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

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SE/29 Italian Combat Forces Reorganization
Opened June 29, 1944 - Closed Sept. 9, 1944
June - Sept. 1944

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SECRET

100 24

Personal for General HARRIS from General BUCHANAN (*) Haran HEB Area

Paran Ref 063 287 (*) FIRST (*) Mending can organizations and initial training has been according to this programme and I am satisfied it could not repeat that have been done more quickly (*) SECOND (*) Provision of equipment is still the limiting factor despite progress by MIA on all concerned (*) Thirdly scale of new and vehicles for first two Groups now being larger (*) Provision of full scale in battle of JPA understood not available until end September for first Group and /xxx October for second Group (*) THIRD (*) British battalions in occupied but not yet a standard (*) The high level discussions still continuing on policy of supplying and distributing and supplying Italian Armed Forces are seriously complicating the whole problem and delaying the issue (*) FOURTH (*) If you could arrange for formation of Combat Groups to have priority over everything else British or American and speed up delivery British vehicles on area and equipment it would be a great help (*) FIFTH as visiting tanking areas 21 to 24 top and still need Col HARRIS

xxx MIA A

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12/13/54

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has been everything to this program and I am satisfied it could not repeat what has
been done here easily (*) second (*) Provision of equipment to still the military
factor thought to pressure by 18th on all concerned (*) third (*) Provision of fuel engine in trucks
vehicles for first two groups not being issued (*) Provision of full engine in trucks
of 11th notations not available until end September for third group and / ~~not~~ ^{during} ~~not~~ ^{during}
the second group (*) third (*) British willingness to essential but not put
a uniform (*) The high level discussions still continuing in policy of expanding
own substituting and supplying Italian armed forces are not entirely satisfactory the
state problem and delaying the issue (*) fourth (*) Is you could arrange for
provision of Combat Groups to have priority over everything else British or American
and speed up delivery British vehicles can arms and equipment is would be a great
help (*) fifth (*) visiting training group 2d to 3d Sep and will meet Col. Vinton

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who is in charge of the project to you on 15 Apr 1978. If convenient to give full details and resolve your queries.

SECRET

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11698

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IMMEDIATE

1699

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SECRET.

Army Sub Commission, MMIA.
H.Q. A.C.C.

ROME.

7.5.10/29.10
9 Sept. 10.

H.E. General OKENIA.

Reorganisation - Italian Combat Force.

1. In continuation of my directive to you dated 23th. Aug, I am to inform you that the third and fourth Combat Groups are to be formed from personnel of CIL now being withdrawn to the FIMBOMENTE D'ALITE area. The two groups will be known as the LICHANO and POLICCE groups and their reorganisation should be completed by 15th October.
2. It is intended that the fifth and sixth groups should be formed from the MANTOVA and FIERNO Divisions which, provided equipment arrives as scheduled, should complete their reorganisation between 12th and 31st October.
3. In reorganising units for Combat Groups the following guiding principles are to be followed.
 - (a) Only officers and men suitable for combat or the recognised technical duties are to be retained in the Groups.
 - (b) Groups are not to exceed their approved strength at any time, officers and men surplus to combat group requirements or establishments are to be transferred to other units or (if overage) demobilised, in accordance with detailed instructions which will be given you from time to time.

sh/VP

A. Browning

Major General
Army Sub Commission ACC
MMIA

877

SUBJECT: Organisation of Italian Army.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Army Sub Commission, IMIA.
H.Q., A.C.C.

ROME.

T.S./G/29
7 Sept. 44.

Minister of War.

1. In order to complete the reorganisation of the Italian Army and to eliminate at once from the 6 Italian Combat Groups such personnel as are unsuitable for combat, the personnel of the Combat Groups will be separated forthwith into the following categories:

- A. to be retained with present Combat Group.
- B. to be transferred to another Combat Group.
- C. to be transferred for duties in service units with the Allies.
- D. to be demobilised as over age or for other reasons.

2. (a) A return of the 6 Combat Groups (including the C.I.L. reinforcements at CHIETI), by categories as above, will be submitted to this H.Q. at the earliest moment possible.

(b) This return will show separately those parts of CRIMONA on the Mainland and still in SARDINIA.

3. All personnel in category D will be demobilised forthwith.

4. On receipt of your return as in para 2, IMIA will assign all personnel in Category C to service units with the Allies.

5. (a) It is necessary to complete to establishment FRIULI and CRIMONA Groups at once, and the remaining Groups as soon as possible, with suitable Combat personnel.

(b) You have already been given authority to pick up in HOME the 1600 specialists necessary for FRIULI Combat Group and to complete that Group.

as are unsuitable for combat, the personnel of the Combat Groups will be separated forthwith into the following categories:

- A. to be retained with present Combat Group.
- B. to be transferred to another Combat Group.
- C. to be transferred for duties in service units with the Allies.
- D. to be demobilised as over age or for other reasons.

2. (a) A return of the 6 Combat Groups (including the C.I.L. reinforcements at CHIETI), by categories as above, will be submitted to this H.Q. at the earliest moment possible.

(b) This return will show separately those parts of CREMONA on the Mainland and still in SARDINIA.

3. All personnel in category D will be demobilised forthwith.

4. On receipt of your return as in para 2, MMIA will assign all personnel in Category C to service units with the Allies.

5. (a) It is necessary to complete to establishment FRIULI and CREMONA Groups at once, and the remaining Groups as soon as possible, with suitable Combat personnel.

(b) You have already been given authority to pick up in ROME the 1600 specialists necessary for FRIULI Combat Group and to complete that Group with the C.I.L. reinforcements at CHIETI.

(c) CREMONA, in accordance with our instructions, has already been screened. Such personnel as are still required to complete CREMONA to its establishment will be provided firstly from C.I.L. surplus and secondly from any other source immediately available, including MANTOVA and VICENZA if necessary.

(d) On receipt of your return as in para 2, MMIA will give authority for further inter-group transfers or call up of new personnel to complete all the Combat Groups plus 10% reinforcements.

Your proposals for this should accompany the return. It may be assumed that the MANTOVA and VICENZA Battalions now on guard duties will be returned to these Groups for Combat.

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Sheet 2.

6. Please treat this as IMMEDIATE, special officers or D.Rs being employed, if necessary, to obtain the information required in the return called for.

L. Branning

Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

two LB.
stor.

11703

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SECRET.

Army Sub Commission, MIA.
H.Q. A.C.C.

RME.

13/6/29/1.

9 Sept. 44.

Ministry of War.

Copy Air Force Sub-Commission.

I am to inform you that on the disbandment of the Air Force (DUC D'ADSTA) Battalion there is no objection in principle to the recruitment of suitable personnel from it into units of the Combat Groups provided,

- (a) The Italian Army Ceiling is not exceeded.
- (b) The approved strength of the Combat group is not exceeded.
- (c) The personnel are enlisted into existing units and no new unit is formed.

gb.WP.

L. Browning
Major General.
Army Sub Comm. A.C.C.

875

TS/K/0920
PRIORITY - IMPORTANT

FROM: AFHQ signed WILSON Cite FIRST
 TO: AGHAR FOR THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF
 INFO: SHAF FOR HESBUNAR AND USAR PASS TO BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF,
 TROOPERS, AAL, ALC (FOR ARMY SUB COMMISSION)

Date-Time of Origin
 052047B

EX 92422 This is MAP 773 (.) TOPPED (.) PAN 387 and PAN 391 are references (.)

1. Because of non availability of such equipment and continuing maintenance, impossible to attempt to equip any such units of Italian combat divisions with either Italian or captured enemy material therefore must accept British equipment offered in Troopers 67583 LEM 5 of 12 Aug (not to all), details of which are at present being worked out between Troopers and ourselves (.) In consequence of divisions receiving British combat equipment, it is considered essential that these troops be regarded entirely as a British national supply responsibility for initial equipment and maintenance and are considered as such in breakdown of coding into categories under terms of PAN 391 (.)

2. Para 2 of PAN 387 presumed to refer to US equipment issued through War Department channels and not to equipment of US origin supplied to British under Lend Lease terms

3. Following answers to Para 4 PAN 387 which requested our requirements for auxiliary units for combat divisions, the time required to train after receipt of equipment, and availability of Italian manpower (.)

A. Requirements for auxiliary artillery - NIL (.) For service units as follows:-

A Type of service.	B No. and type of units.
Engineers	3 Field Park Companies

872

1703

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offered in Troopers 67503 LEM 3 of 12 Aug (not to all), details of which are at present being worked out between Troopers and ourselves (.). In consequence of divisions receiving British combat equipment, it is considered essential that these troops be regarded entirely as a British national supply responsibility for initial equipment and maintenance and are considered as such in breakdown of ceiling into categories under terms of FAN 394 (.).

2. Para 2 of FAN 387 presumed to refer to US equipment issued through War Department channels and not to equipment of US origin supplied to British under Lend Lease terms

3. Following answers to Para 4 FAN 387 which requested our requirements for auxiliary units for combat divisions, the time required to train after receipt of equipment, and availability of Italian manpower (.).

A. Requirements for auxiliary artillery - NIL(.). For service units as follows:-

A	Type of service.	B	No. and type of units.
Engineers	Supply and Transport	3	Field Park Companies 87 1/2
		3	General Transport Companies,
Medical.		1	Motor Ambulance Convoy.
		4	General Hospitals - Total 2,200 beds,
		6 - 100	bed expansion, 1 Advance Depot Medical Stores.
Ordnance		1	Mob Laundry Company, 4 Mob Bath Units,
Provost		1	L of C Provost Company
Miscellaneous		2	Transit Camps, 1 Reinforcement Training
			Depot, 1 Graves Registration Unit.

2.

- B. Estimated units will be trained and ready for combat 2 months after receipt of full scale of equipment, but this time could be reduced dependent upon scale of training equipment available destroyed (.)
- C. There is ample manpower available to meet all requirements we have for Italian military forces (.)
4. The recommended ceiling for the international commitment is 124,000 (.)
Under our interpretation of FAN 394 it is assumed that you will confirm or establish this international commitment (.). However, it is considered that the national commitments may be varied within reasonable limits in order to meet operational requirements (.). Breakdown of the present contemplated utilization of Italian military forces (including Naval and Air) into categories follows:
US commitment - Ninety thousand (90,000), British commitment - 260,000 (Two hundred sixty thousand), international commitment 124,000 (One hundred twenty four thousand), Grand Total 474,000 (Four hundred seventy four thousand) (.). Reinforcements, equivalent to US replacements, are included for all units except Air Force and Navy, and are figured as 5% for service units and 10% for combat units, and will provide a reserve to cover absences, hospitalization, etc., and allow Italian units to be at authorized strength at all times (.).
5. New policy created in FAN 394 will require certain administrative changes (.). Since supply channels presently established by FAN 353 are operative to cover all strengths it is recommended that the date for the new order of separate responsibilities be set as 15 September 1944 (.). In the event of your approval of this date, it is recommended that Lend Lease procedure within the theater be utilized until such time as supply channels of the theater are established.

national commitments may be varied within reasonable limits in order to meet operational requirements (.). Breakdown of the present contemplated utilization of Italian military forces (including Naval and Air) into categories follows: US commitment - Ninety thousand (90000), British commitment - 260000 (Two hundred sixty thousand), international commitment 124000 (One hundred twenty four thousand), Grand Total 474000 (Four hundred seventy four thousand) (.). Reinforcements, equivalent to US replacements, are included for all units except Air Force and Navy, and are figured as 5% for service units and 10% for combat units, and will provide a reserve to cover absences, hospitalization, etc., and allow Italian units to be at authorized strength at all times (.).

5. New policy created in FAN 394 will require certain administrative changes (.). Since supply channels presently established by FAN 358 are operative to cover all strengths it is recommended that the date for the new order of separate responsibilities be set as 15 September 1944 (.). In the event of your approval of this date, it is recommended that Lend Lease procedure within the ¹⁹⁴⁴ ~~1943~~ be utilized until such time as supply action of the separate agencies can be made effective (.). The term supply is taken to cover provision of all items of equipment, rations, clothing etc (.).

6. Considered essential all categories Italian armed forces receive common standard of treatment, both regarding rations, personal equipment, clothing and also discipline and administration (.). Recommend existing scales under international basis as most suitable (.). These scales provide for food in parts of 2568 calories per man per day under provision of FAN 355 and issues of clothing and other supplies under terms of FAN 358 (.).

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3.

7. All items of Italian equipment presently available or becoming available in the future will be allocated amongst the units of the 3 categories under priorities established here to ensure that equitable distribution of such equipment is made, having regard to operational requirements (.)

8. Reference PAN 392 (.) The American contingent of the Army Sub-Commission was covered by theatre overhead and any alterations considered necessary as a result of the change in policy in PAN 391 can be adjusted within the theatre (.) No such alterations are envisaged until the new supply organisation is operating satisfactorily

872

SUBJECT: Reorganisation - Combat Groups.

SECRET

Army Sub Comm, MMIA.
H.Q., A.C.C.

ROME.

T.S./0/29
30 Aug 44.

SMRE.

1. In continuation of my T.S./0/29 of 28 Aug. the conversion of the present C.I.L. into two Gruppi di Combattimento (Nos. 3 & 4) on the approved standard establishment is now being considered.
2. Please give me your recommendations for the organisation of these two Gruppi on the lines discussed at our recent meeting. Your recommendations should include:
 - a. New title of each Group.
 - b. Numbers (or names) of units selected.
 - c. Names of Commanders & Senior Officers.
 - d. Disposal of surplus units.

tvb. WP.
4.c.

W. P. Parsley.
Colonel
Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

11710

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SUBJECT: Auxiliary Units for Combat Groups

18A
T.T. SECRET

Army Staff Commission, MIA,
H. C., A.C.C.

MEMO.

31. AUG 44.
T.D. 10/29 ✓

To : S. H. S. S.

1. Attached is the proposed Order of Battle of Auxiliary Units for the Combat Groups.

2. Establishments for these units, agreed between MIA and MIA, are to be submitted to HQ AA by 7th September.

3. REPAIR and TRAINING.

Please arrange for an official of the MIA to come to MIA at 1030 hrs on MONDAY, 4th September to discuss supply and transport establishments with Lt Col PURVIS. Copies of British Establishments, 11/262/2, 11/263/2 and 11/267/2 are attached. Copies of the British Establishments for a Motor Ambulance Column are not at present available.

4. REPAIR.

Major REED, MIA will work out details with the Director MIA.

5. REPAIRING.

Please arrange for an officer of MIA to discuss these with Major DAVIS at MIA at 1030 hrs, MONDAY, 4th September. It is suggested that the Laundry Coy and the Bath Units should be based on British Establishments 11/262/2 and 11/263/2 attached. MIA is requested to prepare establishments for the Transport Coy and the Reinforcement Depot, if possible not exceeding the figures indicated.

6. REPAIRING.

It is considered that the Sections will always operate independently and that a Company H. C. is not required.

7. It will be observed that by adding these auxiliary units to the 6 Combat Groups the total of 57,000 for the Italian Combat Force is reached.

8. Further instructions will follow regarding the dates on which these units should be ready for operations. They are desired to be ready by 1st September.

2. HEALTH AND TRAINING.

Please arrange for an official of the AMM to come to MIA at 1000 hrs on MONDAY, 4th September to discuss supply and transport establishments with Lt Col FENWICK. Copies of British Establishments, 21/262/2, 11/263/2 and 11/261/2 are attached. Copies of the British Establishments for a Motor Ambulance Column are not at present available.

4. GENERAL.

Major BROWN, MIA will work out details with the Divisional Sanitary.

5. MISCELLANEOUS.

Please arrange for an officer of AMM to discuss these with Major DICKS at MIA at 1000 hrs, THURSDAY, 4th September. It is suggested that the Laundry Coy and the Bath Units should be based on British Establishments 11/266/2 and 11/261/2 attached. AMM is requested to prepare Establishments for the Transit Camp and the Reinforcement Depot, if possible not exceeding the figures indicated.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE.

It is considered that the Sections will always operate independently and that a Company H.Q. is not required.

7. It will be observed that by adding these auxiliary units to the 6 Combat Groups the ceiling of 97,000 for the Italian Combat Force is reached.

8. Further instructions will follow regarding the dates on which these units should be ready for operations. They are designed to order for the rearward services of all six groups. Only a part, therefore, will be required initially.

870

Wm. J. All,
S.C.

W. Pickley, Colonel
for Major General,
Army Sub Com, A.C.C.

In: Disty 2 i/c : AQ : ST : Red :

0 : Spare (2).

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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

THE 101ST

Units Required.

Estimated Personnel

As agreed with 5th AF.

**Based on 11/1/62/2
" " " 11/2/63/2
" " " 11/2/64/2
As for Supply Coy of Combat Groups.**

As agreed with 5th AF.

**Based on British estimates for 75 Coy HAC.
As for Supply Coy.**

To be worked out between Major HESLOP, 101st, and 1st Airborne Division.

**Based on 11/1/62/2
" " " 11/2/63/2
" " " 11/2/64/2**

To be worked out by 101st.

3 Field Park Coy

**3 General Transport Coys
101st Airborne Div.
4 Transport Platoons
2 Hqs
1 Mech Engineers Platoon**

6 Field Ambulances

2 Motor Ambulances

**101st Airborne Div.
3 Transport Platoons
2 Hqs
1 Mech Engineers Pl
1 Medical Platoon**

TOTAL 101ST AIRBORNE DIV.

**12 Field Hospitals
4 Field Surgical Units
2 Mobile Army Medical Units
2 Adv Depot Medical Stores
2 Mobile Dental Units**

TOTAL MEDICAL UNIT

**1 Mobile Laundry Coy
4 Mobile Bath Units
1 Transport Coy
(Capable of being divided into 3)
1 Reinforcement Training Depot
(Capable of holding up to 5000 men)**

TOTAL 101ST AIRBORNE DIV.

101st Airborne Div.

6 Combat Groups

TOTAL 101ST AIRBORNE DIV.

101st Airborne Div.

3 Field Park Coy

**3 General Transport Coys
101st Airborne Div.
4 Transport Platoons
2 Hqs
1 Mech Engineers Platoon**

6 Field Ambulances

2 Motor Ambulances

**101st Airborne Div.
3 Transport Platoons
2 Hqs
1 Mech Engineers Pl
1 Medical Platoon**

TOTAL 101ST AIRBORNE DIV.

**12 Field Hospitals
4 Field Surgical Units
2 Mobile Army Medical Units
2 Adv Depot Medical Stores
2 Mobile Dental Units**

TOTAL MEDICAL UNIT

**1 Mobile Laundry Coy
4 Mobile Bath Units
1 Transport Coy
(Capable of being divided into 3)
1 Reinforcement Training Depot
(Capable of holding up to 5000 men)**

TOTAL 101ST AIRBORNE DIV.

101st Airborne Div.

6 Combat Groups

TOTAL 101ST AIRBORNE DIV.

**2500
2750
5250
56,999**

1 Mobile Engineer Pl		1	39	As for Supply Coy.
1 Medical Platoon.		19		
TOTAL MEDICAL & ENGINEER		40	193	
12 Field Hospitals		84	696	To be worked out between Major Medical, and Divisional units.
4 Field Surgical Units		12	80	
2 Mobile Laundry Units		2	12	
2 Adv Depot Medical Stores		2	22	
2 Mobile Hospital Units		2	12	
TOTAL MEDICAL UNIT		102	822	
1 Mobile Laundry Coy		5	120	Based on Dr. H. 11/1/42
4 Mobile Bath Units		4	72	
1 Transit Camp (Capable of being divided into 3)		6	105	To be proposed by M. 11/1/42
1 Reformatory Training Depot		12	105	
Capable of holding up to 3000 men				
TOTAL HOSPITALS		27	522	
TOTAL MEDICAL UNIT		184	1379	
4 Combat Groups		2518	3084	
TOTAL COMBAT FORCE		2752	5207	
			36,999	

869

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4 Combat Groups		2518	3084	
TOTAL COMBAT FORCE		2752	5207	
			36,999	

600
800

SECRET

ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPS

Instructions to British Officers selected for
Liaison and Training Duties.

Army Sub Commission, MMIA,
H.Q., A.C.C.

ROME.

T.S./G/29
1. Sep 44.

OBJECT.

These instructions are issued for the information and general guidance of British officers attached to fighting units of the Italian Army. They do not attempt to specify duties in detail and must not be allowed to hamper zeal and initiative of individual officers. They may be quoted to Italian Commanders or staff officers as required.

1. INFORMATION.

- (a) British weapons, transport and equipment are being provided for certain units of the Italian Army which are being organised as self-contained Combat Groups (GRUPPI DI COMBATTIMENTO) of about 9,000 men each.
- (b) The number of groups will depend on the quality of Italian man-power and the quantity of British equipment available in the time at our disposal.
- (c) Certain Italian divisions have been selected each to form the basis of one of these Groups; the concentration reorganisation and re-training of the first two divisions is now taking place.
- (d) British officers are being appointed to each Group for liaison, training and supervisory duties as described in para 4.
- (e) An administrative "tail" to augment Allied L of C and forward maintenance units is being organised separately.

2. INTENTION.

not be allowed to hamper zeal and initiative of individual officers. They may be quoted to Italian Commanders or staff officers as required.

1. INFORMATION.

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- (b) The number of groups will depend on the quality of Italian man-power and the quantity of British equipment available in the time at our disposal.
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- (d) British officers are being appointed to each Group for liaison, training and supervisory duties as described in para 4.
- (e) An administrative "tail" to augment Allied L of C and forward maintenance units is being organised separately.

2. INTENTION.

- (a) It is intended to employ these Groups in action (either separately or together) under Allied Formation Commanders at the earliest possible moment.
- (b) They are to be lightly equipped, without armour, and will be motor borne except for the Infantry rifle coys. They are not intended to undertake major offensive operations unaided.
- (c) Sufficient Italian supporting troops and administrative services are being made available to Allied commanders concerned.

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contd sheet 2/..

Sheet 2.

(d) The Italian commanders and staffs are to be responsible for their own internal administration and the tactical handling of units of their groups to the fullest possible extent.

(e) The internal organisation of groups is to be uniform and as simple and so effective as is commensurate with the above conditions.

