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

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G/31/17

Weekly Liaison Log L.O. UDINE

opened Sept 27, 1945. Closed Nov. 18, 1945

Sept - Nov. 1945

Subject:- Liaison Report No C/1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

M.M.I.A. L.G. BOLOGNA,
c/o 217 Area.

BOL/3/G, 18 Nov 45

Liaison Report for week ending 17 Nov 45.

1. General.

I took over this office from Capt. Thrupp in Milan on 10 Nov, and opened here on 13 Nov. During the week I have contacted most of the 217 Area Staff, Gen. Cerica and some of his staff and Col. Berioni, Cmdr of 717 Adm Regt. With Gen. Cerica I made a short tour of ex-POW from Russia (I could not altogether share the Italians' horror at their condition. These I saw were certainly badly dressed, but I did not notice any marks of starvation); the new and roomy Casa del Soldato; the Officers Club; the troops reception room in the station, on which work is still in progress. Gen. Cerica is an officer who looks at lavatories.

2. 'G' Points.

I find some confusion, which I am engaged in sorting out, over the role and responsibilities of 717 Adm Regt. Up to now it has been in Bologna, w/c 231 Div in Milan, and with some, but not all, Br-Iti troops, in the Bologna Territorial Command under its command. 217 Area was not even aware of its existence. During the next few days I shall be checking the orbit of Br-Itis and seeing that every-one concerned knows that they are w/c 717. I have suggested to 2 District that, in view of its new commitments, the Regt would be better placed in Verona than in Bologna.

Disbandments: Delaying tactics are anticipated from the Rly Engineers, who will probably (I offer this only as surmise) not feel satisfied with the retention of only two Coys. 252 Pack Gp took over its animals on 13 Nov and is awaiting posting orders for its personnel. 2 Qr Coy attempted to hand in its Class 4, 5 & 6 vans this week but met with refusal from 10 RVP. Literally no office in this HQ knows how these should be disposed of. I have written hopefully to 38 Veh Coy.

3. 'Q' Points.

2 District has decided that the British portion of the ration for Br-Itis shall be handed over in bulk from DID to Magazzino. No difficulties are anticipated because each of the three Italian stores concerned is close to a DID.

I visited the CANE Workshops at S. Vitale with DAQM 217 Area to investigate the possibility of handing back to the Italians the parts now

of 717 Adm Regt. With Gen. Cerica I made a short tour of ex-POW from Russia (I could not altogether share the Italians' horror at their condition. Those I saw were certainly badly dressed, but I did not notice any marks of starvation); the new and roomy Casa del Soldato; the Officers Club; the troops reception room in the station, on which work is still in progress. Gen. Cerica is an officer who looks at lavatories.

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I visited the OARS Workshops at S. Vitale with DAQMG 217 Area to investigate the possibility of handing back to the Italians the parts now occupied by 1 ASG Workshops. Since this latter unit is heavily operationally engaged the conclusion was reached that it can be displaced only if Territorial HQ can offer equal or better accommodation for it elsewhere.

4. 'A' Points.

MMIA letter SD/3b/2 of 14 Nov leads me to believe that I shall shortly be the sole representative of 6 BLU Bologna Type A and 6 BLU Bologna Type B. Until further orders I retain the name and functions of MMIA 10, but I should be grateful for clarification of this point.

Copy to: MMIA N. Italy;

R/19/11 *[Signature]* Capt., Liais **684** / *[Signature]* / *[Signature]*

70000

Subject: - Liaison Log No. 30

7 - 16 Oct.

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Comm, AC,
(MMIA)
o/o 201 Sub Area - UDINE

Land Forces Sub Comm, AC, (4)
(MMIA)
R O M E

UDM/MM/112
16 Oct 45

Senior MMIA IO, - MILAN

1. GENERAL

(a), (b) and (c) No change

(d) No change

2. ARRIVALS None

DEPARTURES None

3. DAILY LOG.

7 Oct. - Office Routine - Half day off in the mountains.

8 Oct. - Visited 517 Gd Bn Hq. and Arty Bn, now used as a Rpts Bn by 13 Corps for rest of 517. Found good turnout, discipline and satisfactory clothing situation. 2 i/a good officer and proud of fact that he still has Br vhs given the Bn last year in good working condition.

Urgent call from 228 Div that no more P.O.L. could be drawn from Allied Sources w.e.f. 1 Oct. I quoted 13 Corps signal stating BR-ITI Service Tps would continue to draw from Allies and I phoned 13 Corps who stated that P.P.s had not received their (13 Corps) latest signal. Posn normal now.

