized to approve or disapprove exemption certificates.

(b) That the exemption period be increased from 3 to 6 months.

Ref (a) This is in the interest of saving time and also that the man on the spot would probably have a better idea of whether an exemption should be granted or not.

Ref (b) This would considerably reduce the amount of "bumping" which this whole business is creating. At present as soon as an exemption is granted, another one is submitted for the next 3 months.

A 4 Major HILL

LEAVE

A/2

The usual teething troubles were very apparent in this office. The Italian Army is something new and frightening and in exactly the same way as G-1 Br over the exemption problem; there is a horror of taking any responsibility on the grounds of lack of knowledge.

In this case there is a lack of direction since it has not been made clear that now AFHQ have taken over the Italian Army, they automatically take over the detailed functions appertaining thereto. I pointed out that leave is an "A" matter and we therefore look to "A" branch AFHQ for direction on leave for the Italian Army. Major HILL was very reluctant to accept this responsibility until being instructed to by his superior officers.

However, there was no lack of interest or non-cooperation, very much the reverse, but a genuine helpless feeling of tackling a job about which so very little was known prevailed.

On the subject of leave to SICILY. An internal letter has been sent by this office to G-3 Org agreeing in principle to leave to SICILY provided that transport arrangements in no way interfere

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I pointed out that G-3 Org were not really interested and that the letter should have been sent to us. However at the moment everybody flies to G-3 Org on all matters concerning the Italian Army.

I also pointed out (a) that "Command and Administration" of 16 Nov states that leave will be governed by current regulations and that Current Regulations at the moment do not permit leave to SICILY or SARDINIA from the Mainland.

(b) That what is required now is "The Current Regulations".

It was agreed that the question of responsibility for leave for the Italian Army should be precipitated and that perhaps the best way to attain this would be for MMIA to ask by letter for the Current Regulations to be published. I stated that it might be possible to enclose a draft of such regulations.

G-3 Org was informed that leave to SARDINIA at the rate of 250 per month for the whole of the Italian army would start when the Island was clear. The name of the leave ship is ABALZIA.

G-3 Org

AFHQ have been asked if the following Italian mines could be made available for the Allies.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
M1 Mine	100
B2 "	100
B2 SCC	100
Type 9	100
Type 10	100
B4	100
Electric Mine (Type 2)	100
Type 9 (improvised tension operated)	100
Type 9 (pressure operated)	100
Circular variable mine	100

G-5 Major DRIFFIELD WHITE

12 Interpreter LO's for SHAEF

Was unable to obtain any useful information on these personnel. However was assured that attention would be paid to such matters as pay - personal mail etc and instructions would be issued to them before leaving.

Major DRIFFIELD WHITE will be in ROME on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Personnel from GREECE

Details of how personnel have been disposed of since 17 Nov are awaited.

General

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General

I was asked to mention that extra copies of letters requiring wide circulation would be greatly appreciated.

29 Dec 44.

Capt. Capt.
MMIA LO AFHQ

5319

G.3. Org

Action

1. SUGGESTED ALTERATIONS OF CEILINGS

Explained our proposals on this subject. Was informed (a) That the 1000 exceeding the ceiling of the Italians employed by R.A.F. were going to be given up (b) That Air-Forces Sub-Commission was to sort out its own troubles (c) That instructions would be issued by AFHQ for the transfer of personnel of 408 Inf Regt from the rolls of the Army to the rolls of the Air Force (d) That if the Air Forces Sub-Commission could not submit a satisfactory solution, our proposals would be discussed with them.

2 i/c
G

2. REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM AND DEFECT ORGANIZATION

Discussed this subject at some length. It was apparent that although it was appreciated that this subject must be given priority - no real effort to arrive at any final conclusions had been made.

G
A/Q

It is intended to hold a conference at AFHQ. No date or even approximate date could be obtained. I stressed the importance of the matter and was assured that a draft agenda would be drawn up and submitted to this HQ as soon as possible.

Regarding the proposed Camp at SPLETO for the ABRUZZI Call-up; it was agreed that this could be set up as a temporary Camp pending final decision as a result of the proposed meeting on this subject. G-3 Org was not aware that MIA was waiting for authority to set up this Camp.

Vehicles for transport of men from reporting Centres to SPLETO. It was suggested that District HQ would have to assist.

I think that the whole reinforcement problem will now be viewed and dealt with in a more active manner, up to now it has been turned over in certain individual's brains but nothing concrete has been produced on paper.

3. REF AFHQ FILE No. 922.5 DATED 14 NOVEMBER

2 i/c

This letter requests this HQ to submit an order of Battle of the Italian Administration units. i.e. Category I. It was stressed that the information required was, not necessarily what existed now, but "a planned lay-out of necessary Italian Administrative Units" in order to run efficiently the Italian Army as it is now and in the future to be employed.

