

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

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G13613 Gruppi Reports . Tregnano (52 BLU)
Opened May 25, 1945 . Closed Aug 7, 1945
May - Aug 1945

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

7 Aug 45.

DO/G/63/55.

Dear General

Herewith a further report on the activities of the LEGNANO Gruppo during the last fortnight.

1. Locations.

(a) The following move has taken place :-

183 Tech Maint Section, from BRESCIA P0568 to CARNATE K4184 for work under 14 L of C Signals.

Otherwise, no changes in locations.

(b) The following locations, omitted from previous location statements, are notified :-

LEGNANO ME Wksp P1	-	CARAVAGGIO K6065
1 LAD	-	BERGAMO K6388
2 LAD	-	SONTERIO E8140
3 LAD	-	CCMO E1806
4 LAD	-	BERGAMO K6388
5 LAD	-	PAVIA K2033
6 LAD	-	BERGAMO K6388

2. Guards on Dumps.

- (a) Dump guards at PAVIA K1934 and VICEVANO J9849 supplied by 51 Bngr Bn, were taken over by 503 Italian Guard Bn on 6 Aug 45.
- (b) 118 Med Regt RA relieved the guard found by IV Bty 11 Arty Regt on dump at ALICE CASTELLO J355610 on 1 Aug 45.
- (c) 114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo relieved I and II Btys 11 Arty Regt of guards on dumps at PROSPIANO and EHO (K030840, K030840, K160692 and K135700), and SOMMA LOMBARDA J880907 wef 28 July 45.
- (d) At 1700 hrs 5 Aug 45, approx 300 German shells exploded in dump at URBIVANO K6677. Cause unknown. No damage to persons or materials.

(a) The following have been taken care of:

183 Tech Maint Section, from BRESCIA FO568 to CARNATE K4184 for work under 14. L of C Signals.

Otherwise, no changes in locations.

(b) The following locations, omitted from previous location statements, are notified:-

LEGNANO ME Wksp P1 - CARAVAGGIO K6065
1 LAD - BERGAMO K6388
2 LAD - SONDRIO E8140
3 LAD - COMO E1806
4 LAD - BERGAMO K6388
5 LAD - PAVIA K2033
6 LAD - BERGAMO K6388

2. Guards on Dumps.

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(c) 114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo relieved I and II Btys 11 Arty Regt of guards on dumps at PROSEPIANO and RHO (K030840, K030840, K160692 and K135700), and SOMMA LOMBARDA J880907 wef 28 July 45.

(d) At 1700 hrs 5 Aug 45, approx 300 German shells exploded in dump at URGEMANO K6677. Cause unknown. No damage to persons or materials.

3. Command.

114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo came under op comm of LEGNANO Gruppo wef 1800 hrs 21 July 45.

4. Operational Role.

Remains unchanged, namely guarding and patrolling of Italo-Swiss frontier, guarding of dumps of captured enemy material, and internal security duties.

MMIA -

FILED c/36/3

DATE 1/8

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5. Plan for re-grouping of units.

Consequent on 114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo coming under command of LEGNANO Gruppo, the arrival of 503 Italian Guard Bn in PAVIA Province to take over LEGNANO commitments there, and the 59 Area order that units available for internal security duties are located in MILAN, BERGAMO, BRESCIA and CREMONA, GOC LEGNANO Gruppo has submitted to 59 Area a plan for re-grouping of units, details of which are as follows :-

- (a) Frontier Zone - between STELVIO Pass and Lake MAGGIORE. Responsibility of 69 Inf Regt - from EAST to WEST, "L'Aquila Bn," "Piemonte" Bn, "Goito" Bn. "L'Aquila" and "Piemonte" Bns not affected. "Goito" Bn to extend westwards and take over frontier commitments between Lake COMO and Lake MAGGIORE at present held by 114 Inf Regt.

- (b) Remainder of LEGNANO Sector - to be sub-divided from EAST to WEST into 3 sub-sectors as under :-

- (i) Eastern Sub-sector - present sector of 114 Inf Regt and to include MILAN. Responsibility of 114 Inf Regt.

One Bn of 114 Inf Regt to relieve II Bn 68 Inf Regt in MILAN.

- (ii) Central Sub-sector - Provinces of BERGAMO and CREMONA. Responsibility of 68 Inf Regt.

I and III Bns of 68 Inf Regt not affected. On relief in MILAN, II Bn to be transferred to CREMONA.

- (iii) Eastern Sub-sector - Province of BRESCIA. Responsibility of 11 Arty Regt.

Regt HQ and I, II (when relieved of duties at Refugee Transit Centre at TURIN by CREMONA Gruppo), III and IV Btys to be transferred to BRESCIA and district.

- (c) 51 Engr Bn to be freed from dump guard duties to allow it to carry out maintenance work on all Bailey and improvised bridges on AFHQ routes in LOMBARDIA and in Provinces of PARMA and PLACENZA (as ordered by CE HQ 2 District).

Bn to be redeployed as under :-

Bn HQ	-	BERGAMO
3 Field Coy	-	BERGAMO
51 Field Coy	-	PAVIA
3 Field Park Coy	-	BERGAMO.

This plan has been approved by HQ 59 Area, and will be put into effect as soon as accommodation at BERGAMO, BRESCIA and CREMONA is arranged.

(1) Eastern Sub-sector - Province of MILAN. Responsibility of 114.

Inf Regt.

One Bn of 114 Inf Regt to relieve II Bn 68 Inf Regt in MILAN.

(ii) Central Sub-sector - Provinces of BERGAMO and CREMONA.

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3 Field Park Coy	-	BERGAMO.

This plan has been approved by HQ 59 Area, and will be put into effect as soon as accommodation at BERGAMO, BRESCIA and CREMONA is arranged.

6. Training.

The attached Appendix 'A', which is the Training Programme for the Rifle Coys of "Piemonte" Alpini Bn for period 1-14 Aug 45, is an example of the training now being carried out by units of 69 Inf Regt.

7. MT Administration.

The drive on MT discipline and unit maintenance is now proceeding satisfactorily. To assist REME with this work, I have arranged that one of my Maltese Liaison Officers (Major) acts as an inspecting MTU and tours units to give assistance and instruction in unit maintenance.

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

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8. REPAIR.

Repair work is still seriously impeded by lack of MT spares.
VOR Table as at 3 Aug 45 is as follows :-

<u>Equipment.</u>	<u>1st Line</u>	<u>2nd Line</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>HLR</u>
Motor-cycles	21	68	89	26
Jeeps & Utilities	3	11	14	6
Trucks 15 cwt	13	49	62	8
Lorries 3-ton	15	69	84	7
Carriers	2	27	29	-
Recovery Vans	-	1	1	-

9. Miscellaneous.

- (a) On 5 Aug 45 there was trouble in BETTOLE CAVERNAGO I708789 between civilians and the local Carabinieri. In the encounter 1 Carabinieri and 1 civilian were killed. One officer and 20 men of 69 Inf Regt were sent to help the Carabinieri in searching the surrounding area, but with negative results.
- (b) Personnel of MANTOVA Gruppo took over duties from LERNANO Gruppo at the Centro Alloggio at GENOA on 3 Aug 45.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely

Michael

(Lieut. Col Douglas absent on duty)

To: Maj-Gen L. BROWNING CB OBR MC
Land Forces Sub-Comm AG (MIA).

Copy to:

Major-Gen R. P. HAYES OBR MC

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With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,

McClach

(Lieut Col Douglas absent on duty)

To: Maj-Gen L. BROWNING CB OBE MC
Land Forces Sub-Comm AG (MFA).

Copy to:

Major-Gen E. P. NARES CBE MC
Comd 2 District.

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

"PIEMONTE" ALPINI BN.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DEPART FROM.</u>	<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT</u>
1 Aug 45.	1 Coy	S MARTINO	PREDAROSSA - ARDENNO & SONDRIO.	13 hrs	Transfer, and p mountains en ro
"	2 Coy	MADESIMO	VAL CODERA - CHIAVENNA - ARDENNO.	14 hrs	- do -
"	3 Coy	CHIESA	SONDRIO - CHIAVENNA	4 hrs	Transfer
2 Aug	All Coys	----- Organisation in the new areas -----			
3 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	M PALINO	8 hrs	P1 attack on a
"	2 Coy	S MARTINO	CAPANNA - V ZOCCO	9 hrs	Recco patrols
"	3 Coy	MADESIMO	PIZZO D'EMET	10 hrs	Occupation and
4 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	ALPE MURELLA	8 hrs	Tactical march
"	2 Coy	S MARTINO	VAL PORCELLIZZO	4 hrs	Recco patrols
"	3 Coy	MADESIMO	LAGO AZZURRO - COLMENERA	5 hrs	Org of an isola
5 Aug	All Coys	----- Rest in area -----			
6 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	CHIESA area	8 hrs	Org of an isola
"	2 Coy	CAP BADILE	PIZZO BADILE	10 hrs	Alpini training
"	3 Coy	MADESIMO	PASSO STELLA	9 hrs	P1 in rearguard

7339

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

APPENDIX 'A'

"PIEMONTE" ALPINI BN.

<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT OF EXERCISE.</u>	<u>ARRIVE AT.</u>
VEDAROSSA - ARDENNO - SONDRIO.	13 hrs	Transfer, and patrols in mountains en route.	CHIESA
AL CODERA - CHIAVENNA - ARDENNO.	14 hrs	- do -	S MARTINO
SONDRIO - CHIAVENNA	4 hrs	Transfer	MADESIMO
----- Organisation in the new areas -----			
PALINO	8 hrs	P1 attack on a peak.	CHIESA
APANNA - V ZOCCO	9 hrs	Recco patrols	S MARTINO
PIZZO D'EMET	10 hrs	Occupation and def of a strong pt.	MADESIMO
PIE MURELLA	8 hrs	Tactical march in high mtns.	CHIESA
AL PORCELLIZZO	4 hrs	Recco patrols	CAP BADILE
LAGO AZZURRO - COLMENERA	5 hrs	Org of an isolated strong pt.	MADESIMO
----- Rest in area -----			
CHIESA area	8 hrs	Org of an isolated strong pt.	CHIESA
PIZZO BADILE	10 hrs	Alpini training march	S MARTINO
PASSO STELLA	9 hrs	P1 in rearguard action.	MADESIMO

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

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<u>DATE.</u>	<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DEPART FROM.</u>	<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT</u>
7 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	SONDRIO - CHIAVENNA	4 hrs	Transfer
"	2 Coy	S MARTINO	PRESAROSSA - ARDENNO - SONDRIO	13 hrs	Transfer, and p mountains en re
"	3 Coy	MADESIMO	VAL CODERA - CHIAVENNA - ARDENNO.	10 hrs	- do
8 Aug	All Coys	-----	Organisation in the new areas	-----	-----
9 Aug	All Coys	-----	Rest in area	-----	-----
10 Aug	1 Coy	MADESIMO	PIZZO D'EMET	10 hrs	Alpine training
"	2 Coy	CHIESA	ALPE MUSELLA	8 hrs	- do
"	3 Coy	S MARTINO	VAL PORCELLIZZO	4 hrs	Reece patrols
11 Aug	1 Coy	MADESIMO	LAGO NERO	6 hrs	Coy in the att
"	2 Coy	CHIESA	CHIESA area	10 hrs	Alpine training
"	3 Coy	CAP BADILE	PIZZO BADILE	10 hrs	-- do --
12 Aug	All Coys	-----	Rest in area	-----	-----
13 Aug 45	1 Coy	MADESIMO	PASSO STERLA	6 hrs	Reece patrols
"	2 Coy	CHIESA	ALPE FELLARIA	7 hrs	Coy in the att
"	3 Coy	S MARTINO	TESTATA VAL DEL FERRO	6 hrs	- do -

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

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APPENDI A' (Contd)

<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT OF EXERCISE.</u>	<u>ARRIVE AT.</u>
SONDRIO - CHIAVENNA	4 hrs	Transfer	MADESIMO
MEIAROSSA - ARDENNO - SONDRIO	13 hrs	Transfer, and patrols in high mountains en route.	CHIESA
VAL CODERA - CHIAVENNA - ARDENNO.	10 hrs	- do -	S MARTINO

Organisation in the new areas -----			
----- Rest in area -----			
PIZZO D'EMET	10 hrs	Alpine training march	MADESIMO
ALPE MUSELLA	8 hrs	- do -	CHIESA
VAL PORCELLIZZO	4 hrs	Recco patrols	CAP BADILE
LAGO NERO	6 hrs	Coy in the attack.	MADESIMO
CHIESA area	10 hrs	Alpine training	CHIESA
PIZZO BADILE	10 hrs	- do -	S MARTINO

----- Rest in area -----			
PASSO STERLA	6 hrs	Recco patrols	MADESIMO
ALPE FELLARIA	7 hrs	Coy in the attack	CHIESA
TESTATA VAL DEL FERRO	6 hrs	- do -	S MARTINO

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

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<u>DATE.</u>	<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DEPART FROM</u>	<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJ.</u>
14 Aug	1 Coy	MADESIMO	CHLAVERNA - ARDENNO	4 hrs	} Return to
"	2 Coy	GHIESA	SONDRIO - CHLAVERNA	4 hrs	
"	3 Coy	S MARTINO	ARDENNO - SONDRIO	3 hrs	

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

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APPENDIX 'A' (Contd)

<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT OF EXERCISE.</u>	<u>ARRIVE AT</u>
CHIAVENNA - ARDENNO	4 hrs	} Return to original aress.	S MARTINO
SONDRIO - CHIAVENNA	4 hrs		MADESIMO
ARDENNO - SONDRIO	3 hrs		CHIESA

SUBJECT: Liaison Report

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AG (MILIA)

9/36/3

28 JUL 45

TO : Lt. Col. J.S.M. Douglas,
O.C.,
52 British Liaison Unit,
C. N. P.