9 Oct. - Maj: Edwards arrived at 9 am. went to 5 Terr Hq. where final arrangements for fetching and disposal of It Army vhs in B.F.A. were tied up with Lt.Col Pavese - O.C. No. 5 Tpt Coy. 5 Terr Hq. will supply 1 offr and 25 dvrs to go into Austria to bring back 22 runners. These will go to 5 Terr Hq. who will then be up to strength in W.E. vhs. Edwards will obtain permits for It pers to enter Austria and make all final arrangements for removal of vhs.

(d) No change

2. ARRIVALS None

DEPARTURES None

3. DAILY LOG.

MFI
FILE: <u>6/31/17</u>
DATE: <u>8/19/10</u>

7 Oct.- Office Routine - Half day off in the mountains.

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9 Oct.- Maj: Edwards arrived at 9 am, went to 5 Terr Hq. where final arrangements for fetching and disposal of 17 Army vhs in B.T.A. were tied up with Lt.Col Pavese - O.C. No. 5 Tpt Coy. 5 Terr Hq. will supply 1 offr and 25 dvrs to go into Austria to bring back 22 runners. These will go to 5 Terr Hq. who will then be up to strength in W.E. vhs. Edwards will obtain permits for it pers to enter Austria and make all final arrangements for removal of vhs. Agreed that 18 non-runners would be routed to Udine. Adj: 18 Pnr Gp called to tie up final arrangements for disbandment 238, 239, 241 Pnr Coys. All Italian material will be handed in at Udine. Later I visited Lt.Col Coventry O.C. 18 Pnr Gp to talk about disbandment. No snags but 228 Div need continual chasing. Put DAA and QMG 201 Sub Area in latest picture re Racial Slavs.

10. Oct.- Office Routine - Gen Armellini still in Rome.

11 Oct.- Attended P.O.M. Conference Rear 13 Corps in A.M. 6843
In P.M. Conference Rear 13 Corps on Racial Slavs -
All services represented - also 201 Sub Area and MMIA.
All arrangements tied up and provisional date for

reception fixed 20 Oct, providing clothing arrived.

Despatched two It. Offrs one to Trieste, one to Gorizia to set up "Ufficio Assistenza Reduci" 13 Corps final approval still awaited. When this is granted offices at Trieste and Gorizia will deal with returning It. Army pers pay them and route them home. This will greatly assist A.M.G. Finance Offrs and allviate posn at Udine where numbers increase daily.

12 Oct. - Held Conference at Terr Hq. attended by offr reps from all branches to tie up details for reception and evacuation of Racial Slavs.

No difficulties - Consider it unnecessary for M of W reps to come all the way up here to carry out demobilization.

In P.M. inspected Terr. Hosp. well kept and efficiently run. Short of medicinals and surgical gear. Will forward a list of requirements as soon as compiled by Terr Hq.

13 Oct. - Notice in It papers regarding It Mil Tpt. At my request A.M.G. have at last made it clear to all civilians that It. Mil Tpt can NOT be retained or bought by private owners but must be returned. Results are already good and Recovery Commission starting to bring vehs in - 13 Corps released two more large trailers in excellent condition. Assisted at handover. Six 3 tonners and four 6 tonners due to be returned to 5 Terr Hq this week.

Visited Capt Holloway O.C. 200 Transit Camp Udine to see lay out of camp for reception of Racial Slavs.

Good soon - cooking facilities rail and road facilities on the spot. Enclosed by high wall. Everyone very helpful and reception should go well.

Received final release on Basiliano Depot. Ordered Terr Hq to occupy at once and more Wkspa and I.V.P. in as soon as possible. Room for 200 vehs and Wkspa facilities. - Big load off my mind and Terr Hq very pleased. Will inspect Wkspa later.

14 Oct. - Maj: Marcoux. U.S. Offr from USPET called re 5,000 Racial Slavs. Took him to camp site - introduced him to Terr Hq. made final arrangements with him. He told me U.S. outer clothing will be returned to P.B.S. Q.M. Offr from U.S. 88 Div will take over this clothing and deliver to P.B.S.

Two Slav offr arrived with Maj: Marcoux. They remain Udine till last draft is demobilized. Put them up in It Transit Hotel, Udine.

Lt. Col. Egerton arrived.

15 Oct. - Took Col Egerton to 5 Terr Hq. Spoke with Gen Armellini who arrived back from Rome. Put Col. Egerton in the picture and spent rest of the day with him.

