

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

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

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G/24/1 Inspection Reports
April 1944

10714

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

6/24/15

1 Bn 336 Inf Regt

2

(4th + 29th April 44)

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

1 Bn 336 Inf Regt

2

(4th + 29th April 44)

G/24/IF

785020

CONFIDENTIAL

7th
A.
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- Herewith two copies of inspection reports on 1 & 2 Bns 336 Inf Regt (PICENO Div) and det of 50 from 2 Bn 120 Inf Regt (MANTOVA Div), who come under your command, on loan for guard duties, pending arrival of replacements from SARDINIA.

- [illegible]

Hon Maj Gen,
 Army Sub Comm A.C.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

File

INSPECTION REPORT OF ITALIAN UNIT

1. Unit: 1 Bn 336 Inf Regt
2. Location: CUSTERNINO
3. Serial:
4. Required for: Guard duties in BARI
5. Strength:

<u>Offrs</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>O.Rs.</u>	<u>762</u>	<u>Animals</u>	<u>Carts</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>
				<u>Horses</u>		<u>(by types)</u>
				<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>One M/C</u>
6. Name of Commanding Officer: Lt Col ALI Alberto
7. Origin:

Is an organic unit of PIGEMO Div maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organisation Camps

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniform OK
Boots OK but 25% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts - Many patched.

9. Tentage:

30% only held: Remainder reported on way.

10. Cooking Equipment:

Cauldrons with which they can manage OK. No complaints about cooking facilities.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

12. Condition of Animals:

Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Tibbon lacking; horses average, mules below average.

13. Arms and Ammunition:

81mm Mortars	- 4	Auto rifles	- 36.	1,800 rpg and res.
47/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Os.	- 12 - 2100 rpg & res.	Pistols	- 30.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers had control over the men. Officers were shaven.

15. State of Training:

Average. OK for job they are about to tackle - Guard duties.

Is an organic unit of PICING Div maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organization Camps

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniform OK

Boots OK but 25% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts - Many patched.

9. Tentage:

30% only held: Remainder reported on way.

10. Cooking Equipment:

Cauldrons with which they can manage OK. No complaints about cooking facilities.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

.

12. Condition of Animals:

Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Tibben lacking; horses average, mules below average.

13. Arms and Ammunition:

81mm Mortars	- 4	Auto rifles	- 36.	1,800 rpg and res.
27/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Gs.	- 12	2100 rpg & res. Pistols	- 30.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers had control over the men. Officers were shaven.

15. State of Training:

Average. OK for job they are about to tackle - Guard duties.

16. Interpreters: NIL

17. Date Unit is to move to destination:

1 May 44

18. General Remarks:

Men were very cheerful. CO appeared highly efficient and knew his Bn well.
Consider the Bn fit to carry out Guard duties.

Date: 29 April 44

Station: LEQUILLÉ (LACOE)

signed: B.G. Butterworth No 6050

Army Sub Commission A.C.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

INSPECTION REPORT OF ITALIAN UNIT

1. Unit: 1 Bn 336 Inf Regt
2. Location: CISTERNINO
3. Serial: -
4. Required for: Guard duties in BARI
5. Strength:

<u>OCs</u>	<u>Q.Rs.</u>	<u>Animals</u>	<u>Carts</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>762</u>	<u>Horses 6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>(by types)</u>
		<u>Mules 118</u>		<u>One M/C</u>
6. Name of Commanding Officer: Lt Col ALI Alberto
7. Origin: -
8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Is an organic unit of PIGENO Div maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organization Camps
9. Tentage:

Uniform OK
Boots OK but 25% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts - many patched.
10. Cooking Equipment:

30% only held: Remainder reported on way.
11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

Cauldrons with which they can manage OK. No complaints about cooking facilities.
12. Condition of Animals:

Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Tibbon lacking; horses average, mules below average.
13. Arms and Ammunition:

<u>8mm Mortars</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Auto rifles</u>	<u>36.</u>
<u>47/325</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Rifles</u>	<u>700.</u>
<u>M.Gs.</u>	<u>12 - 2100 rpg & res.</u>	<u>Pistols</u>	<u>30.</u>
14. Command and Discipline:

Officers had control over the men. Officers were shaven.
15. State of Training:

Average. OK for job they are about to tackle - Guard duties.

Is an organic unit of PIGEON DIV maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organisation Camps

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniform OK

Boots OK but 25% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts - Many patched.

9. Tentage:

30% only held: Remainder reported on way.

10. Cooking Equipment:

Cauldrons with which they can manage OK. No complaints about cooking facilities.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

"

12. Condition of Animals:

Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Ribben lacking; horses average, mules below average.

13. Arms and Ammunition:

8mm Mortars	- 4	Auto rifles	- 36.	1,800 rpg and res.
47/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Gs.	- 12	2100 rpg & res. Pistols	- 30.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers had control over the men. Officers were shaven.

15. State of Training:

Average. OK for job they are about to tackle - Guard duties.

16. Interpreters:

HIL

17. Date Unit is to move to destination:

1 May 44

18. General Remarks:

Men were very cheerful. CO appeared highly efficient and knew his Bn well.
Consider the Bn fit to carry out Guard duties.

Date: 22 April 44

Station: LEQUELLE (LECOE)

Signed: B.G. Butterworth Maj

Army Sub Commission A.C.C.

6049

CONFIDENTIAL

INSPECTION REPORT OF ITALIAN UNIT

1. Unit: 2 Bn 336 Inf Regt
2. Location: FASANO
3. Serial:
4. Required for: Guard Duties in BARLETTA and BRINDISI
5. Strength:

Officers	9	Animals	Carts	Vehicles
37	757	Horses 6	113	(by types)
				One M/G
				without tyres

6. Name of Commanding Officer: Lt Col MISSELLI Giovanni

7. Origin:

Is an organic unit of PIGGIO Div maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organisation Camps.

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniforms - OK
 Boots - OK through 75% are too large to be comfortable
 Shirts of 20% of the men were patched.

9. Tentage:

To scale

10. Cooking Equipment:

Sufficient, and what they are accustomed to. Consists of large cauldrons.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

12. Condition of Animals:

Above average. Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Tibben were very difficult to obtain.

13. Arms and Ammunition:

Flam Mortars	- 4	Auto Rifles	- 36.	1,800 rpg and res.
47/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Gs.	- 12.	2100 rpg and res. Pistols	- 50.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers appeared to have control over their men, but discipline on parade was non-existent. CO and several other officers were unshaven (at 11.00 hrs).

15. State of Training:

7. Origin:

Is an organic unit of PICENO Div. maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organization Camps.

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniforms - OK
Boots - OK though 75% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts of 20% of the men were patched.

9. Tentage:

To scale

10. Cooking Equipment:

Sufficient, and what they are accustomed to. Consists of large cauldrons.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

12. Condition of Animals:

Above average. Bulk feeding stuff, straw and Tibben were very difficult to obtain.

13. Arms and Ammunition:

81mm Mortars	- 4	Auto Rifles	- 36.	1,500 rpg and res.
47/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Gs.	- 12.	2100 rpg and res. Pistols	- 50.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers appeared to have control over their men, but discipline on parade was non-existent. CO and several other officers were unshaven (at 1100 hrs).

15. State of Training:

Average. Knowledge of weapons average.

16. Interpreters:

Bn Adjtt speaks French, and a very little English.

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17. Date Unit is to move to Destination:

30 April 44

18. General Remarks:

Men were cheerful and fit. Thought they were going to the front. Consider the Bn in fit condition to move for its Guard Duties.

Date: 29 April 44

Station: LEWIS (LECOB)

signed

B.G. Butterworth Maj
Army Sub Commission A.O.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

INSPECTION REPORT OF ITALIAN UNIT

1. Unit: 2 Bn 336 Inf Rest
2. Location: FASANO
3. Serial: _____
4. Required for: Guard Duties in BAILETTA and BRINDISI
5. Strength:
- | Offrs | O.Rg. | Animals | Carts | Vehicles (by types) |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 37 | 757 | Horses 6
Mules 113 | 9 | One M/G without tyres |

6. Name of Commanding Officer: Lt Col MESSELI Giovanni

7. Origin:

Is an organic unit of PIGRO DIV maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organisation Camps.

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniforms - OK
Boots - OK though 75% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts of 20% of the men were patched.

9. Tentage:

To scale

10. Cooking Equipment:

Sufficient, and what they are accustomed to. Consists of large cauldrons.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

12. Condition of Animals:

Above average. Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Tibben were very difficult to obtain.

13. Arms and Ammunitions

81mm Mortars	- 4	Auto Rifles	- 36.	1,800 rpg and res.
47/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Gs.	- 12.	2100 rpg and res. Pistols	- 50.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers appeared to have control over their men, but discipline on parade was non-existent. CO and several other officers were unshaven (at 1100 hrs).

15. State of Training:

Is an organic unit of PICENO Div maintained to correct strength by reinforcements from Re-organisation Camps.

8. State of Clothing and Personal Equipment:

Uniforms " OK
Boots " OK though 75% are too large to be comfortable
Shirts of 20% of the men were patched.

9. Tentage:

To scale

10. Cooking Equipment:

Sufficient, and what they are accustomed to. Consists of large cauldrons.

11. Technical Equipment and Vehicles:

"

12. Condition of Animals:

Above average. Bulk feeding stuff, Straw and Tibben were very difficult to obtain.

13. Arms and Ammunition:

81mm Mortars	- 4	Auto Rifles	- 36.	1,800 rpg and res.
47/32s	- 4	Rifles	- 700.	70 rpg and res.
M.Gs.	- 12.	2100 rpg and res. Pistols	- 50.	

14. Command and Discipline:

Officers appeared to have control over their men, but discipline on parade was non-existent. CO and several other officers were unshaven (at 1100 hrs).

15. State of Training:

Average. Knowledge of weapons average.

16. Interpreters:

Bn Adj. speaks French, and a very little English.

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/sheet 2

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17. Date Unit is to move to Destinations:

30 April 44

18. General Remarks:

Men were cheerful and fit. Thought they were going to the front. Consider the Bn in fit condition to move for its Guard Duties.

Date: 29 April 44

Station: LEQUILE (LEGE)

signed

B.G. Butterworth Maj
Army Sub Commission A.C.C.

6046

File Reference 76
REPORT ON VISIT TO 336 INFANTRY REGT. ON 7 APR 44 BY S.&T. REPRESENTATIVE.

LT. K. FREEMAN, R.A.S.C.

DISCUSSED S.&T. MATTERS WITH C.O. - COL. SIMONELLI WHO APPEARED TO BE VERY EFFICIENT.

PRESENT STRENGTH - PERSONNEL.

	<u>Offrs.</u>	<u>O.R.'s</u>
R.H.Q. & Mortar Coy	29	426
1st Btn	35	751
2nd Btn	42	757
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>1934</u>
In hospital	nil	172

78 Offrs & O.R.'s were on leave.

PRESENT STRENGTH - ANIMALS.

Horses	25
Mules	305

VEHICLES & P.O.L.

As per attached proforma.

RATIONS & MESSING.

Drawn every 10 days from Div. Full details of messing conditions given on attached proforma. It is stressed that men complained of insufficient to eat; they are on Scale B.

FORAGE

Drawn same time as rations. Mules were insufficiently fed. They were not receiving Tiben or equivalent. Stray could be obtained from Foggia but there was no transport to collect. Usual food given was approx 3 1/2 kilos Oats & 2 kilos Energine. The former was not always received. Oats examined were of poor quality.

H. Freeman
Lieut. R.A.S.C.
(Acting Staff Captain).

8 Apr 44.

A.D.S.T. M.M.I.A. ✓
Line. File

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29	426
35	751
42	757
<u>106</u>	<u>1934</u>
nil	172

78 Offrs & O.R.'s were on leave.

PRESENT STRENGTH - ANIMALS.

Horses

25

Mules

305

VEHICLES & P.O.L.

As per attached proforma.

RATIONS & MESSING.

Drawn every 10 days from Div. Full details of Messing conditions given on attached proforma. It is stressed that men complained of insufficient to eat; they are on Scale B.

FORAGE

Drawn same time as rations. Mules were insufficiently fed. They were not receiving Tibetan or equivalent. Straw could be obtained from Foggia but there was no transport to collect. Usual food given was approx 5 1/2 kilos Oats & 2 kilos Energine. The former was not always received. Oats examined were of poor quality.

8 APR 44.

A.D.S.T. M.M.I.A. ✓
live. File.

[Signature]
Lieut. R.A.S.C.
(Acting Staff Captain).

6043

INSTRUCTIONS FOR S & T INSPECTING OFFICERS VISITING THE UNIT

This Questionnaire is to be treated rather as Instructions than Orders. Inspecting Officers should not waste valuable time in attempting to answer any one question at the expense of the others. The intention is that each Officer, as a result of his inspection, should be able to submit a report on a Unit, or Units, which should indicate to MTA the exact state of administrative efficiency in so far as it concerns S & T.

ST LT. K. FREELAND, R.A.S.C. 7th APR. 44
 REPORT ON: UNIT 336 INFANTRY REGT. CMDG. OFFR: COL. SIMONELLI

POINTS.

REMARKS.

(1) MESSING.