Receipt is acknowledged of your liaison report dated 24 July, on which the following comments are made.

1. Ref your para 2(a), "Command".
Please see attached copy of D0 letter written by General Browning to GOC 2 District which it is hoped will put the matter right.
2. Ref your para 7, "Inspection".
It is not agreed that a BLJ is not empowered to carry out inspections. MILIA British Directive No. 3 states that the Officer i/c a BLJ may be regarded as a staff officer of the Allied Command concerned, and that orders coming through him designed to implement the instructions of the Allied Command will be regarded as having the authority of that Command. A copy of this directive is attached for your information.
3. Ref your para 8, "Leave".
Attached is a copy of MILIA 'A' Branch Letter AG20 of 17 July giving map coordinates of the MORGAN and POLA lines. A copy of this letter has now been sent to each BLJ.

[Signature]

Lt. Col.

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Attached is a copy of MIA 'A' Branch letter AG20 of
17 July giving map coordinates of the MORGAN and POLA lines. A
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fd

Lt. Col.
CS.

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PERSONAL

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

R O M E.

G/36/3

25 July 45.

My dear

In the usual Liaison Report that I get from the various B.L.U's with Combat Groups Lt.Col. DOUGLAS, 52 B.L.U. LEGNANO mentioned that Legnano Gruppo came under command of H.Q. 59 Area w.o.f. midnight 15/16 July. I fully realise the necessity for de-centralising on your part and the reason for the above, but it is naturally a little embarrassing for General UTILI, a Corps Commander with G.I.L. when fighting for the Allies, to find himself under the orders of a British Brigadier. Actually UTILI is a very good chap and is not making a fuss about this but he is (as Douglas puts it) "very conscious of the situation".

I do not quite know what can be done about this or whether there is any way of "saving face" while still actually maintaining the present arrangements. Perhaps the old ganner term "under command of 2 District but in support of 59 Area" might be invoked. At any rate I feel that I should bring the above to your notice, while not wishing in any way to butt in or interfere with your arrangements in your district. So I send this letter to you for what it is worth.

Yours

L.P.

Major General E.P. NARES, CBE, MC.
G.O.C.
No. 2 District.

/dgc

From: Lt-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

52 British Liaison Unit,
C&F

21 Jul 45

DO/G/63/46

Dear General,

Herewith a further report on the activities of the LEGNANO Gruppo during the last fortnight.

1. Location

Location Statement of Units as at 15 Jul 45 is attached at Appx 'A'.

2. Command

- (a) W.e.f. midnight 15/16 Jul 45 LEGNANO Gruppo ceased to be under Op Comd of IV U.S. Corps and came under comd of HQ 59 Area (LOMBARDIA less MANTOVA province). It is naturally somewhat embarrassing for General UTILLI, a Corps Commander with the CIL when fighting for the Allies with the 8 Army on the Adriatic, to find himself now under the orders of a Brigadier. Up 'till now the Gruppo has always been under Corps or Army direct, except for a week or so under Command of 91 American Div when they first went into the line. He is, however, very loyal, and so long as the situation is tactfully handled he will not, I am sure, take umbrage, but I do know that he is very conscious of the situation.

- (b) 114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo will assume responsibility for the MONZA - COMO Sector, in relief of 11 Armd Bde of 6 S.A. Armd Div. This relief to be completed by 191800 B Jul 45, from which time 114 Inf Regt comes under op and adm comd of LEGNANO Gruppo.

3. Operational Role

Remains unchanged, namely guarding and patrolling of Italo-Swiss frontier and guarding of dumps of captured enemy material.

As the commitments of the Gruppo still cover a vast area with the inevitable dispersion of units and sub-units and the resultant ill-effects on discipline and control I have asked HQ 2 District if those outside 59 Area, namely :-

- (a) Staffing the Italian Refugee Transit Centres at TURIN and GENOA
(b) Guarding enemy dumps at ALICE CASTELLO J 355610,

hope that this will be effected during the next 10 days, and I may be given up, and I we are now concentrating on Internal Security and Duties in aid of the Civil Power, and I am using my Training Majors to conduct TEWTs with the Bns in the British methods employed. I Bn 68 Inf Regt has the Internal Security Commitment in MILAN and I have allotted one Training Major to this Bn. Other important towns in our Sector are BRESCIA, VARESE, PAVIA, and CREMONA.

4. Guards and Dumps

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- (a) Staffing the Italian Refugee Transit Centres at TURIN and GENOVA
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may be given up, and I hope that this will be effected during the next 10 days or so.

We are now concentrating on Internal Security and Duties in aid of the Civil Power, and I am using my Training Majors to conduct TEWTs with the Bns in the British methods employed. I Bn 68 Inf Regt has the Internal Security Commitment in MILAN and I have allotted one Training Major to this Bn. Other important towns in our Sector are BRESCIA, VARESE, PAVIA, and CREMONA.

4. Guards and Dumps

During the last fortnight, guard duties at 8 enemy dumps in the BRESCIA area have been taken on by the Gruppo, and during the same period 2 dumps - ALESSANDRIA J 7606 and PAVIA K 1834 - were given up.

This is still a heavy commitment, but it is hoped that in the near future the number of dumps to be guarded will be much reduced.

5. Engineers

- (a) Engr work carried out during the past two weeks - NIL
(b) Engr work in hand - assisting in construction and repairs at Savoia Barracks MILAN by platoon of tradesmen formed from 3 and 51 P'd Coys and 3 P'd Pk Coy.
(c) Future work - maintenance of all Bailey and improvised bridges on AFHQ routes in LOMBARDIA and provinces of PARMA and PLACENZA (to be carried out as soon as troops are relieved of gd duties on enemy dumps and installations)

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6.

Training

68 Inf Regt - beginning on 20 Jul 45 for I Bn and III Bn. Owing to their Internal Security role in MILAN it is not possible for II Bn to carry out training in the field at present.

- 1st 5 days - Sec Trg - firing of individual weapons - marching.
- Next 10 days - Pl Trg - Platoon exercises - patrols - firing of weapons - marching.
- Last 6 days - Coy Exercises - Shooting Competition.

The Bn Mortar Platoons, in addition to taking part in the Coy exercises, will carry out 3 short courses and 2 firing exercises.

Training Areas are TONALE A 3746, PEZZO A 3350, and APRICA A 0237.

7.

Inspection

Comd 59 Area ordered a parade and inspection of the II Bn 68 Inf Regt for the afternoon of 20 Jul. The Bn was "briefed" for this as far as our powers of "liaison" permit, but I have no hesitation in saying that it was the most lamentable performance that it has ever been my misfortune to witness. Though their drill was adequate, their turnout had to be seen to be believed - many of them had several days growth of beard, buttons were deficient, some had collar-badges and divisional signs whilst others hadn't; in many cases string was substituted for boot laces and hose did not appear above the top of the gaiters; the band instruments were covered with verdi-gris. A high percentage of the MT wouldn't start, the majority of vehs had no bulbs in their lamps and tools were not laid out as ordered. This was their first inspection by an Allied Officer and it proved a revelation - A HCU is not empowered to carry out such inspections.

8.

Leave

A large number of enquiries are being received from Gruppo HQ for permission for Italian soldiers to proceed on leave to places in TRIESTE, POLA, etc., area. We have been advised by MILA Rear HQ 8 Army that certain types of passes have to be issued for soldiers proceeding East of "MORGAN" and "POLA" lines. We are unable to ascertain the geographical position of these lines, and consequently feel that possibly certain Italian personnel are not getting the full benefit of the concessions allowed.

May we please have this information as soon as possible?

9.

Ceremonial Parade

An impressive ceremonial parade was held at the Arena in MILAN on Sunday Jul 15th at which all Units of the Gruppo were represented, and Col de RENZI Comd 68 Inf Regt was in charge of the Parade.

The Parade was attended by Minister of War JACINI, and also present were Gen BRUNETTI Comd of Arma dei Carabinieri, Gen MARRAS Comd III Territorial HQ, Gen UTILI Comd LEGNANO Gruppo, GOC 34 American Div, Brig-Gen LADUE of HQ IV U.S.

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9. Ceremonial Parade

An impressive ceremonial parade was held at the Arena in MILAN on Sunday Jul 15th at which all Units of the Gruppo were represented, and Col de RENZI Comd 68 Inf Regt was in charge of the Parade.

The Parade was attended by Minister of War JACINI, and also present were Gen BRUNETTI Comd of Arma dei Carabinieri, Gen MARRAS Comd III Territorial HQ, Gen UTILI Comd LEGNANO Gruppo, GOC 34 American Div, Brig-Gen LADUE of HQ IV U.S. Corps, Brig FUCHTBERG of 6 S.A. Armd Div, and Col WALKER WELLS of AMG.

Gen UTILI and Minister of War JACINI addressed the troops, and subsequently decorated a number of soldiers with medals for gallantry. This was followed by a March-past of the whole Parade.

The drill, turn-out, and general bearing and steadiness of the troops was excellent.

A description of the Parade, together with a number of photographs, was given in the Milan edition (dated 16 Jul 45) of "LA PATRIA".

10. Major SCAPATI

Following the conclusion of the Court of Inquiry held by the Gruppo, Major SCAPATI Domenico has been relieved of his appointment of Capo di Sezione Operazioni Informazione and has left Gruppo HQ. Gen UTILI informs me that he will not return.

- 3 -

Reduction of Pay

11.

I think that the reduction in the daily rate of pay since the termination of hostilities may be having a serious effect on morale.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L. N. Brown

TO: Major-General L. BROWNING, CB, OBE, MC.
Land Forces Sub-Comm, AC (MILIA).

Copy to: Major-General E.P. NARES, CBE, MC.
Commander 2 District.

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

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7333

Copy to: Major-General E.P. NARES, CBE, MC.
Commander 2 District.

Appx 'A'

HQ LIGURIO GRUPPO.

G OPS & INT SDC.

LOCATION STATEMENT AS AT 15 JULY 45.

1.	Div HQ (Main & Rear)	K 6300	BERGAMO
2.	52 Bn (Main & Rear)	K 6300	BERGAMO
3.	39 Carabinieri Section	K 6300	BERGAMO
4.	51 Carabinieri Section	K 6300	BERGAMO
5.	HQ 68 Infantry Regt.	K 6300	BERGAMO
6.	Mortar Coy	K 6300	BERGAMO
7.	A.Tk Coy	K 6300	BERGAMO
8.	I Bn	K 6300	BERGAMO
9.	II Bn	K 2565	MILAN
10.	III Bn	E 8500	CLUSONE
	102 Coy	E 8500	CLUSONE
	104 Coy	E 8415	ARDESIO
	110 Coy	E 9411	BRATTO
	123 Coy	E 6115	S MARTINO DEI CALVI
11.	HQ 69 Infantry Regt.	E 8140	SONDIO
12.	Mortar Coy	E 8537	PIATTA
13.	A.Tk Coy	E 9739	TEGLIO
14.	I Bersaglieri (GOITO) Bn	E 3352	DELVIO
	5 Coy	E 3524	VARENNA
	6 Coy	E 4126	TACENO
	7 Coy	E 3828	DELLANO
	8 Coy	E 3832	DELVIO
15.	II Alpini (PIEMONTE) Bn	E 5857	MORRINO
	1 Coy	E 6447	S MARTINO
	2 Coy	E 4658	CELAVENNA
	3 Coy	E 8049	CHITSA
	4 Coy	E 6223	GEVIA
16.	III Alpini (L'AQUILA) Bn	A 0544	TIRANO
	95 Coy	A 3140	PONTE DI LEGNO
	103 Coy	A 1839	MOLO

5.	HQ 68 Infantry Regt.				
6.	Lortar Coy				BERGAMO
7.	A. Tr. Coy				BERGAMO
8.	I Bn				BERGAMO
9.	II Bn				MILAN
10.	III Bn				CLUSONE
	102 Coy				CLUSONE
	104 Coy				ANDRESIO
	110 Coy				ERATTO
	123 Coy				S MARTINO DEI GALVI
11.	HQ 69 Infantry Regt.				
12.	Lortar Coy				SONDRIO
13.	A. Tr. Coy				PIATEDA
14.	I Bersaglieri (GOITO) Bn				TELLIO
	5 Coy				DELVIO
	6 Coy				VARENNA
	7 Coy				TACENO
	8 Coy				INELLANO
15.	II Alpini (PIEMONTE) Bn				DELVIO
	1 Coy				MORHECO
	2 Coy				S MARTINO
	3 Coy				CELLAVENNA
	4 Coy				CHITSA
16.	III Alpini (L'AQUILA) Bn				CINGOLA
	93 Coy				TIRANO
	103 Coy				MONTI DI LEGNO
	119 Coy				IDOLO
	145 Coy				TIRANO
					BORLIO
17.	HQ 11 Artillery Regt.				
18.	1 Bty (25-pr)				BERGAMO
19.	2 Bty (25-pr)				EUSTO APSIZIO
20.	3 Bty (25-pr)				OLGIATE
21.	4 Bty (25-pr)				NILERO
22.	5 A. Tr. Bty (17-pr)				TURIN
23.	6 A. Tr. Bty (40 mm)				CESTORIBIO
					BERGAMO

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2.

