

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

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

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G / 97 / 1

Anti - Gas Measures
opened Mar. 12, 1945. Closed Aug 8, 1945
MAR - AUG. 1945

2072

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COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE MECT

071552 B

TO : DISTONE

INFO: MEDIA

REF : FX 32997

RESTRICTED

FOR ANSWER TO YOUR G 022 OF 26 JULY (.)

SEE OUR FX 24843 OF 19 JULY

"G" DISTRIBUTION:

Action: G/97/1
Info: A
Q (Two)
G/63

WS 08 AUG 45

WS

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COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: DISTONE
TO : AFHQ CITE PHCCT
INFO: MMIA
50 FLU
REF : GO 22

NDT

UNCLASSIFIED

REQUEST REPLY SOONEST TO MY GO 55 OF 17 JUL NOT
RPT NOT TO ALL REF RETENTION OF PERSONAL ANTI GAS EQPT
OF ITALIAN COMBAT GRUPPI

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action: G/97/1
Info: A
Q (Two)

WB 27 July 45

See folio 11.

GSO 1	V	V
GSO 2 (ON)	X	X
GSO 2 (SD)	X	X
GSO 2 (W-3)	X	X
GSO 2 (L)	X	X
GSO 2 (SD)		
GSO 2 (G-4)		
GSO 3		

Indy it's already
answered by F 11

7758

2074

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COPY - INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: AFHQ
TO: DISTONE
INFO: MMIA
REF: FX24843

DATE 19 TIME 1111B

RESTRICTED

DATED 17 JULY YOUR GO 55 (.) APPENDIX 'A' TO OP MEMO 77 OF 7 JULY APPLIES
TO ALL ITALIAN TROOPS (SIGNED SACRED CITE FHGOT) UNDER BRITISH COMMAND (.)

G Distribution

G/97/1
A
Q(Two)
G/63

G80 1
G80 2 X X
G80 3
G80 4
G80 5 X X
G80 6
G80 7

See S/63/ 70 31

See S/63/ 70 33

See 70 13

2075

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COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: DISTONE

171630 B

TO : AMHQ CITE FHGCI

RESTRICTED

INFO: NMIA

REF : GO55

REF YOUR EX 23297 OF 17 (.) APFX 'A' TO YOUR OP MEMO
77 OF GI JUL STATUS APPLICABLE TO CY TIS FORCES ONLY (.)
REQUEST YOUR CONFIRMATION THESE INSTRS APPLY EQUALLY TO
ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPS

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: G/97/1
INFO: A
Q (Two)

18 July 45 JV

AS
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GSC 3 (SU)
GSC 4 (SU)
GSC 5 (SU)
GSC 6 (SU)
GSC 7 (SU)
GSC 8 (SU)
GSC 9 (SU)
GSC 10 (SU)
GSC 11 (SU)
GSC 12 (SU)
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GSC 98 (SU)
GSC 99 (SU)
GSC 100 (SU)

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1 COPY OF INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : AFHQ SIGNED SACRED CITY PHOTO
TO : DISTONE
INFO : MIA
REF : FX 23292

161539 B

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

YOUR G 043 OF 5 (..) ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO OUR OPERATIONAL
MEMORANDUM 77 OF 7 JULY 45 APPENDIX "A"

SD DISTRIBUTION

ACTION COPY G/97/1
INFO "A"
"Q" (TWO)

G50 1

G50 2 (50)

G50 2 (50)

G50 3 UN

G50 3 (50)

G50 3 (50)

G50 3 (50)

G50 3 (50)

7755

7754

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

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : DISTORE
TO : AFHQ QUOTE FRIGOT
INFO : M M I A
REF : GO 43

HIL
RESTRICTED

SUBJECT GAS EQPT (.) PERSONAL AND OTHER ~~AND~~ GAS EQPT WAS
ISSUED TO F R I U L I GP MAR 45 IN ORDERS A P H Q (.)
ALL EQPT LESS CAPES HAS BEEN RETAINED IN STORE AND IS STILL
FIRST CLASS CONDITION (.) SUGGEST ALL GAS EQPT LESS CAPES
BE WITHDRAWN (.) CAPES HAVE BEEN USED AS WATERPROOFS AND ARE
NOT WORTH WITHDRAWING BUT ARE STILL USEFUL TO GP (.)
MAY AUTHY BE GRANTED FOR WITHDRAWAL AND DISPOSAL INSTRS ISSUED (.)