16 Oct. - Office Routine.

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16 Oct. - Office Routine.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

Big Communist demonstration in Udine on Sunday. Some it soldiers beaten up - otherwise N.T.R.

DOMESTIC

Am waiting to hear about my compassionate leave to Switzerland. If this is granted will visit Rome on my way to pick up my Swiss visa. My substitute could return in my Tpt.

6842

W. Selby

Major,

MMIA LO, 201 Sub Area - UDINE.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Liaison Log No. 29 - 27 Sep to 6 Oct.

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Comm, AC,
(MMIA)
o/o 201 Sub Area - UDINE

Land Forces Sub Comm, AC, (4)
(MMIA)
R O M E

UDN/MM/112
8 Oct 45

Senior MMIA LO, - MILAN

1. GENERAL

(a), (b) and (c) No change

(d) No change

2. Arrivals None

Departures None

3. Visits and Conferences.

28 Sep. - Visited Genio Depot VILLA VICENTINA, occupied by R.E.M.B 13 Corps. Ample accommodation for Genio Depot but all earmarked for Br. Units. Saw Col Roggiere, head of the Genio 5 Terr Hq. He is unable to commence work because no accommodation has been allotted him so far. On return to Hq wrote letter to 13 Corps and later visited them. Tried to get accommodation at VILLA VICENTINA but 13 Corps did not authorize as German P.W. Eng Units are moving in.

Visited Rear 13 Corps. Discussed accommodation problem with "Q" but was told none reported none available yet.

13 Corps released 11 Army vehicles and 5 trailers to 5 Terr Hq. All are runners. By 9 Oct these vehicles should be handed over.

Conference at Terr Hq. with Genio on Bomb Disposal and Mine clearance. Genio doing good work in this area with only two lorries at their disposal.

30 Sep. - Visited Gen PAVAN - Adv Hq. 228 Div Udine. Discussed disbandment programme - which is going well. No problems here.

1 Oct. - Attended P.O.M. Conference Rear Hq 13 Corps - Trieste - All MMIA bids accepted. Visited DADL and spoke on disbandment. Everyone happy.

9/31/17
DATE: 8/12/10

(d) No change

2. Arrivals None

Departures None

3. Visits and Conferences.

28 Sep. - Visited Genio Depot VILLA VICENTINA, occupied by R.E.M.E 13 Corps. Ample scon: for Genio Depot but all earmarked for Br. Units. Saw Col Roggiere, head of the Genio 5 Terr Hq. He is unable to commence work because no scon has been allotted him so far. On return to Hq wrote letter to 13 Corps and later visited them. Tried to get scon. at VILLA VICENTINA but 13 Corps did not authorize as German P.W. Eng Units are moving in.
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2 Oct. - Capt Craig visited - Gave good report on Ration Store and general running of the Supplies side.

Was present at handover of one trailer from 13 Corps WKsps to 5 Terr. Hq. Trailer in good condition. Visited P.P.S.O. Udine to discuss Security. Movement control and It Army rpt held by civilians. Found AMG co-operative and hope for good results in future.

3 Oct. - Called on Gen FERRARI - Comd Artillery Directorate - Spoke about Bomb disposal and the constant problem of tpt. Visited 5 Terr M.F. Coy. Inspected veh pk - Petrol Store - cockhouses etc.
Sent signal to 21 Rec Unit asking them to accept Italian non runners - too many now in Udine with no place to put them. Have received no reply yet.

4 Oct. - Visited Main 13 Corps (GSD and GSI) to discuss question of the 5,000 ITI - Jugs. GSI nearly went up in smoke when they

(2)

saw MMIA signal and rang A.F.H.Q. straight away.

13 Corps Policy, governed by DVINO agreement, is to avoid political friction in Corps area. They want bds demobbed outside area, put in "civies" and transported in small batches into Jugo-slavia. Have taken no further action on instructions from B.G.S. 13 Corps.

5 Oct. - 150 It Generals and 1,000 ORs arrived unannounced from Russia with Russian escort. General flap but A.M.G. 5 Terr HQ and MMIA got together and settled problem. Bds were fed - taken in lorries to station where special train was laid on and routed south. Interesting stories told by the ex P.W's. Russia escort one Major - two Captains and 15 Russian ORs - boys of 16 - 17 armed with Tommy guns and badly in need of a good wash and decent food. The Russian ofrs were put up at 198 (Br) transit camp and consumed 4 1/2 bottles of whiskey before going to bed. (Who says the British are't hospitable!)