24.	HQ 54 Engineer Bn.	K 2035	PAVIA
25.	3 Field Ingr Coy	O 8599	MANDRUGNO
26.	51 Field Ingr Coy	K 2033	PAVIA
27.	51 Signal Coy	K 6388	BERGAMO
28.	54 Medical Section	K 6388	BERGAMO
29.	240. Field Hospital	K 7007	TESSICO
30.	552 Field Hospital	K 7007	TESSICO
31.	51 S & T Coy	K 6065	CARAVAGGIO
32.	601 Field Park	K 6388	BERGAMO
33.	Logano 1st Workshops	E 5708	PONTE S. PIETRO

AUXILIARY UNITS.

34.	3d Surgical Unit	K 6380	BERGAMO
35.	1 Field Bakery	K 6388	BERGAMO
36.	185 Tech Maint Unit	E 0560	BERGAMO
37.	3 Field Park Coy	K 2035	PAVIA

7331

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/36/03 BY 60322
Pmk/De

6/36/39

G/63/37

Dear General.

I am sending you herewith a further report on the activities of the LEBANO Group, during the last fortnight.

1. Location.

(c) Ref Location Statement attached to my last letter (2/65/24 dated 17 June); locations of units remain unchanged, except for the following :-

I Br 'GOTRO' (Peresyllant) - now located as follows:

-	DERVIO E5892
-	VARENA E5524
-	TACITO B4126
-	BELLINO E5828
-	DERVIO E5812

14 Artillery Regt -

1 Bty	- now located at	BUSTO ARSIZIO J9981.
2 Bty	" "	" " MARENGO K7692
3 Bty	" "	" " GENOVARIA E1806.

(b) The locations of the Auxiliary Units attached to the LEGIANO Group were previously omitted, and are as follows:

3d Surgical Unit	-	BENGAL NO 388
1 Field Bakery	-	REMANO NO 388
183 Tech Maint Sec-	-	BRISOLA NO 568
5 Pn Park Coy	-	PANIA NO 033

2. Operational Role.

Remains unchanged. It is probable that the Gruppo sector will shortly be extended eastwards to include MONSIEU again. In view of this and of the arrival of CANTONIA Gruppo in the ALBANO area, the Gruppo has asked IV Corps whether they can be relieved by CANTONIA Gruppo.

1. Locations.

(a) Ref Location Statement attached to my last letter (2/63/24 dated 17 June); locations of units remain unchanged, except for the following :-

I Bn 'GORTO' (Perseglieri) - now located as follows :

- 1st HQ - DERNIO E3832
- 5 Coy - VARENNIA E3824
- 6 Coy - BACCIO E4126
- 7 Coy - PILLANO E3828
- 8 Coy - DERNIO E3832.

11 Artillery Regt - 1 Bty - now located at MESTO ANZILIO J3981.
 5 Bty - " " " NEMERO K7092
 5 Bty - " " " CILICCHIO E4806.

(b) The locations of the Auxiliary Units attached to the LERMANO Group were previously omitted, and are as follows :

- 34 Surgical Unit - MORGANO K6388
- 1 Field Bakery - MORGANO K6388
- 183 Tech Maint Sec - MESSIA NO568
- 5 Pk Park Coy - PAVIA K2033.

2. Operational Role.

Remains unchanged. It is probable that the Gruppo sector will shortly be extended eastwards to include MESSIA again. In view of this and of the arrival of ORTONA Gruppo in the MESSANDRIA area, the Gruppo has asked IV Corps whether they can be relieved by CRETINA Gruppo or the duty of staffing the Italian Refugee Transit Centres at TURIN and GENOA. I understand that IV Corps are in agreement with this and are requesting a decision from higher authority.

3. Guard Duties on Enemy Dumps.

(a) Ref Remarks Coln in Location Statement attached to my last letter. The following guard duties have been given up :
 1 Bty 11 Arty Regt - Dump at LERMANO K0580
 5 Bty 11 Arty Regt - Dump at K17034.

(b) The following additional guard duties have now been taken on :
 III Bn Alpini L'AGUILA - Dumps at SOTTOO M1957, TONALE
 62 Inf Regt. Pass A3747 & EXALO M173. GSO 1

- 5 Bty 11 Arty Regt - Dump at CACERLATE E1900. GSO 2 (OP)
- GSO 2 (SD)
- GSO 2 (E3330)
- GSO 2 (L)
- GSO 2 (3M)
- GSO 2 (C-Gen)
- GSO 2 (4)

(K)

110900

2.

4. Observations.

(a) Following a civilian report concerning armed persons, III Bn Alpini (L'Aquila) 69 Inf Regt carried out a mop-up action on 23 June 45 in platoon strength in area of MONTA Pass 11846. Results - negative.

(b) During night 15/16 June 45, two rifle shots were fired at the sentry on duty at the camps at MDE 38625 (51 Bn Coy), without consequences. A patrol immediately searched the surrounding area, arresting several persons who were subsequently released after questioning.

(c) Following a report by 421 PS Sec that a party of armed soldiers of ex-Bn "MAGLIARINO" were operating in the area SPALMATT 10490 - MATTEO 10392 - FORTOZIA 10392 and stealing food, etc. from civilians in remote districts, a recon of the area was carried out with negative results other than that information was obtained that a maresciallo and two or three men of the "MAGLIARINO" Bn had been in the area and were obviously desirous of obtaining identity documents for subsequent forging and use by themselves.

Yesterday (2 July) 68 Inf Regt started a comb-out of the area by means of three patrols, starting from MDE 19895, FRAMES 10499 and PIZZAN 10794.

5. COMBAT.

Ref 23 June 45 LEMANO Gruppo passed from comd of 150 5 Army to comd of HQ 2 District, remaining under op comd of IV (US) Corps.

6. Training.

Despite the very heavy guard and internal security commitments, we have managed to prevail upon the Gruppo to carry out some time once more, and now that they have got the idea of it they are very keen on the prospect. At present the scheme is roughly as follows :-

(a) 69 Inf Regt - guarding the frontier posts in the mountains N of SONDRIO. By a system of rotation one pl per coy will start off with Recruits Individual and Section trg (which I trust will include some of arms). Running concurrently and starting on 6 July each rifle coy will intern go into the hills for three weeks finishing up with pl schemes and Alpine sports.

(b) 68 Inf Regt, - who are located in MEGGIO and in the foothills in the vicinity, are to do their trg in the hills just S of SONDRIO. There will be three trg areas, and starting on 15 July 45, one coy per bn will undergo three weeks trg, interchanging trg areas each week. The Bn Mortar pls will train with them as well as an increment from the Regt Mortar Coy. The Regt A/Tk Coy and the A/Tk PIs of Bn 111

trained that a maresciallo and two or three men of the "MILIA-
MILIO" had been in the area and were obviously desirous of
obtaining identity documents for subsequent forging and use by
the severs.

Yesterday (2 July) 68 Inf Regt started a comb-out of the
area by means of three patrols, starting from ZONE K9895, FRAMES
30199 and PIZZANO 10734.

5. COMB-OUT.

Ref 23 June 45 LEGHANO Gruppo passed from adn cmd of HQ 5 Army
to adn cmd of HQ 2 District, remaining under op cmd of IV (US) Corps.

6. Training.

Despite the very heavy guard and internal security commitment,
we have managed to prevail upon the Gruppo to carry out some trg once
more, and now that they have got the idea of it they are very keen on
the prospect. At present the scheme is roughly as follows :-

(a) 68 Inf Regt - guarding the frontier posts in the mountains N of
SANDRIO. By a system of rotation one pl per coy will start off
with Recruits Individual and Section Trg (which I trust will in-
clude some of arms). Running concurrently and starting on 6 July
each rifle coy will inturn go into the hills for three weeks
finishing up with PI schemes and Alpine sports.

(b) 68 Inf Regt - who are located in SANDRIO and in the foothills in
the vicinity. are to do their trg in the hills just S of SANDRIO.
There will be three trg areas, and starting on 15 July 45, one coy
per bn will undergo three weeks trg, interchanging trg areas each
week. The 2nd Mortar Pls will train with them as well as an
increment from the Regt Mortar Coy. The Regt 4/14 Coy and the
4/14 Pls of Ins will be grouped together for intensive trg.

7. MT MAINTENANCE.

Attached at Appx 'A' is a copy of a letter on MT Maintenance sent
by my OC RMT to Gruppo HQ.

8. Maintenance of Small Arms.

Ref para 8 of my last letter. Copy of AIA's final report dated
3 July 45 on his inspection of Small Arms in the Gruppo is attached at
Appx 'B'.

All items of cleaning materials have at all times been available
in DADOS Disp and all units indents have been met. The AIA has report-
ed that during his tour of inspection he found that one unit had marked
out a tennis-court with '1x2'.

9. Medical.

The medical services of the Gruppo are functioning in their **7329**
efficient manner although the demands on their services are not very
great, as the sickness rate is low. Serious cases are admitted to the
Military Hospitals in MILAN and VERONA where there are more facilities
available.

10. Recently IV Corps ordered a check-up on all captured enemy vehicles in the Gungo sector. This is now being done by the 1st Cavalry Group, accompanied by 2nd Cavalry Group, attached 22 MB. In addition they are carrying out a check on road discipline.

11. Miscellaneous
(a) The following is an extract from a Security Report by (S) 421 25 section dated 2 Jul 45 :-

"Anti-Sovietism posters, text in under, were printed in parallel and other up at the entrance to the Municipio at NABONA N. 6135 on 15 Jun 45 :-

(1) Citizens of NABONA ! Do not subscribe to the reward for the live-liberators ! We are only aiding rascals, those who have violently destroyed gardens and property. In or is not this the truth ? The ex-soldiers who have suffered so much are unknown, but the day of judgment will come - and who won.

(11) Fellow Citizens ! Have you seen our law the population regards the justice ? A race of devils who have come out of hell, cartermen of the innocent, sugar-thieves, and assassins in the most horrible of brutalities. And what have they served ? Isn't it the truth ? You cannot deny it. They performed an heroic act occupying the building when it was already empty. But the hour of reckoning will come. Do not contribute, my of you, for this vagabond rabble.

The sentiments may be of Fascist origin or may be merely the outcome of some straight-thinking on the part of respectable citizens."

(b) On Sunday 1 July 45, the Italian Prime Minister, SIG. SALVI, Lieutenant-General Vito. SALVEMINI, and Gen. URBAN Cord in which elements of the II Bn 68 Inf Regt took part.

(c) A presentation of medals is contemplated to take place in the Arena in MILAN on 15 Jul 45.

(a) Ski-meeting

On Sat 30 Jun 45 a Ski-meeting was held at SIELVIO on the Italo-Swiss frontier, which was organized by the Alpini Club, and run in conjunction with the 20-days Ski Course for all ranks of Alpina which is being held by the 68 Inf Regt.

The Course was laid out as follows :-

<u>Climbing</u>		<u>Cross-Country</u>		<u>Downhill</u>	
Time taken	32 mins	4 kms	26 mins	4 kms	3 mins
	32 mins				

Teams consisted of 3, one of whom did the climbing, one the

"The sentiment may be of racist origin in way to merely the outcome of some straight-thinking on the part of respectable citizens."

(5) On Sunday 1 July 45, the Italian Prime Minister, SIG. BARRI, visited Gen. William D. CHITTENDEN, Jr. and Gen. LAMARCA. Gen. Chittenden attended a ceremonial parade in the Arena at MILAN in which elements of the II Bn 68 Inf Regt took part.