- How efficiently is Unit being fed?
 What stores are taken to augment
 Rations, i.e. do they run a garden?
 How are Men going out all day on
 duty fed?
 If possible see a meal actually
 distributed to the personnel.
- Is the Ration Store clean & tidy?
 Are the Ration Louvers of Bread well
 made & up to standard?
 Have the Vegetables in Store
 excessive quantities of uneatable
 stalk and leaves.
- Are there tins of putrid food in
 the Store contaminating the rest?
 Is there a system in the
 Ration Store?
- Is the 10 day feeding programme
 being kept up?
- Is the Cookhouse clean and
 tidy?
- Are the Cooks clean?
 Have the Cooks been recently
 medically inspected for
 Venereal Disease?
- What Fuel is being used, and from
 where is it obtained?
- Is any food left over from each
 day's ration?
- Inspect to see if Vegetable
 trimmings that could reasonably
 be made into stew is not
 thrown away.
- Is any check kept of the No. of
 Men being fed each Day?

Fairly well, but soldiers complained of not enough to eat. They are on Scale B. Asked for more bread. Vegetables, nuts etc purchased locally. No.
Tins of P. Meat & usual Bread.
Yes - hot soup of vegetables and Italian biscuits broken up. They had a fair helping. Quality only fair - inclined to be rather heavy - there were no complaints.
Yes - well laid out.
No. - returned to Div.
Yes.
Yes.
Improvvised but adequate - very smoky due to insufficient ventilation.
Yes.
Yes.
Wood obtained locally.
Never.
Yes - efficient.

(2) TRANSPORT.

- What steps are taken to augment
b. Rations, i.e. do they run a garden? Vegetables, nuts etc. purchased locally
How are Men going out all day on Tins of P. Meat & usual Bread.
c. duty fed?
If possible see a meal actually
d. distributed to the personnel. Yes - hot soup of vegetables and Italian biscuits broken up. They had a fair helping.
e. In the Ration Store clean & tidy? Yes - well laid out.
Are the ration loaves of Bread well
f. made & up to standard? Quality only fair - inclined to be rather heavy - there were no complaints.
Have the Vegetables in Store
g. excessive quantities of uneatable stalk and leaves.
Are there tins of putrid food in
h. the Store contaminating the rest? No. - returned to Div.
Is there a system in the
i. Ration Store?
Is the 10 day feeding programme
j. being kept up? Yes.
Is the Cookhouse clean and
k. tidy? Yes.
l. Are the Cocks clean? Yes.
Have the Cocks been recently
m. medically inspected for Venereal Disease? Yes.
What Fuel is being used, and from
n. where is it obtained? Wood obtained locally
Is any food left over from each
o. day's ration? Never.
Inspect to see if Vegetable
p. trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away.
Is any check kept of the no. of
q. Men being fed each Day? Yes - official.
- (2) TRANSPORT.
- a. Has Unit any Vehicles? Yes. 9 small trucks & 6 M/C (also 600 lbs. bar).
Do the Vehicles look
b. well maintained? Yes, under circumstances - there is no w/ shops.
How many Vehicles are runners, &
c. how many are off the road? 6 trucks, 6 M/C & 600 lbs bar. (Trucks & M/Cs in poor condition)
Why are the Vehicles
d. off the road? Lack of spares & tyres Repairs done locally (civilian or Messagne (Military))
What have they done about
e. obtaining spare parts? Indents have been forwarded
Has Unit been able to obtain
f. sufficient Petrol, Oil, etc? Monthly issue from Div. Have not received supply due 1st Apr 44. - no Patrol left.
Do Officers all live on
g. the spot? Yes, 600 in village
If Officers live in other villages,
h. how do they travel to and fro?
Warts:- 14.

INSPECTION REPORT.

Unit inspected..... 556 Inf. Regt.

Date " 7/4/44.

Commanding Officer - COL. SIMONELLI.

The Regt. consists of two Bns:

HQ & 2nd Bn. Stationed at PASARO.
1st " " CISTERNINO.

STRENGTH.

Actual Strengths & not W.E. are given below:-

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O.R's.</u>
HQ & Mortar Coy.	29.	426.
1st Bn.....	55.	751.
2nd Bn.....	42.	757.
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>106.</u>	<u>1,934.</u>
Sick in Hospital.....	NIL.	172.

There were 73 Officers & O.R's on Short Leave.

STRENGTH.
ANIMALS.

	<u>Officers' Chargers.</u>	<u>Draft.</u>	<u>Pack.</u>
Horses.....	2.	23.	NIL.
Mules.....	NIL.	10.	295.

The condition of the Horses was very fair, but the great majority of the Mules were in very poor condition.

Animals were fed and watered twice daily. The poor condition of the Mules was due largely due to the lack of Bulk Feeding Stuffs, Hay, Straw etc. Shoeing was good, but the supply of Nails, Shoes & Coal for Farriers was very limited.

PRIMARY.

There were small Bn. Veterinary Hospitals, but supplies of Medicines very low.

Some use was made of the main Veterinary Hospital at FRANCO VILLA & animals were evacuated there by Train.

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1st & Mortar Coy.	29.	426.
1st Bn.	35.	751.
2nd Bn.	42.	757.
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>106.</u>	<u>1,934.</u>
Sick in Hospital.....	NIL.	172.

There were 73 Officers & O.R.s on Short Leave.

STRUCTURE ANIMALS.

	<u>Officers'</u> <u>Chargers.</u>	<u>Draft.</u>	<u>Pack.</u>
Horses.....	2.	23.	NIL.
Mules.....	NIL.	10.	295.

The condition of the Horses was very fair, but the great majority of the Mules were in very poor condition.

Animals were fed and watered twice daily. The poor condition of the Mules was due largely due to the lack of Bulk Feeding stuffs, Hay, Straw etc.

Shoeing was good, but the supply of Nails, Shoes & Coal for Farriers was very limited.

VETERINARY.

There were small Bn. Veterinary Hospitals, but supplies of Medicines very low.

Some use was made of the main Veterinary Hospital at FRANCO VILLA & Animals were evacuated there by Train.

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT.

Boots. 600/700 men were without Boots at all & the existing Boots were in a bad state of repair. Cobblers were available but no repairing material of any sort. **6043**

Clothing.

This was both short & very threadbare; many of the men wearing Civilian Shirts. Tailors available but no repairing material. Actually Clothing was so worn that repairs would not be worth while

The points raised with regard to Equipment were:-

Ground Sheets.

50% shortage; those existing being very worn

(2)

Blankets.

Scale two per man & these were in fair condition.

Water Bottles.

Only a few short.

Mess Tins.

Some short, but had been made up by improvisation.

No clothing or equipment from Allied sources had been received & the last Italian issue to the Regt. was 60 pairs of Boots in August 1943.

ARTILLERY.

6 x 81 mm Mortars.

Mortar Coy.....	6.
1st Bn.	4.
2nd Bn.	4.
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>14.</u>

Old type but serviceable. Four have been away for 25 days for repair.

47 x 32 mm Mort.

1st Bn.	4.
2nd Bn.	4.
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>8.</u>

Five of these require repairs.

The Regt. is up to scale in H.M.G.'s, L.M.G.'s, Rifles & Pistols, but many of the Rifles are of old patterns.

Spare for H.M.G.'s & L.M.G.'s are practically non-existent.

AMMUNITION.

With the exception of the 47 x 32 mm Guns, for which there is none, Ammunition is to scale, both as regards that with the Weapon & that in the Regimental Reserve.

GENERAL.

No Oil, Lubricant or other cleaning materials were available, & in consequence Harness, Saddlery &, in fact, all leather was dry & hard.

I was favourably impressed by the Commanding Officer, who appeared keen and to have a very good grasp of everything concerning his Regiment.

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1st Bn. 4
2nd Bn. 4
TOTAL 8

Old type but serviceable. Four have been away for 25 days for repair.

47 x 32 mm

1st Bn. 4
2nd Bn. 4
TOTAL 8

Five of these require repairs.

The Regt. is up to scale in H.M.G.'s, L.M.G.'s, Rifles & Pistols, but many of the Rifles are of old patterns.

Spares for H.M.G.'s & L.M.G.'s are practically non-existent.

AMMUNITION.

With the exception of the 47 x 32 mm guns, for which there is none, ammunition is to scale, both as regards that with the weapon & that in the Regimental Reserve.

GENERAL.

No Oil, Lubricant or other cleaning materials were available, & in consequence harness, Saddlery & in fact, all leather was dry & hard.

I was favourably impressed by the Commanding Officer, who appeared keen and to have a very good grasp of everything concerning his Regiment.

In the Field.
7 April 44.

Butly with Gans
Major.
Army Sub Comm. A.C.C.
(D.S.L. GREGSON)

6042

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

G - G3

REPORT ON: UNIT

336 Inf Regt

OC Col Simonelli

7 April 44

POINTS

1. General impression and appearance of

Unit - Discipline

Discipline appeared good and considering the handicaps, lack of clothing, shorts, old equipment etc. there appeared an efficient and keen atmosphere throughout the unit.

REMARKS

1.

Strength	off	on
HQ	} 29	36
Motor Coy		390
1 Bn:	35	751
2 Bn:	42	757
	<u>106</u>	<u>1934</u>

Latest SMAE
Strength return 116 1826

no on leave 78
" sick in hosp. 172

one month's leave is given every six months in short periods. 40% of Regt are local from S. Italy & Sicily remainder from North Italy

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

Today sectional training only has been carried out. Bn training is just starting.

2. Training considerably handicapped and curtailed by lack of hots.

Approximately 400 men per Bn taken out for training daily. All officers train with their men.

3. ARMS - Types

handicapped, lack of clothing shoots, old equipment etc. there appeared an efficient and keen atmosphere throughout the unit.	2 Br: 42 106 1934 Latest SMPRE straight return 116 1826 Women leave 78 " sick in hosp. 172 one month's leave is given every six months in short periods. 45% of Regt are local from S. Italy & Sicily remainder from North Italy
2. Nos Officers and men available for trg To date actual training only has been carried out. Bn training is just starting.	2. Training considerably handicapped and curtailed by lack of boots. Approximately 800 men per Bn taken out for training daily. All officers train with their men.
3. ARMS - Types Mortars 401 mm 47/32 Gun - Condition	3. Mortars in better PL. 4 away being repaired. nearly 4 weeks per cent in for repair. 4 mortars in each Bn. Reasonable repair, but old pattern ammunition. Quota of training and reserve amm. in hand. Gun. 4 guns in each Bn. of which 5 require repairs. no amm. at all. 6041 Counted over

Rifled.

up to strength; many of last war
pattern

Amn:

Each man has 70 rounds. Regimental
reserve of 20 rounds per rifle

LMGs

up to strength, old pattern, no spare parts

Amn:

1800 rounds per weapon. 1200 Reg. reserve per
weapon

MMG's
NMG's

up to strength, old pattern no spare parts.

Amn:

2100 rounds per weapon. 3900 Reg. reserve per
weapon

4. ORGANISATION of TRG

a) Forms - Division into Field, Weapons Drill, Instructional

4. Training programmes produced. A copy was not available to take away.

An officer is in charge of training.

b) Organisation - programme - decentralisation - hrs

Training hrs 0630 to 1100 1400 to 1800 hrs. The afternoon period all used for indoor instruction, lectures etc mostly.

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard - keenness - interest

Unable to visit training owing to Good Friday being half holiday.

b) Organisation - programmes - de-
centralisation - hrs

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard -
keenness - interest

e) General

Training hrs 0630 to 1100
1400 to 1800 hrs.
The afternoon periods are
used for indoor instruction,
lectures etc mostly.

Unable to visit training
owing to Good Friday being
half holiday.

Training programmes well
produced. Considering
difficulties, old equipment
poor state of clothing etc,
the nature of training appeared
good & sufficiently ambitious

6040

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5. PHYSICAL FITNESS

a) General physique and appearance

b) Route Marches

c) P.T.

d) Games and Sports

5.

Generally men well of small physique but healthy hands - owing to condition of boots

not much done. Suggest this could well be incorporated.

only 1 football in the Regt. little harness or enthusiasm was shown towards games.

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

6. Officers were good. Typically the Col who was definitely in full possession of facts & controlled questions well answered clearly & to the point without the usual Italian baffle.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7. Relations between officers & men appeared good. A very good attendance by officers at the midday meal was made. The Col was somewhat concerned at the lack of boots & clothing. A canteen existed but only twice & was not available

only 1 football in the Regt.
little keenness or enthusiasm was
shown towards games.

6. Officers were good. Especially
the Col who was definitely in
full possession of facts & handled
questions well answered clearly
etc. the point without the usual
Italian baffle.

7. Relations between officers &
men appeared good. A very
good attendance by officers at
the midday meal was made.
The Col was somewhat concerned
at the lack of boots & clothing
a canteen existed but only
bring & ants were available
for purchase

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for
discipline, trg and adm.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

60394
C. Colby
Capt
G.M.
7 April 64.

0742

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

6/24/12

152 MG Bn

"PICE NO" Div.

(15 April 44)

10 7 4 3

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

152 1A 6 12N
"PICENO" Div.

(15 April 44)

CP41E

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

OPTION SLIP

This slip will NOT be removed

O file

To: G-1.

Ref. paras of ^{top} attached.

A/P says he will boot them in due course but issue of Phaben uniform to them was unlikely just yet.