6 Oct. - Issued disbandment orders for 1, 8, 30 and 12 Eng Coys by signal as 228 Div had no orders.

Visited It Air Forces WKaps just outside Udine vacated recently. Have asked 201 Sub Area if WKaps Sec I.V.PK 5 Terr HQ. may occupy - question under consideration. Sheds are large enough to house 200 vehs.

POLITICAL SITUATION N.T.R.

General

On return from outside calls and visits generally find my office full of visitors. Constant stream.

Domestic

Letters and correspondence from HQ addressed to Maj: Monico still arriving. Request they cease as my office has plenty of paper.

Will a replacement come up from Rome when I have my LIAP? Essential there should be an MMIA rep here.

May I have a copy of G/21 of 4 June?

*Spoken -
Campiche.*

AAG 10/10

V. K. Selby

Major,
MMIA 10, 201 Sub Area - UDINE.

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

signed as 226 D17 H11 23 01 18.
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May I have a copy of G/31 of 4 June? *Dispersed*

*Spoken -
Campiche*

AAG noted

*Dispersed
over
May 1971
H. S. J. Davis*

V. B. Selton

Major,
MMIA LO, 201 Sub Area - UDINE,

6840

Subject:- Liaison Log 20 - 26 Sep 45.

GD.

Land Forces Sub Comm, AC, (4)
(MMIA)
R O M E

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Comm, AC,
(MMIA)
c/o 201 Sub Area - UDINE
UDM/MM/118
27 Sep 45

Senior MMIA LO. - MILAN

1. GENERAL.

- (a) Present 4bdys - No change.
- (b) Area/Sub Area Hq's - No change.
- (c) Disposition of L.O's - MMIA office - TRIESTE - closed

21 Sep - opened c/o 201 Sub Area
same date. Maj: MONICO left for
MILAN same time. - Maj: SELBY took
over and transferred office to
UDINE (201 Sub Area Tel No. Udine
Mil 1768). Capt Craig arrives to take
over from Maj: Crawford at MESTRE.

- (d) Futures:- No change but awaiting results of Peace Conference with no fear - but some slight trepidation (13 Corps please copy).

2. Arrivals

409 It: Pnr Regt moved to MESTRE 18 Sep - u/c 86 Area for Admin. - u/c 13 Corps for Ops.

Departures

3 Coy 513 Gd Bn moves MESTRE - FLORENCE 26 Sep to u/c M of W.
516 Gd Bn to move soonest PANNA.

3. Visits & Conferences.

10 4 3 7

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

- DATE 2/1/10
- (a) Present 4 days - No change.
- (b) Area/Sub Area Hqs - No change.
- (c) Disposition of L.03 - MMIA office - TRIESTE - closed
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19 Sep. - To 5 Terr HQ met Gen. Armellini had long talk on all points. Clear that there is some disappointment in the action question as it is quite evident Italian Army has been considered lost and, in several cases, been given soon which no one else wanted. Discussed Recovery of vehs with the General. This is a difficult task because 13 Corps will NOT loosen up on soon for the It. Army and there are no good veh parks or wks for the Udine Terr HQ. Many lorries - trucks etc. which have been brought in are housed in an old M.F. dump which is completely bombed out and the few guards available have their hands full keeping thieves, black marketeers etc. from looting and pilfering spare parts.
Spoke to Col. Piacentini - Dep C of S on all matters

839

Cont:.....

..... Cont. (2)

20 Sep - Visited Rear 13 Corps - Trieste - Saw Brig. Ritchie - DAQMG - Q Mov - Lab etc: Everyone very friendly and helpful. In p.m. visited Main Corps - Saw G.SD. G Ops - G-SI. and AVG 13 Corps.

21 Sep - Completed handover from Maj: Monico. Domestic problems settled - Lady secretary sacked - Am keeping the male clerk who is very good. Maj: Monico departed for MILAN and eventual freedom. Closed office Trieste and transferred to 201 Sub Area Udine. - Gen. Armellini found me a typist so domestic staff started work straight away.

22 Sep - Visited 5 Terr HQ. Udine Mil District - Direzione Commissariato - Inspected Barracks, Ration Store - Kitchens - petrol dump.

Most favourably impressed by the cleanliness and neatness of Ration dump - barracks and offices both at the Mil Dist and 2 Inf Regt Depot. The latter is housed in a barracks which, a few months ago was a complete shambles - having been sacked by the Germans - looted and fired by the Partisans and finished off by the civilian population. In two months the Cdo Terr. has made a wonderful job of repair and recondition work - men are living, sleeping and working in this building which was generously given to the Ities by 201 Sub Area, (in my opinion to keep them busy and quiet!).