3 DISTRIBUTION

Action Copy: C/97/1
Info: A
Action Copy: Q (Three)

jc/6/7/45

G521

G522

G523

G524

G525

G526

G527

G528

775451

12-07-8

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COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACMEE CITE FHGCT

051813 B

TO : MMIA

RESTRICTED

REF : F 71104

YOUR G/97/1 OF 28 APR (.)

PARA 3 AGREED (.) INSTRUCTIONS BEING ISSUED

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action Copy: G/97/1
G (Trg)
A
Q (2)

~~G II (A)~~ Please inform M of W verbally.

~~G II (SD) org.~~

~~Noted~~

7/5

Await the instructions referred to above, then prepare letter to M of W.

~~G I (Trg)~~

~~See above~~
~~Wm~~
~~WJH~~

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12079

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

SECRET

SUBJECT: Italian Army - Anti-Gas Policy

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, A.C. (MIA)

6/97/1

28 APR 46

TO : AFHQ

1. So far practically no anti-gas measures have been considered necessary for the Italian Army except that recently personal anti-gas equipment was authorized for issue to Combat Groups. Practically no training in its use has been given nor is such training being given at Army Rft Depots or in Service Units.
2. In present circumstances it does not seem necessary to continue either the issue of equipment or the organization of training in Combat Groups. On the other hand if it is considered necessary for Combat Groups, it would appear also to be necessary of other Italian troops employed in forward areas.
3. On the information available, I recommend therefore that the whole question be dropped, equipment withdrawn and no more issued. Your early decision would be appreciated.

Major General
MIA

Copy to: D.M.T. c/o 56 Area

Internal: O(Trg)

A
C

we

7752

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MEMORANDUM

TO : Col "A"
G1 Trg

Gl(SD) (for information)

Ref G/Trg/1 of 22 April.

1. The following, as I see it, are the relevant main FACTORS in respect of Service B.R.D's :-

- (a) Trg and "A" aspect (provision of reinforcements) are very closely related.
- (b) In view of the authorised ceiling and the relatively small number of reinforcements, personnel at service B.R.D's cannot remain there very long - perhaps an average of 4 weeks or so.
- (c) First things first - a man must be made first into a soldier with a knowledge of how to comport and look after himself (hygiene). Trade trg must come second.
- (d) Full and proper trade trg is a matter of months, which we have not time for. Therefore, this must be done in service units on the "apprenticeship" system.

2. Therefore the SOLUTION is :-

- (a) Organise service B.R.D's into :-

reception unit
basic trg unit
holding and despatching unit

- (b) (i) The holding and despatching unit will receive basically trained men and trade test them by wide trade groups e.g. building, electrical, mechanical, labour, etc.

(ii) Having been tested and earmarked for a trade group, men will be given what trade trg is possible in the holding and despatching unit. Some equipment will thus be necessary for both trade testing and trade trg. Testing and instructional staff from outside, NOT CESAMO.

- (c) Trade trg to be done mainly with service units, on the apprenticeship system - the service units being permitted to hold a little more than authorised N.F. (counting against reinforcement ceiling) to allow for this.

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(11) Having been tested and earmarked for a trade group, men will be given what trade trg is possible in the holding and despatching unit. Some equipment will thus be necessary for both trade testing and trade trg. Testing and instructional staff from outside, NOT CESAMO.

(c) Trade trg to be done mainly with service units, on the apprenticeship system - the service units being permitted to hold a little more than authorized W.E. (counting against reinforcement ceiling) to allow for this.