MP 16
4

6038

REPORT ON INSPECTION OF 152 MACHINE GUN BATTALION ON 14 APR 44,
by Major S.M. CANN, D.A.D.S.T.

a. Called on Colonel MESSIA ETTORE, Commander of the Battalion and discussed the following:

1. Present Ration Strength	Officers NCOs & Other Ranks	20 527
Establishment Strength	Officers NCOs & Other Ranks	20 551

2. RATIONS.

Rations are drawn in bulk every 10 days from Div HQ Depot
LOCORONDO.
There were no complaints.

3. ANIMALS.

Strength 84 Mules; 13 Horses; 1 Charger.

4. FORAGE.

Oats, Mangiense and Barley Rations are drawn in the same way as normal Rations, and are sufficient.
Tibben (Straw) was not available at present; only small quantities had been drawn in the past, but these were always insufficient.

b. INSPECTION OF THE BATTALION.

5. PERSONNEL.

All ranks looked fit and well. The Mens Clothing and Boots were in a very bad condition. Approximately 400 Mens Boots were so bad, that an immediate issue is essential.

Col. MESSIA said that an Indent for Clothing & Boots had been forwarded to Div HQ in Dec 43, and again in Feb 44; he also said that Div HQ had promised him 300 pairs of repaired Boots Allied Boots, but that up to date none had arrived.
Small repairs to Boots are being done at TASANO, but there is no leather for Soleing and Heeling.

6. ANIMALS.

An Inspection of the Battalion Horses and Mules was carried out.

All Animals looked fit, and none showed any signs of emaciation.

7. MESSING &c.

Report in regard to Inspection of Messing, Ration Store,

3. ANIMALS.

Strength 84 Mules; 13 Horses; 1 Charger.

4. FORAGE.

Oats, Mangiense and Barley Rations are drawn in the same way as normal Rations, and are sufficient. Tibbon (Straw) was not available at present; only small quantities had been drawn in the past, but these were always insufficient.

b. INSPECTION OF THE BATTALION.

5. PERSONNEL.

All ranks looked fit and well. The Mens Clothing and Boots were in a very bad condition. Approximately 400 Mens Boots were so bad, that an immediate issue is essential.

Col. MEDICIA said that an Indent for Clothing & Boots had been forwarded to Div HQ in Dec 43, and again in Feb 44; he also said that Div HQ had promised him 300 pairs of repaired ~~Razze~~ Allied Boots, but that up to date none had arrived.

Small repairs to Boots are being done at VASANO, but there is no Leather for Soleing and Heeling.

6. ANIMALS.

An Inspection of the Battalion Horses and Mules was carried out.

All Animals looked fit, and none showed any signs of emaciation.

7. MESSING &c.

Report in regard to Inspection of Messing, Ration Store, etc., is attached.

15 Apr 44.

S. B. Bann
Major, R.A.S.C.
D.A.D.S.T.

6037

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SGT INSPECTING OFFICERS VISITING ITALIAN OPERATIONAL UNITS.

This Questionnaire is to be treated rather as Instructions than Orders. Inspecting Officers should not waste valuable time in attempting to answer any one question at the expense of the others. The intention is that each Officer, as a result of his inspection, should be able to submit a report on a Unit, or Units, which should indicate to HQ the exact state of administrative efficiency in so far as it concerns S & T.

ST MAJOR. CAHN DADST. COMO: 134: -
REPORT ON: UNIT 152 MACHINE GUN BATTALION. COL. MECCIA ETTORE

FOUNDER

REMARKS

(1) MESSING.

- a. How efficiently is Unit being fed? Very well.
 What steps are taken to augment?
- b. Portions, i.e. do they run a garden? Fresh fruit: Veg & Wine Purchased
 How are men going out all day on Relieve taken with them & cooked.
 duty feed?
- c. If possible see a meal actually distributed to the personnel.

- e. Is the ration store clean & dry? Yes.
 Are the ration stores covered & well
 f. Is it up to standard? Yes Baked locally. An officer visits
 Is the Vegetables in store No.
 excessive quantities of vegetable
 g. Salt and lard? No.
 Are there any other food in
 h. the Store compartment in the mess? No.
 Is there a new lot of the

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Fair.

i. Broken Stores? Yes.
 Is the 10 day feeding programme
 j. being followed? Yes.
 Is the Cooking clean and
 k. tidy? Yes.

l. Are the Cooks clean?
 Have the Cooks been recently
 medically inspected for
 m. Venereal Disease? Inspected by the Unit M.O. once
a week.

n. What fuel is being used; and from
 where is it obtained? Wood Purchased
 Is any food left over from each
 o. day's ration? No
 Inspect to see if Vegetable
 trimmings that could reasonably
 be made into stew is not
 p. thrown away.

Is any check kept of the No. of
 q. Men being fed each Day? Yes. No of Men fed this day 531

(2) TRANSPORT Pat Chinott 2x31m

Notes taken with Men & Captains.

If possible see a meal actually distributed to the personnel.

e. Is the ration store clean & well kept? Yes.

f. Are the ration containers of plastic well kept up to standard? Yes Baked locally. An officer visits the Bakery every day.

g. Have the Vegetables in store excessive quantities of orangeable? No.

h. Are there any of fruit lost in the store containing the same? No.

i. Is there a system of the ration store? Yes.

j. Is the food in the store? Yes.

k. Is the foodhouse clean and tidy? Yes.

l. Are the cooks clean? Yes.

m. Have the cooks been recently medically inspected for Venereal Diseases? Inspected by the Unit M.O. once a week.

n. What fuel is being used; and from where is it obtained? Wood purchased

o. Is any food left over from each day's ration? No

p. Inspect to see if Vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away.

q. Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day? Yes. No of Men fed this day 521

(2) TRANSPORT. Est: Shingto 2 x 3100 Cycle

a. Has Unit any Vehicles? 1 x 15 out & 11 Horse drawn carts.

b. Do the Vets look well maintained? Out on detail collecting sections

c. How many Vets are there? One

d. Why are the Vehicles out of the road? One

e. Have they done about obtaining spare parts? Yes

f. Has Unit been able to obtain sufficient Petrol, Oil, etc? Yes

g. Do Officers all live on the spot? Yes

h. If Officers live in other villages, how do they travel to and from? Yes on Bikes in the Town.

6036

152 M.G. Bn (Piacenza Div)

15 April 44

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

G - G3

REPORT ON: UNIT 152 MITRAGLIERI Bn (Sommegiate). 057 ONI.

POINTS Contd. Lt-Col. MECCIA Ettore. REMARKS 15 Apr 44

1. General impression and appearance of

1.

Unit - Discipline

General impression - very favourable, despite bad condition of clothing & boots. The men were cheerful & well disciplined, & had been looking forward to a visit from Allied officers. Saluting was good. A large number of men had escaped from the Germans in CAPATTI & many incl. the Comd, had come through the German lines. Berackets were clean, latrines averaged good, & general appearance of men & billets gave a favourable impression.

2. Nos Officers and men available

2.

for trg

Parade State
14 April 44

W.E

Officers	20	20
Men	527	551

Only two sects, as at 14 Apr 44. A very small number of soldiers in detention.

3. ARMS - Types

3.

Personal Weapons 74 have → pistols, remainder have (1933 Radial) rifles.

incl. the Comd, had some through the German lines. Barracks were clean, latrines averaged good & general appearance of men & billets gave a favourable impression.

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

		<u>W.E</u>
<u>Parade Stale-</u>		
14 April 44		
Offes	20	20
Men	527	551

2.

Only two sick, as at 14 Apr 44. a very small number of soldiers in detention.

3. ARMS - Types

<u>Personal Weapons</u>	74 have → pistols, remainder have (1933 Radef) rifles.
<u>Machine Guns</u>	Each Coy has 12 (9 mm) M.G.s. Bn. has 60 of them.
<u>total</u>	36.

- Condition

Very good. All condition. Officers N.C.O.s' assistance. weapons seen in forvicable could stop them with

6035

4. ORGANISATION of TRG

a) Forms - Division into Field, Weapons Drill, Instructional

Bn. Coy & Pl. Trg is programme is

4.

carried out. Daily roughly as follows:-

Out door training 0630 - 1130
Meal 1130
Indoor training 1330 - 1700

Out door training consisted of developing & practising technical trg of Machine Runners, familiarity with weapons etc.

Indoor training consisted of stripping & assembling weapons, gaining familiarity with all weapons used. Indoor improved aiming was practised.

Trn. Trg. programme P.T.O.

b) Organisation - programme - decentralisation - hrs

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard - keenness - interest

Interest & enthusiasm appeared quite average. 15 April 44. One Coy doing 2 hr. march to fire on ranges. Coy very anxious that we should watch this.

Technical training of personnel
familiarity with
weapons etc.

Indoctrination consisted
of stripping & assembling
weapons gaining all
familiarity with all
weapons used.

Indoctrination improvised
aiming was practiced.

Indoctrination programme P.T.O.

Interest & enthusiasm
appeared quite average.
15 April 44. One Coy
doing 2 hr. march to
fire on ranges Coy very
anxious that we should watch
this.

Coy. Training programme
as examples are attached
at appx "A" & "B".

6034

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard -
keenness - interest

e) General

Sheet 3.

5. PHYSICAL FITNESS

a) General physique and appearance

b) Route Marches

c) P.T.

d) Games and Sports

5.

Very good. Did not see any soldiers shuffling about. Despite their lack of uniforms all men gave the appearance of being proud to be British soldiers. Route Marches take place, for example when unit goes to range. Otherwise P.T. & route-marches very difficult though lack of foot-wear.

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

6.

Cy. Comd. appeared keen & efficient. Knew his men's job, & had good officers. Command appeared to be delegated to Cy. Comd. H. Comd as in all times, & was not all centralized to one man.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7.

Normal. Ofc's, as far as can be judged in 2 hr. visit seemed interested in their men & men's welfare.

None.

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

Difficult though lack of foot-wear.

6.

By. Comd. appeared keen & efficient. knew his men's job & had good officers. Command appeared to be delegated to By. Comd. H. Comd. as in detail times, & was not all centralised to one man.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7.

Normal. Ofcs. as far as can be judged in 2 hr. visit seemed interested in their men & men's welfare.

None.

General:-

A goodish unit unduly affected by lack of clothing & boots.

Weapons & training - averagely good. 6033 (transport (1 light carry)).

3 horses & 84 mules in goodish condition. Forage not short but difficult to get & has to be requisitioned locally. the one

whose morale was not affected by lack of clothing & boots.

0 7 5

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carry in the $\odot$ for not being sufficient to
go + collect many more forage etc
from the usual deposits which are
far afield.

W. H. H. H. H. H.
Capt. H. H. H.

10-01-44.

Programma delle istruzione che verranno svolte
nella giornata di domani 13-4-44.

- 6.30 - 7.00 - trasferimento per le località - sede nazionale
nelle le istruzione (R. S. Antonio)
- 7.00 - 7.30 - spiegazione ed insegnamento delle "collezioni"
- 7.30 - 7.45 - riposo
- 7.45 - 8.45 - svolgimento pratico dell'addestramento:
Il plotone "tagliati" in Perigione di R. S. Antonio -
contribuzione di due centri di fuoco - spiegazione
del fuoco - presa di posizione - lavoro di collegamento
e mantenimento - determinazione del settore di tiro
normale e eventuale - insegnamento del tiro
per punti "confinati" del fuoco - disegno di tiro
per l'arrivo automatico - dati di mira per il
fino al dispendio delle T. F. -
- 8.45 - 9 - riposo
- 9.00 - 10 - - continuazione dell'addestramento come sopra
10. - 10.30 - - ricapitolazione dell'addestramento svolto, esercitazioni
mentali finali -
- 10.30 - 11.00 - - ritorno all'accampamento - esercizi di asprità
con la marcia antijes -

10753

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- 7.00 - 7.30 - spiegazione ed ingeneramento delle condizioni
7.30 - 7.45 - 200m
7.45 - 8.45 - svolgimento pratico dell'addestramento:
Il plotone unitagliato in Ponzione di Resistenza -
contribuzione di due centri di fuoco - precipitazione
del terreno - presa d'impugnazione - lavoro di rafforzamento
e manovramento - determinazione del settore di linea
normale e eventuale - dispendimento del tiro
in punti come "Kritico" del terreno - direzione di tiro
per l'arrivo automatico - stato di ricorrenza per il
fino al disopra delle T.F.) -
8.45 - 9 - riposo
9.00 - 10 - - continuazione dell'addestramento come sopra
10. - 10.30 - - ricapitolazione dell'addestramento svolto, avvenimenti
mentr'atti. -
10.30 - 11.00 - - ritorno all'addestramento - esercizi di aprire
con la manovra artigiana -
11. - 11.30 - - -
13.30 - 14.30 - - pratica d'arma.
14.30 - 14.45 - - riposo
14.45 - 15.45 - - regolamento disciplina dal n. 3 al n. 13 e del
n. 26 al n. 34
15.45 - 16.00 - - riposo
16. - 17. - - lettura O.G. - conseguenti precipitazioni 0032

Comandante [firma]
[firma]

App "B"

CLII DI MITRAGLIERI SOLEGGIATO

(1) Aggiungere: In servizio permanente, richiama il 14.4.44, di complemento, di milizia territoriale, di riserva, ecc. ecc.

