

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

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G/31/13 Liaison Log (L.O. 230 Div)
July 22 - Aug. 4, 1945

0299

63/13.

Subject: Weekly report n 2
(4 August 45)

MMIA LO 230 DIVISION
C/O FLORENCE COMMAND
Phone 1393
Ref 230/19
4 August 45

To: Land Forces Sub Comm
AC (MMIA)
R O M E

(4 copies)

SD.

Agex
73/10

RTIS

The intake of ex US-ITIS has now been practically completed, except for a few more which Capt. CLARK may be able to "sell" locally in LEGHORN, and one or two odd dets from 5 Army. The consignment of men from LEGHORN was smaller than expected and instead of 650 for ARSIZO/PERUGIA only some 500 arrived. Of these a large number promptly deserted leaving a net intake of 330. The "undisciplined element" was chiefly provided by 7041 Truck Battalion which I understand was an ex-cooperator unit.

The Specialist situation is brighter and it is hoped to make up all driver and mechanic deficiencies from personnel of 7041 Truck Battalion and 417 Veh Park (ex-coop) which is shortly to be disbanded.

GUARD UNITS

A reduction in the guard units is required in this area is anticipated. 211 Sub Area (now responsible for ARSIZO Area) is going to review the whole position. As a result 535 Gd Coy will most likely be up for sale. It is a poor unit and might well be disbanded. 515 Gd Bn. (ARSIZO) is also unsatisfactory and many cases of pilferage have occurred. The bn has been in the area too long and relations with the civilian population are therefore too cordial. A swap with 521 Bn at PERUGIA has been suggested as a solution to the problem. Any thing of that kind will now have to be arranged with 61 Area.

ONVISTO

I have informed Gen. VIVALDA that ONVISTO now comes within his sphere of responsibility and he intends to visit it early date. He has applied to SMH for a "vice command" (colonel or Brig. with a small staff) to be located in PERUGIA. This seems to be a good idea as it is possible that some of the units in the ANCONA Area may have to pass to 230 Div. for adm if 200 Div H.Q. moves to PADUA.

CORR

Do I or 230 Div have to take any interest in the FLORENCE CORR Bde? All the local CORR

Handwritten notes: "The 211 Sub Area", "were disbanded", "The 515 Gd Bn", "were disbanded"

Handwritten notes: "28-11-45", "CORR Bde"

of men from LEGHORN was smaller than expected and instead of 650 for ARZZO/PERUGIA only some 500 arrived. Of these a large number promptly deserted leaving a net intake of 530. The "undisciplined element" was chiefly provided by 7041 Truck Battalion which I understand was an ex-cooperator unit.

The Specialist situation is brighter and it is hoped to make up all driver and mechanic deficiencies from personnel of 7041 Truck Battalion and 417 Veh Park (ex-coop) which is shortly to be disbanded.

GUARD UNITS

A reduction in the guard units is required in this area is anticipated. 211 Sub Area (now responsible for ARZZO Area) is going to review the whole position. As a result 535 Gd Coy will most likely be up for sale. It is a poor unit and might well be disbanded. 515 Gd Bn. (ARZZO) is also unsatisfactory and many cases of pillage have occurred. The bn has been in the area too long and the relations with the civilian population are therefore too cordial. A swap with 521 Bn at PERUGIA has been suggested as a solution to the problem. Any thing of that kind will now have to be arranged with 61 Area.

ORVETO

I have informed Gen. VIVALDA that ORVETO now comes within his sphere of responsibility and he intends to visit it early date. He has applied to MIKE for a "vice comando" (colonel or Brig. with a small staff) to be located in PERUGIA. This seems to be a good idea as it is possible that some of the units in the ANCONA Area may have to pass to 230 Div. for adm if 209 Div H.Q. moves to PADUA.

COHR

Do I or 230 Div have to take any interest in the FLORENCE COHR Bde? All the local COHR units are indulging in the sinister practice of deluging me with strength returns, brought round by DR and addressed personally to me.

MISC

My driver is still in ROME waiting for veh. If there are no vans to be had, could I have a motorcycle?

K.M.I.A. 'G'	
FILE: 6/31/13.	
(V.C.J. DARRUPP)	1/1/15.
Captain, MITA IO.	