3. METHOD.

(a) The standard organisation of a Gruppo di Combattimento is given in Appx. "A" and will NOT be altered without A.F.H.Q. approval. The Italian system of command has been retained as far as possible to avoid confusion in technical training. The number of different types of weapons and vehicles has been kept to a minimum to save time in technical training.

(b) The directive issued to the Italian General Staff (S.M.R.E.) is given in Appx. "B"

Copies of further directives will be issued to B.L.U.s.

(c) British liaison and training staffs will be as given in Appx. "C"; they will carry out their various duties in accordance with standard British procedure and the following general instructions :-

(d) Separate instructions will be issued regarding:

- i. Operational channels of communication.
- ii. Training programmes.
- iii. Reinforcement and other personnel questions.
- iv. Maintenance.

4. LIAISON.

(a) A British Liaison Unit (B.L.U.) will be attached to each independent Group H.Q. It will be self-contained administratively but will be located at or very close to the Italian H.Q. The O. i/c will, through his officers of the various arms and services, be responsible that:-

1. Orders received are properly understood and obeyed.
- ii. Information required by higher authority is properly and accurately supplied, translated and transmitted.

iii. Training is maintained and improved whenever and

kept to a minimum to save time in technical training.

- (b) The directive issued to the Italian General Staff (S.M.R.E.) is given in Appx. "B".
Copies of further directives will be issued to B.L.U.s.
- (c) British liaison and training staffs will be as given in Appx. "C"; they will carry out their various duties in accordance with standard British procedure and the following general instructions: -

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- i. Orders received are properly understood and obeyed.
- ii. Information required by higher authority is properly and accurately supplied, translated and transmitted.
- iii. Training is maintained and improved whenever and wherever possible.
- iv. Administrative services and maintenance duties are efficiently and economically performed.
- v. Circumstances likely to affect detrimentally the fighting or administrative efficiency of the formation, or the morale of the troops, are promptly prevented, rectified and/or reported to the proper authority.
- vi. In battle, communication with flank and rear formations is maintained.

The B.L.U. will in addition to the primary channel of communication between the Italian H.Q. and superior and flank formations on all questions affecting Italian units in their role as a component part of the Allied Forces.

Sheet 3.

- (b) The Military Mission to the Italian Army (M.M.I.A.) is the sole channel of communication between Allied commanders and the Ministry of War and General Staff (S.M.R.E.). The M.M.I.A. representative (L.O.) at each Group HQ will therefore deal (normally through M.M.I.A.) with all questions affecting Italian personnel in their role as an integral part of the Italian Army. He will maintain the closest possible touch with the officers of the B.L.U. to assure that all essential matters are adequately and properly handled without overlapping or waste of time and effort.
- (c) A training staff is provided by the D.M.T. (in addition to B.L.U.s) during initial reorganisation and training phases to supplement the training given to Italian instructors in British schools and to supervise and report on the standard of training reached. They will be withdrawn as each Group reaches the stage when it can carry on under B.L.U. supervision.

5. TRANSLATION.

- (a) Orders and memoranda are issued in the language of the nation of origin.
- (b) Translation into Italian is the responsibility of the Italian recipient.
- (c) Translation into English of documents and conversation from Italian Groups to English addresses will be the responsibility of the B.L.U. to whom sufficient interpreters are allotted for the purpose.

6. ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) All British personnel attached to Italian Combat Groups will be under command of the O i/c B.L.U. and will carry out their technical duties according to normal British procedure.
- (b) O i/c B.L.U. (and MML L.O.) will submit such routine reports etc as are required from time to time by the authorities mentioned in para 4.
- (c) War Diaries will be kept by each B.L.U. and sent monthly to the HQ of the superior formation to which they are allotted.
- (d) Supplies for British personnel will be drawn on British scales in the same manner as for Italian personnel.

11719

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2007
JULY

W. S. Piderley. Col 6674
for Major General,
Army Sub Comm, A. C. C.

SECRET

Army Sub Commission, AMIA.
H.Q. A.C.C.

ROME.

TS/6/29.
26 Aug. 44.

To :- H.E. General OXILLA Under-Secretary of State for War.
H.E. General BERARDI Chief of the General Staff - Italian Army.

Reorganisation Italian Combat Force.

Your Excellency,

1. I am directed to inform you that it has been decided that as and when equipment can be provided certain units of the Italian Army will be re-equipped from Allied sources on a combat basis.

2. These units are to be organised by you into standard Gruppi di Combattimento in accordance with approved outline war establishments which will be given you. You will be notified from time to time of units selected, as equipment becomes available.

3. The first two units selected are the FRIULI and CREMONA Divisions, which will at once be concentrated by you in the area allotted you east of BENEVENTO for re-organisation and training.

4. The reorganisation required to bring the units of these divisions into conformity with the outline war establishments will be completed as quickly as possible and in any case before 17th. September. Particular care and firmness will be exercised by you in the selection of all officers, N.C.O.s and men who are for any reason unsuitable for combat duties. This process will be supervised and assisted by British Liaison Officers who are being sent at once to S. GIORGIO for that purpose.

5. The training of Italian personnel in the operation and maintenance of British weapons, transport and equipment will include the following :-

- (a) The technical training of Italian regimental instructors at British schools in accordance with arrangements already made.
- (b) The instruction of Italian personnel in units by Italian instructors (see above) supervised and

1. I am directed to inform you that it has been decided that as and when equipment can be provided certain units of the Italian Army will be re-equipped from Allied sources on a combat basis.

2. These units are to be organised by you into standard Gruppi di Combattimento in accordance with approved outline war establishments which will be given you. You will be notified from time to time of units selected, as equipment becomes available.

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5. The training of Italian personnel in the operation and maintenance of British weapons, transport and equipment will include the following :-

- (a) The technical training of Italian regimental instructors at British schools in accordance with arrangements already made.
- (b) The instruction of Italian personnel in units by Italian instructors (see above) supervised and assisted by British Training Teams which will remain with Italian units during this phase.
- (c) Tactical exercises for officers and N.C.Os (without and with troops) demonstrating the employment of British weapons by Italian sub-units; these will be arranged by British Staffs in collaboration with Italian commanders.
- (d) Specialist and administrative training in supply, replacement and other technical details which will be undertaken by British technical units.

Speed and energy are essential during this period which, it is considered, should (for the first two groups) be completed by the end of October, provided essential equipment arrives in time.

Sheet 2.

6. The issue of equipment will be made as quickly as possible under arrangements which will be notified separately. In the meantime you are to ensure that all the necessary administrative arrangements are ready for its receipt, distribution and safe custody.

7. The method of employment of these divisions in the line will be notified later when their potentiality can be more definitely assessed in relation to future needs. Meanwhile you may work on the following premises.

- (a) Gruppi will be employed independently under Allied Formation Commanders.
- (b) Necessary Italian supporting arms and maintenance services will be provided under arrangements to be notified separately.
- (c) Gruppi will be capable of moving in its own Motor Transport with the exception of Infantry Rifle Coys.
- (d) Extra transport or special equipment (such as for mountain warfare) will be provided from Allied sources when required subject to operational availability.
- (e) It is not intended that Gruppi will be called on to undertake major offensive operations unaided.
- (f) Gruppi may be required to undertake Internal Security or Garrison duties if the need arises.

8. The selection and preparation of further units for training is now being studied and you will be informed of any decisions reached.

d Bunting

Major General,

Army Sub Comd. A.C.C.
M.M.I.A.

SECRET

Appendix "C" to MBIA letter
T.S./C/29 dated Sep 44.

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

PROPOSED

WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

(1) Personnel

Audit No.	
Date	
Offrs	8
ORs	35
total	43
MCs	6
Vehicles	10
Trailers	1

STAFF AND ATTACHED TO GENERAL STAFF	Officers.	Warrant Officers Class 1.	Warrant Officers Class 11.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Lance Corporals.	Privates.	TOTAL.
(a) General Staff Officer, 1st grade	1								1
Deputy assistant adjutant and quartermaster general	1								1
Staff officer, R.A., 2nd. grade	1								1
Staff officer, R.E., 3rd. grade	1								1
Staff officer, R. Signals 3rd. grade	1								1
Deputy assistant director of supplies and transport.	1								1
Deputy assistant director of ordnance services.	1								1
Staff Captain, R.E.M.E.	1								1
Clerks, general duties, R.A.S.C.	1								1
Clerks, R.A.	1								1
Clerks, R.A.O.C.	1								1
Storeman, R.A.O.C.	1								1
Serjeant									
Operators, wireless and V									

WEAR LINK SIGNALS.

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

STAFF AND ATTACHED TO GENERAL STAFF	OFFICERS	Warrant Class	Warrant Class	Staff Ser	Serjeants	Corporals	Lance Corp	Privates	TOTAL
(a) General Staff Officer, 1st grade	1								1
Deputy assistant adjutant and quartermaster general	1								1
Staff officer, R.A., 2nd. grade	1								1
Staff officer, R.E., 3rd. grade	1								1
Staff officer, R. Signals 3rd. grade	1								1
<u>SERVICES.</u>									
Deputy assistant director of supplies and transport.	1								1
Deputy assistant director of ordnance services.	1								1
Staff Captain, R.E.M.E.	1								1
Clerks, general duties, R.A.S.C.					1	1		3	5
Clerks, R.A.								1	1
Clerks, R.A.O.C.				1	1			2	3
Storeman, R.A.C.C.									1
<u>HEIR LINK SIGNALS.</u>									
Serjeant					1				1
Operators, wireless and line							1	6	11
Operators, cypher.									3
Electricians, signals							1	2	1
Driver operators									1
Driver mechanic							1	1	1
Driver IC									1
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF</u>									
Serjeant					1				1
Transport M.C.O.									1
Interpreters					2	1			2
Officers' mess orderly							1		1
TOTAL, British Liaison Unit	8		1	6	9	3	16	43	865

(a) This appointment may be filled by an Indian Army officer on Indian Army pay and allowances when the Gruppi di Combattimento is employed in conjunction with an Indian Formation.

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-2-

Motor cycles, solo 6
Cars, 2-seater, 4 x 2 2
Trucks, 15-cwt, G.S. 3
Trucks, 15-cwt, Wireless House 2
Lorries, 3-ton, G.S. 3
Water Trailer, 250-gallon 1

(a) includes 1 lance serjeant.

Notes

1. A general staff officer, 2nd. grade, will be attached from HQ, Army Sub Commission for liaison duties.
2. Drivers, batmen, cooks and orderlies are provided from the Italian Increment to the British Liaison Unit.

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

Appendix 'C' to MHA letter E.S./C/29
dated September, 44.

Amt No Date	Offrs ORS	Total	MOs Vehicles Trailers
	1	21	
		22	

AN ITALIAN INCREMENT

TO A

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT.

DISCUSSION

DETAIL		Officers	Warrant Officers Class 1	Warrant Officers Class 11	Staff Sergeants	Sergeants	Corporals	Lance Corporals	Privates	Total
Officer Commanding (Lieutenant)		1								1
Duty N.C.O.										
Interpreters										
General Dutymen										
Drivers, IC							2			
Batmen								1		
Cooker :- Officers' Mess										
Sergeants' Mess										
Bank and File Mess										
Total, an Italian Increment to a British Liaison unit		1					3	1	17	22

Total, an Italian Increment to a British Liaison unit

1727

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

DETAIL

Officer Commanding (Lieutenant)

Duty N.C.O.

Interpreters

General Dutymen

Drivers, IC

Batmen

Cooks :- Officers' Mess

Serjeants' Mess

Rank and File Mess

Total, an Italian Increment to a British Liaison unit

Officers	Warrant Officers Class 1	Warrant Officers Class 11	Staff Serjeants	Serjeants	Corporals	Lance Corporals	Privates	Total
1					1 2	1	3 5 5 1 1 2	1 20 6 2
1					3	1	1 17	22

Note: This unit is intended for employment under Command of a British Liaison Unit.

16A

SECRET.

Army Sub Commission, MILIA.
H. Q. A.C.C.

RHE. T.S. 10/29.
24 Aug. 44.

To : H.E. General CILIA Under-Secretary of State for War.
H.E. General BERARDI Chief of the General Staff - Italian Army.

Meeting 25th. August.

Your Excellencies,

1. Will you please meet me in my office at 1109 hours on Monday, 25th. August. The agenda I have in mind is as follows:

- (a) To hand you a directive on the reorganisation of the Combat Forces.
- (b) To receive your report on the present strength and state of reorganisation of the FULVI Division.
- (c) To discuss training programmes for Groups 1 and 2.
- (d) To receive your proposals on the composition and the principal officers of the CILIA Division (see my T.S. 10/29 of 7th. August).
- (e) To consider the reorganisation and future titles of Groups 3 and 4 (C.I.L.).

863

2. Please confirm that the above time is suitable, and let me know if there are any other matters in connection with the Combat Groups which you would like to discuss.

Your Excellencies,

1. Will you please meet me in my office at 1100 hours on Monday, 28th. August. The agenda I have in mind is as follows:

(a) To hand you a directive on the reorganisation of the Combat Forces.

(b) To receive your report on the present strength and state of reorganisation of the FIVEI Division.

(c) To discuss training programmes for Groups 1 and 2.

(d) To receive your proposals on the composition and the principal officers of the CREMONA Division (see my S.S. 6/29 of 7th. August).

(e) To consider the reorganisation and future titles of Groups 3 and 4 (C.I.I.).

2. Please confirm that the above time is suitable, and let me know if there are any other matters in connection with the Combat Groups which you would like to discuss.

A.B.

Major General.
Army Sub Comd. A.C.C.

1730

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

MMIA	CS
FREE REF	
Date Recd	18/8/44

15A

TOP SECRET

SUBJECT:- Trg Scales Italian Forces

Copy No. 2

SP
18/8

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
1705/19/G(SD2)

TS/8/29

Main Eighth Army Copy No
1

17 Aug 44

1. Agreement in principle has been given to equip up to six Italian Gruppi di Combattimenti (each approx 8950 all ranks) from the equivalent scales of transport and equipment of three British Divs.
2. A detailed investigation has shown that it will be possible to equip six Gruppi di Combattimenti together with the necessary administrative and training units from within the limits imposed. It is not anticipated that this equipment will be available for some time.
3. In the meantime it is desired to form and train two Gruppi, three BLUs (one for CIL and two for first two Gruppi) two tactical training teams and the one RA training team. The minimum training/maintenance scales for these units are shown in Appendix 'A' coln 1. A thorough investigation and comb out of rear areas reveals that only those items in coln 2 can be made available from AMI and AFHQ resources. It will therefore be necessary to withdraw the balance (coln 3) from Eighth Army resources.
4. The C in C intends to make operational use of these formations as soon as possible and in order that they should receive full training during the limited time available it is essential that training should commence by the end of August. Will you, therefore, confirm that the eqpt and vehs as listed in coln 3 of Appendix 'A' will be provided from Eighth Army resources.

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Actual
12/8

William Biggs

Lieutenant-General,
Chief of General Staff.

Copy to:-	MMIA	Copy No	Copy to:-	Copy No
	G (Trg)	2	AM to CGS	9
	Q (AE)	3	AM to CAG	10
	RA	4		
	RE	5		
	X	6		
	HQ Inf	7		
		8		

TOP SECRET

Appendix 'A' to 1705/19/G(SD2)
dated 17 June 44

MINIMUM TRAINING/MAINTENANCE SCALES

Items	Scale Required (1)	Available AFHQ/ AAI resources (2)	Balance Required (3)
<u>Transport</u>			
MCs	92	92 ✓	30
Cars, 2-str	30	8	113
Asb	8	-	20
Trucks, 15-cwt GS	113	-	6
Water	20	-	12
FFW	6	-	106
Wireless House	12	106 ✓	4
Lorries, 3-ton GS	106	4	8
7½ ton Lt Roc	4	4	-
Tractors, A tk	4	6	-
Pa	8	24	-
LMA	6	24	-
Carriers, Universal	24	12	3
Lloyd	24	-	-
Mortar	12	-	-
Trailers, Water	3	-	-
<u>Eqmt</u>			
Rifles	9000	9000	861
TSMC	5000	5000	-
LMG	120	120	-
PIAT	48	48	-
2 in Mortar	48	48	-
3 in Mortar	6	6	-
6 pr	30	30	-
17 pr (D2)	8	8	-
25 pr (D2)	16	16	-
40 mm	12	12	-
Directors Arty	6	6	-
Boards Arty	6	6	-
Compasses	36	36	-
Binoculars	100	100	-
Watches	50	50	-
Pistols Signal	48	48	-
Mine detectors	24	24	-
	60	60	-

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Trucks, 15-cwt GS	113	113
Water	20	20
PPW	6	6
Wireless House	12	12
Lorries, 3-ton GS	106	106
7 1/2 ton Lt Rec	4	4
Tractors, 4 tk	4	4
FA	8	8
LAA	6	6
Carriers, Universal	24	24
Lloyd	24	24
Mortar	12	12
Trailers, Water	3	3
Eqpt		
Rifles	9000	9000
TSMG	5000	5000
LMG	120	120
PIAT	48	48
2 in Mortar	48	48
3 in Mortar	6	6
6 pr	30	30
17 pr	8	8
25 pr (DP)	16	16
40 mm	12	12
Directors Arty	6	6
Boards Arty	6	6
Compasses	36	36
Binoculars	100	100
Watches	50	50
Pistols Signal	48	48
Mine detectors	24	24
Bicycles	60	60

861

NOTE:- (a) Wireless and RE Trg Eqpt can be provided from AAI resources.

TOP SECRET

SUBJECT: Equipment and Transport - ITALIAN Forces.

MAIN HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
1705/19/5 (SP2).

15 AUG, 44.

Q (AE) (2).

1. Appendix "A" shows scales of transport and equipment for one Gruppo di Combattimenti. Requirement is for six such Gruppi.
2. Appendix "B" shows scales of transport and equipment for "tail" required to support six Gruppi.
3. Appendix "C" shows scales of transport and equipment for one BLU attached each Gruppo. Requirement is for six such BLUs.
4. Appendix "D" shows scales of transport and equipment for each tactical training team, total two teams, together with requirements of the R. training team.
5. Appendix "E" shows total additions of paras 1, 2 and 3 above as compared with three British Divs worth of transport and equipment. From this comparison it will be seen that the requirements of the Italian formations and the BLUs are easily covered by scales of three British Divs.

6. It is thought the issues necessary to make up para. 4 could be made from transport and equipment earmarked for the last two Gruppi as the training teams will not be required after the equipping of the above is complete. This is purely for your guidance in provisioning.

7. Appendix "F" shows minimum transport and equipment which is required as an initial issue for:

(a) Training and maintenance first two Gruppi.

(b) Equipping 3 BLUs (one for CIL and two for first two Gruppi) two tactical training teams (see para 4.) and one R. training team (see para. 4.).

8. Will you please be represented at Meeting in U.E. Committee

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

2. Appendix "B" shows scales of transport and equipment for "tail" required to support six Gruppi.

3. Appendix "C" shows scales of transport and equipment for one BLU attached each Gruppo. Requirement is for six such BLUs.

4. Appendix "D" shows scales of transport and equipment for each tactical training team, total two teams, together with requirements of the RA training team.

5. Appendix "E" shows total additions of paras 1, 2 and 3 above as compared with three British Divs worth of transport and equipment. From this comparison it will be seen that the requirements of the Italian formations and the BLUs are easily covered by scales of three British Divs.

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7. Appendix "F" shows minimum transport and equipment which is required as an initial issue for:

(a) Training and maintenance first two Gruppi.

(b) Equipping 3 BLUs (one for CIL and two for first two Gruppi) two tactical training teams (see para 4) and one RA training team (see para.4).

8. Will you please be represented at Meeting in W.L. Committee Room at 1700 hrs, Wednesday, 16 August to discuss availability with special reference to para.7.