Programma per le istruzione domenicali del giorno 14.4.44		
13 - 13.30	-	conferenza rievocativa
13.30 - 13.45	-	riposo
13.45 - 14.45	-	addestramento tecnico sulla mitragliera 32 - alpi di ricambio al tiro T. 17. compiti dei vari servizi - inconvenienze dell'arma
15 - 16	-	come sopra
16 - 16.15	-	riposo
16.15 - 17	-	lettura O.S. - con commento in visione -
		Comandante <i>[Signature]</i>

076

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6/24/15

Inspection (G+AQ)

Q3 by Regt

"PICENO" div

(10 April 44.)

0782

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Q3 in Reg.

"PICENO" Jiv

(10 April 44.)

Gbat/118

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

AQ - CA

REPORT ON: UNIT

POINTS

1. Is unit drawing pay without difficulty ? 1.

REMARKS

yes - from IX CA BARI

Twice monthly. Rates paid according to rates promulgated by Royal Decree up to 1 Nov 43. New rates had been heard of unofficially, but were not yet implemented.

2. How many men in prison ?

2. Regt Comd stated situation was "normal". He gave no figures of those in jail. No personnel under Regt. close arrest.

3. Is accommodation reasonable ?

3. Bunks of Regt HQ + I Bn at MASSAFRA were poor. Cookhouse in MASSAFRA feeding 200 men of Regt HQ was very cramped.

2. How many men in prison ?

3. Is accommodation reasonable ?

4. Sufficient accommodation stores ?

implemented.

2. Regt. Comd stated situation was "normal". He gave no figures of those in gaol. No personnel under Regt. close arrest.

3. Bills of Regt HQ & I Bn at MASSAFRA were poor. Catchment in MASSAFRA feeding 200 men of Regt HQ was very cramped.

4. Shortage of bed boards. Most men on pallets only. Officers well furnished.

6030

Sheet 2

5. Nothing

a) What proportion in BD ?

NIL

b) What is condition of those in ITI uniforms ?

very poor

c) What unit applied for any clothing or needs ?

yes last consignment received on 4 Apr

d) If so to whom ?

PICENO Div HQ

e) Has anyone from BD and ITI uniform ?

NO

f) If so, why ?

NA.

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What unit supplied for any clothing needs?

Is it to whom?

Is anyone below ED and IWI uniform?

Is it, why?

6. ~~ED~~

Are more boots essential?

What unit supplied for them?

Is it to whom?

110000 Cantham Trail
10 Apr 44

Yes last consignment received on 4 Apr.

PICENO Div HQ

c)

NO

N.A.

6.

Yes

Yes

HQ PICENO Div to IX Corps BARR -
no ITI ones available. None of
4000 allotted ex Allied Forces to Div
have reached 93 Int Regt.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR S & T INSPECTING OFFICERS VISITING TROOPED REGIMENTS

This Questionnaire is to be treated rather as Instructions than Orders. Inspecting Officers should not waste valuable time in attempting to answer any one question at the expense of the others. The intention is that each Officer, as a result of his inspection, should be able to submit a report on a Unit, or Units, which should indicate to HQ the exact state of administrative efficiency in so far as it concerns S & T.

S T	REPORT ON : UNIT	POINTS.	REMARKS.
		(1) MESSING.	
a.	How efficiently is Unit being fed?		Average efficiency with facilities available.
b.	What stores are taken to augment Rations, i.e. do they run a canteen?		No garden. 3 live a kind of self-sufficient.
c.	How are men going out all day on duty fed?		Feed centrally at midday.
d.	If possible see a meal actually distributed to the personnel.		Done.
e.	Is the Ration Store clean & tidy?		Very cramped. No damage but.
f.	Are the Ration Containers of Food well kept & up to standard?		Heavy and unsatisfactory.
g.	Are the Vegetables in Store excessive quantities or unsuitable stalk and leaves.		Not visible.
h.	Are there signs of vermin food in the Store contaminating the rest?		There suspected to be blown were separated for exchange.
i.	Is there a system in the Ration Store?		Of a sort.
j.	Is the 10 day feeding programme being kept up?		Yes.
k.	Is the Cookhouse clean and tidy?		No. Area very cramped.
l.	Are the Cooks clean?		Average - wearing ordinary uniform.
m.	Have the Cooks been recently medically inspected for Venereal Disease?		Noted, purchased locally.
n.	What Fuel is being used, and from where is it obtained?		No.
o.	Is any food left over from each day's ration?		None visible.
p.	Inspect to see if Vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away.		
q.	Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day?		Yes.

(2) TRANSPORT

are they going out all day on duty fed?

Yes, they are going out all day on duty fed. Fed centrally at midday.

Done.

e. Is the Nation Store clean & tidy? No, cramped. No damage but located by Brazil.

f. Are the Nation Stores of bread well made & up to standard? Heavy and unpalatable.

g. Are the Vegetables in Store excessive quantities of uneatable stalk and leaves? Not visible.

h. Are there tins of tinned food in the Store contaminating the rest? Those suspected to be blown were separated for exchange.

i. Is there a system in the Nation Store? Of a sort.

j. Is the food being prepared? Yes.

k. Is the Cookhouse clean and tidy? No. Area very cramped.

l. Are the Coops clean? Average. wearing ordinary camouflaged.

m. Have the Coops been recently radioactively inspected for Venereal Diseases? No.

n. What Fuel is being used, and from where is it obtained? Wood, purchased locally.

o. Is any food left over from each day's ration? No.

p. Inspect to see if Vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away. None visible.

q. Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day? Yes.

(2) TRANSPORT.

a. Does Unit own vehicles? Two lorries on loan - 1x2 1/2 ton, 1x3 1/2 ton.

b. Do the Vets look well maintained? Yes, Vets are in average condition.

c. How many Vets are there, & why are the vehicles off the road? Two off the road. Lack of petrol.

d. Do the Vets have any spare parts? NA.

e. Has Unit been able to obtain sufficient Petrol, Oil, etc? Monthly allowance 2000 litres petrol. No stores for last 7 days.

f. Do Officers all live on the spot? Yes.

g. Do Officers live in other villages, & how do they travel to and from? NA.

Signature: 0029
Date: 10 Apr 44

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

G - G3

REPORT ON: UNIT 93 Regt Inf

POINTS

Comd - Col R. FANIZZA

REMARKS

MASSARA

10 April 44

(PICENO DIV) Location

1. General impression and appearance of

Unit - Discipline

There were 225 absentees but most of these had been away some time. They had gone on leave and had not returned.

11 officers and 154 men on leave

2 officers and 90 men in hospital

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

See strength state after App H for WE/TO, and present strength which excludes men in hospital, on leave or absent

1.

Men looked reasonably well but could not look smart as they were dressed in all kinds and conditions of uniforms.

The 2nd Bn was inspected on parade. After being called to attention and stood at ease, they all talked, moved about and showed generally poor parade discipline. Officers and NCOs made no attempt to check this, and it appeared to be accepted as quite normal.

2.

Regtl Band informed me that he could not get more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of his men on training at any time for lack of boots.

3. ARMS - Types

but most of these had been away some time. They had gone on leave and had not returned.

11 ofcs and 154 men on leave

2 ofcs and 90 men in hospital

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

See strength table after App H for WE/TO, and present strength which excludes men in hospital, on leave or absent

3. ARMS - Types

Pistols Beretta 7.6 mm 169
Rifles or Muskets various 6.5 mm 1890
LMG Berda 6.5 mm 72
HMG " 8 " 24
81 mm mortar 148
47x32 mm AT

- Condition

generally

Only fair by Allied standards. Poorly due to lack of cleaning eqpt.

and conditions of uniforms.

The 2nd Bn was inspected on parade. After being called to attention and stood at ease, they all talked, moved about and showed generally poor parade discipline. Officers and NCOs made no attempt to check this, and it appeared to be accepted as quite normal.

2.

Regt band informed me that he could not get more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of his men on training at any time for lack of boots.

3.

Rifles - Old, both in model & condition
MG's - Lack of spares
Mortars - fair

47x32 - No eqpt for pack or draft. Most just hitched on to mules with ropes etc. No arms at all

Should have 130 Beretta Antennas but none held

6028

4. ORGANISATION of TRG

- a) Forms - Division into Field, Weapons Drill, Instructional

Signal Training at a standstill
for lack of trivets sets, telephones
and batteries

- b) Organisation - programme - de-centralisation - hrs

Trng Programmes are made
out weekly, but with no
transport, shortage of clothing &
footwear, and major ration,
intensive training cannot
be attempted

- c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

Generally poor. We saw
no special training
eqpt, and it was not
mentioned

- d) Results - apparent standard -
keenness - interest

The visit of the Allied Officer
provided a certain amount
of interest - possibly much

4.

- a) Bus spent all the morning
out. They have fired on
ranges and done exercises
in attack and defence and
as much marching as boots
with permit.

6) Normal day

0630 - 1100 - out
1130 Midday meal (hot)
1300 - 1700 indoor training
arms drill
weapon training
Theory
cleaning of arms
personal maintenance
lectures

1700 Evening meal (hot)
1800 - 2030 Allowed down
the town
2100 Lights out

- c) Training programmes were
seen in the Regt HQ

All activities limited
by lack of clothing & boots

Trip Programmes are made out weekly, but with no transport, shortage of clothing & footwear, and meagre ration intensive training cannot be attempted

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

Generally poor. He saw no special training capt, and it was not mentioned

d) Results - apparent standard - keenness - interest

The visit of the Allied Officer provoked a certain amount of interest - possibly much needed diversion

e) General

I should not like to be given the job of training this Regt & keeping the men interested with the facilities available - or rather, lack of them

1130 Ridden meat (hot)
1300-1700 indoor training
arms drill
weapon training
theory
cleaning of arms
personal maintenance
lectures

1700 Evening meal (hot)
1800-2030 Allowed down the town
2100 Lights out

c) Training programmes were seen in the Regt HQR

All activities limited by lack of clothing & boots

d) Regt HQR appeared satisfied with standard of small arms training and sand shooting had been satisfactory. Was worried about the 47 x 52 mm guns as most of the trained gunners were older men who had been 'drafted' before

6027

2A

GENERAL

The 93 Inf Regt belonged to the MESSINA Div and are the only part of that Div to return from CROATIA. They then joined the LECNANO Div which has since been dissolved through its other components going, or rather forming the 1 Prot Bde in the line.

The present Regt Band was in RHODES at the time of the Armistice and after a short time in the Ops branch of the Staffs Region, was given command of the 93 Regt in December.

I got the impression that the Regt was rather neglected by the PISENO Div — the parent may be minimal. They are short of a lot of things as Appx B shows — some I did not expect such as 80 pack saddles for mules. They are ^(35 km) farthest from Div HQ, with bad communications — no telephone, no motor cycle, and no lorries at all of their own (2 loaned occasionally for essential duties). The CO has a horse and a car but no tyres. He can telephone to his 1 Bn at

time of the Armistice and after a short time in the Ops branch of the State Department, was given command of the 93 Regt in France.

I got the impression that the Regt was rather neglected by the PICENO Div — no fault may be mutual. They are short of a lot of things as Appx B shows — for example I did not expect such ^(35 km) as 80 pack saddles per mile. They are further from Div HQ, with bad communications — no telephones, no motor cycle, and no lorries at all of their own (2 loaned occasionally for essential duties). The CO has a horse and a car but no tyres. He can telephone to his 1 Bn at CRISPANO (15 km distant) but letters have to go by bicycle and on to Div by train.

It would not surprise me if PICENO Div has to detail two Bns for guard duties (as appears likely at the moment) if this Regt is ever chosen, and I think it would be a good idea. (could start 3A)

Sheet 3.

5. PHYSICAL FITNESS

a) General physique and appearance →

Not seriously at-
tempted for lack of
boots but men march
to and from all
training out of
doors

b) Route Marches

c) P.T.

d) Games and Sports →

5.

Men looked sun-burned and
well. All quite young, in the
early twenties but generally
small.

Plenty a good football ground
and matches held every Sunday.
Again, both and Capt avert
limiting factors

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for
discipline, trg and adm.

Normal

6.

Regt Comd was im-
pressive -
did not grapple or waffle.
Was confident that once boots
& clothing were provided - there
was necessary to heighten morale -
and the report increased, he could
work up enthusiasm and get
good results. Was doing his
best

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7.

Normal for Italian Army -
but difficult to judge on
short visit.

Regt Comd and Adjut
and efficient but 2 i.e. and
2 Bn Comd were rather
lifeless and uninspiring

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

Normal

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

6. Regt Comd was impressive — did not grumble or waffle. Was confident that once boots & clothing were provided — these very necessary to heighten morale — and the job was increased, he could work up enthusiasm and get good results. Was doing his best

7. Normal for Italian Army — but difficult to judge on short visit. ^{and Adj} Regt Comd ^{both} appeared keen and efficient but 2 ic and 2 Bn Comd were rather lifeless and uninspiring. Doctor and Vet were good types and making the best of a bad job.

GENERAL REMARKS

see sheet 2 A opposite

10 April 44

Hampton Ha;

6026

choice. They would get a little fillip in morale and self respect.

The CO stated that at present about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the men wanted to fight, $\frac{1}{3}$ to go to Labour (and eat and earn more) and the remainder were indifferent.