(d) Make arrangements as above, as an initial "cockhy." We can alter when we find, in practice, how it works e.g. how long we require for the basic trg, how long reinforcements stay on the average, and thus, how much time we have for actual trade trg as opposed to trade testing.

3. Write LETTERS TO A.F.H.A. (D.M.T.) on the lines of the above ⁷⁷⁵⁰~~7751~~

(a) explaining our views and reasons.

(b) producing a concrete proposal

(c) asking for the matter to be treated as IMMEDIATE.

Write a letter to AFHQ (G3 ORX) requesting permission to cancel all gas training.

4. I think GAS TRG is a pure waste of time. Originally it was not contemplated for Combat Ops.

WP initiated by *[Signature]* Maj. Gen.
25 April 45

Subject : Trg Policy

To : GOC
From : GSC I Trg.

G/trg/1

22 April 45

1. Specialist Trg at Depots : should this be arranged?

2. Gas Trg for Combat trs : should this be pressed forward?

1. (a) At RAVISCIANINA, TRANTI and ORVILETO very little trg at all takes place.

(b) AFHQ Directive lays down (para 5) "AFHQ will insure that adequate provision is made for the trade trg of service trs subsequent to their basic trg at the base depots".

(c) Without setting up other organizations there can be no trade testing after leaving the depots and before being drafted to units. Therefore it would appear that such training must be done at the depots.

(d) Q(AE) state that the necessary eqpt could be made available.

(e) Specialist trg would be at the expense of basic trg (at present only 4 weeks and very necessary).

(f) Instructors would be required which would probably mean another claim on CASALNO.

Query : Should steps be taken now to institute trade trg at depots?

2. (a) Gruppi have anti-gas eqpt on their G 1098 but don't know how to use it.

(b) A course has been run for them at CASALNO which "has not completely attained its object in that it has not produced 25 first class Italian gas instructors." (CASALNO report).

(c) AFHQ's proposed WE for a Gas trg team (1 Cofr and 2 Sgt Instructors) was approved by the WE Committee here and forwarded to AFHQ on 12 April. No answer yet.

(d) From the unsuitable type of students sent by Gruppi to CASALNO course it does not appear that Italian senior officers are convinced of the necessity for gas trg. Without their wholehearted backing it is doubtful if such a small trg team could have much effect. Therefore a directive on a high level would be required.

(c) Without setting up other organizations there can be no trade testing after leaving the depots and before being drafted to units. Therefore it would appear that such training must be done at the depots.

- (d) Q(AE) state that the necessary eqpt could be made available.
- (e) Specialist trg would be at the expense of basic trg (at present only 4 weeks and very necessary).
- (f) Instructors would be required which would probably mean another claim on CEGSAC.

Query : Should steps be taken now to institute trade trg at depots?

2. (a) Gruppi have anti-gas eqpt on their G 1098 but don't know how to use it.
- (b) A course has been run for them at CMC which "has not completely attained its object in that it has not produced 25 first class Italian gas instructors." (CMC report).
- (c) DET's proposed WE for a Gas trg team (1 Oftr and 2 Sgt Instructors) was approved by the WE Committee here and forwarded to AHC on 12 April. No answer yet.
- (d) From the unsuitable type of students sent by Gruppi to CMC gas course it does not appear that Italian senior oftrs are convinced of the necessity for gas trg. Without their wholehearted backing it is doubtful if such a small trg team could have much effect. Therefore a directive on a high level would be required.

Query : Is it the policy to press gas trg now?