Copy to:- G(Trg) MIA
Q INF

L. M. T. (signature)
for Brigadier,
General Staff,
SD & T.
H-CL

1735

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TOP SECRET

Appendix 'A' to
170519/g(SD2)
dated 15 Aug 44

GRUPO DI COMBATTIMENTI

TRANSPORT AND EQUIPMENT SCALES

1. Transport

Bicycles	50
Motor cycles	321
Cars 2-str	78
Cars 4-str	22
Amb lt	9
Amb hy	9
15-cwt 4x2 GS	280
15-cwt Water	20
15-cwt Personnel	4
15-cwt Office	11
15-cwt XFV	31
15-cwt Type XL	1
15-cwt Generator	1
15-cwt Wireless	18
3-ton Cipher Office	1
3-ton TTV	1
3-ton Machy lorries	5
3-ton GS 4x2 or 4x4	336
3-ton Wasp lorry	2
3-ton Stores and tools	2
3-ton 6x4 5/40w	2
Lorries Diesel tractor	34
Lorries Binned	1
Arad Rec Vehs	67
Trailer GS	11
Trailer Water	2
Travelling Platforms	11
7 1/2-ton 6-wld lt Rec	2
40-ton 24-wd Tpdr and Rec	10
Tracked Rec D8	1
Tractors	1
Tractors FA	9
Tractors LMA	48
20-ton Trailers	12
Carriers Universal	1
Carriers Mortar	93
Carriers Lloyd	42
Trailers 15-cwt 2-wd machy gas welding	82
Trailers 10-cwt 2-wd GS	1
Recco Cars XFV	1
	26

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859

15-cwt FFV	11
15-cwt Type KL	31
15-cwt Generator	1
15-cwt Wireless	1
3-ton Alpha Office	18
3-ton TTV	1
3-ton Macky lorries	1
3-ton GS 4x2 or 4x4	5
3-ton Wasp lorry	336
3-ton Stores and Tools	2
3-ton 6x4 B/Down	2
Lorries Disinfecter	2
Lorries Binned	34
Arm Rec Vehs	1
Trailer CS	67
Trailer Water	11
Travelling Platforms	2
7 1/2-ton 6-wld lt Rec	10
40-ton 24-wd Tptr and Rec	1
Tracked Rec D8	1
Tractors	9
Tractors FA	48
Tractors LAA	12
20-ton Trailors	1
Carriers Universal	93
Carriers Mortar	42
Carriers Lloyd	82
Trailers 15-cwt 2-wd machy gas welding	1
Trailers 10-cwt 2-wd GS	1
Recon Cars FFV	26
25-pdrs	32
17-pdrs	8
40 mm	12
6-pdr	36
FLAT	200
3 in Mortar	40
2 in Mortar	138
IMG	500

2. Equipment

TOP SECRET

Appendix 'B' to
1705/19/G(SD2)
dated 15 Aug 44

SCALE OF TRANSPORT FOR 'TAIL' REQUIRED TO SUPPORT SIX GROUPS

	<u>MCs Track Vchs Lt Vchs Rv Vchs Trailors</u>			
<u>RE</u>	36	48	90	12
Three RL Pk Coys				
<u>MEP</u>				
Gen Hosp (1200 beds)		2	1	
Gen Hosp (600 beds)		2	1	
Two Gen Hosps (200 beds)		8	12	2
One Adv Depot Med Stores		1		
<u>ST</u>				
Three Gen Tpt Coys	44	19	151	6
One MAC	44	19	151	6
	44	19	151	6
	26	9	111	4
<u>ORD</u>				
One Mob Laundry Coy	6	1	16	16
Four Mob Bath Units		8	8	
<u>PRO</u>				
One L of G Pro Coy HQ	1	4	1	258
Six Secs	73	18		
<u>MISO</u>				
Two Transit Camps	2	2	2	
Ref Trg Depot	2	23	7	
One GRU		3		
	283	24	186	702
				52

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One War Depot Med Stores

ST

Three Gen Tpt Coys

One MAC

ORD

One Mob Laundry Coy
Four Mob Bath Units

PRO

One L of C Pro Coy HQ
Six Socs

MISC

Two Transit Camps
Rft Tng Depot
One GRU

44	19	151	6
44	19	151	6
44	19	151	6
26	9	111	4
6	1	16	16
	8	3	
1	4	1	858
78	18		
2	2	2	
2	23	7	
	3		
283	24	186	702
			52

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

TOP SECRET

Appendix 'C' to
1705/19/G(SD2)
dated 15 Aug 44

SCALE OF TRANSPORT FOR FLM (ITALIAN FORCES)

Transport

MCs	6
Cars 2-str 4x2	2
Trucks 15-cwt GS	2
Wireless	2
Lorries 3-ton GS	3
Trailers Water	1

TOP SECRET

Appendix 'D' to
1705/19/G(SD2)
dated 15 Aug 44

SCALE OF TRANSPORT

TACTICAL TRAINING TEAM (ITALIAN FORCES)

Motor cycles	1
Cars 2-str 4x2	1
Trucks 15-cwt 4x2 GS	2

SCALE OF TRANSPORT

PA TRAINING TEAM (ITALIAN FORCES)

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

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TOP SECRET

Appendix 'D' to
1705/19/G(SD2)
dated 15 Aug 44

SCALE OF TRANSPORT

TACTICAL TRAINING TEAM (ITALIAN FORCES)

Motor cycles	1
Cars 2-str 4x2	1
Trucks 15-cwt 4x2 GS	2

SCALE OF TRANSPORT

RA TRAINING TEAM (ITALIAN FORCES)

Cars 2-str 4x2	2
Trucks 15-cwt 4x2 GS	4
Lorries 3-ton 4x2 GS	1

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

TABLE OF COMPARISON

App

TRANSPORT

	MCs	Tracked Vehs	Light Vehs	Hy Vehs	Trailers	25 pdr	17 pdr	40
1. TOTAL THREE BRIT DIVS	3252	1866	4260	4014	588	216	48	1
2. TOTAL SIX GRUPPI DI COMBATTIMENTI	1926	1302	3420	2466	498	192	48	
3. TOTAL SIX BLUs	36		42	18	6	-	-	
4. TOTAL "TAIL" for SIX GRUPPI	283	24	186	702	52	-	-	
5. TOTAL	2245	1326	3648	3186	556	192	48	
6. Saving	1007	540	612	828	32	24	-	
7. Additional Requirement								

* Large proportion of 3 in mortars required because no 4.2 in mortar are being i

1742

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

TABLE OF COMPARISON

Appendix 'E' to 1705/19/G(SD2)

Dated 15 Aug 44

TRANSPORT

EQUIPMENT

Ca	Tracked Vehs	Light Vehs	Hy Vehs	Trailers	25 pdr	17 pdr	40 mm	6 pdr	PIAT	MORTARS		LMG
										3 in	2 in	
52	1866	4260	4014	588	216	48	108	258	1308	180	849	3783
26	1302	3420	2466	498	192	48	72	216	1200	240	828	3000
36		42	18	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	24	186	702	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1326	3648	3186	556	192	48	72	216	1200	240	828	3000
77	540	612	828	32	24	-	36	42	108		21	783

60 *

ortion of 3 in mortars required because no 4.2 in mortar are being issued.

11743

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Appendix 'P' to
1705/19/8(SD2)
Dated 15 Aug 44

TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

VEHS	TOTAL				OVERALL TOTAL
	Infantry Groups	Infantry Hqs	Two Tactical Trg Teams	One RA Trg Team	
MOs	72	18	2		92 ✓
Cars 2-str	20	6	2	2	30
Amb	8				8
Trucks 15-cwt GS	96	9	4	4	113
Water	20				20
FW	6				6
Wireless House	6	6			12
Lorries 3-ton GS	96	9		1	106 ✓
7½-ton Lt Rec	4				4
Tractors A Tk	4				4 ✓
RA	8				8
LIA	6				6 ✓
Carriers Universal	24				24 ✓
Lloyd	24				24 ✓
Mortar	12				12
Trailers Water		3			3

1764

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

Trucks 15-cwt GS	96	4	4	113
Water	20		4	20 x
FWW	6			6
Wireless House	6			12 x
Lorries 3-ton GS	96		1	106 ✓
7½-ton Lt Rec	4			4 x
Tractors A Tk	4			4 ✓
FM	8			8 x
LMA	6			6 ✓
Carrier's Universal	24			24 ✓
Lloyd	24			24
Mortar	12			12
Trailers Water		3		3

855

SUBJECT: Meeting on Manpower for
Gruppi di Combattimenti

MEMA
DCAO
DAG
DQMG

TOP SECRET

Copy No 2

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
1605/50/36/G(SM)

15 Aug 44

1. A meeting will be held in Room 835 at 1130 hrs 16 Aug.
Please attend or send a representative. Agenda is as follows.

2. Object of the Meeting

To decide upon a reply to AFHQ signal F82622 of 13 Aug,
paraphrase of which is attached at Appendix "A".

3. Auxiliary Units for the Gruppi

The Order of Battle of auxiliary units required for the six
Gruppi is attached at Appendix 'B' (to be issued at the meeting).

It has been agreed that the auxiliary units will be used to
supplement our existing maintenance resources. Arty is not required.

4. Increase of Ceiling

Ceiling originally recommended 3 Apr	432,511
AIU's revised requirements 19 Jan	434,481
Ceiling reduced by AFHQ 11 Jun to	347,300
Ceiling after increase recommended by SAC-in-C	
to cover Combat Groups	373,000
Ceiling after transfer of 5,000 to Italian Air Force	364,000

5. Attached at Appendix 'B' is a proposed breakdown of the
ceiling of 364,000. The figure of 10,000 to cover reinforcements,
slog, appears to be too small.

6. Conclusion

It is proposed to incorporate in the reply to the AFHQ signal
the following points:

(a) A list of auxiliary units required.

To decide upon a reply to AFHQ signal F82622 of 13 Aug, paraphrase of which is attached at Appendix "A".

3. Auxiliary Units for the Gruppi

The Order of Battle of auxiliary units required for the six Gruppi is attached at Appendix "B" (to be issued at the meeting).

It has been agreed that the auxiliary units will be used to supplement our existing maintenance resources. Arty is not required.

4. Increase of Coiling

Coiling originally recommended 3 Apr	432,511
AD's revised requirements 19 Jun	434,481
Coiling reduced by AFHQ 11 Jun to	347,300
Coiling after increase recommended by SAC-in-C	
to cover Combat Groups	373,000
Coiling after transfer of 9,000 to Italian Air Force	364,000

5. Attached at Appendix "B" is a proposed breakdown of the coiling of 364,000. The figure of 10,000 to cover reinforcements, sick, appears to be too small.

6. Conclusion

It is proposed to incorporate in the reply to the AFHQ signal the following points:

- (a) A list of auxiliary units required.
- (b) An estimate of the time required to make Gruppi operational after receipt of their equipment.
- (c) Certain additional coiling is required to cover rfts and ineffectives.

254

H. J. J. J.
for Brigadier, G(SD & T).

G (SD) HQ AAI

RECEIPT is acknowledged of letter 1605/50/36/G(SDM) dated

Aug 44.

Serial

Signature

Date

Branch

11 7 4 7

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

13 B

TOP SECRET

Appendix 'A' to 1605/50/36/0(SD1)
dated 15 Aug 44

FROM: AFHQ SGD SACRED CITE FHGCT

TO : ACTION AAI.

ORIG NO: F 82622

1. As a matter of urgent operational necessity the combined Chiefs of Staff have approved in principle the equipping of NOT to exceed 3 Italian Divisions. Such equipping must NOT be at the expense of the operational reserve requirements of certain operational commitments outside AAI.

2. To enable the CCS to estimate commitments which this decision entails they require information urgently on certain points. It is requested you forward to this Headquarters earliest answers to the following:

- A. Full requirements for auxiliary units such as artillery and service units to support the divisions.
- B. An estimate of the time required to make these divisions operational after receipt of their equipment.
- C. An appreciation of availability of Italian labour service and supporting troops for the division, in the light of other requirements you have for Italian manpower.

3. Final decision regarding effective ceiling still under discussion by CCS.

852

1748

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

13C

TOP SECRETAppendix 'B' to 1605/50/36/C(SD1)
dated 15 Aug 44ORDER OF BATTLE OF AUXILIARY UNITS REQUIRED FOR
CHUPPI 31 COMBATIVITY

		proposed	Offrs	ORs	Nurses	Total Strength
<u>ENGRS</u>	Three fd pk coys		15	456		471
<u>ST</u>	Three gen tpt coys	II/262/2	12	114		126
	HQ MT coy	II/263/2	12	720		732
	four tpt pls	II/267/2	3	186		189
	two RDIs	II/268/2		141		141
	one wksp ser 3					
	One MAC					
<u>MED</u>	HQ MT coy	II/262/2	4	38	17	59
	three tpt pls	II/263/2	3	180	158	341
	two RDIs	II/267/2	1	62	42	105
	one wksp ser 2	II/268/2		42	19	61
	one med pl for MAC	III/176/1		24	17	41
<u>ORD</u>	One gen hosp (1200 beds)	IV/227/1	34	250	79	363
	One gen hosp (600 beds)	IV/226/1	23	162	50	235
	Two gen hosp (200 beds)	IV/228/1	30	222	44	296
	Six 100 bed expansions	IV/42/2	12	84		96
	One adv depot med stores	III/51/3	1	8		9
<u>PRO</u>	One mob laundry coy	NA/66/1	5	120		125
	Four mob bath units	III/216/1	4	72		76
<u>MISC</u>	One L of C pro coy (HQ and six secs)	VI/194/1 VI/195/1	3	109		112
	One (balloons)		4	70		74
	Two transit camps	NA/427/1	8	140		148

1749

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

gen tpt coys HQ MT coy four tpt pls two RDIs one wisp ser 3 One MAC	II/262/2	12	114	3	22
	II/263/2	12	720	3	138
	II/267/2	3	186		
	II/268/2		141		
HQ MT coy three tpt pls two RDIs one wisp ser 2 one red pl for MAC One MAC	II/262/2	4	38		22
	II/263/2	3	180		138
	II/267/2		62		
	II/268/2	1	42		19
One gen hosp (1200 beds) One gen hosp (600 beds) Two gen hosp (200 beds) Six 100 bed expansions One adv depot med stores One mob laundry coy four mob bath units	IV/227/1	34	250		79
	IV/226/1	23	162		50
	IV/228/1	30	222		44
	IV/229/2	12	84		
One I of C pro coy (HQ and six secs) One (2000 beds) Two transit camps One rft trg depot HQ one trg bn one holding bn One GRU	III/51/3	1	8		
	NA/66/1	5	120		
	III/216/1	4	72		
	VI/194/1	3	109		
One (2000 beds) Two transit camps One rft trg depot HQ one trg bn one holding bn One GRU	VI/195/1	4	70		
	NA/427/1	8	140		
	new	10	70		
	IV/146/1	3	10		
Totals		183	3220	173	

833

3576
2856
1562

1750

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

SEGRETO

STATO MAGGIORE REGIO ESERCITO
UFFICIO ORDINAMENTO E MOBILITAZIONE
Sezione Ordinamento

M.M.A.	5/29
FILE REF	
Date Recd	12/8/44

n° 5839 /Ord. di prot.

P.M. 151, // agosto 1944)

OGGETTO: Riorganizzazione delle forze italiane combattenti.-

ARMY SUB COMMISSION (AMIA) HQ AGC

ROME

Riferimento foglio T.S/G/29 del 7 c.m.-

Si trasmette, in allegato, schema della riorganizzazione della divisione "Friuli" compilato sulla base della tabella consegnata dal Gen. Browning il 23 luglio u.s.-

Sullo schema sono pure riportati i nominativi dei reparti e dei comandanti di grado più elevato.-

L'analogo schema richiesto per la divisione "Cremona" sarà trasmesso in tempo debito.-

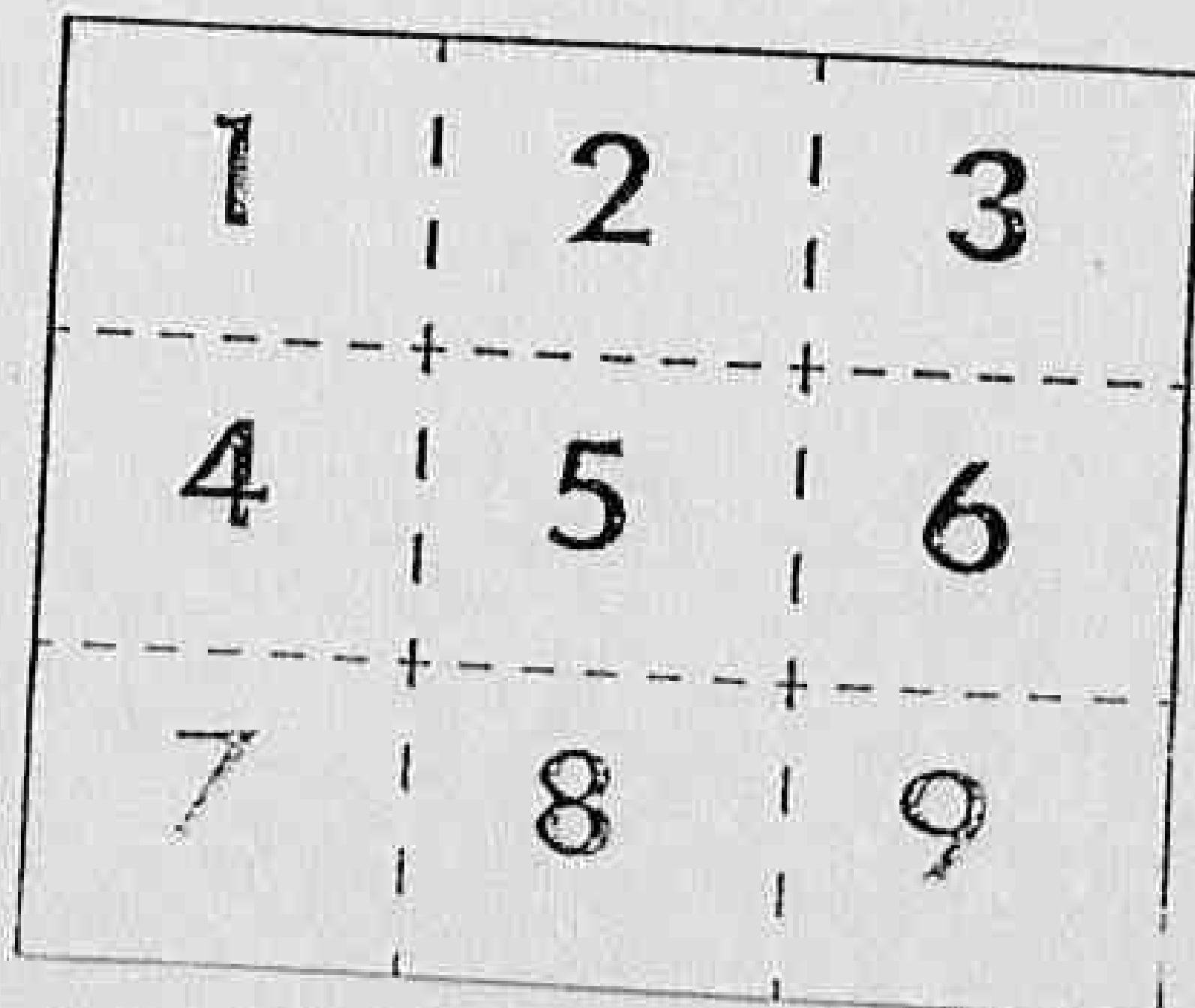
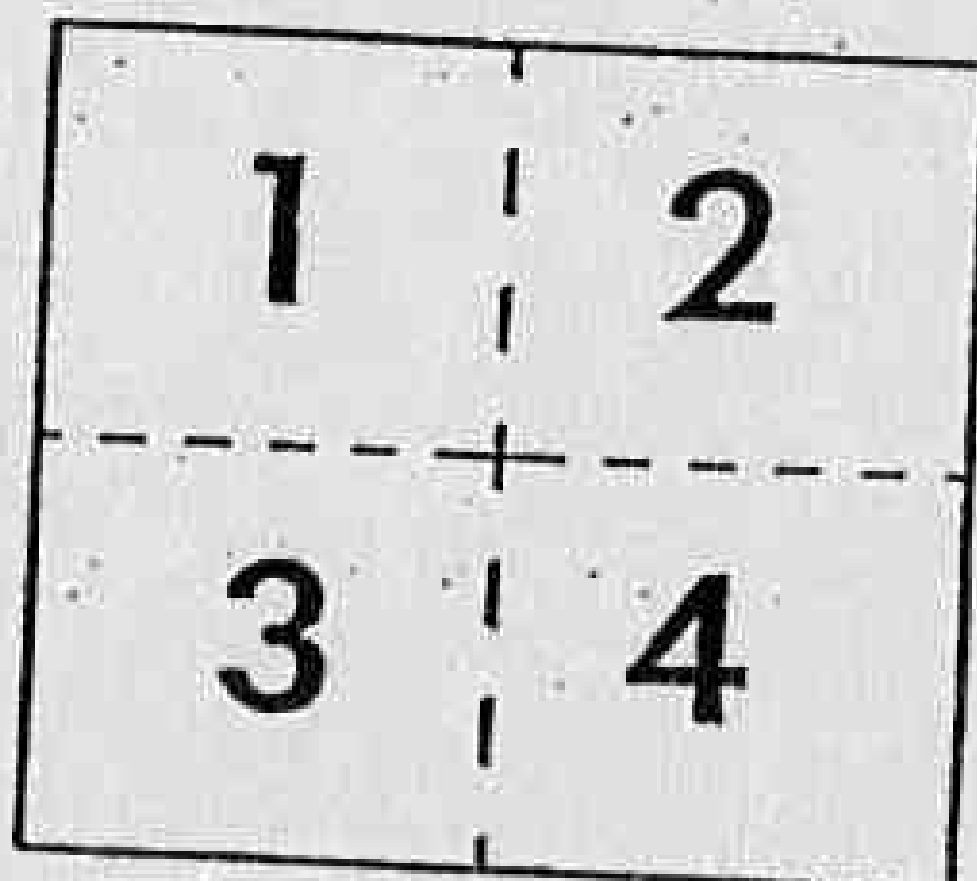
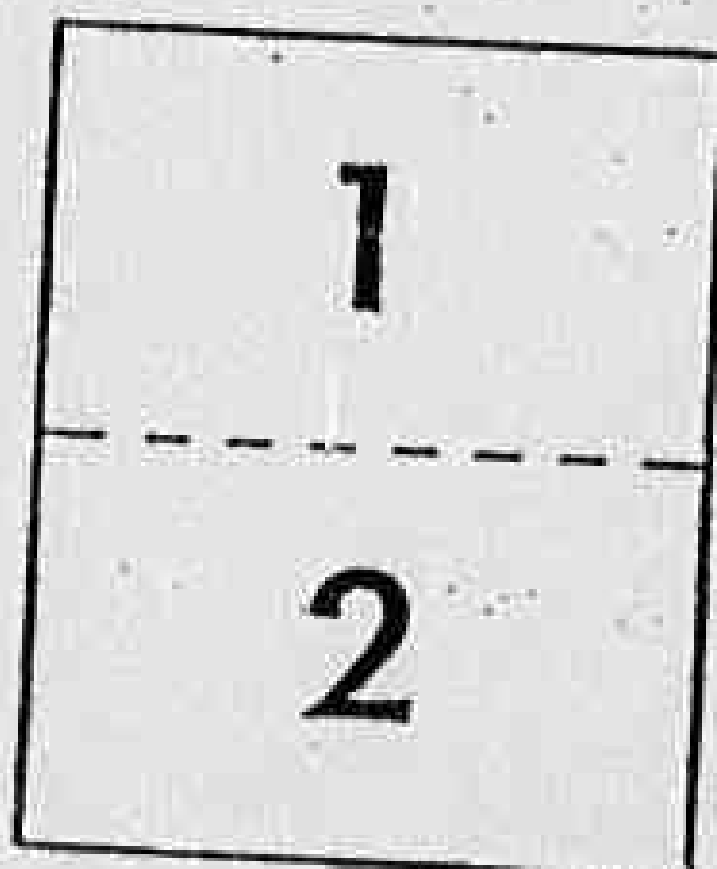


*IL GENERALE ADEPTO
(Alessandro Santi)

851

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.