He suggested that the men of Apr 1914/1915 class might be employed on Labour like the other older men. M.S. amounted to 23 Neos and 282 o/s.

If wanted for any serious task the Regt with regular working up after being equipped. The sooner they are given something definite to do, the better.

10 April 44

Hampton

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COMANDO 93° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA
"Impetuosa Messanensis Legio"

9/4 App A

SITUAZIONE FORZA

P E P A R T I	Forza Organica				Forza Presente			
	Uff.	Sott.	Truppa	Quadrup.	Uff.	Sott.	Truppa	Quadrupedi
I Battagl.	34	52	849	134	38	46	795	143
II Battagl.	34	52	849	134	41	49	777	152
Cp. Mortai da 81	4	10	133	32	4	9	104	30
C.O.R.	18	16	151	22	20	23	176	16
Totale	90	130	1982	322	103	127	1852	341

COMANDO 93° REGGIMENTO PANTERIA "MESSIN"
"Impetuosa Messanensis Legio"

170x3

SITUAZIONE DELLA FORZA PRESENTE NEL REGGIMENTO ALLA DATA DEL 10/4/1944.-

- Ufficiali	n°	103
- sottufficiali	"	124
- truppa	"	1852
- quadrupedi	"	341

FORZA ORGANICA DEL REGGIMENTO

- Ufficiali	n°	90
- sottufficiali	"	130
- truppa	"	1982
- quadrupedi	"	322

SITUAZIONE DEI MATERIALI DEL REGGIMENTO DISTINTA PER BLOCCHI DEI VARI SERVIZI:

Servizio sanitario:

Al completo. Mancano solamente 700 pacchetti di medicazione. } su 2202

Servizio Commissariato:

Al completo.

Mancano i seguenti oggetti di corredo:

- stivaletti a gambaletto	paia	2200
- giubbe di panno	n°	2200
- pantaloni di panno	"	2200
- camicie di flanella	"	4400
- calze di cotone o pezze da piedi	paia	4400
- fasce gambiere	n°	2200
- teli da tenda	n°	1800 (completi di paletti e picchetti)

Servizio Artiglieria:

- Armamento individuale:

Mancano n° 130 moschetti automatici "Berretta" cal. 9. } su 130

- Armamento collettivo:

Fucili mitragliatori:

Mancano 38 cassette a zaino per accessori
23 armature centrali da basto
12 serbatoi con guaina di riserva

} su 72
} su 72
} su 18

Mitragliatrici:

Mancano 5 cassette a zaino per accessori
6 cassette carica caricatori
9 serie di materiali per adattamento tiro c.a.-

} su 24
} su 6
} su 12

- Ufficiali n° 90
- sottufficiali " 130
- truppa " 1982
- quadrupedi " 322

SITUAZIONE DEI MATERIALI DEL REGGIMENTO DISTINTA PER BLOCCHI DEI VARI SERVIZI:

Servizio sanitario:

Al completo. Mancano solamente 700 pacchetti di medicazione. } su 2202

Servizio Commissariato:

Al completo.

Mancano i seguenti oggetti di corredo:

- stivaletti a gambaleto paia 2200
- giubbe di panno n° 2200
- pantaloni di panno " 2200
- camicie di flanella " 4400
- calze di cotone o pezze da piedi paia 4400
- fasce gambiere n° 2200
- teli da tenda n° 1800 (completi di paletti e picchetti)

Servizio Artiglieria:

- Armamento individuale:

Mancano n° 130 moschetti automatici "Berretta" cal. 9. } su 130

- Armamento collettivo:

Fucili mitragliatori:

Mancano 38 cassette a zaino per accessori
23 armature centrali da basto
12 serbatoi con guaina di riserva

} su 72
} su 72
} su 18

Mitragliatrici:

Mancano 5 cassette a zaino per accessori
6 cassette carica caricatori
9 serie di materiali per adattamento tiro c.a.-

} su 24
} su 6
} su 12

Mortai da 81:

Mancano: 37 armature centrali porta piastra e munizioni;
12 armature laterali porta mortaio
14 armature laterali porta affusto
75 armature laterali porta munizioni

} su 56
} su 14
} su 14
} su 84

Cannone da 47/32:

Mancano tutti gli accessori e le armature per il sonaggio ed il traino dei pezzi nonchè tutte le cassette per trasporto munizioni.

Situazione materiali del reggimento

Segue : Servizio artiglieria.

- Strumenti ottici e mezzi tecnici :

Mancano : 40 binocoli

6 telemetri per ftr. con base 0,40

} su 51
} su 6

- Munizionamento :

Mancano : tutte le munizioni per cann. da 47/32

tutte le munizioni per moschetto automatico

Le altre munizioni al completo.

Servizio del genio :

Mancano : tutti i mezzi di collegamento radio (6 RF. 1 -
1 R.A. 1).

teli per teloni cifra - 113

pile per apparati telef. di riserva - 44

} su 144
} su 44

Servizio chimico :

- dotazione individuale di respiratori antigas : al completo.

- dotazione di reparto :

Mancano Kg. 200 di cloruro di calcio

" 60 di soda Solwey

un cofanetto per riparazione maschere

} su 600
} su 60
} su 1

Servizio Ippica-Veterinaria :

Mancano : 80 bardature a basto mod. 98

280 copertoni impermeabili del n° 5

200 secchielli di tela per Gov. quadrupedi

200 striglie

20 finimenti per traino e someggio

27 finimenti di rinforzo

15 copertoni del n° 39 per carrette

11 abbeveratoi pieghevoli

3 borse da sellaio

12 funi metalliche per attaccare quadrupedi

} su 219
} su 317
} su 342
} su 342
} su 29
} su 29
} su 29
} su 14
} su 3
} su 18

Servizio automobilistico :

Mancano al completo tutti gli automotomezzi. -

Servizio del genio :

Mancano : tutti i mezzi di collegamento radio (6 RT.1 -
1 R.A.1).
teli per teloni cifra - 113
pile per apparati telef. di riserva -44

} su 144
} su 44
}

Servizio chimico :

- dotazione individuale di respiratori antigas : al completo.
- dotazione di reparto :

Mancano Kg. 200 di cloruro di calcio
" 60 di soda Solwej
un cofanetto per riparazione maschere

} su 600
} su 60
} su 1
}

Servizio Ippica-Veterinaria :

Mancano : 80 bardature e basto mod.98
280 copertoni impermeabili del n° 5
200 secchielli di tela per sov. quadrupedi
200 striglie
20 finimenti per traino e someggio
27 finimenti di rinforzo
15 copertoni del n°39 per carrette
11 abbeveratoi pieghevoli
3 borse da sellaio
12 funi metalliche per attaccare quadrupedi

} su 219
} su 317
} su 342
} su 342
} su 29
} su 29
} su 29
} su 14
} su 3
} su 18
}

Servizio automobilistico :