6777

6/10/40

Subj: Weekly Report n° 1
(22 July 1945)

MMIA LO 230 Division
c/o FLORENCE Command
Phone: Florence 1393
File 230/19
22 July 1945

To: Land Forces Sub-Comm. (+ Comm.)
(MMIA)
R O M K

REINFORCEMENTS:

The programme of absorbing some 2000 ex US-ITIS into the Division is going ahead. By 23 July all 1000 from Leghorn should have been received. Having about 1000 to come from 5 Army. Discharge of 1914 Class should be over soon after latter are received. Generally speaking it is only Guard and 1st Units which require to be kept up to strenght. Work for the Pioneers is diminishing.

EX - COOPERATORS:

All Units and dets. in the area have now been taken over. Total numbers about 1000 all ranks. Only three constituted Units with Officers were taken over. Remainder are awkward detachments.

DIV. SUB.- DEPUT:

Stock at moment consists mainly of books, blankets and returned clothing. Two generous allotments of clothing are however due shortly from Naples. The local Centro Recuperi is still unable to accept returned clothing and we are having to backwash to Naples.

The life of repaired boots is found to be very short. Is the Ministry able to lay hands in any form of grease or animal fat to soften them?

6/31/13

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EX - COOPERATORS:

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DIV. SUB.- DEPOT:

Stock at moment consists mainly of boots, blankets and returned clothing. Two generous allotments of clothing are however due shortly from Naples. The local Centro Recuperi is still unable to accept returned clothing and we are having to backhaul to Naples.

The life of repaired boots is found to be very short. Is the Ministry able to lay hands in any form of grease or animal fat to soften them? District will not release dubbin.

FORMATIONZ AND DISBANDMENT OF UNITS:

1) Personnel for 8/1 & 8/2 graves Platoons are being gathered together in Leghorn. In a day or two they will sent to Florence

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NOTED - C
FILE: 6/31/13
DATE: 24/7

for equipping.

11) 61 & 62 Forestry Corp have been disbanded. All Stores have been handed over and the personnel are awaiting disposal at Laredo (Arezzo). They will most likely be posted to local Engineer ~~Corps~~ ^{Cos.} The precise drill to be followed in the case of formations and disbandments still does not appear to be understood by British Area Staffs. Nobody knows exactly who does what; some delay, misunderstanding and duplication is frequently the result.

WELFARE:

Gen. Vivalda has expressed concern that his Division should have been allotted only 50,000 Lire for "Assistenza" for the present 3 months period. This paltry sum compares unfavourably with the million lire allotted to each of the combat Cps and the 4th Divs in the North. The effective strength of the Division is approx. 10,000 all ranks (likely to rise to 11,000 very shortly) which is similar to that of the Combat Cps.

This grievance together with the fact that they receive less pay, less soap, fewer cigarettes and a smaller "quota miglioramento rancio" than the men further north has tended to create an impression in the minds of officers and men that they are being discriminated against.

GENERAL AND DOMESTIC:

I have not received a copy of your C/31 of 4 June laying down headings, etc. for reports; meanwhile I hope this is sufficient.

I have now got a large airing office of my own and am employing a lady secretary. With her assistance and that of a newly acquired typewriter, I hope to be able to keep you better informed.

I am still immobile. The Standard taken over from Col. Egerton has been in workshops for over a fortnight with broken piston rings. On instructions from Capt. Cary I have been had it repaired. I have sent Dr. Royds to Rome to wait for a replacement.

Ans 25/7

0304

WELFARE:

Gen. Vivalda has expressed concern that his Division should have been allotted only 50,000 Lire for "Assistenza" for the present 3 months period. This paltry sum compares unfavourably with the million Lire allotted to each of the combat Cps and the Adm Divs in the North. The effective strength of the Division is approx. 10,000 all ranks (likely to rise to 11,000 very shortly) which is similar to that of the Combat GPS.

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GENERAL AND DOMESTIC:

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I am still immobile. The Standard taken over from Col. Egerton has been in workshops for over a fortnight with broken piston rings. On instructions from Capt. Cary I have been had it B.L.R'd. I have sent Dvr Royds to Rome to wait for a replacement veh.

C. J. H. M.
Captain
M.M. 1A LO

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