(6) A presentation of medals is contemplated to take place in the Arena in MILAN on 15 Jul 45.

(a) Ski-Meeting

On Sat 30 Jun 45 a Ski-Meeting was held at STHVIO on the Italo-Swiss frontier, which was organized by the Alpini Club, and run in conjunction with the 20-day Ski Course for all ranks of Alpini which is being held by the 69 Inf Regt.

The Course was laid out as follows :-

<u>Climbing</u>	<u>Cross-Country</u>	<u>Downhill</u>
3 1/2 hrs	4 hrs	4 hrs
Time taken 32 mins	26 mins	3 mins

Teams consisted of 3, one of whom did the climbing, one the cross-country, and the third the downhill run.

No. of Competitors - 51 (Total of 17 teams)
 Civilian - 42 (14 teams)
 Military - 9 (3 teams)

The military (Alpini) teams were placed as follows :-

3rd - team consisted of 2 from "Picante" Bn and 1 from "L'Aquila" Bn.

7th
 11th

This was a highly satisfactory performance as the majority of civilian competitors were professionals and in many cases champions. I am myself able to appreciate the value of this form of training being the ex-30 of a Mountaineer Regt (the 1st Scouts) when I took

7328

to CANADA to train in the Rockies for 4 months before bringing
them over to ITALY. I was up at SWEET myself for the meeting,
and it struck me as being a popular and very well-organized show.

With kind regards -

Yours sincerely

L.M. Gayle

Major-General L. MOWING, C.B., C.D.E., M.C.

Land Forces Sub-Comm. M. (ADIA).

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

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

7327

7326

Subject: HE Road Discipline.

COPY

Appx "A"

SC REHE,
52 British Liaison Unit,
CJF.

Ref No: REH/15/57.

25 June 45.

CIE HQ LEGNANO.

Copy to: DAAGCAG, 52 HJL.
DEHE, 2 District.
DAAGCAG, LEGNANO.
OC HE Workshop.

1. Since the arrival of the Gruppo in the HERMANO Area, there has been an excessive increase in road accidents, the majority of which have been entirely due to careless driving and extremely poor road discipline.
2. This, together with the general decline in unit maintenance, has been responsible for an excessive increase in the HE Repair load and in the HE Workshops alone there are now 57 Motor cycles, 19 Utilities, 54 - 15-cuts and 57 - 3-tonners all awaiting repair.
3. The low standard of maintenance is confirmed by an examination of Workshop Inspections of Vehicles received for repair from which it has been verified that with 90% there has been no attempt at the maintenance and the cleanliness and lubrication have been completely disregarded.
4. This lack of road discipline, extremely poor maintenance and indiscriminate use of tpt by officers and ORs of the Gruppo will also have serious repercussions on the good name of the LEGNANO Gruppo and render invalid any requests for an increase of the Gruppo POL allotment.
5. It will be appreciated from the above that this is imposing an impossible and also unnecessary strain on the Gruppo HE repair facilities and immediate steps must be taken by Unit commanders to improve and enforce road discipline and also to improve unit maintenance, as unless such steps are taken, the Gruppo will find itself in serious difficulties regarding tpt.
6. It is emphasized that road discipline and unit maintenance are the direct responsibility of every Regt officer and not merely the Unit HQ. The necessary high standard can only be obtained by the maximum effort on their part and as in the past they do not appear to have exercised very much control over the men and tpt under their command, it is considered necessary that full instruction on this subject be issued to them and an immediate improvement demanded.
7. To assist with these instructions, the following principle points are given and the important GFOs and ACIs referred to are listed in Appendix 1 with brief notes on them.

To assist with these instructions, the following principle points are given and the important GFOs and ACIs referred to are listed in Appendix 1 with brief notes on them.

2. This, together with the general decline in unit maintenance, has been responsible for an excessive increase in the WE Repair load and in the WE Wrecks alone there are now 57 Motor cycles, 19 Utilities, 54 - 15-cvts and 57 - 3-tonners all awaiting repair.

3. The low standard of maintenance is confirmed by an examination of Wreap Inspections of Vehicles received for repair from which it has been verified that with 90% there has been no attempt at the maintenance and the cleanliness and lubrication have been completely disregarded.

4. This lack of road discipline, extremely poor maintenance and indiscriminate use of tpt by officers and ORs of the Gruppo will also have serious repercussions on the good name of the LEGNANO Gruppo and render invalid any requests for an increase of the Gruppo POL allotment.

5. It will be appreciated from the above that this is imposing an impossible and also unnecessary strain on the Gruppo WE repair facilities and immediate steps must be taken by Unit commanders to improve and enforce road discipline and also to improve unit maintenance, as unless such steps are taken, the Gruppo will find itself in serious difficulties regarding tpt.

6. It is emphasised that road discipline and unit maintenance are the direct responsibility of every Regt officer and not merely the Unit MTO. The necessary high standard can only be obtained by the maximum effort on their part and as in the past they do not appear to have exercised very much control over the men and tpt under their command, it is considered necessary that full instruction on this subject be issued to them and an immediate improvement demanded.

7. To assist with these instructions, the following principle points are given and the important GROs and ACIs referred to are listed in Appendix 'A' with brief notes on their contents. The actual GROs and ACIs are available in this office for further reference.

(a) Excessive Speeding - Ref GRO 299/45.

This is the principle cause of all accidents and is also responsible for premature wear of vchs. It can be said that speeding alone would probably account for 50% of the present WE Wrecks repair load and it will therefore be appreciated that the speed limits laid down in the above GRO must be strictly enforced.

This applies particularly to jeeps and 15-cvts, where as a result of excessive speeding, engines are constantly being rendered unserviceable. In the case of jeeps, it should be borne in mind that due to their proposed withdrawal spares are rapidly becoming non-available and it will soon be necessary to ER all jeeps requiring major overhauling.

7326

Sheet 2(b) Overloading of Vehicles - Ref GSO 1082A1

There are definite limits laid down in the above GSO as to the maximum number of passengers to be carried in the various types of D Vehicles. This GSO also prohibits more than two persons (including the driver) from riding in the cab and also passengers from sitting on the sides or tailboards - both very common offences within the Group.

(c) Driving & Maintenance Discipline - Ref GSO 193/44, 346/44, 224/44.

Unnecessary damage is caused to transport by bad driving and maintenance discipline. Drivers should at all times observe traffic regulations and keep their vehicles technically sound by means of the test system of maintenance as laid down in GSO 346/44. All vans requiring repair should immediately be sent in to the appropriate LAD and any van not technically sound should not be allowed on the Road. This is of particular importance in view of the large number of "engine charges" made necessary by neglect of oil levels and also the accidents due to badly adjusted brakes. The seriousness of this matter will probably be more readily appreciated by an examination of the table of engine replacements for the period 29 March to 21 June 45 given below from which it will be seen that in the case of 67% replacement was made necessary by negligence on the part of the driver.

Engine Replacements - Period 29 March to 21 June 45

Type	Mileage of Defective Engine						Replacements due to Negligence
	0-2000	2000-4000	4000-6000	6000-8000	8000-10,000	10,000 & above	
1/2 Cycles	7	-	1	-	2	-	10
Jeeps	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Utilities	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
15-cwts	-	7	6	8	-	5	26
5-tonners	2	2	3	5	4	6	22
Totals	9	10	10	15	6	11	61
							41

satisfactory
 14.14

in view of the large number of "engine changes" made necessary by neglect of oil levels and also the accidents due to badly adjusted brakes. The seriousness of this matter will probably be more readily appreciated by an examination of the table of engine replacements for the period 29 March to 21 June 45 given below from which it will be seen that in the case of 67, replacement was made necessary by negligence on the part of the driver.

Engine Replacements - Period 29 March to 21 Jun 45

Type	Mileage of Defective Engine						Replacements due to Negligence
	0-2000	2001-4000	4000-5000	5000-8000	8000-10,000	10,000 & above	
24/Cycles	7	-	1	-	2	-	10
Jeeps	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Utilities	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
15-cwts	-	7	6	8	-	5	26
3-tonners	2	2	3	5	4	6	22
Totals	9	10	10	15	6	11	61
Satisfactory Limit							41

Engine Replacements due to negligence and poor Unit maintenance = 67%.

(a) Traffic Accidents - Ref GRC 96/44, ACIs 2514/41 & 2277/42

These are far too frequent and too little importance is attached to them by the COs of the Gruppo Regts. Of the 53 vhs received in Veps for repair after being involved in Traffic Accidents, only 4 were complete with Traffic Accident Reports. It should be expressed on all COs that the above GRC and ACIs make it compulsory that in the case of all accidents, full accident reports must be completed and necessary disciplinary action taken. In all cases the driver must be immediately placed on a charge and the case recorded for the CO.

7325

Sheet 3

Vehicles involved in accidents should not be repaired in LE Waps unless completed Traffic Accidents Reports (AF A 3681) are produced, these reports to show that disciplinary action (if necessary) has been taken and SC RELI will not permit vohs involved in accidents and rendered Class III to VI (and therefore BLR) to be backloaded or struck off charge until evidence is produced that correct accident procedure has been complied with and the very necessary disciplinary action taken.

(o) Driving Ability - Ref AGI 2567/41, GRO 329/13

The general driving ability and it knowledge of the Gruppo drivers is exceedingly low and now that the time and opportunity is available immediate steps should be taken to improve this. COs of Units should appoint a suitably qualified Officer for the purpose of examining and testing his Unit drivers and the driving of WD Transport should be restricted to qualified personnel. The qualification necessary for a driver is set out in the Appendix.

8. It is stressed that the above points should be given immediate attention by all concerned and a section of 30 Carabinieri under the command of British CIPs formed for patrolling the Gruppo area and enforcing road discipline and checking vehicle documentation and maintenance. Any instruction required on documentation and maintenance will be provided by SC RELI.

(Sgd) P.H. Nelson
Captain,
SC RELI.

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

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8. It is stressed that the above points should be given immediate attention by all concerned and a section of 30 Carabinieri under the command of British CIPs formed for patrolling the Gruppo area and enforcing road discipline and checking vehicle documentation and maintenance.

Any instruction required on documentation and maintenance will be provided by SC REE.

(Sgd) P.H. Nelson
Captain,
SC REE.

Appx "B" 28

COPY

Subject: Inspections SA & IG.

Ref 741/10/35
741 Inf 2nd Corps ARS
CIR.
2 July 45

GENERAL REPORT ON THE SMALL ARMS AND MACHINE GUNS OF THE LEBANON GP.

The inspection of Small arms has now been completed, and reports sent to all concerned.
The general condition of the weapons was 'POOR', due mainly to lack of maintenance. The actual figures are :-

RIFLES No 4	Examined	2350	BAR 646	=	27%
Carbine Thompson	"	1010	"	456	= 45%
Guns M/C Bren	"	313	"	31	= 10%

The reason for the variation in the percentage of BAR of these weapons may be explained as follows:

- (a) Rifles No 4 - A reliable, useful weapon, but lacking the fire power of the Bren.
- (b) Carbine Thompson - A very much disliked weapon. Unreliable, bulky and necessitating the carrying of large quantities of loaded magazines.
- (c) Guns M/C Bren - This gun is extremely popular in the Gruppo and was reasonably well maintained.

It would therefore appear that the small arms in this Gruppo are maintained according to popularity.

The following points are produced for information and action of all concerned.

1. Units were not in possession of all items of cleaning material.
 - (a) Units should be informed of the contents of their Action ARV1092 and methods of obtaining deficiencies. } ARV1092.
 - (b) Units should be informed of the uses of the items listed in their ARV1093 and where they should be kept. } Action ARV1093.
2. The registered numbers of Bren gun barrels did not correspond with the number on the gun.
 - (a) All Bren guns overhauled by REE are returned to stock with two barrels correctly fitted and numbered to the gun. RAC should ensure that no change is made before issue. } Action GRD.
 - (b) Units should ensure that all guns issued in future have two barrels, the numbers of which agree with that on the body of the gun. } Action All Units.

the reason for the variation in the percentage of M1 of these weapons may be explained as follows:

(a) Rifles No 4 - A reliable, useful weapon, but lacking the fire power of the Bren.

(b) Carbine Thompson - A very much disliked weapon. Unreliable, bulky and necessitating the carrying of large quantities of loaded magazines. This gun is extremely popular in the Gungo and was reasonably well maintained.

(c) Gns M/c Bren -

It would therefore appear that the small arms in this Gungo are maintained according to popularity.

The following points are produced for information and action of all concerned.