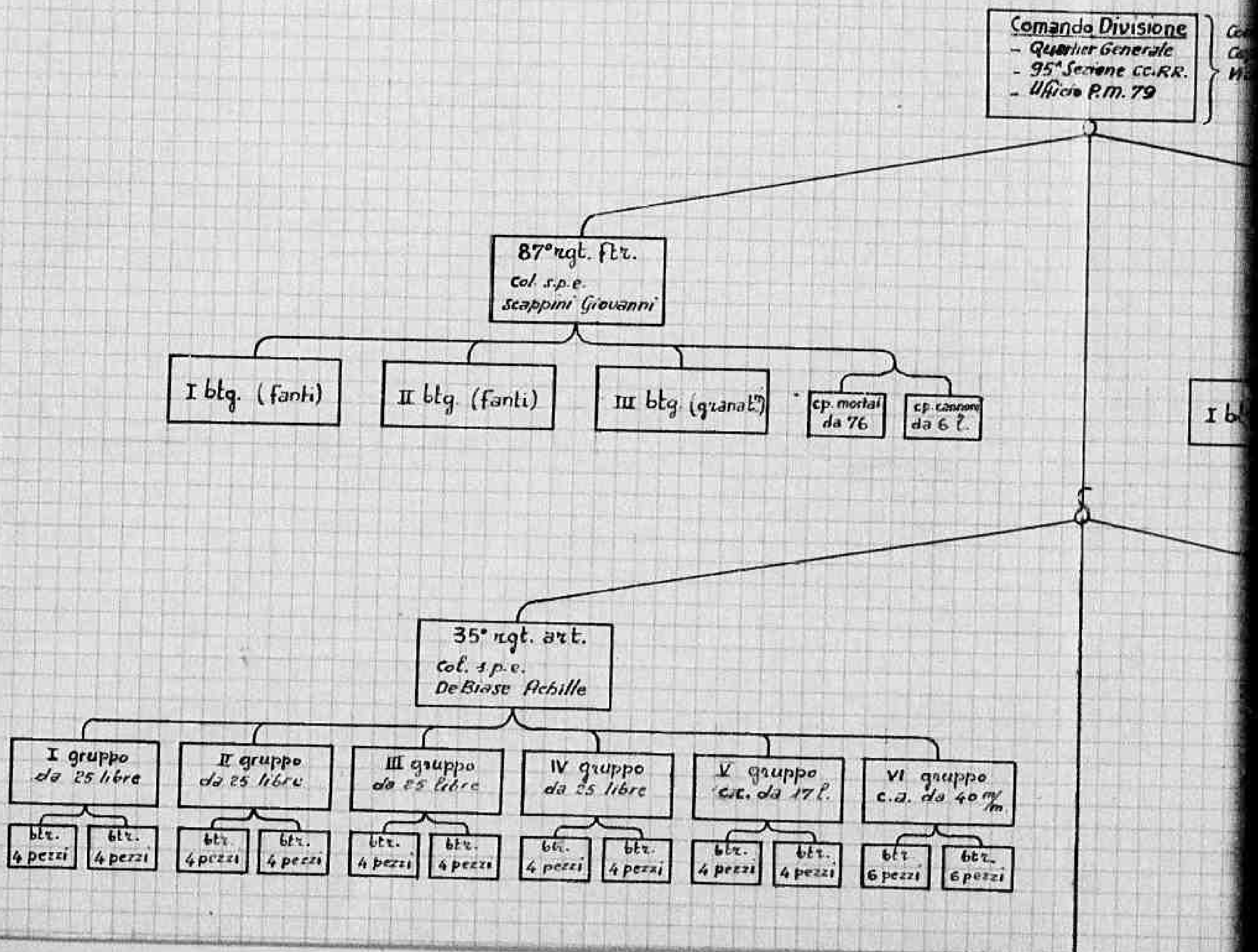
SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



1752

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

SCHEMA DELLA RIORGANIZZAZIONE DELLA

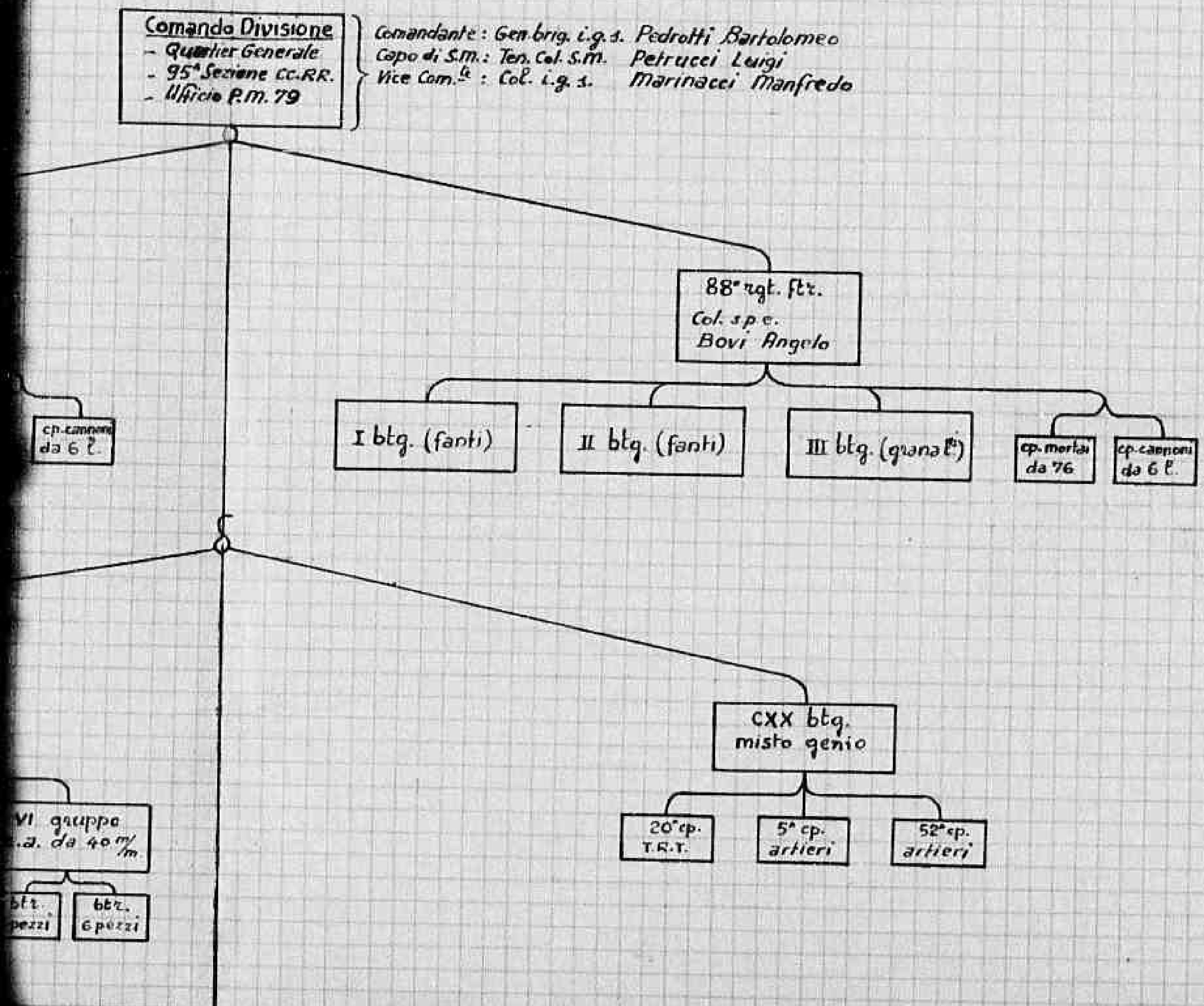


1753

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

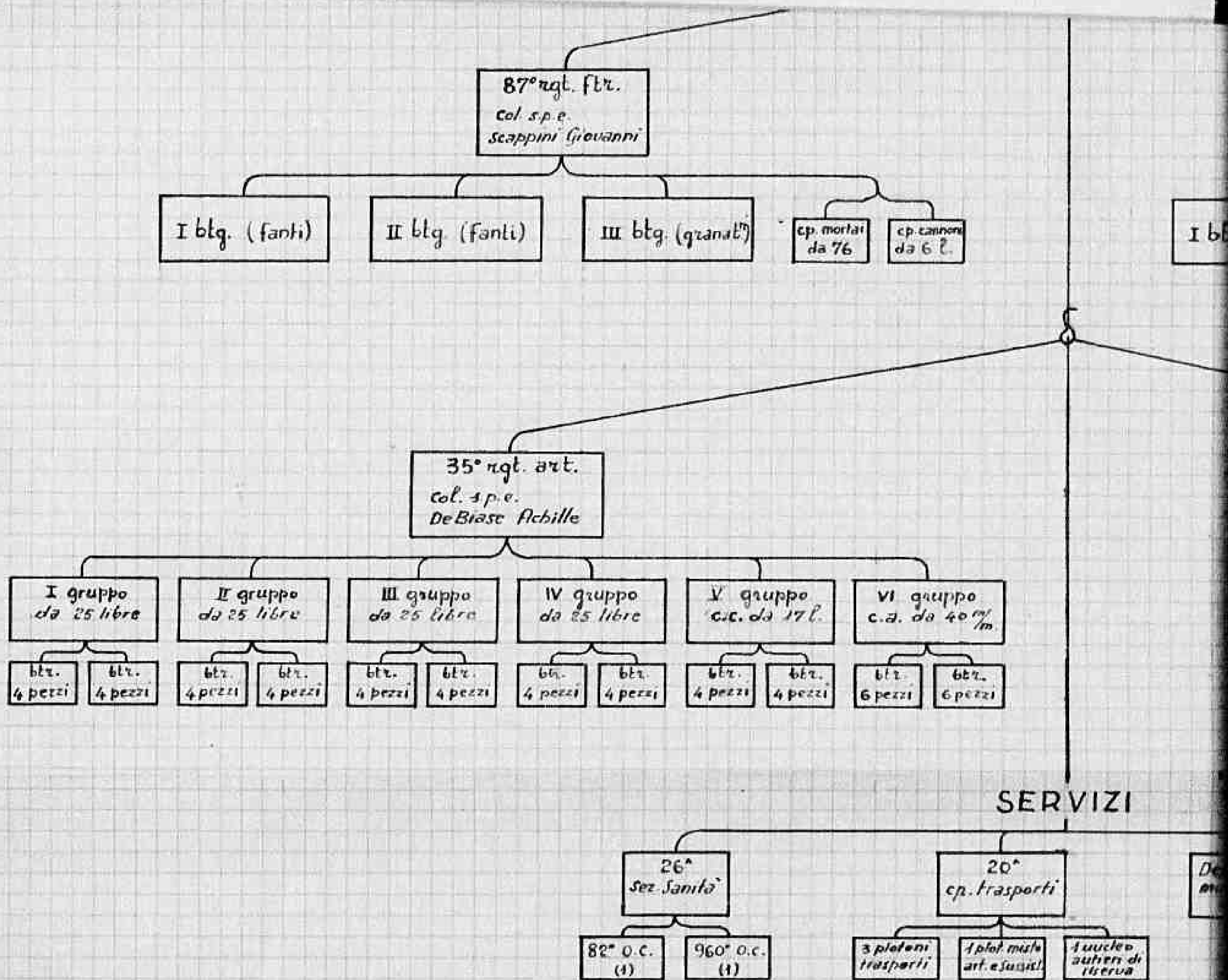
Allegato al foglio n° /ord. del

ORGANIZZAZIONE DELLA DIVISIONE "FRIULI" (20°)



11754

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

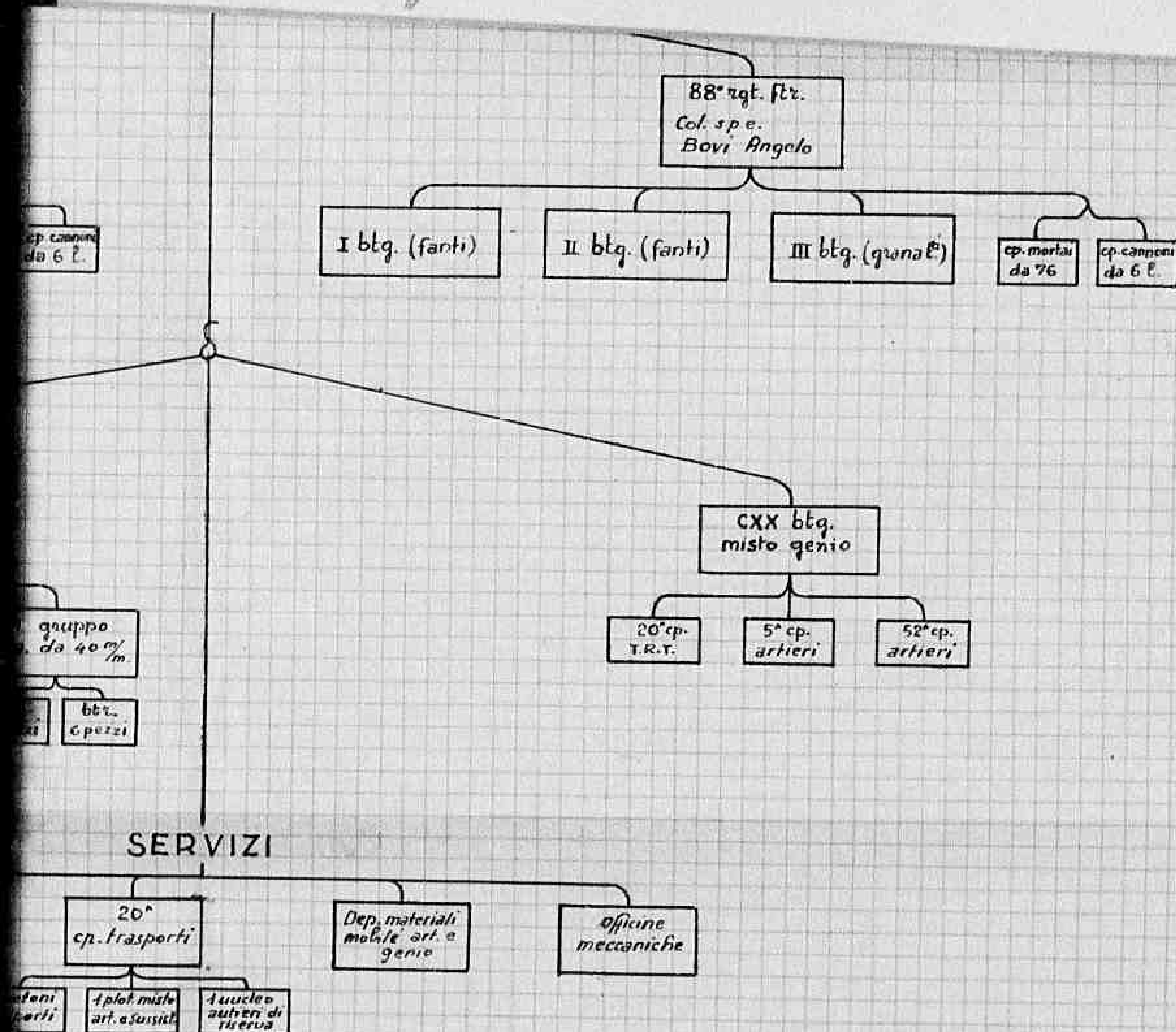


(1) - devono arrivare dalla Sardegna -

N.B. - i provvedimenti da adottare per la riorganizzazione di cui sopra risultano dallo specchio

11755

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



risultano dallo specchio consegnato via Breve il 28 luglio u.s. al Maggiore Baumann della M.M.I.A.

SUBJECT: Reorganisation - Italian Combat Force

SECRET

Army Sub Commission, MIIA,
H.Q. A.C.C.

ROME.

T.S./G/29
7 Aug 44

To: Director, MIIA,

SITUATION 7 AUG 1944.

1. General planning and anticipatory arrangements are proceeding on the lines of the proposals made in MIIA T.S./G/29 of 21 July and AAI letter, CGS/328 of 27 July - pending authorisation (or otherwise) by C.C.S. of the issue of British Equipment and approval of the whole scheme.

2. Principles being remembered are:

- a. Speed is essential.
- b. Simplicity in organisation and training.
- c. Efficiency without waste or luxury.

3. Organisation.

- a. There is no major change in the original proposal - detailed W.Es are now being examined and will probably work out as follows: -

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>Men.</u>
H.Q.	29	208
Arty	93	1388
Eng.	14	448
Sigs	30	260
Inf	234	5210
Tpt	10	245
Med	39	337
Ord.	7	112
Mech.	9	274

TOTAL 465

8489

849

9-89
465
8489

- a. Speed is essential.
- b. Simplicity in organisation and training.
- c. Efficiency without waste or luxury.

3. Organisation.

- a. There is no major change in the original proposal - detailed W.F.s are now being examined and will probably work out as follows: -

	<u>Offrs</u>	<u>Men.</u>
H.Q.	29	208
Arty	93	1388
Eng.	14	445
Sigs	30	260
Inf	234	5210
Tpt	10	245
Med	39	337
Ord.	7	112
Mech.	9	274
TOTAL	455	8489
		849

- b. Corresponding increases and increments to 3rd line maintenance and supply services are being examined at the same time.

4. Administration.

- a. FRIULI Div is being concentrated East of BENEVENTO (S. GIORGIO area) between 10 - 30 Aug, the necessary extra units being brought in to complete the new organisation.

- b. CREMONA Div is due to concentrate in the S. GIORGIO area (alongside FRIULI) being brought over from SARDEGNA between 1 - 21 Sep.

5. Training. has been planned in four phases: -

- I. Technical training of regimental instructors.
- II. Technical training of individuals.
- III. Technical training of junior leaders.
- IV. Technical training of units.

Sheet 2.

5. Training (Contd.).

Arrangements have been made for the first two formations (FRIULI and CREMONA) as follows, subsequent formations will follow the same plan:

- a. Artillery. 50 Instructors to attend courses on 25 pdr, 17 pdr, 6 pdr and 40 mm at 8 Army Artillery School, COLLEFERO probably from 26 Aug to 16 ~~Aug~~ ^{Sep}. R.A. training teams of some 8 offrs and 22 men are being formed for attachment to each formation during the individual training phase.
The advisability of a course in tactical employment is being explored.
- b. Engineers. 63 potential instructors (from the 12 coys earmarked for all six "gruppi") are being trained together at S.M.E. CAPUA, from 12 Aug to 12 Sep in Bridging, Mines and Explosives, and a further 15 instructors in maintenance of equipment.
A training officer (R.E.) and possibly 3 NCO's will be attached to each Div during individual training phase.
- c. Signals. Training of some 20 or 30 R.Is at British Signal School at PALMA from 15 Aug to 5 Sep.
Establishment of Italian Wing at PALMA for training of further instructors and ~~platoon~~ training in operation and maintenance.
Small British training teams will be asked for.
- d. Infantry. 110 R.Is are to be trained in 3" mortar and all platoon weapons at C.M.T.C. (BENEVENTO) between 26 Aug and 15 Sep.
12 Field Officers are attending junior leaders course at the same time, as observers, so as to be able to advise regtl and Bn comdrs on tactical handlings.
Study courses etc will probably be arranged at BENEVENTO later.
- e. M.T. Instruction in Driving and Maintenance is to be given to units of each "gruppi" by training teams being organised by D.M.T. Arrangements for provision of personnel and demonstration vehicles are in hand.
- f. Ordnance. The Ordnance Field Park Unit (7 offrs and 12 ORs) of each Div in turn will be formed and trained at the R.A.O.C. school at PONTECAGNANO. First course (FRIULI) 15 Aug - 2 Sep to be followed immediately

in Bridging, Mines and Explosives, and a further 15 instructors in maintenance of equipment.

A training officer (R.E.) and possibly 3 NCO's will be attached to each Div during individual training phase.

- c. Signals. Training of some 20 or 30 R.I.s at British Signal School at PALMA from 15 Aug to 5 Sep. Establishment of Italian Wing at PALMA for training of further instructors and ~~in~~ training in operation and maintenance. Small British training teams will be asked for.

- d. Infantry. 110 R.I.s are to be trained in 3" mortar and all platoon weapons at C.M.T.C. (BENEVENTO) between 26 Aug and 15 Sep. 12 Field Officers are attending junior leaders course at the same time, as observers, so as to be able to advise regtl and Bn comdrs on tactical handlings. Study courses etc will probably be arranged at BENEVENTO later.

- e. M.T. Instruction in Driving and Maintenance is to be given to units of each "gruppi" by training teams being organised by D.M.T. Arrangements for provision of personnel and demonstration vehicles are in hand.

- f. Ordnance. The Ordnance Field Park Unit (7 offrs and 12 ORs) of each Div in turn will be formed and trained at the R.A.O.C. school at PONTECAGNANO. First course (FRIULI) 15 Aug - 2 Sep to be followed immediately by a second.

- g. R.E.M.E. Negotiations are in hand.

- h. Medical. The present proposal is to use Italian equipment and no special technical training would be involved.

6. Liaison. The following liaison arrangements are being worked out:

- a. B.L.U. A permanent British Liaison Unit of some 8 offrs and 34 men is thought necessary for each "gruppi" in action. These units should be with the "gruppi" during training and have the training teams dependent on it, during that phase.

- b. I.L.U. An Italian Liaison Unit of 2 offrs and 4 ORs will be attached to D.M.T. and will have its HQ at BENEVENTO during the training phase of all formations. Interpreters and adm personnel as well as students will be dependent on this unit.

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

Sheet 3.

7. Translation. A team of qualified technical translators is at work in the S.M.R.E. translating and reproducing such handbooks, diagrams etc as are considered essential.

8.

WP
wl.

847

tve, WP.

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

SUBJECT: Reorganisation - Italian Combat Force.

TOP SECRET 10A

Army Sub Commission, MMIA
H.Q., A.C.C.

ROME.

T.S./6/29 ✓

7. Aug 44.

S.M.R.E.

Will you please submit your proposals for the reconstruction of the FRIULI Division in accordance with the table of organisation given you by General BROWNING on 23 July.

Your proposals should include the titles or numbers of all units of the Division with the names and ranks of the commanding officer and senior staff officers as far as is known.

General BROWNING wishes to have this by 12 Aug.

Similar information in respect of the CREMONA Division will be required by 1st Sep.

tvb.WP.
4.c.