Mancano al completo tutti gli automotomezzi.-

~~~~~

0783

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6/24/10

Inspection (G + ST)

235 Inf Regt

"Piceno" Div.

5 April 44

0780

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

238 Inf Regt

"Piceno" div.

5 April 44

Cpl 4/11c

REPORT ON INSPECTION OF 255 INFANTRY REGIMENT AT LONDON ON THE 5th APRIL.

Called on Col. ROSSI  
Commander of 253 Infantry Regiment and discussed the  
following S.T matters:-

1. 'Ration Strength of Regiment:- Officers - 129  
K.C.O.s. and Other Ranks - 1775
2. RATIONS. All rations are drawn in bulk every 10 days from Divisional HQ. There were no complaints and the Italian soldier appreciated the ration scale. They would prefer an increase in the bread ration with a corresponding decrease in the biscuit ration.
3. PORACE. Mangione and Barley is drawn in the same way as rations.

Col. ROSSI complained that they were not receiving the Tibben (Wheat Straw) ration. I explained that this was a question of distribution and had been taken up with the Italian War Ministry and S.M.R.E.

47  
TRANSFONIT.

Transport strength 9 Trucks 15cwt.  
Establishment 30 "

All vehicles were in running order, but the number was insufficient to maintain the Regt. requirements and for vehicle maintenance.

## 5. INSPECTION OF BATTALION TRAINING IN THE FIELD.

PERSONNEL: All ranks looked fit and well. The mens clothing and boots were generally bad. 20% of the personnel were off training due to no boots, a percentage of the mens boots were in need of repair. Col. ROSSI said they had a cobbler on the strength of the Regiment, but they were very short of leather for repairing purposes.

6. RATIONS. Was present when the midday meal was served in the field it consisted of:-

- 1 Tin of American Salmon between 2 men.
- 1 Large Italian biscuit.
- 1 Halfpail of shelled almonds.
- 1 Mug of wine.

All personnel seemed quite satisfied and there were no complaints. Col. BOSSI explained that they all received a hot meal in the evening.

7. ANIMALS. An inspection of Regiment's horses and mules was carried out and there were a number in an emaciated condition. It was explained to the O.C. that all animals showing signs of emaciation should be segregated and housed in a separate building. The numbers together with a Veterinary certificate to be forwarded to Italian War Ministry for onward transmission to Army Sub Commission. It was explained that additional forage could be obtained for this purpose on application.
8. Inspection with regard to Messing, Ration Stores and Cookhouse is attached.

Establishment 30  
All vehicles were in running order, but the number was insufficient to maintain the Bgt. requirements and for vehicle maintenance.

5. INSPECTION OF BATTALION TRAINING IN THE FIELD.

PERSONNEL: All ranks looked fit and well. The mens clothing and boots were generally bad. 20% of the personnel were off training due to no boots, a percentage of the mens boots were in need of repair. Col. ROSSI said they had a cobbler on the strength of the Regiment, but they were very short of leather for repairing purposes.

6. RATIONS. Was present when the midday meal was served in the field it consisted of:-

- 1 Tin of American Salmon between 2 men.
- 1 Large Italian biscuit.
- 1 Handful of shelled almonds.
- 1 Mug of wine.

All personnel seemed quite satisfied and there were no complaints. Col. ROSSI explained that they all received a hot meal in the evening.

7. ANIMALS. An inspection of Regiment's horses and mules was carried out and there were a number in an emaciated condition. It was explained to the O.C. that all animals showing signs of emaciation should be segregated and housed in a separate building. The numbers together with a Veterinary certificate to be forwarded to Italian War Ministry for onward transmission to Army Sub Commission. It was explained that additional forage could be obtained for this purpose on application.

8. Inspection with regard to Messing, Ration Stores and Cookhouse is attached.

6th April 44.

*W. W. Brown*

Major.  
D.A.D.S.F.

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

6024

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR S & T INSPECTING OFFICERS

This Questionnaire is to be treated rather as Instructions than Orders. Inspecting Officers should not waste valuable time in attempting to answer any one question at the expense of the others. The intention is that each Officer, as a result of his inspection, should be able to submit a report on a Unit, or Units, which should indicate to Hq. the exact state of administrative efficiency in so far as it concerns S & T.

S. 1 MAJOR CANN. D.D.S.T. 5 Apr 44  
 PERSON ON: UNIT 235 INFANTRY REGT. AT LOCROTONDO.

| POINTS                                                                                                                                                                                                           | REMARKS.                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) MESSING.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| a. How efficiently is Unit being fed?<br>What stores are taken to augment Rations, i.e. do they run a garden?<br>How are Men going out all day on duty fed?                                                      | <u>Very well, Ration scale appreciated</u><br><u>White Mtn's vegetables purchased locally</u><br><u>No</u><br><u>Rations taken with them</u>                         |
| d. Is it possible to see a meal actually distributed to the personnel.                                                                                                                                           | <u>Midday meal served in the full (attached)</u>                                                                                                                     |
| e. Is the Ration store clean & tidy?<br>Are the ration boxes of bread well made & in to standard?<br>Have the vegetables in store excessive quantities of untable stalk and leaves.                              | <u>Yes</u><br><u>Yes</u><br><u>No</u>                                                                                                                                |
| h. Are there signs of rotting food in the store containing the rats?<br>Is there a system in the Ration store?<br>Is the 10 day feeding programme being kept up?<br>Is the condition clean and dry?              | <u>No 2 tins of P. Meat (consumed) were seen</u><br><u>No all unburnt this are returned to issuing Dept.</u><br><u>Yes</u><br><u>Yes</u><br><u>Yes</u><br><u>Yes</u> |
| i. Are the Cooks clean?<br>Have the Cooks been recently personally inspected for Venereal Disease?                                                                                                               | <u>Yes</u><br><u>Yes</u>                                                                                                                                             |
| m. What fuel is being used, and from where is it obtained?<br>Is any food left over from each day's ration?<br>Inspect to see if vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away. | <u>Wood Purchased Locally</u><br><u>No</u>                                                                                                                           |
| o. Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day?                                                                                                                                                       | <u>Yes</u>                                                                                                                                                           |

(2) TRANSPORT.

c. duty fed?

d. If possible use a meal actually distributed to the personnel.

Rations taken with them

Midday meal served in the full (attached) report

e. Is the Patton Store clean & tidy?

yes

f. Are the ration leaves of bread well made & up to standard?

yes

g. Give the vegetables in store excessive quantities of uneatable stalk and leaves.

No

h. Are there tins of purvi, food in the store containing the rats?

No 2 Tins of P. Meat (unsound) were seen. All unsound this are returned to issuing Dept.

i. Is there a system in the Patton Store?

yes

j. Is this 10 day feeding programme being kept up?

yes

k. Is the Cookhouse clean and tidy?

yes

l. Are the Cooks clean?

yes

m. Have the Cooks been recently medically inspected for venereal diseases?

yes

n. What fuel is being used, and from where is it obtained?

Wood Purchased Locally

o. Is any food left over from each day's ration?

No

p. Is it to see if vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away?

yes

q. Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day?

yes

(2) TRANSPORT.

a. Has Unit any Vehicles?

9 Trucks 15 carts.

b. Are the Vehicles well maintained?

yes

c. How many are off the road? How many vehicles are running, & how many are off the road?

9 None

d. How are the Vehicles kept in the road?

They have them about

e. Are the vehicles kept in the road?

yes

f. Do Officers and NCOs on this spot?

yes

g. Do Officers live in other villages, how do they travel to and from?

yes

6023



4. TRANSPORT.

Transport strength 9 Trucks 15cwt.  
Establishment 30 "

All vehicles were in running order, but the number was insufficient to maintain the Regt. requirements and for vehicle maintenance.

5. INSPECTION OF BATTALION TRAINING IN THE FIELD.

PERSONNEL: All ranks looked fit and well. The mens clothing and boots were generally bad. 20% of the personnel were off training due to no boots, a percentage of the mens boots were in need of repair. Col. ROSSI said they had a cobbler on the strength of the Regiment, but they were very short of leather for repairing purposes.

6. RATIONS. Was present when the midday meal was served in the field it consisted of:-

- 1 Tin of American Salmon between 2 men.
- 1 Large Italian biscuit.
- 1 Handful of shelled almonds.
- 1 Mug of wine.

All personnel seemed quite satisfied and there were no complaints. Col. ROSSI explained that they all received a hot meal in the evening.

7. ANIMALS. An inspection of Regiment's horses and mules was carried out and there were a number in an emaciated condition. It was explained to the O.C. that all animals showing signs of emaciation should be segregated and housed in a separate building. The numbers together with a Veterinary certificate to be forwarded to Italian War Ministry for onward transmission to Army Sub Commission. It was explained that additional forage could be obtained for this purpose on application.

8. Inspection with regard to Messing, Ration Stores and Cookhouse is attached.

6th April 44.

(C, RQ)

*V. W. Baum*

Major.  
D.A.D.S.T.

6022





INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

AQ - C4

REPORT ON: UNIT

5 Apr 44

235 INF REGT - LOCOROTONDO

POINTS

REMARKS

1. Is unit drawing pay without difficulty ? 1.

yes

2. How many men in prison ?

2. 10-12 under armt-  
arrangements awaiting  
trial.

3. Is accommodation reasonable ?

3. Yes. Regt HQ, one bn,  
motel bay accommodated in  
good bldgs - LOCOROTONDO. One  
bn poor bldgs but weatherproof.  
MARTINA FRANCA.

4. Sufficient accommodation stated ?

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2. How many men in prison ?

2. 10-12 under unit-  
arrangements awaiting  
trial.

3. Is accommodation reasonable ?

3. Yes. Right H.Q., one bn.  
Mortar Coy accommodated in  
"Good Hills" LOCEPRENDO. One  
bn poor billets but weathering  
MARTINA FRANCA.

4. Sufficient accommodation stores ?

4. Army provide a certain  
number of wooden beds. Bn  
at MARTINA FRANCA has none.  
Sufficient caddens for cooking.  
Stores by our standards  
are scanty but unit seemed  
satisfied and do a certain  
amount of improvisation.

6020

Sheet 2

5. Clothing

a) What proportion in ED ?

5. a)

NIL

b) What is condition of those in ITI uniform ?

b)

Very poor incl  
offrs.

Has unit applied for any clothing it needs ?

Yes

If so to whom ?

79 Piceno Div.

c) Are anyone both BD and ITI uniform ?

c)

No.

If so, why ?

1) What is condition of these in ITI uniform?

b) Very poor incl  
offrs.

Has unit applied for any clothing it needs?

Yes

If so to whom?

HQ. PICEHO Div.

c) Has anyone worn ID and ITI uniform?

No.

If so, why?

6. Boots

Are more boots essential?

6. Yes. 25% of unit is non-effective through lack of boots. 50% of remainder need new boots.

Has unit applied for them?

Yes.

If so, to whom?

HQ. PICEHO Div.

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

G - G3

REPORT ON: UNIT

5 APR 66

235 INF REGT - PICENO DIV.

POINTSREMARKS

1. General impression and appearance of

Unit - Discipline

1. Good. Unit seems well-run and cared for. Saluting very good.

Strength Status

| <u>OFFERS</u> | <u>ORS</u>  |
|---------------|-------------|
| 90            | 2112        |
| 29            | 1755        |
| 31            | 539         |
|               | 186         |
| <u>160</u>    | <u>2500</u> |

WE.

Present

leave

Hosp

Actual Strength

most of them on leave are out of Regt control. It is not known when or if they will return or why they don't return. Regt has "written them off."

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

2. Approx 40% of numbers present. 60% would be available but 20% have no boots.

3. ARMS - Types

3.

WE.  
Present  
Leave  
Hosp  
Actual Strength

OPRS  
90  
129  
31  
160  
2500

most of them on leave  
are out of sight control. It is  
not known when or if they  
will return or if they don't  
return. Regt has "written them  
off."

2. Nog Officers and men available

for trg

2.

Approx 40% of  
numbers present.  
60% would be available  
but 20% have no boots.

3. ARMS - Types

3.

Rifles - 6 different Models  
L.M.G., Breda.

M.M.G.

81 M.M. mortar

Very worn.

Good - no spare parts

"

"

"

Rifles  
L.M.G.  
M.M.G.  
Mortars

- Condition

6019

Sheet 2.

4. ORGANISATION of TRG

- a) Forms - Division into Field, Weapons Drill, Instructional

- b) Organisation - programme - decentralisation - hrs

- c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

- d) Results - apparent standard - keenness - interest

4.

Concurrent Programme  
Submitted to Div.

normal. Programme  
left to weather etc  
permit. Night combat

Bn supervision and  
implementation

I watched a bn  
drilling out L.M.C.  
practice on an im-  
proved range. A  
smooth and practical  
practice, well run by  
Bn cmd and OFs.  
All seemed keen.

Shooting very fair.  
Range discipline and

b) Organisation - programme - de-  
centralisation - hrs

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard -  
keenness - interest

e) General

normal. Programme  
left to weather the  
storm. Next combat  
for supervision and  
implementation

I watched a bn  
coming out L. sub.  
practice on an im-  
proved range. Am-  
smooth and practical  
practice, well run by  
Bn cmd and ofrs.  
All seemed keen.

Shooting very fair.  
Range discipline and  
arrangements for batt  
markers and feeding  
was excellent.

6018

Sheet 3.

5. PHYSICAL FITNESS

a) General physique and appearance

5.

Normal

The range is about 5-  
miles off in hilly country.

b) Route marches

c) P.T.

d) Games and Sports

Football - shortage of  
bladders.

6. COMMAND

6.

a) Responsibility

Regt Comd - Full Col.  
2nd in Comd - Lt. Col.  
Adj. - Capt.

b) Delegation of duties

normal decentralisation  
to Bns and Corps but HQ  
retaining definite control.  
Adm seemed good.  
Agood Adjutant.

c) Degree of decentralisation for  
discipline, trg and adm.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

7.

a) Relations of Officers and Men

Seemed very good.

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

Football.  
Soccer - training band -

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

6.

Right Command - Full Col.  
2nd in Command - Lt. Col.  
Right - Capt.

Normal decentralisation.  
To Bns and Coy. but HQ  
exercises definite control.  
Adm. seemed good.  
A good Adjutant.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7.

Seemed very good.

Football.  
S.M.P.E. Training party.  
Night. concert parties  
forming.

Ch. Buchanan - Director.  
H. 6017  
Capt.

10803

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

G/24/1B

Inspection (G)

152 Army Regt

PICENO Div

14 April 44

10801

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

152 Army Regt

PICENO Div

4 April 44

624116

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

Subject:- Tibben (Straw) for feeding Animals of PIGENO DIVISION.

Italian War Ministry.

Army Sub Comm. ACC.  
Main HQ (MIA)  
LEQUILÉ (LECCE)  
ST/13c.  
4 Apr 44.

1. A visit was made to the Headquarters of the PIGENO DIVISION on 3rd April 1944, by representatives of this Sub Commission.
2. General Guccione complained that they were not receiving their requirements of Straw for animal feeding.