1. Units were not in possession of all items of cleaning material.
 - (a) Units should be informed of the contents of their APC098 and methods of obtaining deficiencies. } Action
 - (b) Units should be informed of the uses of the items listed in their APC098 and where they should be kept. } RWOs. } Action
2. The registered numbers of Bren gun barrels did not correspond with the number on the gun.
 - (a) All Bren guns overhauled by RMC are returned to stock with two barrels correctly fitted and numbered to the gun. RMC should ensure that no change is made before issue. } Action CIB.
 - (b) Units should ensure that all guns issued in future have two barrels, the numbers of which agree with that on the body of the gun. } Action All Units.
3. In some cases, Rifles No 4 (P) were not equipped with their correct telescopes. Units reported no change since issue. Action should be taken as for Bren barrels. See also GHO 201 Serial 9 of 1945. } Action CIB & All Units.

4. Armourers reported that they were not permitted a normal quarterly inspection of small arms. Regt Regs Pt 1 states that all arms will be examined by an armourer every 3 months irrespective of whether an Armourer is, or is not, on the establishment of the unit. This Regulation also states that Armourers will render a report to their COs showing the general condition of arms and making any suggestions for their improvement. COs should then act on the advice given by the Armourer. A copy of the Armourers report should be retained by the unit for examination by an ALA at his quarterly visits. } Action all Units with Armourers.

1337

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

2.

5. Officers and NCOs require instruction in the care and inspection of small arms as laid down in SAG Vol 1 Pamphlet No 1. } Action
All Units.

6. Armourers require instruction in the inspection and repair of small arms. They also require instruction in their duties. } Action
All Units.

Arrangements should be made to have all Armourers sent to workshops for instruction under the British Armourer.

7. Arrangements should be made for the inspection of the small arms of the Gruppe at the end of one month. } Action
All Units.

Attached to this report are some notes for the guidance of Armourers in their instruction to officers referred to in para 5.

Distribution :

HMV HQ No 2 District.

CAT HQ Legation

GCOT 52 HMV

DADOS 52 HMV (Report only)

CC 741 Inf Tps Workshops RMV.

Lieut. AIA.
741 Inf Tps Workshops, RMV.

1 3 3 8

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Ident. AIA.
741 Inf Tys Workshops, REED.

Distribution :

DDOT HQ No 2 District.
CME HQ Legnano
6301 52 HLI
DADOS 52 HLI (Report only)
CS 741 Inf Tys Workshops REED.

7322

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

From : Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit.

CMP.

17 Jun 45

9/65/24

Dear General.

I am sending you this report on the activities of the Legnano Gruppo, ref Serial 15 of Minutes of the Gruppo Conference held at HQ 5 Army on 11 Jun 45.

1. Locations

(a) The attached list shows the locations of the Units of the Gruppo, as at 15 Jun 45.

(b) 52 HMU is located as follows :-

HQ - Via Fr. Crispi.

INTERMO.

Officers Mess - Villa Finazzi,

Viale Vittorio Emanuele,

BERGAMO.

2. Duties

(a) The Sector allotted to the Gruppo is shown on attached trace (Ref Italy Map, Sheets 2 and 5 - 1/200,000).

(b) In general, the duties allotted to the Legnano are as follows :-

- (i) Guarding and patrolling of Swiss-Italian border.
 - (ii) Guarding of dumps of captured enemy material.
 - (iii) Collection and evacuation of enemy PWs within Sector.
 - (iv) Organisation of Italian Refugee Transit Centre at MILAN, MERIN, GENOVA, and COMO.
- Brief details of duties are given in remarks column of attached location statement.

3. Training

I am trying to induce the Gruppo HQ to arrange some form of training

11 Jun 45.

1. Locations

(a) The attached list shows the locations of the Units of the Gruppo, as at 15 Jun 45.

(b) 52 MU is located as follows :-

HQ - Via Fr. Cristof.,

BERGAMO.

Officers Mess - Villa Finasai,

Viale Vittorio Emanuele,

BERGAMO.

2. Duties

(a) The Sector allotted to the Gruppo is shown on attached trace (Ref Italy Map, Sheets 2 and 5 - 1/200,000).

(b) In general, the duties allotted to the Legnano are as follows :-

- (i) Guarding and patrolling of Swiss-Italian border.
- (ii) Guarding of dumps of captured enemy material.
- (iii) Collection and evacuation of enemy PWs within Sector.
- (iv) Organisation of Italian Refugee Transit Centre at MILAN, TURIN, GENOA, and COMO.

Brief details of duties are given in remarks column of attached location statement.

3. Training

I am trying to induce the Gruppo HQ to arrange some form of training for the Inf Bn2, such as Weapon Trg and Platoon exercises, and I hope to get something started soon. At the moment I have 3 Trg Majors of "G" Trg Increment, Majors HAMILLAN, EVANS, and HILL, and they will do their utmost to get it going, but I have just received information from Hq 5 Army (196/8/3(SD) dated 14 Jun) that "G" Trg Increment is to be disbanded. I feel that it will be very difficult to get training going without them, particularly as the MU is shortly reorganising on to a new WL, and I recommend strongly that at least 2 Trg Majors (one per Inf Regt) are retained.

*I don't think we can do
on Spoon - for day
Crisp's Regt*

.....2
7321
7321

They request to continue the
M. H. after

Courses commencing	14 May	6 Octrs	and 10 HCOs.	(21 Octrs & 11 HCOs).
"	10 Jun	2 Octrs	and 8 HCOs.	(16 Octrs & 8 HCOs).

4. Desertion.

1 Oct 44 - 28 Feb 45	768,	of which 189 returned.
1 - 31 Mar 45	298,	" " 50
1 - 30 Apr 45	254,	" " 12
1 - 31 May 45	<u>157,</u>	" " <u>13</u>
Totals	<u>1477</u>	<u>344</u>

At 3 Jan 45 the number of personnel on leave was :-

ORg - 1124

The following are extracts from a report on Welfare submitted by
GRATTO HQ :-

This HQ possesses a Mobile Cinema and with it we have been able to give the troops cinema shows. Recently this Mobile Cinema returned from a long tour of the Units of 69 Inf Regt, which, owing to their location have a great need for this type of entertainment.

Sports - lack of it has impeded the taking up of any kind of

1 Oct 44 - 28 Feb 45	298,	"	"	50
1 - 31 Mar 45	254,	"	"	12
1 - 30 Apr 45	157,	"	"	12
1 - 31 May 45				
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1471</u>			<u>244</u>

5. Leave.

At 3 Jun 45 the number of personnel on leave was :-

Officers - 35 ORs - 1124

6. Welfare.

The following are extracts from a report on Welfare submitted by Gruppo HQ :-

Entertainment - It was only during the period in which the Gruppo was located in BRACCIANO area that troops were able to see theatre and cinema shows. Day trips to ROMA were organised (300 - 400 men on each trip), and on these trips, in addition to visiting the principal monuments in the Capital, men were able to visit shows.

This HQ possesses a Mobile Cinema and with it we have been able to give the troops cinema shows. Recently this Mobile Cinema returned from a long tour of the Units of 69 Inf Regt, which, owing to their location have a great need for this type of entertainment.

Sports - Lack of kit has impeded the taking up of any kind of sport. Football is most popular in Italy, but unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain footballs from civil sources.

The MERCATO Comune has recently consented to the free use of the public swimming pool by the Gruppo for 3 days in the week, and 900 men will visit the baths each week.

Newspapers - The two newspapers "La Patria" and "L'Italia" have always been distributed free. Distribution was interrupted during the advance from the Apennines, but is now regular again. "La Patria" is a paper which is popular with the men, is drawn every day from MILAN in the evening, and distributed to units the following morning.

.....7320

(3)

Rest Camp - Owing to lack of materials this Gruppo has never been able to set up a Rest Camp, and, in addition, the continuous moves and bad areas in which the Gruppo has operated would not have permitted the organization of such a Camp even of a very modest type. As far as was possible men were sent to the "Casa del Combattente" set up in RCH by the War Dept.

Cigarettes - A satisfactory solution to this question has never been found. Each man has 15 cigarettes daily - 10 free and 5 on payment - and these of a poor quality. In addition, distribution was not always regular, the quantity is insufficient, and it is not possible to purchase from civilian sources due to the high prices. The position has now worsened because the issue of 5 cigarettes per day on payment has been suspended.

Clothing on Payment - For months the setting up of a unit for supplying clothing on payment has been announced. It is only today (14 Jun) that precise instructions have been received, and from these it would appear that this service will be available for only a short time.

Other Welfare Activities - Since February premiums have been issued to deserving men, also family allowances to their families if in need. This benefit employs a total of One million lire per month, and in addition to encouraging the soldier to give of his best is a considerable aid to those families who have suffered most from the war.

When communications between North and South were interrupted due to the war, this HQ instituted a message service through the Red Cross, the Vatican, and also by means of radio.

7. Morale

Attached is a copy of a letter which I sent to HQ 5 Army last month on the subject of Morale.

8. Maintenance of Small Arms

A complete inspection of all Legnano Gruppo Small Arms by an A.I.A. is now in progress, and extracts from his advance report (dated 30 May) are :-

General Condition - Poor	
Percentage of RLR - Rifles - 20%	
Reason for excessive	RLRs - 50%
RLR - Lack of care and attention	
Barrels badly corroded.	

I will include extracts from the final report in my next fortnightly

that precise instructions have been received, and from these it would appear that this service will be available for only a short time.

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8. Maintenance of Small Arms

A complete inspection of all Legnano Gruppo Small Arms by an A.I.A. is now in progress, and extracts from his advance report (dated 30 May) are :-

General Condition - Poor
Percentage of RLR - Rifles - 20%
TRUCs - 50%

Reason for excessive

RLR - Lack of care and attention
Barrels badly corroded.

I will include extracts from the final report in my next fortnightly letter. My DADOS confirms that cleaning materials (oil, flannelette, pull throughs) have always been available for issue, and that all demands from Units have been met.

9. Miscellaneous

(a) A Ski-ing School, organised by 69 Inf Regt, has been opened at GHIUVIO Pass A.2778, and the first course began on 10 Jun 45. 50 sets of ski-ing equipment and clothing was obtained for this through Ord Brit Inc, 5 Army.

.....7319

(4)

(b) A number of officers and men of the Legnano Gruppo have expressed a desire to volunteer for service in the Far East.

Also, when we first arrived in BRESCIA, the BILU received a number of civilians who wished to find out whether they could serve in the Far East. Names of these volunteers have been recorded by AMG.

(c) A team from Legnano Gruppo took part in the 5th Army Inter-Divisional Athletics at the MILAN Stadium on 16 and 17 Jun 45, and finished 4th.

Bersagliere CARMIGNATI was 1st in the 5000 metres,
Bersagliere NOZZA was 2nd in the High Jump, and
Bersagliere MARTINELLI was 3rd in the High Jump.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

L.M. Taylor

To: Major-Gen L. KROWNING, CB, OBE, MC.
Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (AFHA).

1 3 4 6

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*Yours sincerely,
L.M. Taylor*

To: Major-Gen L. BROWNIE, CB, CBE, MC.
Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (MILIA).

73187

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Ref. ITALY Sheets
2, 4, 5, and 7 (1/200,000)

LOCATION STATEMENT
AS AT 15 JUN 45

UNIT	LOCATION	MAP REF
HQ LEXZIANO Group (Main & Rear)	BERGAMO	K 6488
Hq 68 Inf Regt	BERGAMO	K 6488
Regt Mortar Coy	BERGAMO	K 6488
Regt A-Tk Coy	BERGAMO	K 6488
I Bn 68 Regt	BERGAMO	K 6488
II Bn 68 Regt	MILAN	K 6564
III Bn 68 Regt	CLUSONE	E 8507
Hq 69 Inf Regt	SONDRIO	E 8139
Regt Mortar Coy	PIATEDA	E 8537
Regt A-Tk Coy	TEGLIO	E 9639

Finds guards on dumps at P
One Coy at 6 hrs notice (f
Finds guards on dumps at V
MARTINENGO K 7274, and on
Under MILAN AREA COMMAND.
Transit Centre at MILAN.
Coy at ALESSIO E 8514, CL
MARTINO DI CALVI E 6515.

11 3 4 8

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020LOCATION STATEMENT
AS AT 15 JUN 45~~SECRET~~
7317

MAP REF

REMARKS

K 6488

K 6488

K 6488

K 6488

K 6488

Finds guards on dumps at FONTE S. PIETRO K 5888 and CORLE K 6788.

One Coy at 6 hrs notice (for aid to civil powers).
Finds guards on dumps at VEDUGLIO K 5978, URGHANO K 6677, and
MARTINENGO K 7274, and on PW Camp at GRUGLILO K 8185.

K 6564

Under MILAN AREA COMBAND. Finds staff for Italian Refugee
Transit Centre at MILAN.

E 8507

Coys at ARDISIO E 8514, CIUSONE E 8507, BRATTO E 9441 and S.
MARTINO DI CALVI E 6515.