7-50-
Lt Col
GS

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ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No. 794 U. S. Army
Office of G-3 (British)

SD. 6/97/1
27/4

26 April 1945

RAAC/125/G3(Br)

SUBJECT: Anti-Gas Clothing and Equipment

TO: 'P' BU, RTC ICF

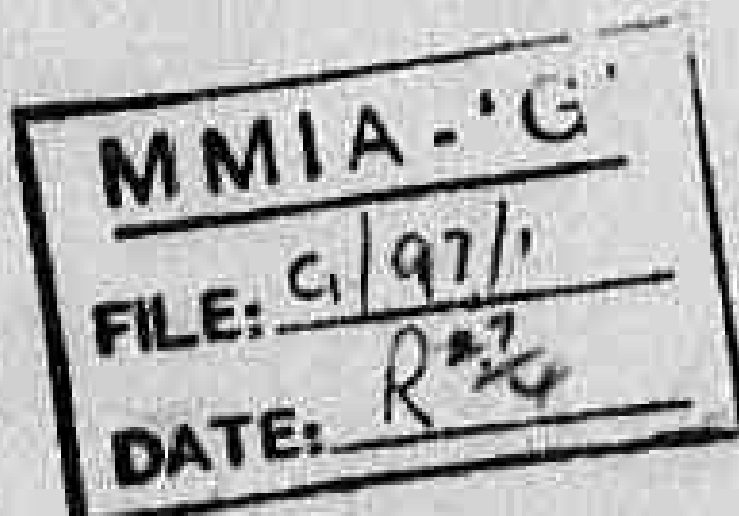
Ref your AQ/40/5/215 of 3 Apr 45.

1. It is not intended to issue unit Anti-Gas Eqp't to the RTC ICF.
2. All reinforcements for units of the Italian Combat Forces will, however, be trained in the use of personal anti-gas eqpt, and will be in possession of items listed in para 5(a) to this Headquarters RAAC/125/G3(Br) of 12 Mar 45.

E. Sedgwick

E. SEDGWICK,
Major G3,
G-3 (British).

Copy: Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA)
G-4 (Br)
ADOS



20A
REP

CONFIDENTIAL

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TOP SECRET

(2)

SUBJECT: Anti-Gas equipment

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AC (MIA)

0/97/1

15 Apr 45

TO : C.G., Rome Area Allied Command, (Attn G-3 British)

1. Your ref RAAC/125/G3(Br) of 7 April.
2. It is not considered essential to issue full scale anti-gas clothing and equipment to the RTC ICF.

REP

Major General

for

MIA

Internal: "q"

DM.

R 15/4

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TOP SECRET

SUBJECT: Anti Gas Clothing and Eqpt

'F' BLU IRTC ICF
Ref AQ/40/5/215

RAAC

3 Apr 45

Ref your Q 257 of 28 Mar 45.

Please advise this HQ whether AFHQ/9185/85/Q(AE) of 24 Mar 45 amends in any way your RAAC/125/G3(Br) of 12 Mar 45, or whether it is still considered essential to issue full scale of Anti Gas Clothing and Eqpt to Static Units such as RTC ICF.

(Sgd) ??? Maj,
for Lt-Col RA.

- 1 -

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No. 794 U. S. Army
Office of G-3 (British)

RAAC/125/G3(Br)

7 April 1945

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA) ✓

1. The above is forwarded for your comment and observations, please.
2. Copy of this Headquarters Q.257 and AFHQ/9185/TS/Q(AE) of 24 Mar is attached. This Headquarters RAAC/125/G3(Br) of 12 Mar is in your possession.

E. Sedgwick
E. SEDGWICK,
Major GS,
G-3 (British).

Copy: G-4 (British).

TOP SECRET

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ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794 U.S. ARMY

TOP SECRET

Q. 257

SL/mv

28 Mar 45

SUBJECT: Economic Measures in connection
with Anti-Gas Clothing and
Equipment.