W. P. Doherty Colonel.
Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

845

11762

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020SUBJECT: Italian Combat Force -
ReorganizationSECRET 9AHeadquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy.138/322

27 July 44.

Allied Force Headquarters

MM A	9/29
FILE REF	
Date Recd	5/8/44

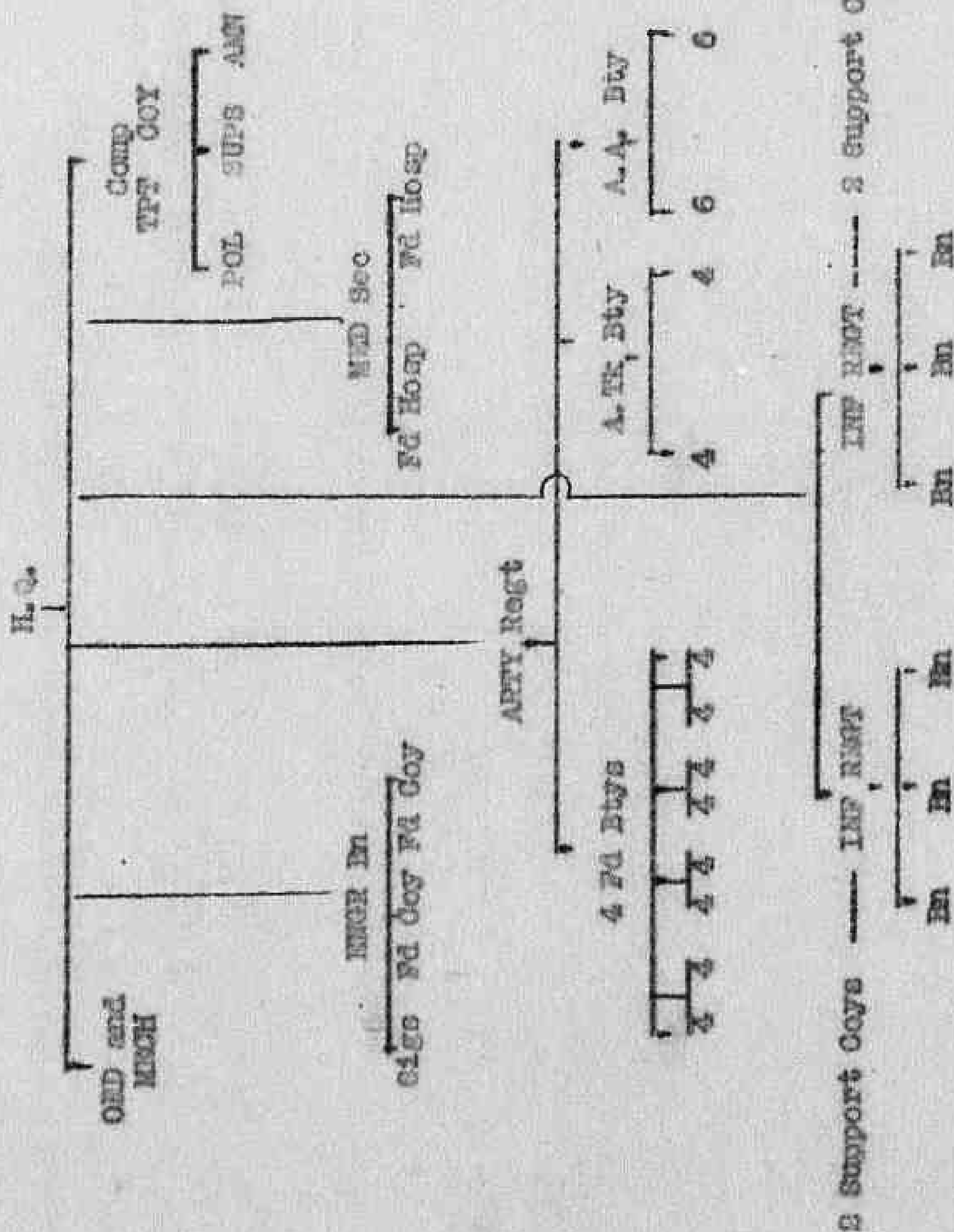
1. In anticipation that my request for the issue of British arms and equipment on a scale sufficient to equip three British Infantry Divisions to the Italian Army will be approved, I have examined the problem of the most suitable organization for the Italian forces to be so equipped.
2. If the equipment is to pay the best dividend it is essential that the shortest possible time elapses between its issue to the Italian Army and its use in action against the enemy. To that end it is essential to make use of existing Italian formations, and to adopt an organization on similar lines to that which Italian commanders have been accustomed to train and handle.
3. After careful consideration of this problem and consultation with the Italian military authorities through MMIA, I have decided that the most suitable basic formation is a Gruppo di Combattimento organized as shown in Appendix 'A'. The equipment of three British divisions will enable me to put six such groups in the field.
4. To save time I am arranging for the training of Italian cadres in the use of British weapons and equipment. I am also arranging for the early concentration of sufficient Italian troops to form two Gruppi di Combattimento so that they will be ready to receive the first division's worth of equipment when it arrives.

General,
Commander-in-Chief.

Copy to: MMIA

2005

GRUPPI DI DOCUMENTI



Introduction

Strenuous

H. Q. 200

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arty

17-72-20

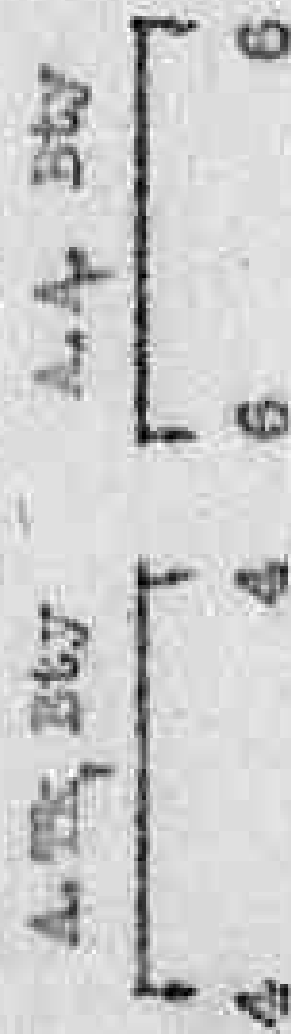
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

7 6 3

ARTY REGT

4 Bn Btys



2 Support Coys

INF REGT



INF REGT



Strength

H.Q. 200
 Art'y 1400
 Engineer 400
 Signals 300
 Infantry 6300
 Transport 400
 Medical 300
 Misc 200
9500

Weapons

25-pr 52
 17-pr 8
 6-pr 26
 40 mm 12
 PIAT 200
 3" Mortar 30
 2" Mortar 140
 L.H.G. 500
 Carbines 2500
 Rifles 4500

8 1/2

TOP SECRET

SUBJECT : Formation of Gruppi di Combattimenti

Copy No³.....

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.
1605/50/57/G(SD1)

30 Jul 44

	<u>Copy No</u>
MMIA (3)	1 - 3
DAG	4
DCMG	5
RA	6
DCE	7
X	8
Postal	9
DDST	10
DMS	11
DDOS	12
DDME	13
FM	14

Reference this HQ 1605/50/57/G(SD1) dated 28 Jul 44.

1. Herewith at Appendix 'A' are the Minutes of the meeting held at this HQ on 29 Jul 44.
2. Please acknowledge receipt on the attached form.

for Brigadier,
G(SD & T).

	<u>Copy No</u>
Copy to :- G (Trg)	15
G-4	16
'A'	17
'Q'	18
Q(AE)	19
Q(Mov)	20
File	21
War Diary	22 - 23
Spares	24 - 30

843

TOP SECRET

Appendix 'A' to 1605/50/57/G(302)
dated 30 Jul 44

Minutes of Meeting held at HQ AAI
at 1100 hrs 29 Jul 44

Chairman :-
Present :-

Brig Stayner
Brig Cardale
Brig Ritchie
Col Fidsley
Lt-Col Bain
Lt-Col Crittall
Lt-Col Ingledew
Lt-Col Jamieson
Lt-Col MacKay
Lt-Col McLean
Lt-Col Scott
Lt-Col Vulliamy
Maj Balloch
Maj Davtry
Maj Goldberg
Maj Gelardi
Maj Jacques
Maj Jennings
Maj Morgan
Capt Graham
Capt McNeill

G(SD & T)
PE
Q
MIA
ST
RME
G(SD)
Med
O(LT)
Q
Postal
X
R
A
G(Try)
Ord
G(SD)
G(SD)
G(SD)
G(SD)
Pro

1.
 - (a) The Chairman opened proceedings by outlining the purpose for which six Gruppi di Combattimento are to be formed. The groups are intended, in the first instance, for use in thickening up the defences of army and corps fronts. If, at a later date, it is decided to use them in offence, the proposed organisation will have to be reviewed.
 - (b) Speed in the formation of the groups is considered essential.
 - (c) The subject is to be treated as "Top Secret" pending the receipt of the approval, of the formation, from the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
 - (d) In the first instance it is the intention to form two groups.
2. Col Fidsley (MIA) explained the layout proposed for the groups.
3. The organisation shown at

Lt-Col Vulliamy
 Maj Balloch
 Maj Dawtry
 Maj Goldberg
 Maj Goliardi
 Maj Jacques
 Maj Jennings
 Maj Morgan
 Capt Graham
 Capt McNeill

X
 Pi
 A
 G(Treg)
 Ord
 G(SD)
 G(SD)
 G(SD)
 G(SD)
 Pro

1. (a) The Chairman opened proceedings by outlining the purpose for which six Gruppi di Combattimento are to be formed. The groups are intended, in the first instance, for use in thickening up the defences of army and corps fronts. If, at a later date, it is decided to use them in offence, the proposed organisation will have to be reviewed.
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- (d) In the first instance it is the intention to form two groups.

2. Col Fidsley (MIA) explained the layout proposed for the groups.

842

3. The organisation shown at Appendix 'A' to 1605/50/57/G(SD1) dated 28 Jul 44 was agreed in principle with the addition of the normal section of OCCR, one post office, one JMCU and one sanitary sec, for each group.

4. The meeting then considered the question of the Italian maintenance units as shown in the provisional Order of Battle at Appendix 'B' to 1605/50/57/G(SD1) dated 28 Jul 44.

5. Brig Ritchie (PAG) stated that, in effect, the introduction of a group into the line amounted to the addition of a number of personnel to corps strength to be maintained. In many cases this would not require extra personnel for maintenance but where this was necessary, the need would be met either by the formation of appropriate Italian units or by the strengthening of existing British units by the addition of Italian elements. The method to be adopted in doubtful cases is to be discussed with MIA by the services concerned.

.../Sheet 2.

11768

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- 2 -

6. The following decisions were reached on the provisional Order of Battle of Army and GHQ Troops :

- (a) HQ Units MHA consider that the number can be reduced if necessary to one HQ per three groups.
- (b) Engrs Three fd pk coys only are required.
- (c) ST Three gen tpt coys and one LMO needed; remaining units to be discussed with MHA.
- (d) Med Following to be substituted for units proposed :-
 One gen hosp (1200 beds)
 One gen hosp (600 beds)
 Two gen hosps (200 beds)
 Six 100 bed expansions
 One adv depot med stores
 Amended to :-
 One mob laundry coy
 Four mob bath units
 Increments to be discussed with MHA.
- (e) Ord Increments to be discussed with MHA.
- (f) REMT Increments to be discussed with MHA.
- (g) Pro Agreed.
- (h) Misc Two transit camps to be substituted for one CRU; otherwise agreed.

7. Col Valliamy (X) raised the question of British sigs increments and it was agreed that this should be discussed by X with MHA. *Not to be provided as all equipment already sent by GHQ for the purpose*

8. The Chairman read the draft of a letter prepared by the CGS for the Commander-in-Chief. The draft was agreed unanimously and the meeting then closed. *841*

SECRET

Copy No.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
1605/50/57/G(SHL)

28 Jul 44

SUBJECT: Formation of Gruppi di Combattimenti

Copy No

MMIA (3) 1 - 5
DAG 4
DQNG 5
RA 6
DCE 7
X (Sigs) 8
Postal 9
DDST 10
DMS 11
DDOS 12
DDMS 13
PH 14

A meeting will be held in Room 835, the Air Ministry Building, at 1100 hrs 29th Jul. Please attend or send a representative. Agents is below.

Please acknowledge receipt on the attached form.

McMillan for

Copy to	G (Trg)	Copy No
G-4		15
141		16
141		17
Q (AE)		18
Q (How)		19
File		20
War Diary		21
22 - 23		22
24 - 30		23

AGENDA

1. General

It has been decided that, subject to approval by Combined Chiefs of Staff, six Gruppi di Combattimenti (approximate strength 9,500) will be formed and equipped from British sources as soon as possible.

2. Organisation and Role

The Gruppo will be employed in a defensive role under command of a British Corps or Division.

A meeting will be held in Room 609, the Air Ministry Building, at 1100 hrs 29th Jul. Please attend or send a representative. Agenda is below.

Please acknowledge receipt on the attached form.

McKenzie for

Copy to:	C (Trg)	Copy No
G-4		15
'4'		16
'Q'		17
Q (AE)		18
Q (Mov)		19
File		20
War Diary		21
22 - 23		
24 - 30		

*Diagonick,
(HSD & T)*

1. Get luncheon course started.
PAULI AND CREMONA
2. Work out detailed W.R. with arms and services.
3. Consider new and existing with A.H.I.
reps. Sigs. and Prov.

AGENDA

1. General

It has been decided that, subject to approval by Combined Chiefs of Staff, six Gruppi di Combattimenti (approximate strength 9,500) will be formed and equipped from British sources as soon as possible.

2. Organisation and Role

The Gruppo will be employed in a defensive role under command of a British Corps or Division. The proposed organization is attached at Appendix 'A'.

3.

The principles on which the organization is based are as follows:

- (a) The Gruppo is organized as far as possible in accordance with the normal organization of the Italian Army.
- (b) The Gruppo is operationally and administratively self-contained.
- (c) Units will retain their normal Italian form subject to such modifications as British equipment imposes. New British WE's and AF GLO98's will be drafted and applied to the units.

8:0

...../Sheet 2

Sheet 2

4. Army and GHQ Troops

In view of the intention to employ the Gruppi separately with British Corps it will not be possible to set up a separate Italian L of O organisation. Certain Italian maintenance units will, however, be required to augment existing British resources. A provisional Order of Battle is attached at Appendix 'B'.

5. Eqpt

In principle, British eqpt will be used.

MMIA are examining the possibility of using Italian eqpt in certain cases. Italian items will not be used except where there is a year's supply in existence.

6. Formation of the Gruppi

- (a) Four Gruppi will be formed from existing Italian formations. Two of these Gruppi will relieve the UL which will then be re-organised to form two Gruppi.
- (b) A location for the formation and trg of the Gruppi is under consideration.
- (c) DMT is arranging for provision of trg teams and trg facilities.
- (d) With each Gruppo it will be necessary to form a proportion of the units at Appendix 'B'.

7. British Liaison Unit

A BLU will be required for each Gruppo. Suggested composition:

GSO I	1
SORA II (Major)	1
GSO II (Inf)	1
DAA & QMG	1
SOR Sigs III (Capt)	1
DABUS	1

8. The Meeting is invited to:

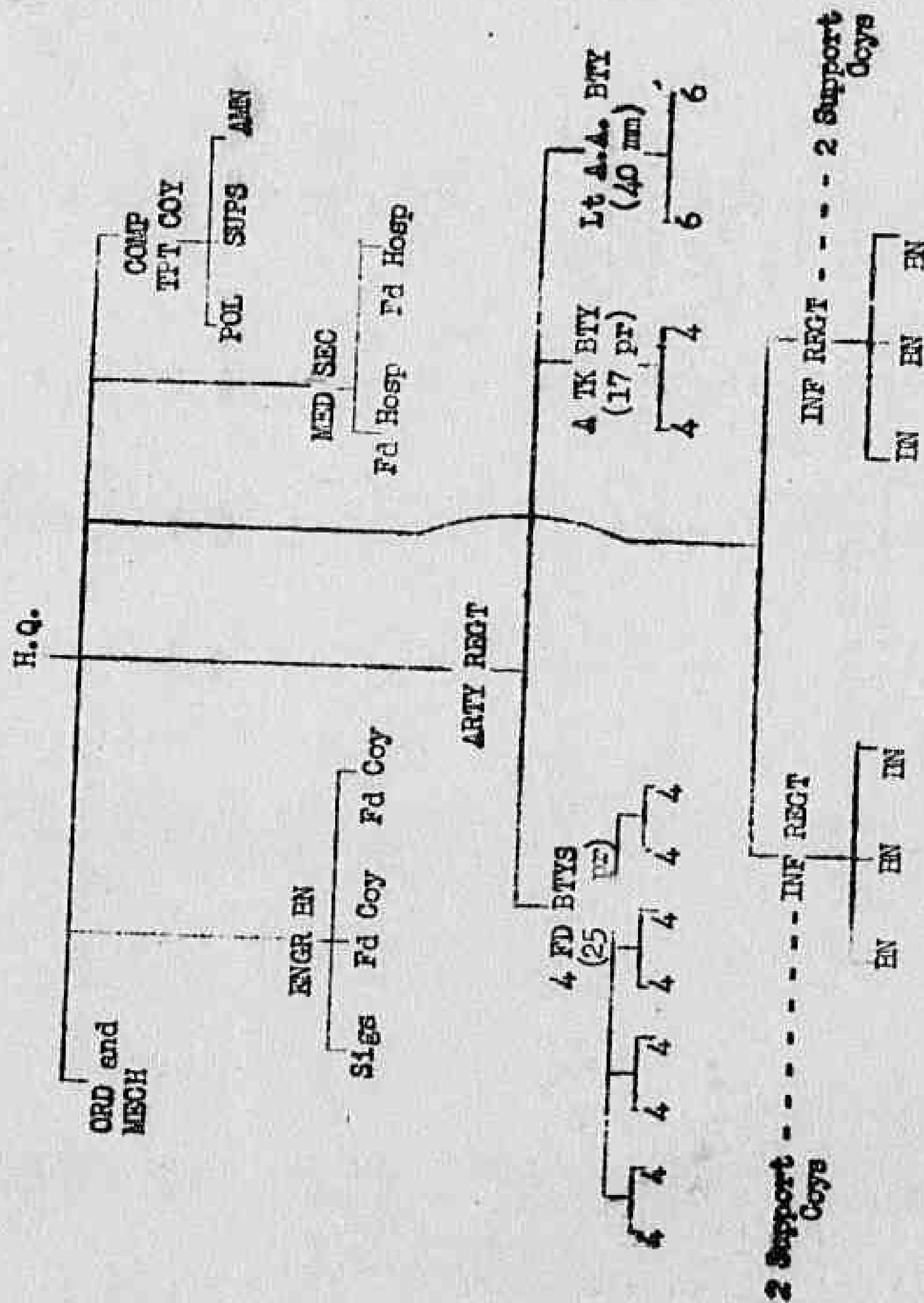
- (a) To examine the organisation at Appendix 'A'.
- (b) To examine the Order of Battle at Appendix 'B'.

TOP SECRET

Order No.

Appendix 'A' to
1605/50/57/G(SM.)
dated 28 Jul 44

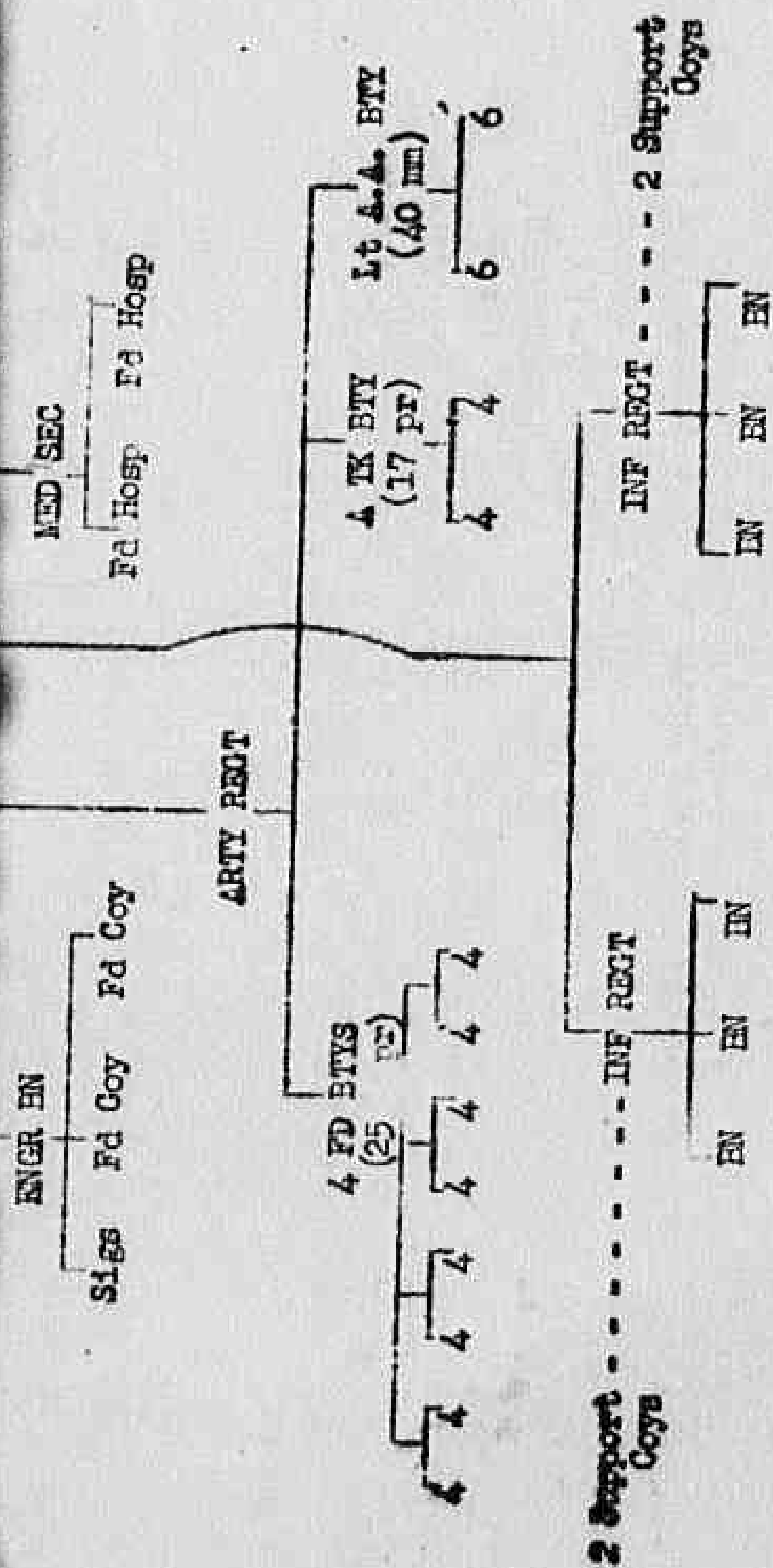
PROPOSED ORGANISATION OF A GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTI



Approx Strengths

	200	250	25 pr	32
RQ				
Arty	1,400	1,400	17 pr	8
Engr	400	452	6 pr	36
Sigs	300	300	40 mm	12
Inf	6,300	5,000	PLAT	200
Tpt	200	250		

Table of Arms



Approx Strengths		Table of Arms	
HQ	200	25 pr	32
Arty	1,400	17 pr	8
Engr	400	6 pr	36
Sigs	300	40 mm	12
Inf	6,300	PLAT	200
Tpt <i>Sec</i>	400	3 in mortar	30
Med	300	2 in mortar	140
Misc	200	LMG	500
	-----	Carbines	2,500
TOTAL	9,500	Rifles	4,500
			838

include LAD.S
AMCU

TOP SECRET

Copy No.