E 8139

E 8537

E 9639

.....2

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(2)

I Bn "GOITO" (Bersaglieri)	BERGAMO	K 6488	One Coy at BELLANO E 3727, I E 3713. Remainder of Bn is is for this Bn to move about
II Bn "PIEMONTE" (Alpini)	MOREGNO	E 5836	Maintains road-blocks, patrol E 4378 and CASTASERNA E 5555 CHIAVENNA E 4758, CHIESA E C
III Bn "L'AQUILA" (Alpini)	TIRANO	A 0543	Maintains road blocks, patrol Pass A 2877, LIVIGNO A 0479 PONTE DI LEGNO A 3247, EDOLA A 2171.
HQ 11 Artillery Regt.	BERGAMO	K 6488	
I Bty	LEGNANO	K 0579	Finds guards on dumps at SO and K 160692.
II Bty	OLCIATE		Finds guards on dumps at PR
III Bty	BERGAMO	K 6488	
IV Bty	TURIN	J 0230	Finds staff of Italian Refu J 0221) and guard on dump a
V Bty	COMO	E 1802	Finds staff of Italian Refu on dump at K 174034.
VI Bty	BERGAMO	K 6488	

1350

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(2)

K 6488 One Coy at BELLANO E 3727, finding guard on dump at ~~MADEIRA~~ ⁷³¹⁶ E 3713. Remainder of Bn in BERGAMO in Div reserve. Intention is for this Bn to move about 20 Jan to BELLANO area.

E 5836 Maintains road-blocks, patrols and guards on frontier at SPLUGA E 4378 and CASTASEGNA E 5558. Coys located at TALAMONA E 6036, CHIAVERIA E 4758, CHIESA E 8049, and GEROLA E 5628.

A 0543 Maintains road blocks, patrols, and guards on frontier at STELVIO Pass A 2877, LIVIGNO A 0479, and TIRANO A 0543. Coys located at PONTE DI LEGNO A 3247, EDOLO A 1838, TIRANO A 0543, and BORMIO A 2171.

K 6488

K 0579 Finds guards on dumps at SOMMA LOMBARDA J 8890, LIDRIANO K 0580, and E 160692.

Finds guards on dumps at PROSPIANO K 0384 and E 135700.

K 6488

J 0230 Finds staff of Italian Refugee Transit Centre at TURI (MONCALIERI J 0221) and guard on dump at J 355610

E 1802 Finds staff of Italian Refugee Transit Centre at COMO and guard on dump at K 174034.

K 6488

.....3

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(3)

HQ 51 Eng Bn	PAVIA	K 2032	
3 Pz Coy	MANDROGNO	O 8599	Finds guard on dump at ALBIS.
51 Pz Coy	PAVIA	K 2032	Finds guards on dumps at MED. K 6931, and J 9849.
51 Sigs Coy	BERGAMO	K 6488	
51 Med Sec	BERGAMO	K 6488	
244 Pz Hosp	TRESCORE	K 7686	
332 Pz Hosp	TRESCORE	K 7686	
51 S & T Coy	CARAVAGGIO	K 6065	
Ord Pz Park	BERGAMO	K 6488	
Mech Workshops	PONTE S. PIETRO	K 5788	
39 Sec CC.RR.	BERGAMO	K 6488	
51 Sec CC.RR.	BERGAMO	K 6488	

1352

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

(3)

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7315

LA	K 2032	
OGIO	O 8599	Finds guard on dump at ALESSANDRIA J 7505.
A	K 2032	Finds guards on dumps at LIDA J 8625, PAVIA K 1934, PIZZE CHENTONE K 6931, and J 9849.
AMO	K 6488	
AMO	K 6488	
ORE	K 7686	
ORE	K 7686	
VAGGIO	K 6065	
MO	K 6488	
S. PUMIO	K 5788	
MO	K 6488	
MO	K 6488	

1 3 3 3

SUBJECT:- Morale Reports

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

52 British Liaison Unit.

CMF

25 May 42

To:- "A" Branch

British Increment

HQ Fifth Army Rear

AQ/11/230

Reference your letter 55A of 4 May 45, herewith
morale report as called for.

The Morale of this Gruppo has never, at any time, been anything but high, and from the time that it arrived in the line has steadily increased.

It will be appreciated that the homes of many of the soldiers, more particularly in the Alpini units, are in the area which has recently been liberated, and in some cases close to the area in which they are now stationed. In nearly every case therefore these soldiers have had the opportunity to visit their homes, and in the majority of cases have found conditions very much better than they had ever dared to hope for. They are quite prepared therefore, once they have satisfied themselves that all is well at home, to settle down cheerfully again to soldiering, where their pay, food and clothing is at least assured: under such conditions too they have a reasonable chance to support their families.

The end of hostilities in Italy was perhaps rather inevitably looked upon as an end to all disciplined soldiering: the turn-out lapsed to a very low level, troops were allowed to "swart" about in M.I. all over the country, no parades either for smartening up or training appear to have been even contemplated, while the urgent duties of taking over the partisan commitments and the mopping up of prisoners were given only secondary consideration.

This period, however, has now, I think, come to an end, and they have started again to set about their duties in a more serious and less slovenly manner: individuals are now checked if they appear improperly dressed in the town, and all troops are very fully employed on operational commitments: those employed on frontier posts away up in the mountains assure me they are very happy

1 3 5 4

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This period, however, has now, I think, come to an end, and they have started again to set about their duties in a more serious and less slovenly manner: individuals are now checked if they appear improperly dressed in the town, and all troops are very fully employed on operational commitments: those employed on frontier posts away up in the mountains assure me they are very happy to be there in surroundings which are familiar to the Alpini, away from the flesh pots of the cities: I would not however go so far as to say that this would be true of troops in the Gruppo from other districts.

I consider the state of morale in this Gruppo to be highly satisfactory at the present time.

(signed) J.S.H. Douglas.

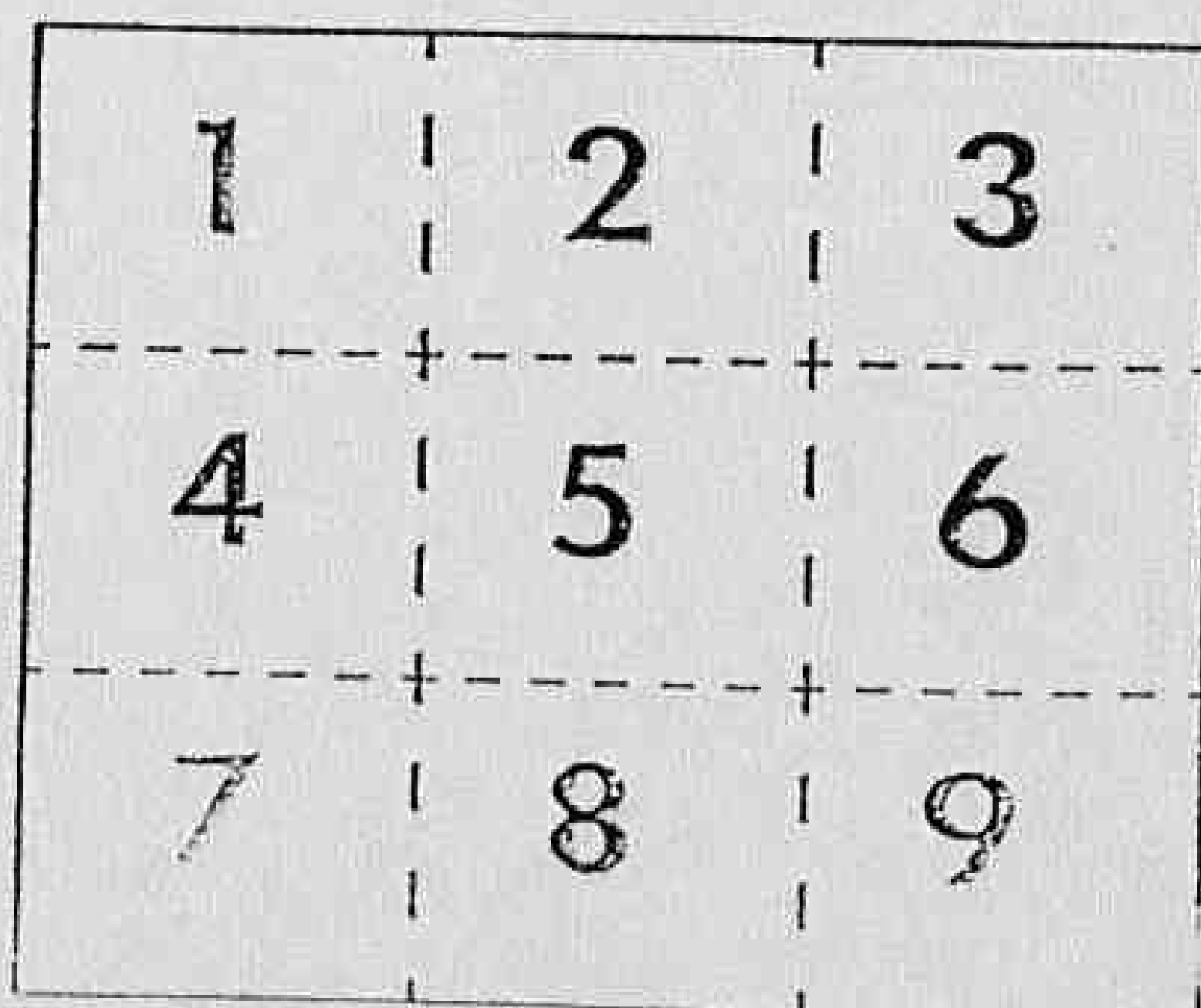
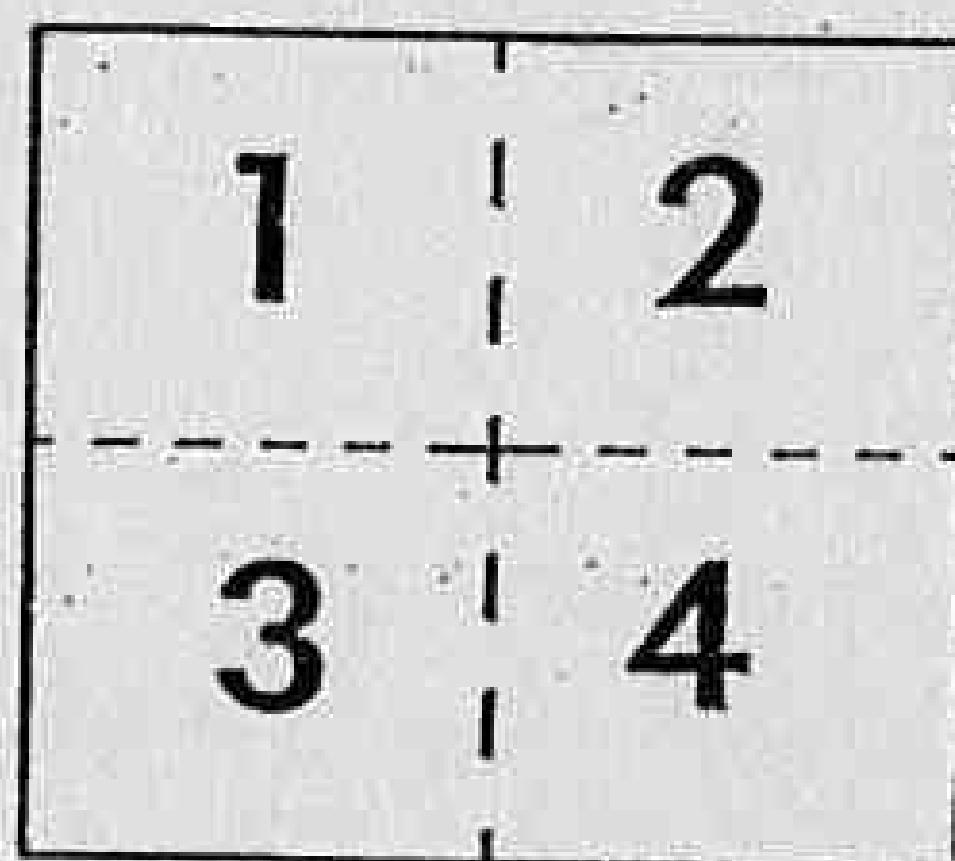
JSD/MN.

Lt. Col.
G.S.O.I.