Visited refugee centre and soldiers welfare centre - both run very well and made to look comfortable with the means at their disposal.

23 Sep Visited Terr. HQ. An Offr Transit Hotel badly needed Udine to put up it. Offrs in transit - No soon in other messes. Investigated thru' Town Major - found a 17 room hotel not requisitioned and evidently not wanted by Allies and requisitioned same next day. Gen Armellini very pleased - Maj: Selby very surprised that up to date no complaints have been received from A.M.G.!!

24 Sep - Spent morn in office as there were many letters and signals to be answered. Much back work has been left untouched owing to quick changes in L.O. Staff here. Still too much paper and unnecessary correspondence between 5 Terr HQ and MMIA. This will cease now L.O. is on their doorstep. In p.m. visited Efficient veh park and Derelict veh park. Good work being done by Lt. Captain in charge - but there is no shelter for engines - valuable spare parts which will rust up during bad weather unless some other soon can be found. Am looking in to this.

25 Sep - Gen Armellini goes to Rome for 10 days. Gen Zatti takes over temp cmd.

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25 Sep - Gen Armellini goes to Rome for 10 days. Gen Zatti takes over temp cmd.
Visited 49 Lt AA Wksp - Large quantities of It Arms - Barrack Stores not yet evacuated. Arranged for this evacuation to be done by 5 Terr HQ M.F. Coy.
Visited Roadhead - Udine - Inspected Arty Directorate Depot. Urgent need for extra soon to shelter much valuable It Army property being brought in daily. Spoke Comd 201 Sub Area who promised to help.

26 Sep - Visited Gen Zatti - in temp cmd of 5 Terr HQ 838
Discussed domestic and other problems.

Political Situation

Udine province is full of political intrigue. The main parties

.....Cont:

.....Cont. (3)

in order of popularity are, Communists - Christian Democrats - Socialists etc. but apart from the internal political strife here there are many undercurrents of political intrigue fostered by Jugoslavs - Russians - Pro Austrian Italians - all working against each other and against popular interests. 13 Corps are doing their best to eradicate the undesirables. The Jugoslavs have political commissars in nearly every town in NE Italy. These people come over the Morgan Line as civilians and set up shop above or under the ground with the greatest determination and often the highest secrecy. Until the frontier is closed to all, this state of affairs will continue. Italians, on the other hand, are not allowed to cross the Morgan Line, so the whole thing is very one sided. A.M.G. are procrastinating over the closing of the frontier which 13 Corps wants to take place at once. Jugoslavs have been known to come in to Udine province in it. Army lorries and carry off German and It. Arms and Amm: to Jugoslavia.

The arms question is serious as there are many about and no authority seems to have the "guts" to say "You will hand in or else".

On the surface things are very quiet - in fact more so than in Rome, and one does not see political pamphlets or flags. This strengthens the opinion of many here that the "underground politicians" are cleverly concealing their work.

The Italian Army is not very popular - mainly because what there is of it here is small and inconspicuous. 13 Corps are very pleased with 517 Gd Bn who are smart and carry out their duties faithfully.

General

The Corps Comd inspected the Udine Legion CC.RR. on 25 Sep. Gen Armellini was not invited to attend and told me he felt

hurt ~~hurt~~ above him. I cheered him up by telling him that Comd 201 Sub Area had received no invitation either, but watched the ceremony from his office window - also feeling very ~~hurt~~ *hurt*. I added that next time I'd try and get him an invitation as Gen Harding was an old friend of mine - Things are now normal.

Domestic

As I have no copy of your G/31 of 4 June this report is not as per your instructions - will conform in next report. I am staying at "B" Mess 201 Sub Area. My office in on 1st Floor - Room 55.

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General

hurd
The Corps Comd inspected the Udine Legion CC.RA. on 25 Sep. Gen Armellini was not invited to attend and told me he felt ~~him~~ ^{him} above him. I cheered him up by telling him that Comd 201 Sub Area had received no invitation either, but watched the ceremony from his office window - also feeling very ~~him~~ ^{him}! I added that next time I'd try and get him an invitation as Gen Harding was an old friend of mine - Things are now normal.

Domestic

As I have no copy of your G/31 of 4 June this report is not as per your instructions - will conform in next report. I am staying at "B" Mess 201 Sub Area. My office in on 1st Floor - Room 55. Am sending my It. driver back to Rome with 15 out truck - I keep my Chevrolet and It. dvr sent to me from 228 Div.

M. Selby
Major, 6837
MMIA IO, 201 Sub Area - UDINE

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