Appendix 188 to
1605/50/57/6(sm)
dated 28 Jul 44

ORDER OF BATTLE

of

ARMY AND GHQ TROOPS

HQ UNITS

Four Adm Hqs (One HQ per two Groups)
One HQ for Adv Base

ENGERS

* Three Artillery Wks Coy's
Three Pk Coy's
* One E and M Sec
* One Army Tps Coy

ST

Three Gen Tpt Coy's
One MAC
One 3 DID.
One DSD.
Three Mob Fd Hqs or two Fd Hqs Type A
One Mob Pet Filling Centre
One Pet Depot (Type C)

MED

Gen Hosps (1200 beds)
Two Gen Hosps (600 beds) - 2 x 200 beds
One Fd Hyg Sec
6 lower a/cen

ORD

Three Mob Laundry and IU's
Increments to Brit Ord Units

REME

Increments to Brit Wksp

PRO

One L of C Pro Coy

ENGRS

ST

*will not be
dilution*

One HQ for Adv Base

- * Three Artillery Wks Coys
- Three Fd Pk Coys
- * One E and M Sec
- * One Army Tps Coy

- Three Gen Tpt Coys
- One MAC
- One SPID.
- One DSD.

- Three Mob Fd Hqs or two Fd Hqs Type A
- One Mob Pet Filling Centre
- One Pet Depot (Type C)

MED

- Gen Hosps (1200 beds)
- Two Gen Hosps (600 beds) - 2 x 200 bed
- One Fd Hqs Sec
- 6 100 bed a/c

ORD

- Three Mob Laundry and M's
- Increments to Dvlt Ord Units

REMS

- Increments to Dvlt Wkspg ✓

PRO

- One L of C Pro Coy

MISC

- One CHU
- Personnel Depot
- CHU

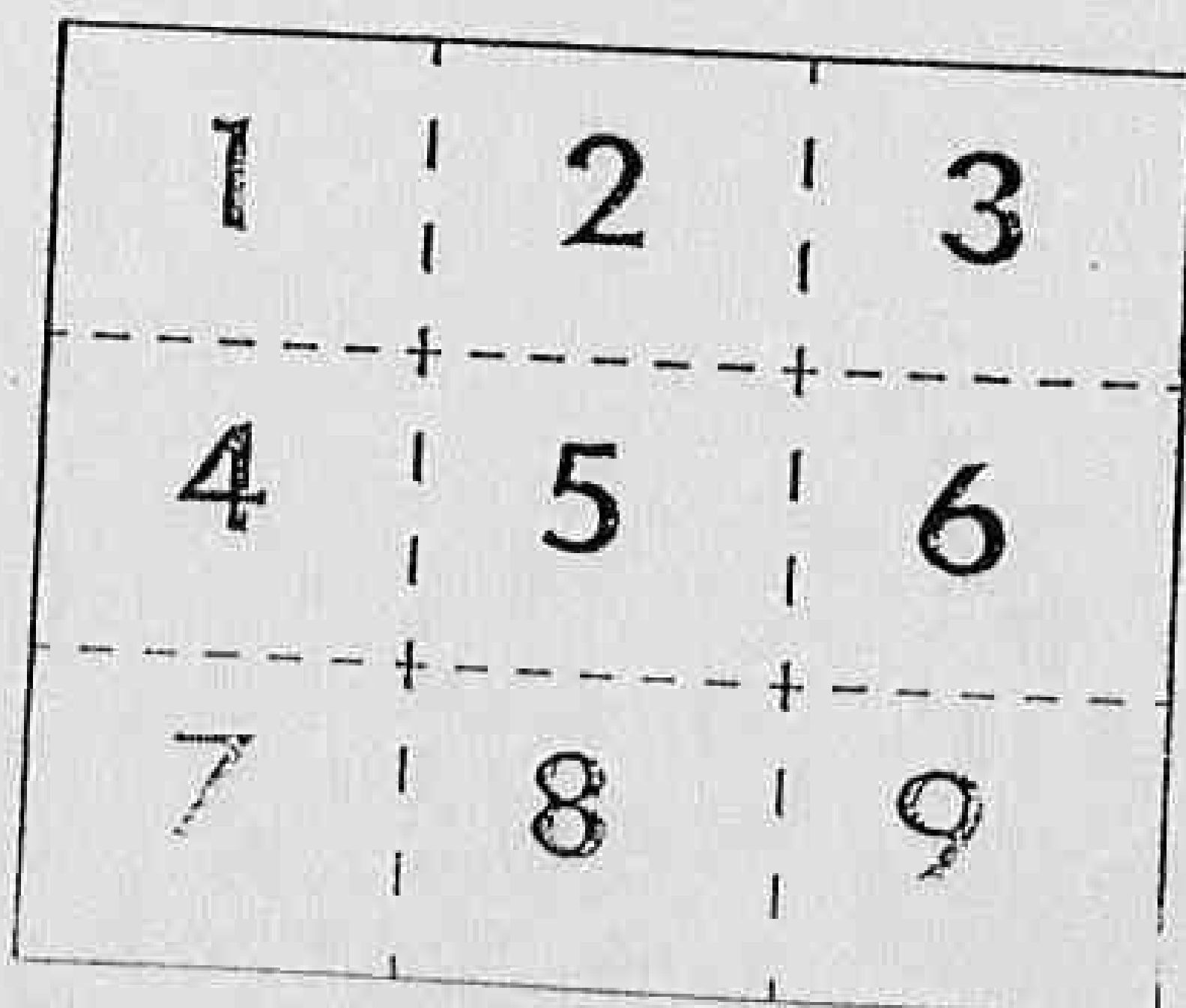
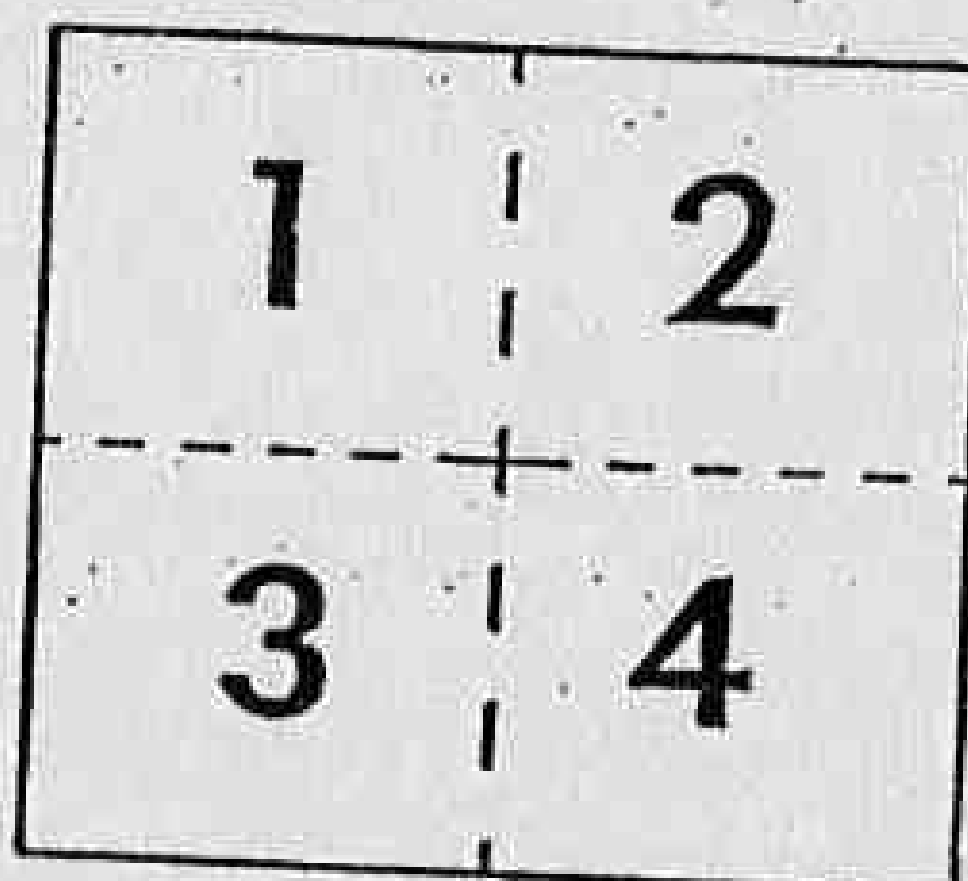
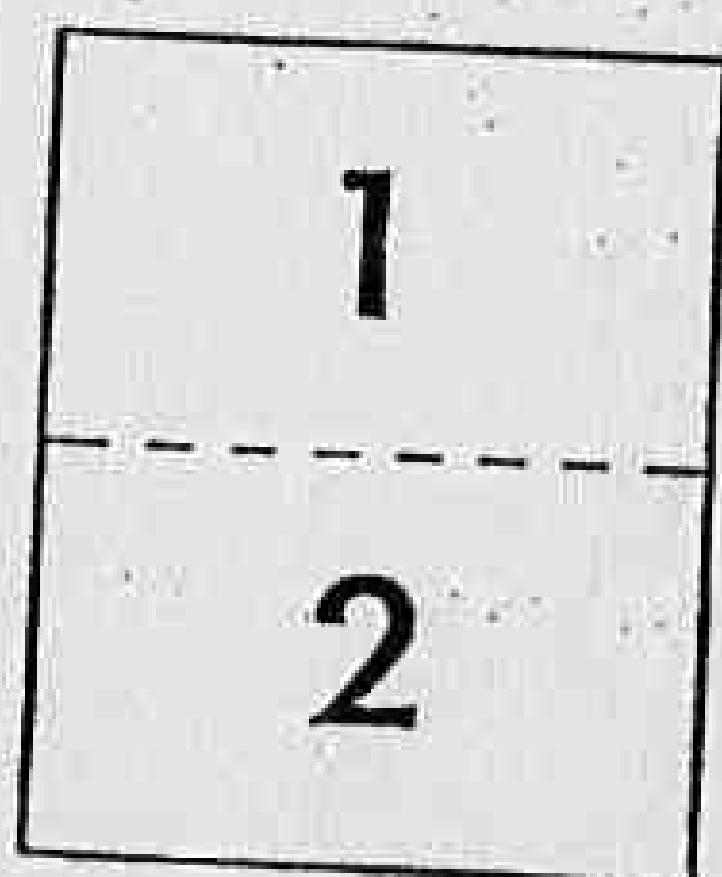
837

*will not be
dilution*

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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.



Progetto per la ricostituzione del

Formazione originaria	Variazioni avvenute	Nuova formazione
<u>Comando divisione</u>	- sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 15-7-1944	<u>Comando div</u>
<u>Fanteria</u> - <u>87° reggimento</u> su: - 2 battaglioni - 1 comp. mortai 81 - <u>88° reggimento</u> su: - 2 battaglioni - 1 comp. mortai 81 - <u>89° reggimento</u> su: - 2 battaglioni - 1 comp. mortai 81 - <u>CVII battaglione mitraglieri</u> - <u>12° comp. lanciafiamme</u> - <u>XX plotone nebbiogeneri</u>	- Comando reggimento sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 13-7-1944 - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 17-6-1944 ed avviati a Foggia per lavori agricoli - su essi si può fare affidamento per l'utilizzazione - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia - Comando reggimento sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 13/7/1944 - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 21-6-1944 ed avviati a Foggia per lavori agricoli - su essi si può fare affidamento per l'utilizzazione - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia - Comando reggimento sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 13-7-1944 - <u>I battaglione</u> - sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 6-7-1944 ed avviato a Foggia per lavori agricoli - <u>II battaglione</u> - sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 30-6-1944 ed avviato dapprima a Foggia per lavori agricoli e successivamente a Stornoway Islande <u>Su detti battaglioni non si può fare alcun affidamento per l'utilizzazione, essendo destinati ad altro impiego.</u> - <u>comp. mortai</u> - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia - sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 14-7-1944 - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 19-7-1944; a disposizione del Comando Militare Campania - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 19-7-1944; a disposizione del Comando Militare Campania.	<u>Fanteria</u> - <u>87° reggimento</u> - 3 battaglioni - 1 comp. - <u>88° reggimento</u> - 3 battaglioni - 1 comp.

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la ricostituzione della Divisione Itt. "Friuli"

7A

Nuova formazione da assumere	Provvedimenti occorrenti per fare assumere alla divisione la nuova formazione
<u>Comando divisione</u>	
<u>Fanteria</u>	
13-7-944 Foggia per affidamento	- a) assegnare due battaglioni granatieri: uno all'87° rgt., l'altro all'88° rgt.;
il 13/7/944 Foggia per assegnamento per	- b) completare, ove occorre, detti reggimenti con elementi del III btg. granatieri, di stanza in Sardegna;
il 13-7-944 ed arrivato a ed arrivato ricordi e due miglia sua affi- at ad	- c) utilizzare gli elementi del CVII btg. mis. trapianti per la costituzione delle compagnie armi accomp. reggimentali.
del Comandante e del Comandante	

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- 2 battaglioni

- 1 comp. mortai 81

- 387° reggimento su:

- 2 battaglioni

- 1 comp. mortai 81

- CVII battaglione mitraglieri

- 12° comp. lanciafiamme

- XX plotone nebbiogeni

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 22-6-944 ed arrivati a Foggia per lavori agricoli. - Su essi si può fare affidamento per l'utilizzazione
- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia

- Comando reggimento sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 13-7-944

- I battaglione - sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 14-7-944 ed arrivato a Foggia per lavori agricoli

- II battaglione - sbarcato a Isola di Ischia il 10-6-944 ed arrivato dapprima a Foggia per lavori agricoli e successivamente a Trinitapoli

Sui detti battaglioni non si può fare alcun affidamento per l'utilizzazione, essendo destinati ad altro impiego.

- comp. mortai - sbarcati a Isola di Ischia

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 14-7-944

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 19-7-944; a disposizione del Comando Militare Campania

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 19-7-944; a disposizione del Comando Militare Campania.

Artiglieria

- 35° reggimento su

- 1 gruppo da 149/13 su 2 btr.

- 1 gruppo da 100/17 su 2 btr.

- 1 gruppo da 75/27 su 2 btr.

- 1 gruppo da 75/18 su 2 btr.

- 1 batteria c.a. da 20 su 2 sezioni

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 17-7-944

Artiglieria

- 35° reggimento

- 4 gruppi su 2 btr.

- 1 gruppo c.e. su 2 btr.

- 1 gruppo c.a. su 2 btr.

Genio

- CXX battaglione misto su

- 52° comp. artigieri

- 20° comp. muratori

- Comando battaglione ricevuto il 30-5-944

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 2-5-944 - passati a disposizione del C.I.B.

- sbarcati a Isola di Ischia il 14-7-944

Genio

- battaglione

- 2 comp.

- 1 comp.

11780

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aggià per
mento per

- 3 battaglioni
- 1 comp. armi ecc.

Traglieri per la costituzione delle compa-
gnie armi accomp. reggimentali,

13-7-964

avuto a
ed arrivato
reali e sue
argu
un affi-
e ad

del Comando
e del Corso

Artiglieria

- 85° reggimento su
- 4 gruppi su 2 btr. di 4 pezzi
da 210 mm
- 1 gruppo c.e. su 2 btr. di 4
pezzi da ... 175 mm
- 1 gruppo c.a. su 2 btr. di 6
pezzi da ... 120 mm

- a) tranne il personale occorrente dei
gruppi attualmente esistenti;

- b) completare gli organici dei 5 gruppi
utilizzando elementi tratti dai richiamati

Genio

- battaglione misto su
- 2 comp. artieri
- 1 comp. collegamenti

- costituire 2 compagnie artieri e com. log.

? Sabauda + Montura } who are left.

Hone del

1781

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- 1 gruppo da 100/17 su 2 btr. - 1 gruppo da 75/27 su 2 btr. - 1 gruppo da 75/18 su 2 btr. - 1 batteria c.a. da 20 su 2 sezioni	- sbarcati a Napoli il 17-7-944	- 1 gruppo c.e. - 1 gruppo c.a.
<u>Genio</u> - exx battaglione misto su - 52° comp. artigieri - 20° comp. muricisti	- Comando battaglione sciolto il 30-5-944 - sbarcata a Napoli il 2-5-944 - passata a disposizione del C.I.L. - sbarcata a Napoli il 14-7-944	<u>Genio</u> - battaglione - 2 comp. - 1 comp.
<u>Servizi:</u> - 26° sezione sanità - 14° sezione sussistenza - 20° autosezione mista	- sbarcata a Napoli il 14-7-944 - sbarcata a Napoli il 14-7-944 - sbarcata a Napoli il 14-7-944	<u>Servizi</u> - sezione - 2 osped. - sezione - autosezione

1782

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- 1 gruppo e.e. su 2 str. di 4 pezzi da 11.7.1944
- 1 gruppo e.e. su 2 str. di 6 pezzi da 11.7.1944

- 6) completare gli organici dei 5 gruppi utilizzando elementi tratti dai richiamati

Genio

- battaglione misto su
- 2 comp. artigiani
- 1 comp. collegamenti

- costituire 2 compagnie artigiani e com. 6tg.

? Sabauda + Mantova } who are at left.

Servizi

- sezione sanità
- 2 ospedali da campo
- sezione sussistenza
- autorepunto

- da assegnare

- utilizzare gli elementi della 20^a autosessione mista e completare con altri elementi

GA
Notes on Meeting Col. FIDSLEY - General BERRARDI
and Officers of S.M.R.E. - 24 JULY 1944.

PART I

Col. FIDSLEY to Gen. BERRARDI

1. Col. FIDSLEY outlined three phases:

(a) Up to the date of the ^{decision} ~~decision~~ to provide the equipment (X-Day)

During this period preparations to be made of a non-irrevocable nature, including:

and inclusion
Earmarking of interpreters (40-50) for initial courses at British Schools.

Translation of primary handbooks.

Planning of war establishments and earmarking of units to complete formations.

Any adjustment in selected units in this phase to be confined to those normally made for an I.S. Division - proposals for major adjustments to be submitted in writing.

(b) From X-Day to date on which equipment begins to arrive (Y-Day)

Regtl. instructors to be trained at British schools.

Allied officers to be attached to Italian formations.

Selected units to move to Concentration Areas, possibly specimen equipments being lent to units.

(c) From Y-Day to Date on which formation is to be ready for action.

Complete technical and tactical training of the new formation. First part to be devoted to training of men in units, and to special courses for senior officers; second part to field training and tactical handling. 6-8 weeks were envisaged for this phase.

2. M.M.I.A. will send S.M.R.E. a note on the number of instructors likely to be required.

British Schools.

Translation of primary handbooks.

Planning of war establishments and earmarking of units to complete formations.

Any adjustment in selected units in this phase to be confined to those normally made for an I.S. Division - proposals for major adjustments to be submitted in writing.

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P A R T II.

General HERARDI to Col. PIDSLEY.

235

1. The Italians are fond of heavy mortars especially for mountain fighting. Would it be possible to increase the proportion of 3" mortars at the expense of the lighter ones? *no - no more available.*

2. No mention is made in the proposals of Muleteer units. Can this usefulness be borne in mind, also the question of saddlery? *yes. but*

3. *provision made units will be our troops. attached to Div. as needed.*
Can arrangements be made for the FRIULI Division to be concentrated quickly. - *put up in units.*

4. Proposes to employ 2 GRANATIERI Bns in the place of bns 387 Regt, FRIULI Div, which have been used for other purposes. *put up in units.*

contd Sheet 2/2.

PART II

(Contd.)

Sheet 2.

5.

Clothing.

- (a) The most suitable would be that at present worn by
7 Mixed Mtn Regt
- (b) ITALY would like the honour of wearing khaki, and Gen.
FERARDI asked that this wish of the SMRE should be passed on
to Gen ALEXANDER *been done*
- (c) Boots would be very important in the training period. ✓
6. He would like the technical training of wireless operators,
telegraphists and radio fitters from the divisions to begin in PHASE 1.
simultaneously with the training of instructors.
- my*

trs.WP.

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1786

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

837

tvb. MP.

1787

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5A
Sumb
Suggested Draft.

SUBJECT: Italian Combat Forces - Reorganization.

Ref: _____

To: A.P.H.Q.

From: C-in-C AAI.

1. The question of rearming, re-equipping and consequently of reorganising certain formations of the Italian Army for combat duties has, on my instructions, been discussed in broad outline by M.M.L.A. with the Ministry of War, in anticipation of your request for British equipment being approved. I feel that, if full and timely use is to be made of this equipment, the Italian units and training teams must be ready to receive it the moment it arrives. I am therefore making necessary preparations to that end.
2. My intention is to reorganise selected formations as quickly and effectively as possible, by making the least possible changes to Italian organisation, chain of command and consequently tactical handling. I can thus save time to devote to training in the operation and maintenance of the new equipment and to the raising of morale and fighting fitness.
3. The best method of achieving this appears to me to be by standardising the strength^{and} composition of certain existing Italian divisions in accordance with the attached table. This arrangement fits very closely the present Italian ideas and is entirely acceptable to them.