3. It was pointed out to General Guccione that the Straw requirements for the total animal strength of the Italian Army were released every 10 days from the MATERA or POTENZA Province, and that the movement and distribution of the Straw to where it was required was the responsibility of the Italian War Ministry in conjunction with S.M.R.E.
4. As this matter is of extreme urgency, will you please make the necessary arrangements to forward to the PIGENO DIVISION regularly their forage allocation.
5. It is pointed out that the despatch of Straw from MATERA to MARTINA FRANCA and to other destinations has not been shown on the weekly Rail Movement programme as submitted by S.M.R.E. to this Sub Commission.

BC

*L. W. Bannister*  
1st Lieut. Col.,  
ADST, Army Sub Comm. ACC.

6016

REPORT ON VISIT TO HQ PERCENO DIVISION AT MALONA FRANCA AND  
INSPECTION OF 152 ARTILLERY REGIMENT ON 3rd APRIL.

Called on General Guccione, Commander of the Perceno Division, and discussed the following S & T matters:-

1. Strength of Div. = 438 Officers.  
559 N.C.Os.  
9005 Other Ranks.
2. RATIONS. All rations are drawn from the BARI DEPOT in bulk every 10 days, and distributed to the various Units in accordance with their 10 daily strength requirements. There were no complaints with regard to the rations, the soldiers were very pleased with what they received.
3. FORAGE. Strength of Animals = 564 Horses.  
1101 Mules.

Oats or Mangiene scale, as issued, is 4.2 Kilos per animal per day. The General thought that this was insufficient to keep the animals in a satisfactory condition, especially in view of the fact that they were not receiving the Wheat Straw. I pointed out that the forage requirements for the total Animal strength of the Italian Army, as submitted by Italian War Ministry, was released by AFHQ every 10 days:-

The forage (Wheat Straw) is at present being released from the CONORZIO AGRARIO Matera Province.

The Oats, (or Mangiene)(or Barley) is being released by PBS, and railed to BARI. I explained that transporting the Wheat Straw from MATERA and the Barley or Mangiene from station to its final destination was the responsibility of the S.M.R.E. The General said they had not received any Wheat Straw for some considerable time, and when they did, it arrived very irregularly. I said I would check up with War Ministry and S.M.R.E. when I returned.

4. TRANSPORT and POL.

Transport Strength = 8 x 3 Ton lorries.  
18 Trucks 15 cwt.

There were no complaints with regard to transport, all vehicles were in running order. POL requirements were being supplied.

5. INSPECTED 152 ARTILLERY REGT. Commanded by Col. Pasquale NASTA. Report attached.

4th April 44.

*S. L. Bann*

Major.  
D.A.D.S.T.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR S & INSPECTING OFFICERS VISITING UNIT

This Questionnaire is to be treated rather as Instructions than Orders. Inspecting Officers should not waste valuable time in attempting to answer any one question at the expense of the others. The intention is that each Officer, as a result of his inspection, should be able to submit a report on a Unit, or Units, which should indicate to MTA the exact state of administrative efficiency in so far as it concerns S & T.

S T MAJOR CANN DADST. 3 April 44  
REPORT ON : UNIT 152 ARY REGT. Cmd by Col Pasquale NASTA

| POINTS.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | REMARKS.                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) MESSING.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                 |
| a. How efficiently is Unit being fed?<br>What steps are taken to augment Rations, ie. do they run a garden?<br>How are Men going out all day on duty fed?                                                        | <i>Very well. Soldiers appropriate the ration scale when vegetables &amp; little dried fruit purchased locally. No.</i>         |
| d. If possible see a meal actually distributed to the personnel.                                                                                                                                                 | <i>Rations taken with them including cooks</i>                                                                                  |
| e. Is the Ration Store clean & tidy?<br>Are the ration loaves of Bread well made & up to standard?<br>Have the Vegetables in Store excessive quantities of uneatable stalk and leaves.                           | <i>yes</i><br><i>yes</i><br><i>No</i>                                                                                           |
| f. Are there tins of putrid food in the Store contaminating the rest?<br>Is there a system in the Ration Store?                                                                                                  | <i>No</i><br><i>yes very efficient</i>                                                                                          |
| g. Is the 10 day feeding programme being kept up?<br>Is the Cookhouse clean and tidy?                                                                                                                            | <i>yes</i><br><i>yes</i>                                                                                                        |
| h. Are the Cocks clean?<br>Have the Cocks been recently medically inspected for Venereal Diseases?                                                                                                               | <i>yes</i><br><i>yes</i>                                                                                                        |
| i. What Fuel is being used, and from where is it obtained?<br>Is any food left over from each day's ration?<br>Inspect to see if Vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away. | <i>Wood. From the woods near by. Purchased locally.</i><br><i>No</i><br><i>Col. said that it was very seldom any left over.</i> |
| j. Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day?                                                                                                                                                       | <i>yes</i>                                                                                                                      |

If possible see a meal actually  
 a. distributed to the personnel.  
Nations taken with them including cooks.

- e. Is the Ration Store clean & tidy? yes  
 f. Are the ration loaves of Bread well made & up to standard? yes  
 g. Have the Vegetables in Store excessive quantities of uneatable stalk and leaves. No  
 h. Are there tins of putrid food in the Store contaminating the rest? No  
 i. Is there a system in the Ration Store? yes very efficient  
 j. Is the 10 day feeding programme being kept up? yes  
 k. Is the Cookhouse clean and tidy? yes  
 l. Are the Cooks clean? yes  
 m. Have the Cooks been recently medically inspected for Venereal Disease? yes  
 n. What Fuel is being used, and from where is it obtained? Wood from the woods nearby purchased  
 o. Is any food left over from each day's ration? No Col. said that it was very seldom any left over.  
 p. Inspect to see if Vegetable trimmings that could reasonably be made into stew is not thrown away.  
 q. Is any check kept of the No. of Men being fed each Day? yes

## (2) TRANSPORT.

- a. Has Unit any Vehicles? Yes Tot: 100 vehicles 15 light 55 Heavy  
 b. Do the Vehs look well maintained? Yes. Difficult to maintain vehicles with the work they are running 6 motor cycles running have to do 19 off the road 15 off road.  
 c. How many Vehs are runners, & how many are off the road? Due to lack of spare parts - yes.  
 d. Why are the Vehicles off the road? Indents have been forwarded to S.M.A.E.  
 e. What have they done about obtaining spare parts? yes drawn from Bari  
 f. Has Unit been able to obtain sufficient Petrol, Oil, etc? yes  
 g. Do Officers all live on the spot?  
 h. If Officers live in other villages, how do they travel to and fro?

6014

Con i viveri di cui alla presente tabella possono essere distribuiti  
I soldati e seguiti tipi di rancio che si segnalano a titolo indicativo:

### 1°) PER 3 GIORNI DELLA DECADA

#### MATTINO

un minestrone costituito da:

|                          |     |     |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| - pasta.....             | gr. | 100 |
| - legumi.....            | "   | 50  |
| oppure: o                |     |     |
| - verdure essiccate..... | "   | 113 |
| - verdure fresche.....   | "   | 226 |
| - vino.....              | l.  | 1/4 |

#### SERA

|                                                                                |     |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| - carne con verdure.....                                                       | gr. | 113 |
| - salata o legumi<br>(da acquistarsi colte le verdure<br>miglioramento rancio) |     |     |
| - frutta fresca.....                                                           | gr. | 113 |
| - frutta secca.....                                                            | "   | 226 |
| - vino.....                                                                    | l.  | 1/4 |

### 2°) PER DUE GIORNI DELLA DECADA

#### MATTINO

|                       |     |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| - pasta asciutta..... | gr. | 150 |
| - frutta fresca.....  | "   | 113 |
| - frutta secca.....   | "   | 226 |
| - vino.....           | l.  | 1/4 |

#### SERA

|                                                                                                      |     |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| - carne.....                                                                                         | gr. | 113 |
| - un minestrone di verdure<br>e legumi ed altri<br>generi da acquistarsi<br>col migliormento rancio. |     |     |
| - vino.....                                                                                          | l.  | 1/4 |

### 3°) PER 5 GIORNI DELLA DECADA

#### MATTINO

|                              |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| un minestrone costituito da: |     |     |
| - pasta.....                 | gr. | 100 |
| - legumi.....                | "   | 50  |
| oppure:                      |     |     |
| - verdure essiccate.....     | "   | 113 |
| - verdure fresche.....       | "   | 226 |
| - vino.....                  | l.  | 1/4 |

#### SERA

|                                                                |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| - Salsiccia.....                                               | gr. | 226 |
| - con fagioli acquistati<br>con il migliormento rancio<br>cio. |     |     |
| - frutta fresca.....                                           | gr. | 113 |
| - frutta secca.....                                            | "   | 226 |
| - vino.....                                                    | l.  | 1/4 |

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Verdura secca..... 113  
- Verdura fresca..... 226  
- vino..... 1/4

Verdura secca..... 113  
- Verdura fresca..... 226  
- vino..... 1/4

20) PER DUE GIORNI DELLA DECADE

MATTINO

- pasta asciutta..... 150  
- frutta fresca..... 113  
- frutta secca..... 28  
- vino..... 1/4

SERA

- carne..... gr. 113,3  
- un minestrone di verdura  
e legumi ed altri  
generi da acquistare  
col miglioramento fresco.  
- vino..... 1/4

30) PER 5 GIORNI DELLA DECADE

MATTINO

- un minestrone sostituito da:  
- pasta..... gr. 100  
- legumi..... " 56  
prepara:  
- verdura secca..... 113  
- verdura fresca..... 226  
- vino..... 1/4

SERA

- Salmone..... gr. 226,8  
col filetto squisito  
col il miglioramento fresco  
cio.  
- frutta fresca..... gr. 113  
- frutta secca..... " 28  
- vino..... 1/4

-----

Breakdown of Italian Rations.  
 ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

1. For 3 Days of the Decade.Morning

Soup, consisting of:

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Macaroni     | 100 gr  |
| Veg (pulses) | 56      |
| or           |         |
| Dd Veg       | 113     |
| Fresh Veg    | 226     |
| Wine         | 1/4 Lt. |

Evening.

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Meat, with  | 113.3 gr |
| Saute Veg   |          |
| or Veg      |          |
| Fresh Fruit | 113      |
| Dry Fruit   | 28       |
| Wine        | 1/4 Lt   |

2. For 2 Days of the Decade.

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Macaroni    | 150 gr |
| Fresh Fruit | 113    |
| Dry Fruit   | 28     |
| Wine        | 1/4 Lt |

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Meat            | 113.3 gr |
| Soup consisting |          |
| of Veg, pulses, |          |
| etc.            |          |
| Wine            | 1/4 Lt   |

3. For 5 Days of the Decade.

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Soup consisting of |        |
| Macaroni           | 100 gr |
| Veg (pulses)       | 56     |
| or                 |        |
| Dd Veg             | 113    |
| Fresh Veg          | 226    |
| Wine               | 1/4 Lt |

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Salmon, with | 226.8 gr |
| Salad        |          |
| Fresh Fruit  | 113      |
| Dry Fruit    | 28       |
| Wine         | 1/4 Lt   |

Note: / (To be purchased from Messing Cash Allowance).

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

G - G3

REPORT ON : UNIT 152 Arty Rgt (PIVENO DIV.)

POINTS

1. General impression and appearance of

Unit - Discipline

REMARKS

1. General impression good.  
Saluting good. Men seen  
were quite well  
trained out.

2. Nos Officers and men available  
for trg

2. Parade Stab - 3 Apr 44.

Officers 90  
Men 1,020.

Difference between W.E. of  
O.R.s (1,408) & parade stab  
explained partly by deficiency  
115 Drivers, 4 W.O.s deserting,  
leave, hospital, detention.

3. ARMS - Types

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

2. Parade Stab - 3 Apr 44.

offrs 90

Men 1,020.

Difference between W.E. of  
O.R.s (1,408) & parade stab  
explained partly by deficiency  
115 Drivers, A.W.O.L. desertions,  
leave, hospitalized, detention.

3. ARMS - Types

3. Two Btys (complete to W.E.)  
of 100/175.

One Bty 75/175

One Tp 20-mm AA.

Condition Fair except one  
gun in the 75/17 Bty  
inspected which had rust  
in the bore.

Small arms - not looked at.

- Condition

6012

Sheet 2.

4. ORGANISATION of TRG

a) Forms - Division into Field, Weapons Drill, Instructional

b) Organisation - programme - decentralisation - hrs

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard - keenness - interest

4.

Auty. Trg. programme very ambitious if carried out as projected on paper. - Cpl. Bty, Rgt. Trg appeared well run & carried out enthusiastically. duty Practice Shots starting 12 April for all three Btys, weather permitting. Each Bty has own range. No miniature ranges for indoor trg. at least 50% of the Rgt. have already seen action.

Run drill watched. Run team show by allied standards. But know their drill & parts of equipment - good.

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

Each Bty has own range.  
No miniature ranges as for  
indoor trg.  
at least 50% of the  
Rgt have already seen  
action.

d) Results - apparent standard -  
keenness - interest

Have drill watched. Have team  
show by allied standards.  
But know their drill & parts  
of equipment  
interest - good.

e) General

Div. Comd. Gen. GUCCIONE  
(ex PRA Y army) & Chief  
of Staff Lieut Col INGHILLERI  
are both gunners & duty  
in the Div, both its  
trg. & adm. are carefully  
studied.

6011

Sheet 3.

5. PHYSICAL FITNESS

a) General physique and appearance

b) Route Marches

c) P.T.

d) Games and Sports

5.

There seen good & fit.

Not at present. Boots scarce.

Yes.

Football & Land-hunting.  
Bladders short.

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

6.

Delegation & decentralisation to  
Ptg. Coy. Comd. appeared  
greater than is usual in  
Shahin Army. Regt.  
Comd. knew his job &  
was keen & enthusiastic.  
Hoped to receive Allied  
equipment.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7. Normal.

As far as could be  
judged - normal. Officer  
interest in men's feeding  
kitbags, washing, amenities  
seemed higher than Shahin  
average.

No. 785020

Bladder sheet.

**6. COMMAND**

- ### a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

## 7. MANAGEMENT

- g.) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7. Normal.

as for  
judged  
interest - in  
as could be  
named. O. J. C.  
men's feeding  
kitchen, washing, amount is  
seemed higher than Phalan  
average.

Org. recreation. Football &  
Carter hunting.

*A. H. Allen*

4 April 1964.

0818

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G/24/A

Inspection (G + Dd)

HQ PICENO DIV.

3 April 44

10819

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

Inspection (over)

HQ PICENO DIV.

3 April 44

G/24/1A

Visit to PLOMO Division - 3 April 44.  
 1. Called on the Divisional Commander - General GUCCIONE:-

The General asks for a complete set of clothing per man - Boots especially being asked for - to allow the training of the Division to be carried out.