G

2. REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM AND DEPOT ORGANIZATION

Discussed this subject at some length. It was apparent that although it was appreciated that this subject must be given priority - no real effort to arrive at any final conclusions had been made.

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This order of battle is to include in detail Admin. HQ's - Hospitals - Depots - Transit Camps etc. etc.

4. GARIBOLDI DIV.

No reply yet to AFHQ signal re return of personnel

5. 7 MOUNTAIN REGT

No decision yet re retention or handing over of mule-teers. HQ AAI are investigating and will inform us soonest

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5518

6. PERSONNEL FROM CEFALONIA

Arrived 13 Nov. 410
 " 15 " 550

No further personnel to be shipped.

7. MOMTEGRANERO BN

No decision could be arrived at regarding the disposal of the 600 personnel of this Bn. The position is at the moment that a decision is being awaited from G-5 as to whether they are required as CC RR.

I suggested that as an alternative they might be used as guards in CALABRIA for the SILAS works.

8. RETURN OF TWO BNS TO AOSTA DIV. FROM CALABRIA

It is intended to return the two Bns at present guarding the SILAS works to the AOSTA Div. As to who is to replace them has not been decided. The whole question is bound up with the fate of the FICENO Div. If it is definitely decided that they are not to be used as CC RR, then a sufficient number may be used for the SILAS works. If FICENO are not available for this purpose then the CALABRIA Div will be used.

G.5. Major DRIFFIELD WHITE9. DETAILS OF PERSONNEL FROM GREECE

I asked for full details of personnel from Greece and was informed: A/Q

(a) That this information was expected to arrive at AFHQ through MMIA.

(b) That Capt. CRAWFORD MMIA IO TARANTO was responsible, in the first instance, for reporting the numbers arriving.

At all events as things are at the moment no information re numbers of arrivals from Greece can be expected from G-5 AFHQ since they are looking to MMIA to supply it.

LATER:

Above agreed MMIA. MMIA will supply details.

10. DEPORTATION OF ITALIAN PERSONNEL TO RUSSIA FROM ROUMANIA

G
 G-5
 noted 2/11

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LATER:

Above agreed MMIA. MMIA will supply details.

10. DEPORTATION OF ITALIAN PERSONNEL TO RUSSIA FROM ROMANIA

I mentioned the contents of the letter received recently from the Ministry of War on this subject.

First reactions were that the information was based on rumors and exaggerated. In any case the matter would have to be taken up through the two countries Ambassadors.

Repatriation to Italy of such personnel would be extremely difficult and it was considered that in dealing with Greece the Allies had sufficient on their plate for the time being.

G-1 Br. Major THORPE

11. DIRECTIVE ON EXEMPTIONS FROM CALL-UP

The onus of the preparation of a directive on exempting authorities and all matters relating to exemptions from call-up has finally and rather unwillingly been accepted by G-1 Br.

A draft administrative instruction was handed to me and has been passed to AA and QMG.

In view of exemption certificates piling up in AFHQ which are not being dealt with at the moment, the urgency and necessity of reaching a final decision and implementing a directive, cannot be too highly stressed. It will be observed that the draft directive proposes to pass 3 types of exemptions to MMIA for decision.

1. Unskilled personnel of the Armed Forces
2. Individuals and/or parties of formed units
3. Unskilled civilians.

The reasons given for this are that

1. These types of exemptions should hardly exist at all.
2. MMIA will be in a better position than anyone else to allow such exemptions.
3. The moral effect on these exemption certificates having to be forwarded to MMIA will be sufficient to deter a number of unnecessary requests from being made.

MMIA comments, counter proposals etc. are requested as soon as possible.

Q. AE. Major BEASLEY

12. Visited this department as an introduction.

COMBAT GROUPS

Was informed that there were NOT sufficient blankets for 2 per man. Supplies were not even sufficient for the British Army.

ERI-1115

A/Q
C

A/Q

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C. AE. Major BRASLEY

12. Visited this department as an introduction.

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BRI-ITIS

Was asked whether there was a shortage of boots? Not knowing I gave a non-committal reply.

There is available 197 tons of salvage clothing. Do we require it and can we store it. Understood this request had already been made in writing but no answer had yet been received from M.M.I.A.

In this connection a minor moan was thrown out that a number of articles of clothing had been offered to M.M.I.A. (all second hand) and a long delay always occurred before acceptance of refusal was received. I gave several reasons why there might be a delay of a few days and these were accepted and recognised as difficulties not easy to overcome.

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- 4 -

A request was made that all outstanding demands for ERI-ITI clothing should be forwarded by any available means to reach AFHQ before the close of business on Thursday night in each week. This is in view of the fact that a meeting is held every Friday morning.

This coming meeting on Friday is particularly important.



Capt.
MAIL ROOM AFHQ.

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5515

MAIA LO AFHQ.

1571