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2. My intention is to reorganise selected formations as quickly and effectively as possible, by making the least possible changes to Italian organisation, chain of command and consequently tactical handling. I can thus save time to devote to training in the operation and maintenance of the new equipment and to the raising of morale and fighting fitness.

3. The best method of achieving this appears to me to be by standardising the ^{and} strength composition of certain existing Italian divisions in accordance with the attached table. This arrangement fits very closely the present Italian ideas and is entirely acceptable to them. It will enable the equipment of each British division (27,000 men) to be 833 used for TWO Italian divisions each of 9,500 men. These Italian divisions or Combat Groups (Gruppi di Combattimento) will contain a high proportion of Infantry with adequate fire power and will be capable of being split into self contained halves. The organisation will be suitable for the tasks I have in mind for them.

Sheet 12/..

*. Proposals dated 21 July.

1789

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Sheet 2.

4. I am proceeding, as a preliminary phase, with preparations for training instructors, sorting and screening officers and men and other preparations so as to be ready when we receive approval of the provision of equipment. The second phase will be the training of instructors and the reorganization and concentration of units which I propose to complete before the equipment arrives. I shall then require another 6 - 8 weeks for training before the first two formations are ready for action.

5. The employment of these formations in the line will involve a corresponding decrease in those allotted to Internal Security. I can afford to risk this as, by the method proposed, I shall still retain them as six independent formations equally available for that role if required.

END, REP-5

11 7 9 0

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

corresponding decrease in those allotted to Internal Security. I can afford to risk this as, by the method proposed, I shall still retain them as six independent formations equally available for that role if required.

two. HP. 2-5

832

SECRET

4A

Conference with Generals
BERARDI and ORILIA
on 23rd July
Re:
New Italian Combat force

AGENDA

- * 1. Opening remarks by Director M.D.I.A. (4 B)
- * 2. The organisation of the new Italian Combat Group (if sanctioned). (2 B)
- 3. The weapons and equipment for the new I.C.G.
- 4. The sifting of personnel.
- 5. The training problem. (3 plans)
- 6. The detailed action to be taken now as regards working out M.D.'s in detail and other matters.
- 7. Order of merit of Italian Divisions. { Friuli, Cremona.
Piemonte, Mantova.
Bari, Granatieri.

831

- Ø Col. Picchi, to discuss at War Min. 1600-20 July.
- * Copies given to Genls. Berardi and Orilia.

All agreed in principle so far - so good. *W.P.*
23/7.

SECRET

Conference with General BERARDI and
OXLEY on 23 Jul 44 re new Combat Force

1. I had a long talk yesterday with C in C and C.G.S. on the question of increasing the size of Italian Combat Force.

What I am going to say now represents his views and wishes.

2. He has asked for British equipment for this increase.

His request may be refused so you must not count on it.

3. Nevertheless, in anticipation and to save time if the request is granted, C in C wishes the question to be explored and the method clarified. Then it will be able to put into force quickly, if approval is given.

4. (a) We have in last few days got BERARDI's advice on Italian organization and armament. We know the potentialities of British weapons and of course the total equipment in a British Division.

(b) Combining all this, we have worked out in outline a suitable organization for a 'standard' Italian Combat Group. This group is really the equivalent of an Italian Division, but, for the moment, C in C wishes to refer to it as a Combat Group. We estimate that the establishment will be about 9,500 all ranks.

(c) We estimate we can produce two I.C.G. (complete with 1st, 2nd and 3rd line troops and certain rearward services) out of the equipment of one British Div. I wish to discuss this I.C.G. this morning in broad outline. Details can be worked out later on.

1793

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3. Nevertheless, in anticipation and to save time if the request is granted, C in C wishes the question to be explored and the method clarified. Then it will be able to put into force quickly, if approval is given.
4. (a) We have in last few days got ~~some~~'s advice on Italian organization and armament. We know the potentialities of British weapons and of course the total equipment in a British Division.
- (b) Combining all this, we have worked out in outline a suitable organization for a "standard" Italian Combat Group. This group is really the equivalent of an Italian Division, but, for the moment, C in C wishes to refer to it as a Combat Group. We estimate that the establishment will be about 9,500 all ranks.
- (c) We estimate we can produce two I.C.G. (complete with 1st, 2nd and 3rd line 1st and certain rearward services) out of the equipment of one British Div. I wish to discuss this I.C.G. this morning in broad outline. Details can be worked out later on.
5. (a) C in C wishes preparations to be made now for the formation of two such I.C.G.
- (b) On S.M.R.A. advice we have selected CEMONA and FAULI Divisions 30
6. I now want to mention certain factors in how we will carry out this conversion.
- (a) There are 3 elements - organization, tactics based on that organization, and technique in handling and maintenance of

SECRET

Sheet 2

Para 6(a) cont'd

of weapons and equipment. We allow for the first two elements in our proposed group organization. How to deal with the 3rd - technique ?

We propose to send selected Italian personnel to British schools to go through a course. Then these will go back and instruct their own units. They must obviously be the very best men we can get.

(b) The two groups will be concentrated in a certain area, depending on 'C's facilities and factors - probably LIVERA where BRIVI is now. There, a British training and liaison team will be attached to each group to assist in smoothing out any difficulties that arise in either the use of the equipment or the implementing of the project.

(c) Handbooks of equipment will be translated into Italian.

(d) Personnel - C in C insists that we have the best men available, particularly officers. Speaking quite frankly, the criticism levelled against the Italian Army is that the men are good if properly led, but the officers are NOT; that there is too much favoritism at the expense of efficiency. The only criterion can be that of efficiency. The C in C wishes a thorough examination to be made now, to eliminate all personnel who are not efficient of fit for battle. With the new conscripts and patriots we ought to be able to get a high quality of replacement personnel. This personnel will be further tested during the concentration period. C in C stressed this aspect strongly to me and I am sure you agree.

1795

of facilities and factors. Probably things were more so now.

There, a British "training and liaison" team will be attached to each group to assist in smoothing out any difficulties that arise in either the use of the equipment or the implementing of the project.

- ✓ (c) Handbooks of equipment will be translated into Italian.
- ✓ (d) Personnel - C in C insists that we have the best men available, particularly officers. Speaking quite frankly, the criticism levelled against the Italian Army is that the men are good if properly led, but the officer are NOT; that there is too much favoritism at the expense of efficiency. The only criterion can be that of efficiency. The C in C wishes a thorough examination to be made now, to eliminate all personnel who are not efficient of fit for battle. With the new conscripts and patriots we ought to be able to get a high quality of replacement personnel. This personnel will be further tested during the concentration period.
- ✓ (e) C in C stressed this aspect strongly to me and I am sure you agree. We do not know how much equipment we shall get, if any. If we get more than one Br Divs worth of equipment, we will form other groups. I want to discuss order of merit. The big factor is shipping

from SAGUNIA.

- ✓ (f) There must be one standard establishment for these groups. 829

7/ I now want to discuss the agenda but only on broad lines, so that I may inform C in C that we are agreed on the implementing of this project. If permission is given for the issue of this British equipment.

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PROPOSTA DI ORGANIZZAZIONE

Per Una Piccola Divisione

Comando Divisione.

<u>PERSONALE</u>	
Comando Div	200
Artiglieria	1400
Genio	
Artieri	400
Collegamenti	300
Fanteria	6300
Autoreparto	400
Sanita	300
Vari Reparti	200
Totale	9,500

Officine Meccaniche

Batt. Genio

Sezione Sanita

CP. Collegamenti

CP. Artieri

CP. Artieri

Ospedale Da Campo

Raggimento di Artiglieria

4 Gruppi da 25 Libbre

Gruppo c.c. da 17 Libbre

4 Pezzi

4 Pezzi

4 Pezzi

4 Pezzi

4 Pezzi

4 Pezzi

4 Pezzi

Raggimento Di Fanteria

Raggimento Di Fanteria

CP. Armi Di Accomp.

Batt.

Batt.

Batt.

Batt.

Batt.

Batt.

CP Mortai

CP Cannoni da 6 libbre.

CP Mortai

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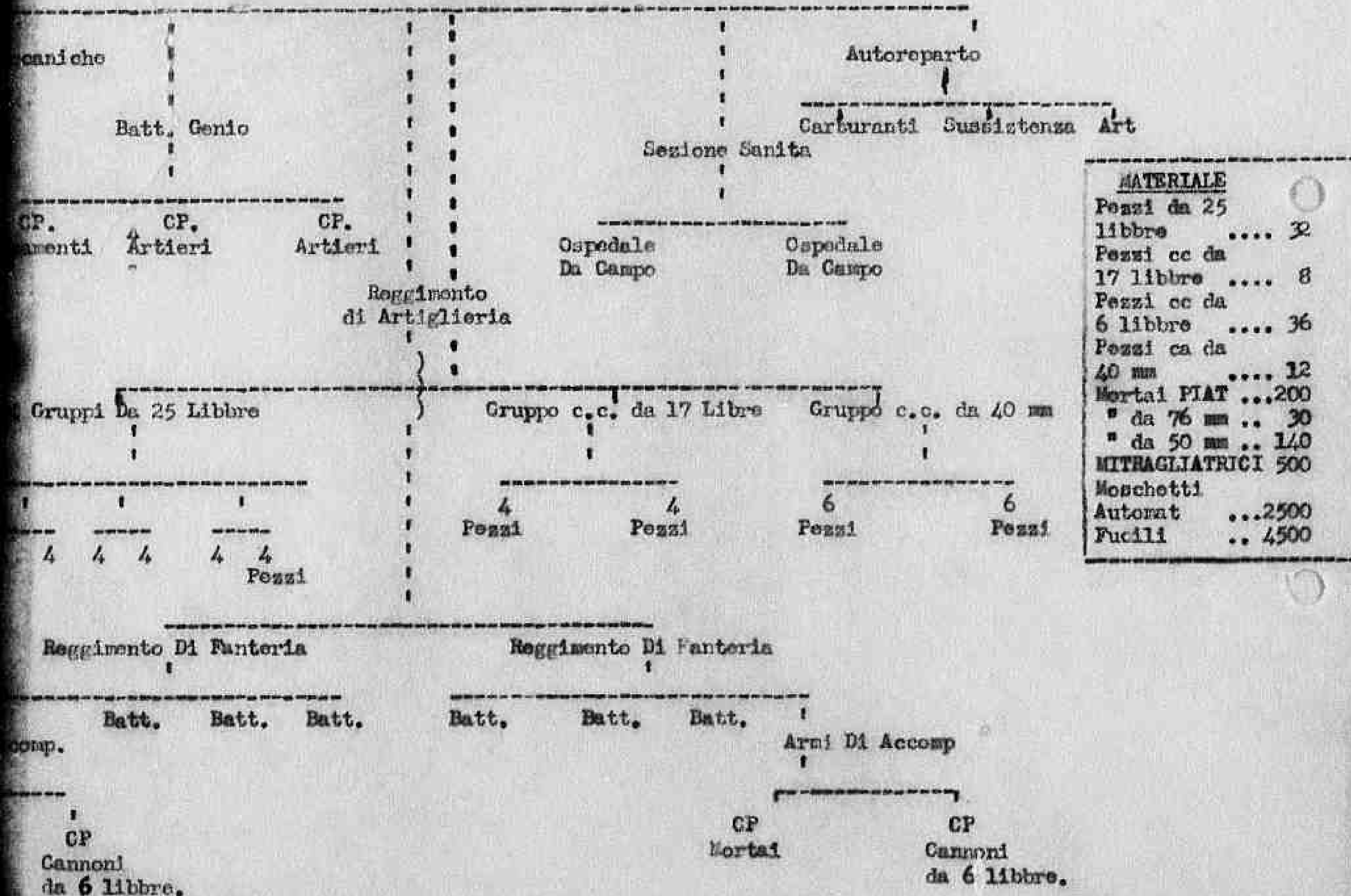
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PROPOSTA DI ORGANIZZAZIONE

Per Una Piccola Divisione

0000079680000

Comando Divisione.



MATERIALE

Pezzi da 25	
libbre	 32
Pezzi cc da	
17 libbre	 8
Pezzi cc da	
6 libbre	 36
Pezzi ca da	
40 mm	 12
Mortai PIAT	...200
" da 76 mm	.. 30
" da 50 mm	.. 140
MITRAGLIATRICI	500
Moschetti	
Automat	...2500
Fucili	.. 4500

1798

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SECRET

UNA PICCOLA DIVISIONE.

Forma Di Panteria

PILOTONE

Comando	2
Ses. 1.	20
Ses. 2.	20

	42 x 3 per CP. Fucilieri

COMPAGNIA FUCILIERI

Comando	36
Plot. 1	42
" 2	42
" 3	42

	160 x 3 per Batt.

BATTAGLIONE DI PANTERIA

Comando	120
Armi di	
Accomp.	250
Compagnia	
Fuc. 1	160
" 2	160
" 3	160

	850 x 3 per Regg.

REGGIMENTO DI PANTERIA

Comando	200
CP Mortai	200
CP Cannoni	200
Batt di	
Fant 1	850
" 2	850
" 3	850

	3150 x 2 per Div.

BATTAGLIONE DI FANTERIA

Comando	120
Armi di	
Accomp.	250
Compagnia	
Fuc.	1
"	2
"	3
"	160
"	160
"	160

160 x 3 per Batt.

REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA

Comando	200
CP Mortai	200
CP Cannoni	200
Batt di	
Fant	1 850
"	2 850
"	3 850

3150 x 2 per Div.

Forma Totale Di Fanteria della Divisione: 6200

tw. MD.

827

SECRET

3 A

C.I.A.
R.S./J/29
21 July 1944.ITALIAN RECONSTRUCTION DIVISIONS

** E E E E E A L E **

1. EQUIPMENT of ONE British Division to be used to furnish TWO Italian Reconstruct Divisions and necessary rearward services.
2. RELATIVE STRENGTHS and fire power as follows: -

	British.	Italian.	Percentage.		British.	Italian.
HQ	450	200	44%	25 pdr.	72	32
Arty	3,250	1,400	43%	17 pdr.	16	8
Engr	850	400	47%	6 pdr.	94	36
Signs	650	300	46%	40 mm	54	12
Inf.	9,350	6,300	67%	P.I.A.T.	432	200
Tpt	1,050	400	38%	3" mortar	60	30
Med	500	300	60%	2" mortar	283	140
Misc	600	200	33%	L.M.C.	1,157	500
TOTAL:	16,700	9,500	56%	Carbines	5,758	2,500
				Rifles	9,745	4,500

Note: following available weapons excluded for simplicity:

18 VMGs; 8, 4.2" mortars and 15, 20 mm equipments.

3. ARMY TROOPS and Services (not included above) for whom equipments would be available, could include Pz Para Coys, Signals, S & T, Medical and Maintenance if needed.
4. A BRITISH LIAISON UNIT (as under) should be attached to each Division:

1 Lt. Col	} with tpt, interpreter, clerks, batman, drivers and ciphers as needed.
1 Major (Arty)	
1 Major (Inf)	
1 Capt. (Signs)	
5. BRITISH TRAINING TEAMS will be needed temporarily to supervise training and issue of stores. Italian instructors will need to be trained before-hand.
6. PARADIGMS Etc. should be translated early.
7. PARADIGMS from Poles and/or French might be used.
8. SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION in outline and infantry strengths in detail are attached.

Tpt	1,050	400	200	30
Med	500	300	60%	140
Misc	600	200	3%	500
				2,500
TOTAL:	16,700	9,500	5%	4,500

Note: Following available weapons excluded for simplicity:

18 VMAs; 8, 4.2" mortars and 10, 20 mm equipments.

3. ARMY TROOPS and Services (not included above) for whom equipment would be available, could include Pt Park Coy, Signals, S & T, Medical and Maintenance if needed.

4. A BRITISH LIAISON UNIT (as under) should be attached to each Division: -

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1 Lt. Col | } | with tpt, interpreter, clerks, batmen, drivers and ciphers as needed. |
| 1 Major (Arty) | | |
| 1 Major (Inf) | | |
| 1 Capt. (Sigs) | | |

5. BRITISH TRAINING TEAM will be needed temporarily to supervise training and issues of stores. Italian instructors will need to be trained before-hand.

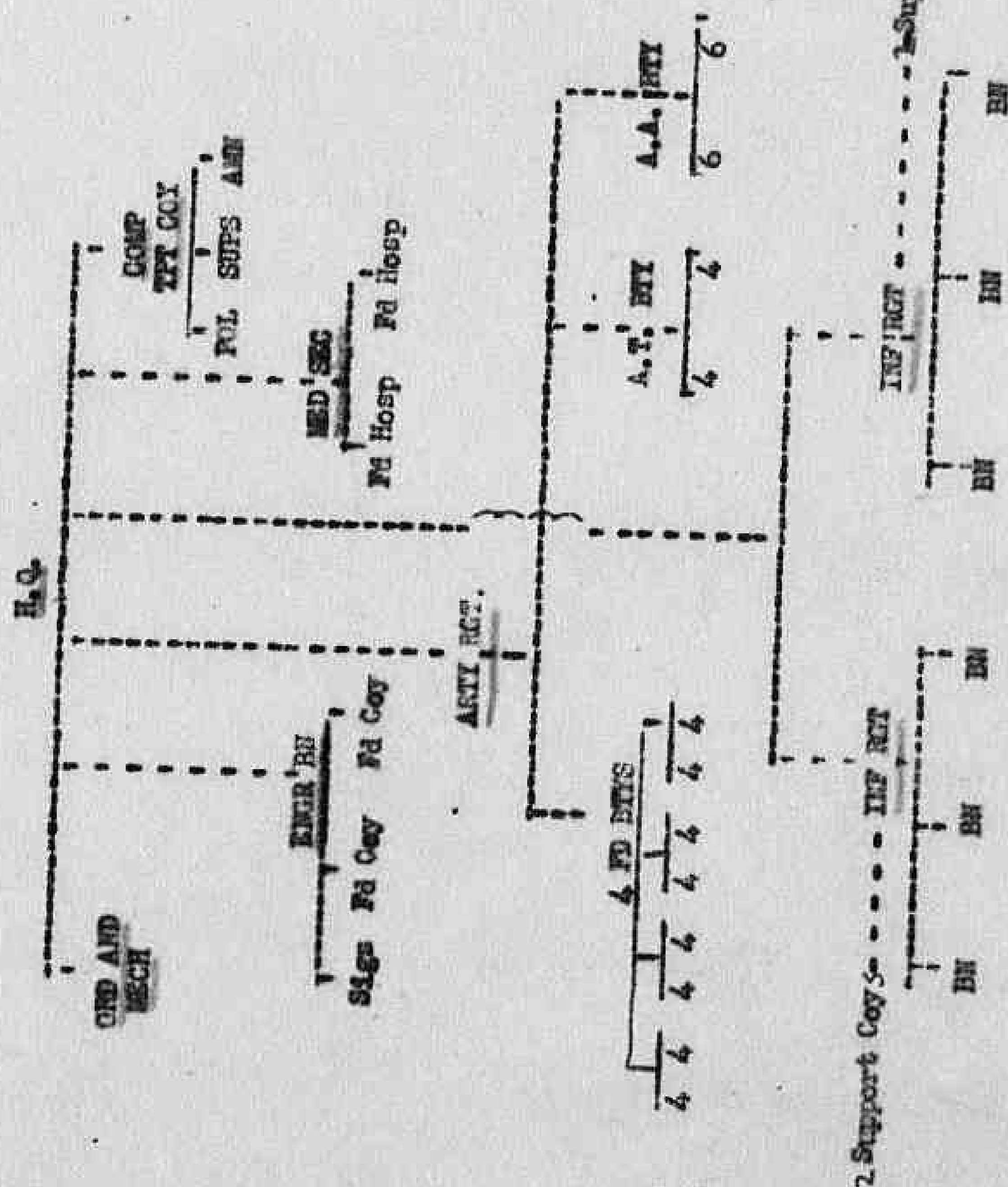
6. HANDBOOKS ETC. should be translated early.

7. EXPERIENCE from Poles and/or French might be used.

8. SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION in outline and infantry strengths in detail are attached.

3 B

▲ POCKET DIVISION



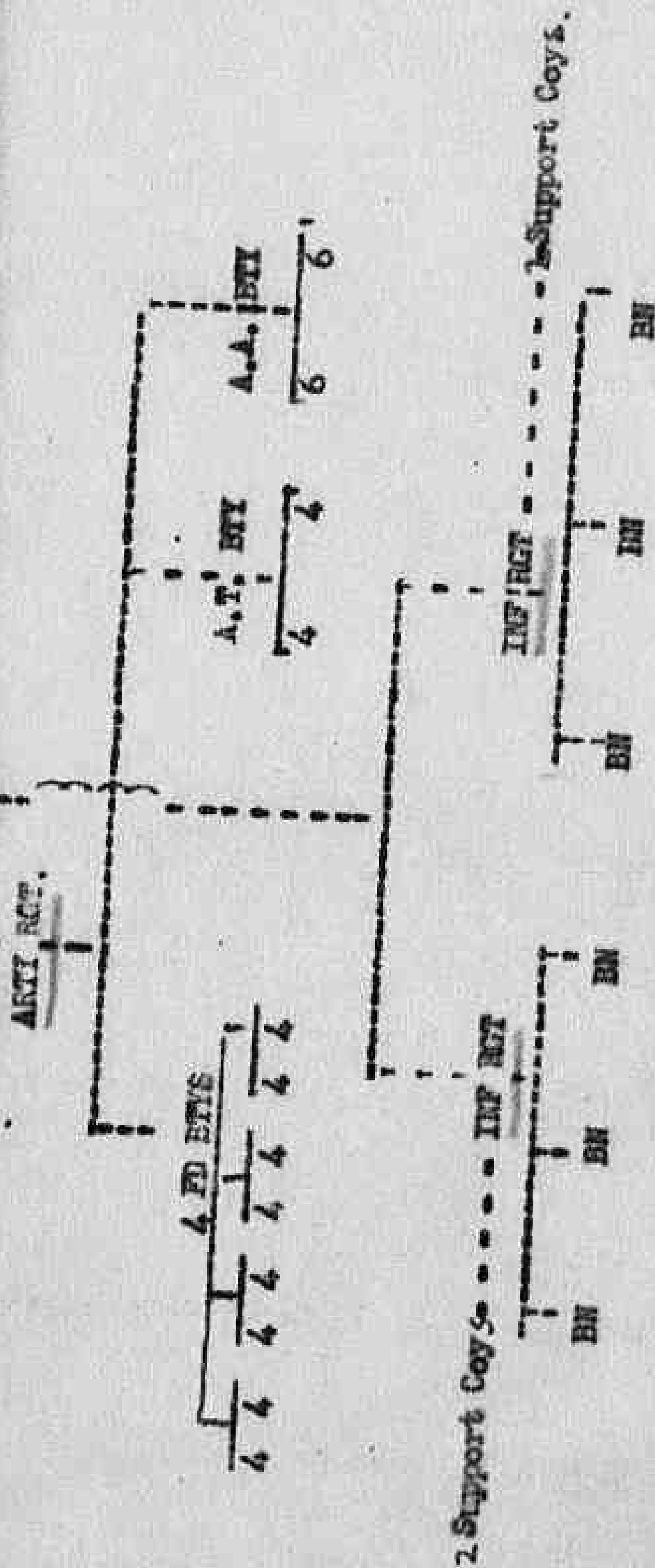
2. Support Coys INF REGT
INF REGT Support Coys.