Distribution "Special"

1. Copy below of AFHQ/9185/TS/Q(AE) dated 20 Mar 45 is forwarded for
information and future compliance.

W. H. Hughes

W. H. HUGHES
Major
DAQMG

COPY

TOP SECRET

SUBJECT: Economic Measures in connection
with Anti-Gas Clothing and
Equipment

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Tele No Freedom 296
AFHQ/9185/TS/Q(AE)

24 Mar 45

Rear HQ Eighth Army
CG Fifth Army (for G-4 (Br Incr))
HQ 1 District
HQ 2 District
HQ 3 District
HQ Rome Area
HQ IFA

1. Instructions have recently been received from War Office that every effort must be made to economize in the use of Anti-Gas Clothing and Equipment.
2. The production of Anti-gas clothing has now ceased entirely, and for various reasons unconnected with this theatre, demands on stocks held in the U.K. are likely to be bigger than was anticipated.
3. You are therefore requested to ensure that every economy possible is practised in the use of Anti-gas clothing and equipment, and to ensure that

W. L. HUGHES
Major
DAQAG

COPY

TOP SECRET

SUBJECT: Economic Measures in connection
with Anti-Gas Clothing and
Equipment

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Tele No Freedom 296
AMHQ/9185/TS/Q(AE)

24 Mar 45

Rear HQ Eighth Army
OG Fifth Army (for G-4 (Br Inor))
HQ 1 District
HQ 2 District
HQ 3 District
HQ Rome Area
HQ LFA

1. Instructions have recently been received from War Office that every effort must be made to economise in the use of Anti-Gas Clothing and Equipment.
2. The production of Anti-gas clothing has now ceased entirely, and for various reasons unconnected with this theatre, demands on stocks held in the U.K. are likely to be bigger than was anticipated.
3. You are therefore requested to ensure that every economy possible is practised in the use of Anti-gas clothing and equipment, and to ensure that wastage is reduced to the lowest possible level.

Copy to: HQ 15 Army Group
G-3 (Org) AMHQ
CW Sec
Ond (E)
G-3 (Ops)

Sgd R.G. THURGOOD
for Major-General G-4 (Br)

5-30-35

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C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

HOME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No. 794 U.S. Army
Office of G-3 (British)

G. Beh.

(for attention)

Spence B.

RAAG/125/03(Br)

12 March 1945

SUBJECT:- Anti-gas Clothing and Equipment.

TO :- "F" BLN, RTO IGP, c/o MMMA.

See F. 3

1. It has been decided to issue Personal and Anti-gas Equipment to Italian Troops in established units of the Italian Combat Force.
2. Authority for such issue is AFHQ letter RSD/521/2 dated 3 March 45.
3. Equipment will be issued on scales similar to those laid down for comparable British units, viz: Inf Trg Regt (Italian) scale to compare with Inf Trg Regt (British) IRTD., Lt Fd Ambulance (Italian) to compare with Lt Fd Amb (British), adjustment being made to allow for possible difference in strengths between British and Italian WEs.
4. The policy of issue will be based on:-
 - (a) Full Scale (G1098) for Static Units incl Medical Units.
 - (b) Light Scale for Mobile Units.
 - (c) All Units in field formations (less AA Bdes) will be equipped on the Light Scales.
5. Light Scale for Mobile Units and Units in field formations will hold items as enumerated below:-

(a) Respirator, complete - Ointment, 2-oz tin or pot - Eyeshields - Cape - Cotton Waste, 025 - Detectors, Gas, Ground, pads 25 (Officers and NCOs only)	1) To be carried by 1) the man or in the 6) vehicle in which 1) he normally travels. 1) To accompany if 1) casualty.
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In addition, Mobile Units and Units in field formations will carry the following items; according to the number given in Unit G1098:-

(b) Personal Equipment, 1st line reserves - All;

(c) Unit Equipment.

(incl Unit Eqt - Additional Items) Alarms, Local
Bleaching Powder
Equipment for
Stretcher Bearers
Capsules Lachrim-
atory.

(d) Vehicle Equipment.

Detector Paint
Trays for Detector
Paint.

Equipment other than above will NOT be issued to Mobile Units.

5. BLU, RTC ICF, will submit demands for Italian Units as given in para 1, but will NOT arrange collection until advised by ADOS, Rome Area, that stores and equipment are ready for drawing.

Copy to:- MMIA
HQ 2 District
G-4 (Br)
ADOS
File 131/G3(Br)

R.H. CAMRASS,
Lt.Col.
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.

2091