|                 |                   |               |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <u>Strength</u> | Officers.....     | 438           |
|                 | NOO's .....       | 559           |
|                 | OR's.....         | 2,005         |
|                 | <u>TOTAL.....</u> | <u>10,002</u> |

A general complaint was made re shortage of food for Horses and Men. Shortage considered due to lack of transport.

There is also a shortage of Horse and Mule Shoes and Nails and a dearth of Cleaning Materials for Guns and Harness.

|                          |            |       |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|
| <u>Animals, Strength</u> | Horses.... | 554   |
|                          | Mules....  | 1,101 |

A certain amount of Harness requires changing.

2. Visited 151 Regt of Arty - Col PASQUALE in Command:-

|           |        |     |
|-----------|--------|-----|
| Batteries | 107/17 | - 2 |
| "         | 75/27  | - 1 |
| Troops    | 20mm   | - 1 |

I went round a Battery at CIGLIE, and found the Guns clean, but the working parts dry through lack of oil and grease. This, in action, would tend to slow down the rate of fire.

The men were poorly clad. The Horses in poor condition due to reason already mentioned.

There were Mosebags deficient; the fodder being, for some animals, thrown into a long trough. Thus allowing fast eating of food by some Horses and giving opportunity for this type of Horse to steal the food of slow feeders, which might be on either side.

It was noticed too that the animals had been clipped all over and had been left in the open.

Clipping of this kind coupled with exposure would be a "long step" towards their present poor condition

Ammunition 250 Rounds per Gun has been issued and drawn for ops. purposes. 30 Rounds extra per Gun had been drawn for practice.

*Handwritten signature/initials*

ARMY, DEPARTMENT  
Horses... 1,104

A certain amount of harness requires changing.

2. Visited 151 Regt of Arty - Col PASQUALE, in Command:-

*NATO*  
Batteries 107/17 - 2  
" 75/27 - 1  
Troops 20mm - 1

I went round a Battery at CICLIE, and found the guns clean, but the working parts dry through lack of oil and grease. This, in action, would tend to slow down the rate of fire.

The men were poorly clad. The horses in poor condition due to reason already mentioned.

There were horsebags deficient; the fodder being, for some animals, thrown into a long trough. Thus allowing fast eating of food by some horses and giving opportunity for this type of horse to steal the food of slow feeders, which might be on either side.

It was noticed too that the animals had been clipped all over and had been left in the open.

Clipping of this kind coupled with exposure would be a "long step" towards their present poor condition.

Ammunition 250 Rounds per Gun has been issued and drawn for ops. purposes. 30 Rounds extra per Gun has been drawn for practice.

In the field.  
2 April 1943

*J. P. P. P.*  
Major.  
Army Sub Comm. AGO.

6009

11 is unit drawing apy without difficulty

2 How many men is prison Do ✓

5 Is even reasonable for the whole, primitive

homely & different

Bar

Ernest

Poor Slabby & Patched.

Yes

5-14-52

2

Aug 25 II

Training held up through poor conditions. unavail.

24

yes

57 R.F.

looking on ground, being in the main

cauldrons feeding on flames

Fence & coopers, wheelers, typists

4 cooks for 1500 men each day

3/4/44.

John May Jr

b What is condition of these in ITH uniform *from Shabby & patched*

Has unit applied for any cloth, & it needs *yes*

If so to whom *S.M.R.E.*

c Has anyone both ED and ITH Uniform *NO*

If so why

6 Boots *Training held up through poor condition boots*

Are more boots essential *yes*

Has unit applied for them *yes*

If so to whom *S.M.R.E.*

*Cooking on ground, using in the main  
boulders resting on stones  
Tents & cookers, likewise Tipped  
& cooked for 1500 men each day*

*3/4/42.*

*S. J. R. E. Major*

*N.H. 4/4*

6008

INSPECTION VISITS TO ITALIAN FORMATIONS

G - G3

REPORT ON : UNIT

3 April 44

110. PICELO DIVISION

POINTS1. General impression and appearance ofUnit - Discipline

As the 336 Inf had recently moved to MAGGIORE (RACCA), I walked unaccompanied through the barracks for 45 mins. I had advance from detailed inspection and they still be unperturbed. I mentioned just finished drawing, went to barracks. I saw impression of a unit in the division and my report is colored by this impression, in part.

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

REMARKS1. Command - Gen. GUCCIONE

G. I. H. Col. GUCCIONE. I got the impression that the Division was quite well run. The Command and his senior staff officers seem to know how they stand and what they want. Very keen on training. Discipline seemed good and the command was very fair considering the condition of equipment and clothing.

2.

3. ARMS - Types

3. The arms in the infantry

...for 48 men. I had no time for a detailed inspection and they will be inspected later. I have had just finished drawing 1 week's work. I have a suban impression of a week in the division and my report is colored by this impression, in part.

2. Nos Officers and men available

for trg

3. ARMS - Types

- Condition

The Division was just well run. The bond and his seniors staff ops seem to know how they stand and what they want. Very keen on training. Discipline seemed good and the current was very fair considering the condition of Egypt and clothing.

2.

3. The arms in the infantry are very well kept. The Div bond asked if he could have up to date allied artillery, 100mm howitzer and hope of any allied equipment. Vehicles are badly needed and I told him we were trying to purchase this 1st mainly animal and he says the image is not getting 6007.

4. ORGANISATION of TRG

a) Forms - Division into Field, Weapons Drill, Instructional

b) Organisation - programme - decentralisation - hrs

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard - keenness - interest

4. Field and individual try is concurrent. Field every morning from 0830 to 1030 hrs. Instructional from 1330 to 1630 hrs.

Field try programme is progressive and then try is working progress. Has also exercises with Artillery.

No night try at present but will be when weather warms.

They intend to carry out field firing exercises limited only support fire.

They have recently done range practice, all comes. No shortage of

ranges. They have about 40 vds practice available program and 70 vds per rifle. Rather short for automatic weapons and mortars.

They have at of doms and don't use training equipment. Diagrams are pinned up in all the rooms.

Division uses a training directip and units submit programmes. Done in Unit.

the times. I saw training programme firing each day, each day for each unit, I also saw Scheme for a 2 the exercise with Artillery.

Artillery programme and well.

c) Equipment - Attempts at improvisation

d) Results - apparent standard -  
keenness - interest

e) General

trained arty support fire  
they have recently  
done range practice, all  
rounds. No shortage of  
snaps. They have about  
40. mls practice available  
per gun and 70 mls per  
rifle. Rather short for  
automatic weapons and  
mortars.

They have no of doors  
and don't use training  
equipment. Diagrams are  
pinned up in all RR rooms.

Division was a training  
directly and units' subunit  
programmes. Some on that  
with time. I saw training  
programme firing each by 2  
each day for each unit. I  
also saw Scheme for a 2  
the exercise with arty.

Artillery programme  
very ambitious and well-  
produced. (The Command is an  
ex Artillery type).

I got the impression that  
training was given prominence  
in the Division. They will  
welcome an ex-artillery unit  
anytime.

Comment that by is  
haunted by lack of boots?

6006

Sheet 3.

5. PHYSICAL FITNESS

a) General physique and appearance

b) Route Marches

c) P.T.

d) Games and Sports

5.

Normal.

Very fit - presented due to  
lack of both.

Say they combine it with  
assault training

Football - some units have  
played British teams recently  
Shortage of football blankets.

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for  
discipline, trg and adm.

6.

Normal

Training seemed all  
right but I suspect senior  
offrs in regiments leave  
very little to juniors.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

7.

Seemed quite good.  
Officers step out in  
towns but are orderly  
offrs per say the plato  
"in".

Football  
Spartan and wind  
in. Organised recreation

6. COMMAND

a) Responsibility

b) Delegation of duties

c) Degree of decentralisation for discipline, trg and adm.

7. MAN MANAGEMENT

a) Relations of Officers and Men

b) Interest in Men

c) Organised recreation

Shortage of football grounds.

6.

Normal

Training seemed all right but 1 suspect senior officers in regiments leave everything to juniors.

7.

Seemed quite good. Officers ship out in towns but are orderly. Officers pay very little.

Football  
S.M.C. send mixed parties of entertainers. With can their own concert parties

W. J. Johnson. 6305  
3 6 44

C O P I A

*Subj*  
~~OGGETTO:~~ Addestramento al combattimento del btg. fuc. in cooperazione con l'artiglieria.

Fogli di Massafra e Grottaglie della Carta d'Italia 1:50.000.-

*Obj*  
SCOPO:

Impiego del btg. virinformato da un gruppo artiglieria nell'attacco contro nemico organizzato a difesa.  
Saranno esaminati: occupazione e sistemazione della base di partenza per lo attacco ed attacco.

*Pres*  
SUPPOSTO:

Truppe rosse stanno sistemandosi a difesa sulle colline ad occidente della Gravina di Lamastuola.  
Truppe azzurre muovono da Crispiano per spezzare la resistenza avversaria e sboccare su Massafra.

*Inf*  
SITUAZIONE PARTICOLARE:

*Inf*  
nemica: centri di fuoco individuati nei pressi di Massafra Panarella - Quota 257 - Iazzo - Pozzo dell'Eremita.....; elementi di trincea nel tratto di sentiero passante per l'ultima o di contrada Sferracavallo; reticolato in corrispondenza della casupola orientale di Iazzo; intenso movimento di auto-mezzi sulla rotabile Massafra-Iazzo.  
*Pres*  
nostra: eliminate le avanzature della organizzazione difensiva nemica nella zona fra la Gravina di Trigno e la Gravina di Lamastuola la Divisione "Pacino", nella zona di Crispiano, ordina di attaccare il nemico fra Massafra Panarella e Masseria Lamastuola.

*Task*  
COMPITO DEL I/93° ftr.

(inquadrate a destra dal II/93° e a sinistra dal 2° rgt.ftr.): attaccare il nemico nel tratto compresi fra la seconda o di Contrada Sferracavallo e Iazzo.

Obiettivo normale : costone di quota 257;

obiettivo eventuale : cava di tufo.

Base di partenza per l'attacco: Gravina di Lamastuola.

I/152° rgt.art. in appoggio specifico al I/93° ftr.

Accordi diretti fra i due Comandanti circa le intese preventive e le richieste di fuoco.

*Pres*  
PRESCRIZIONI:

- 1) - L'esercitazione avrà luogo il mattino del 4 aprile p.v.;
- 2) - Il I/93° dovrà trovarsi per le ore 12 nella zona di quota 202 (500 metri circa ad est sud-est di Masseria di Triglio). Inizio del movimento per l'occupazione della base di partenza per l'attacco: ore 12,30.-
- 3) - Interverranno:
  - i soli organici di O.C. del I/152° rgt.art.;
  - gli ufficiali del Comando Rgt. e il battaglione che saranno fatti affluire a mezzo autocarro che si troverà per le ore 11 presso il Comando di reggimento in Massafra.

CODICE SEMPLIFICATO:

Altre prescrizioni di natura regolamentari (da ripetersi nei casi).

Truppe azzurre muovono da Crispiano per spezzare la resistenza avversaria e sbocciare su Massafra.

#### SITUAZIONE PARTICOLARE:

nemica: centri di fuoco individuati nei pressi di Massafra Panarella - Quota 257 - ~~Plazzo~~ Pozzo dell'Eremita.....; elementi di trincea nel tratto di sentiero passante per l'ultima o di contrada Sferracavallo; reticolato in corrispondenza della casupola orientale di Iazzo; intenso movimento di auto-mezzi sulla rotabile Massafra-Iazzo.

nostra: eliminate le avanguardie della organizzazione difensiva nemica nella zona fra la Gravina di Trigno e la Gravina di Lamastuola la Divisione "Penco", nella zona di Crispiano, ordina di attaccare il nemico fra Masseria Panarella e Masseria Lamastuola.

COMITO DEL I/93° ftr. (inquadro a destra dal II/93° e a sinistra dal 2° rgt.ftr.): attaccare il nemico nel tratto compresi fra la seconda o di Contrada Sferracavallo e Iazzo.

Obiettivo normale : costone di quota 257;

obiettivo eventuale : cava di tufo.

Base di partenza per l'attacco: Gravina di Lamastuola.

I/152° rgt.art. in appoggio specifico al I/93° ftr.

Accordi diretti fra i due Comandanti circa le intese preventive e le richieste di fuoco.

#### PRESCRIZIONI:

- 1) - L'esercitazione avrà luogo il mattino del 4 aprile p.v.;
- 2) - Il I/93° dovrà trovarsi per le ore 12 nella zona di quota 202 (500 metri circa ad est sud-est di Masseria di Triglio). Inizio del movimento per l'occupazione della base di partenza per l'attacco: ore 12,30.-
- 3) - Interverranno:
  - i soli organici di O.C. del I/152° rgt.art.;
  - Gli ufficiali del Comando Rgt. e il battaglione che saranno fatti affluire a mezzo autocarro che si troverà per le ore 11 presso il Comando di reggimento in Massafra.

#### CODICE SEGNALAZIONI:

Oltre ai segnali di tromba regolamentari (da ripetersi dai reparti):

- due razzi rossi : I° bta. inizio movimento per l'attacco della base di partenza;
- due razzi verdi : alt di manovra;
- due razzi bianchi : fine di esercitazione.

6004

Visit to PICENO Division - 3 April 44.

## 1. Called on the Divisional Commander - General GUCCIONE:-

The General asks for a complete set of Clothing per man - Boots especially being asked for - to allow the training of the Division to be carried out.

|                 |                   |               |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <u>Strength</u> | Officers.....     | 438           |
|                 | NCO's .....       | 559           |
|                 | OR's.....         | 2,005         |
|                 | <u>TOTAL.....</u> | <u>10,002</u> |

*No Reasonable  
demands only*

Men. Shortage complaint was made re shortage of Food for Horses and dearth of Cleaning Materials for Guns and Harness.

There is also a shortage of Horse and Mule Shoes and Nails and a dearth of Cleaning Materials for Guns and Harness.

|                          |           |       |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| <u>Animals, Strength</u> | Horses... | 554   |
|                          | Mules...  | 1,101 |

A certain amount of Harness requires changing.

*N/A 10*

## 2. Visited 151 Regt of Arty - Col PASQUALE in Command:-

|           |        |     |
|-----------|--------|-----|
| Batteries | 107/17 | - 2 |
| "         | 75/27  | - 1 |
| Troops    | 20mm   | - 1 |

I went round a Battery at CIGLIE, and found the Guns clean, but the working parts dry through lack of oil and grease. This, in action, would tend to slow down the rate of fire.

The men were poorly clad. The Horses in poor condition due to reason already mentioned.

There were Nosebags deficient; the Fodder being, for some animals, thrown into a long trough. Thus allowing fast eating of food by some Horses and giving opportunity for this type of Horse to steal the Food of slow feeders, which might be on either side.

It was noticed too that the animals had been clipped all over and had been left in the open.

Clipping of this kind coupled with exposure would be a "long step" towards their present poor condition.

Ammunition 250 Rounds per Gun has been issued and drawn for ops. purposes. 30 Rounds extra per Gun had been drawn for practice.

*Ph. 1*

Animals, Strength Horses... 554  
Mules... 1,101

A certain amount of Harness requires changing.

NASCO

2. Visited 151 Regt of Arty - Col PASQUALE in Command:-

|           |        |   |   |
|-----------|--------|---|---|
| Batteries | 107/17 | - | 2 |
| "         | 75/27  | - | 1 |
| Troops    | 2Qmm   | - | 1 |

I went round a Battery at CIGLIE, and found the Guns clean, but the working parts dry through lack of oil and grease. This, in action, would tend to slow down the rate of fire.

The men were poorly clad. The Horses in poor condition due to reason already mentioned.

There were Mosebags deficient; the Fodder being, for some animals, thrown into a long trough. Thus allowing fast eating of food by some Horses and giving opportunity for this type of Horse to steal the Food of slow feeders, which might be on either side.

It was noticed too that the animals had been clipped all over and had been left in the open.

Clipping of this kind coupled with exposure would be a "long step" towards their present poor condition.

Ammunition 250 Rounds per Gun has been issued and drawn for ops. purposes. 30 Rounds extra per Gun had been drawn for practice.

In the Field.  
3 April 44.

Check the Strengths -  
Rations  
Uniforms

*R. Pasqua*  
Major.  
Army Sub Comm. ACC.

6003

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

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