7314

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

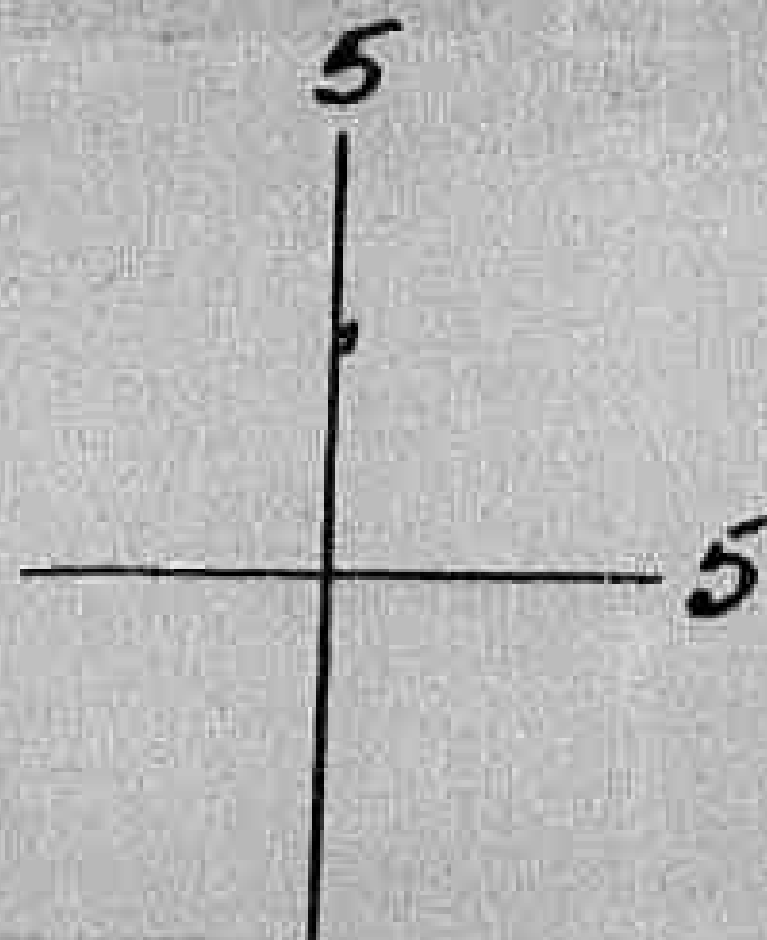
SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



1-356

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

SWISS
ITALIAN
FRONTIER



1357

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

SWISS
ITALIAN
FRONTIER.

6167.

1358

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

SWISS
ITALIAN
FRONTIER.

1313

x

1359

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



1360

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

SWISS

ITALIAN
FRONTIER

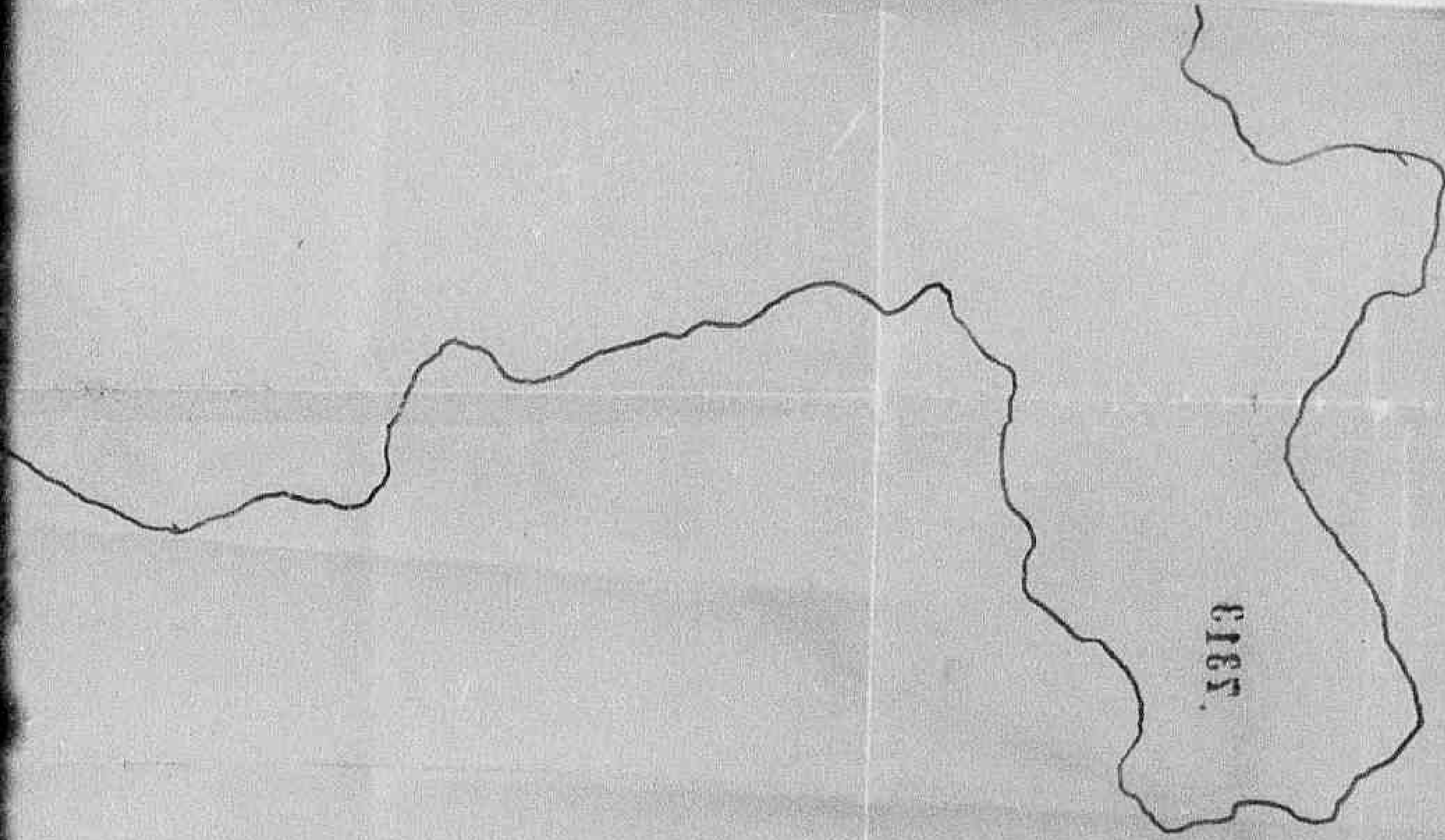
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E

1361

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E

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5313

LEGNANO +

CORPS

1363

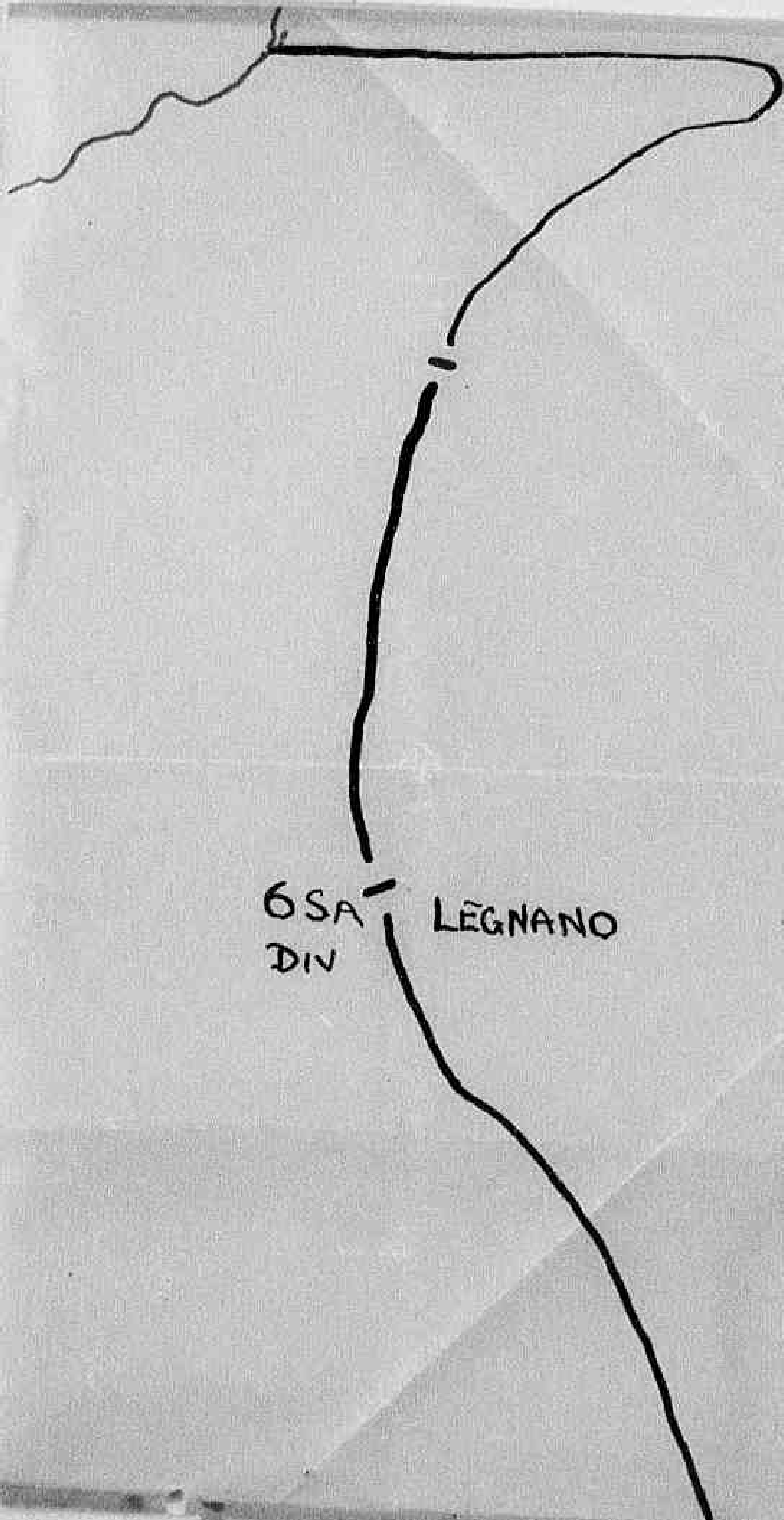
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LEGNANO +
CORPS

A

11364

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



6SA
DIV

LEGNANO

E

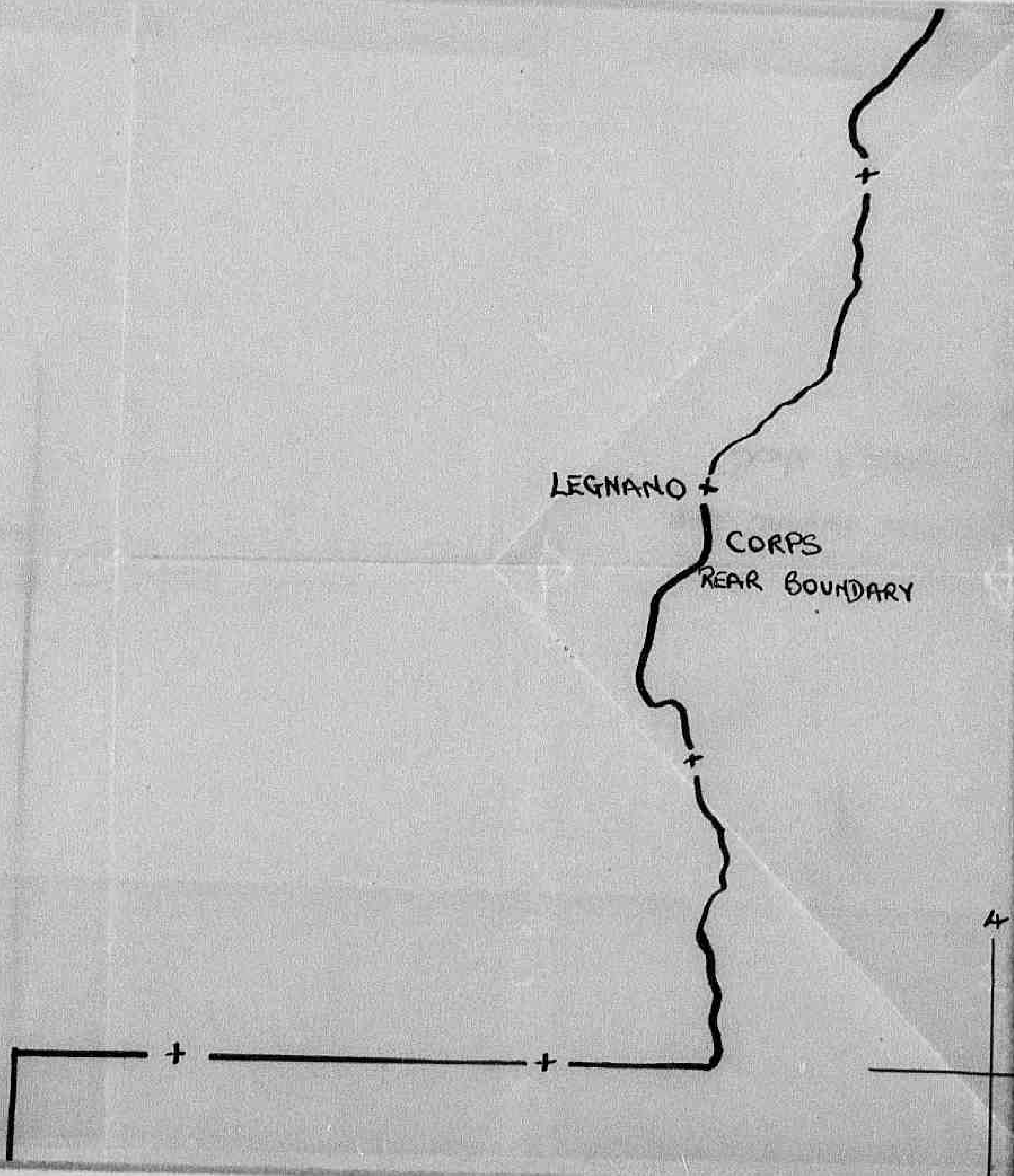
1365

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E

11 3 6 5

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



1367

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

LEGNANO +

CORPS
REAR BOUNDARY

A

4

00

1368

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

6SA-
DIV

LEGNANO

K

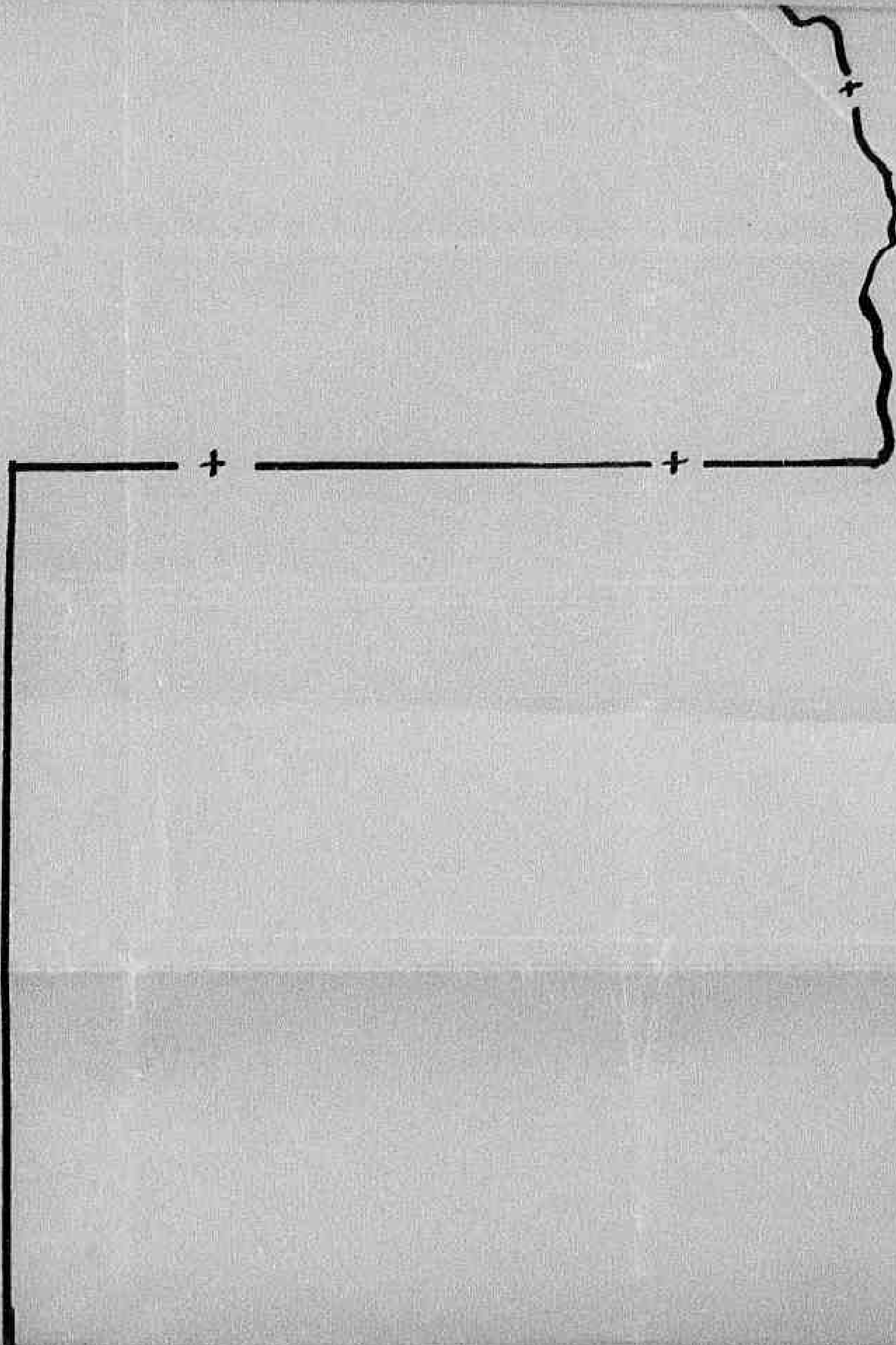
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K

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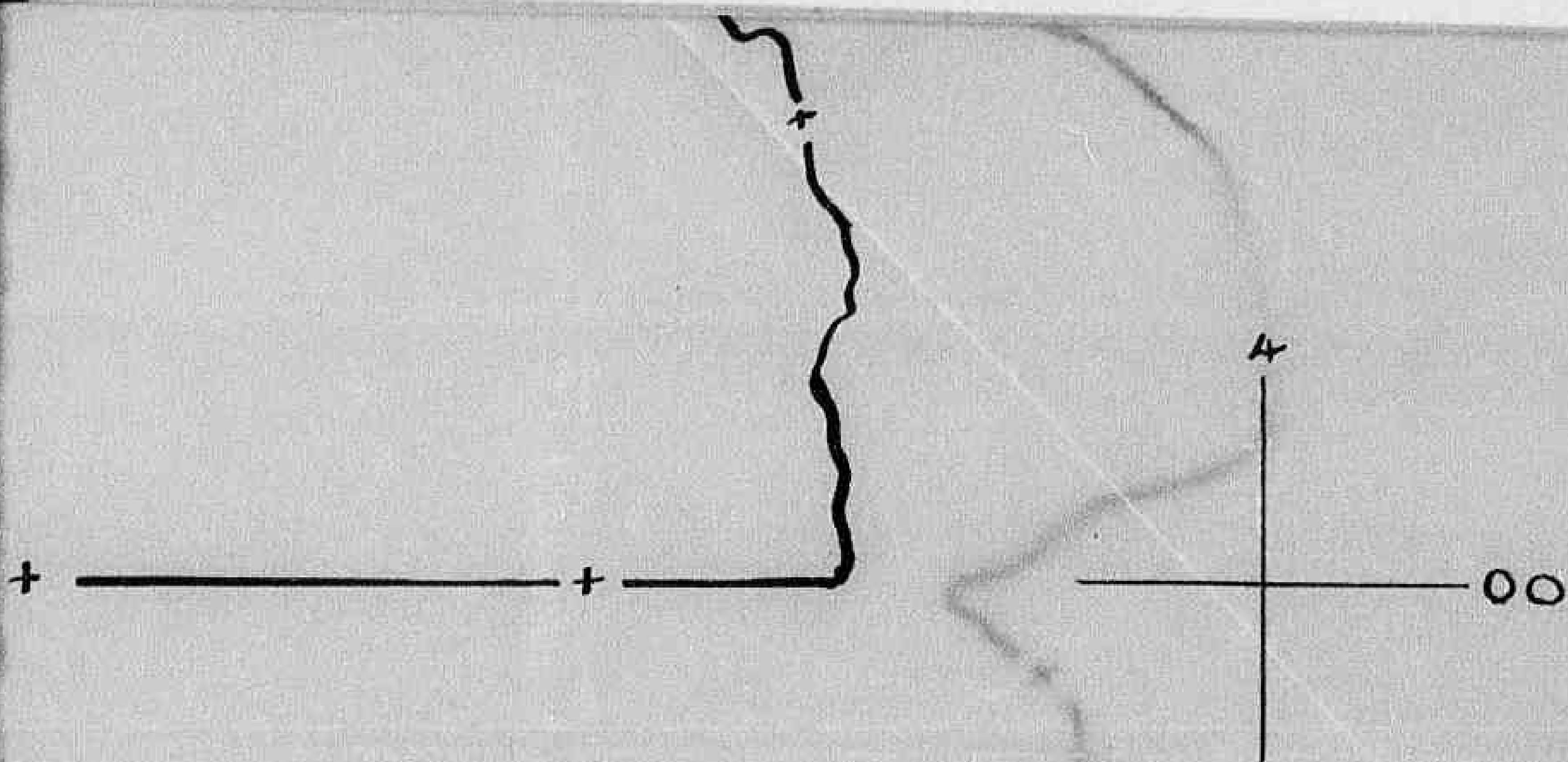
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F

1371

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



F

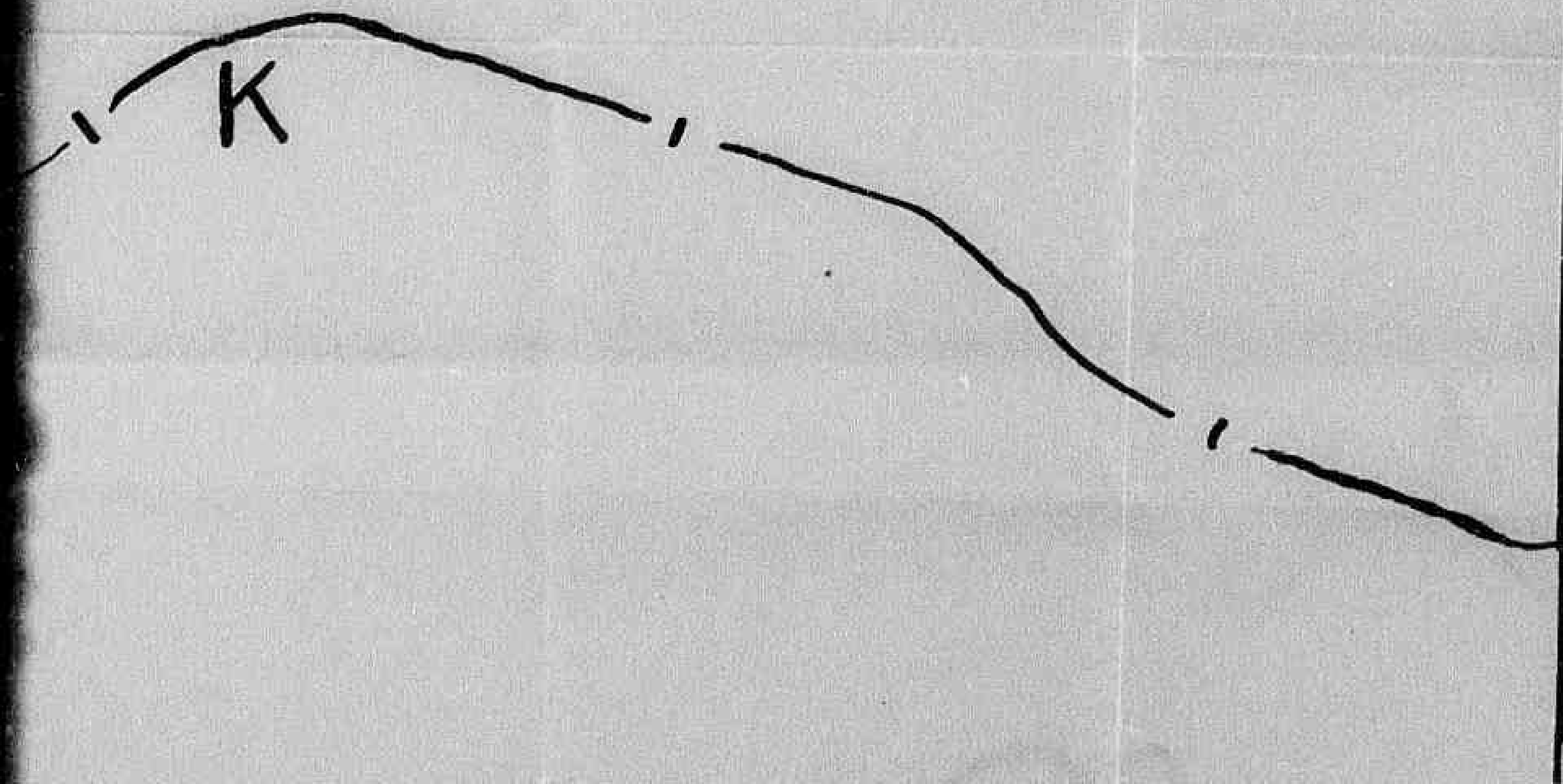
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TRACE SHOWING

Scale 1:20

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F

TRACE SHOWING 'LEGNANO' GRUPPO SECTOR.

Scale 1:200000 SHEETS 2 AND 5

18 JUNE 1945

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