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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SECRET

POCKET DIVISION.

INFANTRY STRENGTHS

PLATOON

HQ	2
1 Sec	20
2 Sec	20
42 x 3 per Coy.	

ROUTE COY

HQ	34
1 Pl	42
2 Pl	42
3 Pl	42
160 = 3 per Bn	

INF BN

HQ	120
Support Coy	250
1 Rifle Coy	160
2 Rifle Coy	160
3 Rifle Coy	160
890 x 3 per Regt.	

INF REGT

HQ	200
Mortar Coy	200
Qan Coy	200
1 Inf Bn	850
2 Inf Bn	850
3 Inf Bn	850
3,150 x 2 per Div.	

11805

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827

HQ
1 Pl
2 Pl
3 Pl
24
42
42
42
160 x 3 per Bn

INF BN

HQ
Support Coy
1 Rifle Coy
2 Rifle Coy
3 Rifle Coy
120
250
160
160
160
850 x 3 per Regt.

INF REGT

HQ
Mortar Coy
Gen Coy
1 Inf Bn
2 Inf Bn
3 Inf Bn
200
200
200
850
850
850
3,150 x 2 per Div.

Div Inf strength is 6,300.

tro. MP.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 7850201. Rocket Divisions.

A possible organization is shown in attached table "A" using a little under 50% of the equipment of a British Division.

This organization and the following particulars appear to be the simplest, quickest and most effective as far as their proposed role is known at present.

2. Relative Strengths.

	<u>Brit. Div.</u>	<u>Rocket Div.</u>
HQ	450	200
Arty	3,250	1,400
Eng	850	400
Sign	650	300
Inf	9,350	6,300
Tpt	1,050	400
Med	500	300
Misc	600	200
TOTALS	16,700	9,500

3. Relative Fire Power.

	<u>Brit.</u>
25 pdr	
17 pdr	
6 pdr	
40 mm	
P.I.A.T.	
3" mortar	
2" "	
L.H.G.	11
Carbines	575
Rifles	974

Note: U.M.C. (36),
20 mm (36) of simplicity

4. Grounding.

It is suggested that Foot three (rather than two to Corps Troops needed would

Engineers	Pd Pdr
Signals	Section
Tpt	Depot
Med	One C.
Misc.	Def.

1807

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

SECRET

H.M.I.A. 13/6/29
20 July 44.

attached table "A" using a
British Division.

particulars appear to be
two as far as their

at Div.

200
400
600
800
1000
1200
1400
1600
1800
2000
2200
2400
2600
2800
3000
3200
3400
3600
3800
4000
4200
4400
4600
4800
5000

3. Relative Fire Power.

	<u>Brit Div.</u>	<u>Pocket Div.</u>
25 pdr	72	32
17 pdr	16	8
6 pdr	96	36
40 mm	54	12
P.I.A.T.	432	200
3" mortar	60	30
2" "	283	140
L.H.G.	1157	570
Carbines	5758	2500
Rifles	9745	4500

Notes: U.H.G. (36), 4.2" Mortars (16)
20 mm (36) excluded for sake
of simplicity.

4. Grooming.

It is suggested that Pocket Divisions be grouped
three (rather than two to a Corps) and that the only
Corps Troops needed would be :

Engineers	Fd Park and Bridging Coy.
Signals	Section.
Tpt	Depending on circumstances.
Med	One C.C.S.
Misc.	Def., Pro., and Repair and Maintenance.

Cond 2A

SUBJECT: Re-arming of C.I.L. with the equipment
of three British Divisions.

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.,
Main HQ, MMIA.

ROME.

DO/TS/6/29
13 Jul 44.

Dear *Stagnum*

1. Herewith some thoughts on the above. I'd like to discuss with you when you have read it.

2. What I feel I must have, in order to implement this project for you, is a definite directive on paper, explaining: -

(a) What British equipment will be provided. Will 2nd, 14th M.T. be provided? Clothing? Personal equipment? Officers and men? Field glasses? etc.

(b) What state of training is expected - for what role?

(c) An estimate of by what date the C-in-C hopes to have each Div ready.

3. It is going to be a difficult business to do in a hurry. On the basis of (say) 50,000 personnel to be re-trained technically and to some extent tactically, and 1 instructor per 25 men, we'll need 2,000 instructors alone!

Of course these men start as "basic soldiers" which makes the problem easier.

2. What I feel I must have, in order to implement this project for you, is a definite directive on paper, explaining: -

- (a) What British equipment will be provided. Will 2nd. Line M.T. be provided? Clothing? Personal equipment of Officers and men? Field glasses? etc.
- (b) What state of training is expected - for what role?
- (c) An estimate of by what date the C-in-C hopes to have each Div ready.

3. It is going to be a difficult business to do in a hurry. On the basis of (say) 50,000 personnel to be re-trained technically and to some extent tactically, and 1 instructor per 25 men, we'll need 2,000 instructors alone!

Of course these men start as "basic soldiers" which makes the problem easier.

Yours

L.B.

322

Brigadier G. R. H. SNEYDER, C.B.E.,
G. (SD).
HQ A.A.L.I.
CMF.

SUBJECT: Re-equipment of C.I.L. with the Equipment of three British Divisions.

TOP SECRET

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main HQ.

ROME.

18742 RS/G/29.

MEMORANDUM 1.

1. OBJECT.

To produce at the earliest moment a number of Italian Combat Divisions armed with the equivalent of the equipment of three British Divisions.

2. FACTORS.

(a) Reorganisation on British W.E.

The simplest reorganisation is to re-equip three Italian Divisions on exactly the same scale and W.E. as three British Divisions. On the other hand there are serious disadvantages to this as follows.

(b) Italian v. British Organisation.

British organisation (and thus tactics) is on a 3 unit basis, as compared with the Italian 2. To force a "3-basis" on the Italian Combat Force and put them straight into battle, would entail making the Italians fight with an organisation and tactics in which they are not trained - with consequent loss of fighting efficiency. To add this to the problem of training the Italians in the technical operation and maintenance of new (British) weapons as well, would mean that the 3 main elements (organisation, tactics for that organisation and technique) would all have to be assimilated at once. It would thus seem advisable to produce the situation whereby only the third element, technique, has to be learnt. This is important in view of the TIME factor also.

(c) Italian Organisation.

Italian Divisions vary in size. The strengths of these as at 14 Jul 48 shown at App. "A". The difference between the existing C.I.L. (1236 officers and 20172 O.Bs and really composed of two Divisions) and the others will be noted.

Generally speaking, the Italians are used to handling smaller Divisions than ours. Though this entails greater overheads in command and staff, it is considered that this disadvantage is outweighed by having Italian formations and units.

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Generally speaking, the Italians are used to handling smaller Divisions than ours. Though this entails greater overheads in command and staff, it is considered that this disadvantage is outweighed by having Italian formations and units of a size and organisation they are used to handling tactically. Moreover, the Italian Combat Army would be more flexible for use as required. It, therefore, seems advisable to have a "standard" Italian Combat Division. Without having examined the matter in detail with S.M.R.E. (because of secrecy and the project is not yet firm) a possible "standard" Italian Division, conforming to Italian organisation and training, is shown at App. "B".

The matter of distribution of 3 British divisions worth of equipment to more than 3 Italian Divisions will require analysis (particularly as regards Signals, R.E. and Medical) but should not prove impossible of solution. If, on analysis, such a distribution is not possible, we must accept the disadvantages and reorganise 3 Italian Divisions as in 2 (a) above.

From an examination of App. "B" it would thus seem possible to form 6 Italian Combat Divisions armed with British equipment, on the assumption that equipment for 3rd, Line services and maintenance, are provided from elsewhere.

Sheet 2.

2. (d) Int. Line Services and Maintenance.

This may be provided from British or Italian sources. It is not known whether the former is possible. The latter, as regards manpower, could be provided at the expense of Internal Security strengths; while, as regards equipment, part at any rate should be able to be provided from Italian sources - though this would necessitate examination in some detail. On the grounds of homogeneity and simplicity of operation and maintenance it is necessary that each Italian Combat Division should have all-Italian or all-British 2nd. line equipment.

(e) Internal Security.

Depending on the final ceiling fixed for the whole Italian Army, there would be an element of risk in reducing I.S. Divisions to provide an adequate combat organisation. On the other hand, this risk may well be accepted; -

- (1) in order to obtain the maximum combat effort.
- (11) because, it is considered, the prospect of serious internal trouble or revolution is remote while the Allies are in ITALY.
- (111) because the tonic effect on Italian morale generally in giving effect to the strong Italian aspiration to have more fighting troops (and thus "earn their passage" vis-a-vis the Allies and returning prisoners post-war) would be very great.

(f) Selection of Combat Divisions.

App. "A" gives the location and values of the various Italian Divisions available for forming the new Italian Combat Army.

To avoid considerable changes, it is suggested that, as projected, CALABRIA Div should remain in SARDINIA and SARAGLIA Div in SICILY. Shipping difficulties (from SARDINIA) should not be allowed to stand in the way of producing the best new "Armata Italiana di Liberazione" (A.I.L.).

On this basis, it is suggested that the Divisions to form the new A.I.L. should be: -

- 1. UTILI
- 2. MEMO

MAINLAND. ✓

there would be an element of risk in reducing I.S. Divisions to provide an adequate combat organization. On the other hand, this risk may well be accepted; -

- (1) in order to obtain the maximum combat effort.
- (ii) because, it is considered, the prospect of serious internal trouble or revolution is remote while the Allies are in ITALY.
- (iii) because the tonic effect on Italian morale generally in giving effect to the strong Italian aspiration to have more fighting troops (and thus "earn their passage" vis-a-vis the Allies and returning prisoners post-war) would be very great.

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On this basis, it is suggested that the Divisions to form the new A.I.L. should be :-

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|------------|
| 1. | UTILE | } | MAINLAND ✓ |
| 2. | NEBO | | |
| 3. | CHERONA | } | SARDINIA |
| 4. | GRANATIERI | | |
| 5. | { BARI-
or
MANTOVA
or
PIEMON | } | MAINLAND. |

Shipment of Divisions from SARDINIA would also make effective use of troops who must be rationed and borne on Italian Army strength, though surplus and thus ineffective (from the wider aspect) in SARDINIA.

2. (g) Replacement of less efficient or less fit personnel.

To re-equip and train (technically) the new A.I.L. it will be necessary to concentrate it behind the lines for a period. During this period both officers and men can be carefully tested, and unfit and inefficient replaced from either existing Italian Army or by new call-ups including patriots who have been fighting behind the German lines. The normal Italian military conscriptive law can be applied in newly liberated Italy and the Italian military authorities have power to enrol suitable ex-soldiers outside the official conscriptive ages. "Vetting" of Italian personnel can be supervised by an attached training and liaison British staff, see (j) below.

(h) Clothing is an aid to morale.

As has been proved, morale in these Combat Divisions will rise automatically, when they realize they are destined for active operations. Clothing and boots however will present a problem. At present, Allied part-worn and dyed battle dress is only available for units employed by the Allies, such as labour bus etc. This supply cannot be largely increased. It would be far the best to clothe A.I.L. in new British battle dress with suitable Italian badges and Italian headgear. Alternatively completely new Italian clothing is necessary. The lack of this latter in proper working order; of factories and material to produce new clothing; and particularly of repair materials to repair or cannibalise old or part-worn stock; has prevented and will continue to prevent the Italian Army being clothed as it should be, as an aid to morale. This also applies to boots and underwear.

If therefore new British battle dress cannot be provided, a first priority must be the provision of repair material flown from U.K. at once. The effect of ragged clothing on morale and the civil population needs no stressing.

(i) Training.

Assuming that the new A.I.L. will be organized on Italian lines, the primary training problem will be teaching of the technical handling and maintenance of the new British equipment. Training to date has not been beyond "company training" stage and ammunition has not been available for practice.

To re-equip swiftly and to enable the higher stages of training (by Bn., Bde or Div.) to be carried out, it will be necessary to concentrate the whole A.I.L. in some central, convenient place behind the lines.

(h) Clothing as an aid to morale.

As has been proved, morale in these Combat Divisions will rise automatically, when they realize they are destined for active operations. Clothing and boots however will present a problem. At present, Allied part-worn and dyed battle dress is only available for units employed by the Allies, such as labour bns etc. This supply cannot be largely increased. It would be far the best to clothe A.L.L. in new British battle dress with suitable Italian badges and Italian headdress. Alternatively completely new Italian clothing is necessary. The lack of this latter in proper working order; of factories and material to produce new clothing; and particularly of repair materials to repair or cannibalise old or part-worn stock; has prevented and will continue to prevent the Italian Army being clothed as it should be, as an aid to morale. This also applies to boots and underwear.

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To re-equip swiftly and to enable the higher stages of training (by Bn., Bde or Div.) to be carried out, it will be necessary to concentrate the whole A.L.L. in some central, convenient ~~area~~ behind the lines. In order to facilitate reorganization and control and to minimise road or rail haulage, presumably this area should be between NAPLES docks and Rome.

Until the British equipment arrives, full training will not be possible unless some can be made available from surplus stocks in Italy. The requirements of battle affect the date of withdrawal of existing C.L.L.

These decisions rest with AAI, but a start should be made by means of courses at the British Training Schools for selected Italian officers and NCOs (as instructors-to-be) at an early date. The interpreter problem could doubtless be adjusted. Presumably British Divisions "in the line" cannot undertake any aspect of this training.

2. (3) Controlling Agency to implement above.

There will be two aspects as regards control of formation of the new A.L.L., liaison (supply, administrative etc., as now for the rest of the Italian Army) and training.

As the whole business is based primarily on organisation of the project, M.M.L.A. (with its special knowledge) should be the controlling agency under the direct orders of AAI. But M.M.L.A. has not the up to date battle trained officers to ensure that training is rapidly and efficiently carried out in accordance with modern battle-tactics in ITALY.

It is considered therefore that the controlling agency requires the following: -

(i) A special senior whole-time officer at HQ M.M.L.A. to run the project under the orders of Director, M.M.L.A. and AAI. A most suitable officer exists in M.M.L.A. in Col. W. PIERCE, who is fully au fait with all M.M.L.A. activities and functions.

(ii) A liaison and interpreter set-up, to be provided by M.M.L.A. on the basis of one officer per Div or Corps.

(iii) A training and S.D. set-up "attached" to M.M.L.A. on the same basis but provided by AAI in the shape of selected, high-grade, battle trained experts who would work in conjunction with M.M.L.A. liaison officers as regards the training aspect. This, with each Division, should be a "team" composed of one British officer representative of each arm of the service, e.g. Inf., Arty., R.E. Ordnance, R.E.M.E., R.A.S.C., Medical, Signals under a Lt. Col.

(iv) Each officer will require a batman-driver and car. Two clerks, plus typewriter, will be required per Division.

(v) Possibly, the attachment of a number of UTIL Div battle trained officers and HQOs, to those units of the A.L.L. being reconstituted as Combat Divs., in order to teach the latest battle experience. These might form part of the British training and S.D. "team" and it would be an advantage if they could speak and/or understand English.

(2) Time.

The date by which the new A.L.L. can (progressively) be Divisions or Corps) be ready depends thus on: -

run the project under the orders of Director, M.M.I.A. and AAL. A most suitable officer exists in M.M.I.A. in Col. W. PINSKY, who is fully au fait with all M.M.I.A. activities and functions.

- (1i) A Liaison and interpreter set-up, to be provided by M.M.I.A. on the basis of one officer per Div or Corps.
- (1ii) A training and S.D. set-up "attached" to M.M.I.A. on the same basis but provided by AAI in the shape of selected, high-grade, battle-trained experts who would work in conjunction with M.M.I.A. Liaison officers as regards the training aspect. This, with each Division, should be a "team" composed of one British officer representative of each arm of the service, e.g. Inf., Arty., R.E., Ordnance, R.E.M.E., R.A.S.C., Medical, Signals under a Lt. Col.
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(k) Time.

The date by which the new A.I.L. can (progressively) be Divisions or Corps) be ready depends thus on: -

- (1) Sanction of the project and the working out of details in conjunction with S.M.R.E., once the project is approved and the ban of secrecy is lifted.
- (1i) The shipment of the British equipment (including clothing and boots repair materials) from U.K.
- (1ii) The shipment of the Italian Divisions from SARDINIA.
- (iv) The technical training in the new British equipment of selected Italian instructors-to-be or cadres in British training schools.
- (v) The concentration of the whole A.I.L. in one area for both individual and higher training, and to sort out and weld Divisions into a corporate and cohesive entity.

Sheet 5.

- 2 (E) (vi) the degree of training to be aimed at, depending on the role for which the A.L.L. is destined by the C-in-C.

3 PLAN.

- (a) Obtain sanction in principle to the project, including final ceiling of the Italian Army.
- (b) Work out in detail with S.M.R.E. the organisation of the new "standard" Italian Combat Division.
- (c) Lay on courses for selected Italian personnel at British Training Schools, after adjustment of the interpreter problem.
- (d) Ship the Italian Divisions in SARDINIA forthwith to the selected concentration area on Mainland, C.L.L. being moved there later and possibly re-equipped after the other Divisions.
- (e) Fly repair material for clothing and boots forthwith from U.L., if new British battle dress is not available.
- (f) Ship the equipment for 3 British Divisions forthwith from U.L. to ITALY.
- (g) Decide on the degree of training to be aimed at, dependent on progress of the above and the course of the battle in ITALY.
- (h) Set up a "training and S.D." and liaison organisation for A.L.L. based on M.M.I.A. - this organisation starting to function forthwith.

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ROME.

14 Jul 44.

Director, Army Sub Commission, A.C.C. 17
Major General

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RMSE.

14 Jul 44.

Wm. LB.

Major General,
Director, Army Sub Commission, A.C.C. 17

As at 14 Jul 44.

APPENDIX "A".

I.S. DIVISIONS.

CALABRIA DIV.

Composed of Sards and Yugo-Slavs.

414 officers and 6246 O.Rs.

Yugo-Slavs would have to be replaced by Italians if Division used as Combat Div on Mainland.

Projected as I.S. Div. for SARDINIA.

Potentially better than BARI Div but not so good at present.

SARAJEVO DIV.

619 officers and 10348 O.Rs.

Clothed in Allied, part-worn, dyed battle dress. Used and projected as I.S. Div for SICILY, where they have been since occupation of SICILY. They also do guard duties and tasks normally done by "units employed by Allies." To move them would upset SICILY lay-out, apart from the strain on the railways or shipping by such a move.

Inadvisable to move this Div and constitute as Combat Div.

GRANATIERI DIV.

The best, most completely organised Div after C.L.I. Better than SARAJEVO, not much worse than NEMO.

Suitable for Combat Div.

470 officers and 9169 O.Rs.

Now in SARDINIA.

GRANATIERI DIV.

Recently organised and lacks cohesion as a Div. But good stuff in it. Potentially better than GRANATIERI.

476 officers and 6446 O.Rs.

Now in SARDINIA.

BARI DIV.

396 officers and 8465 O.Rs.

Equal to GRANATIERI at present, but potentially not so good eventually. Now in SARDINIA.

MASSIMO DIV.

462 officers and 7016 O.Rs.

An existing I.S. Div in CALABRIA, but 2200 harvesting in FOGGIA and two Bns (each approx 700) lent for guard duties to 8 Army and 3 District. Quite a good Div. Probably about equal to BARI and FUSCO Divs.

to move them would meet SHILL lay-out, apart from the strain on the railways or shipping by such a move. Inadvisable to move this Div and constitute as Combat Div.

CHERMONA DIV.

The best, most completely organized Div after C.I.L. Better than SABAUDA, not much worse than NEMEC.

Suitable for Combat Div.

470 officers and 9169 O.Rs.

Now in SARDINIA.

GRANATIERI DIV.

Recently organized and lacks cohesion as a Div. But good stuff in it. Potentially better than CHERMONA.

476 officers and 6446 O.Rs.

Now in SARDINIA.

BARI DIV.

396 officers and 8465 O.Rs.

Equal to GRANATIERI at present, but potentially not so good eventually. Now in SARDINIA.

MANFROVA DIV.

462 officers and 7016 O.Rs.

An existing I.S. Div in CALABRIA, but 2200 harvesting in FOGGIA and two Bns (each approx 700) lent for guard duties to 8 Army and 3 District. Quite a good Div. Probably about equal to BARI and FICENO Divs.

FICENO DIV.

387 officers and 7007 O.Rs.

An existing I.S. Div in APULIA, but 3660 harvesting in FOGGIA and two Bns (each approx 700) lent for guard duties to 8 Army and 2 District. Probably about equal to BARI and MANFROVA.

DIVISIONS BEING BROKEN UP FOR "PROGRAMME OF UNITS EMPLOYED BY ALLIES".

226 DIV.

Ex-coastal Div. Now absorbed complete by P.B.S. Arrived NAPLES 9 July.

204 DIV.

Ex-coastal Div. Lowest Div in order of merit. Not suitable for Combat Div. 367 officers and 6598 O.Rs. Now in SARDINIA.

contd/..

ARTICLE 109.

Fair. Not as good as BARI, MANTOVA or PIERNO. Better than 204. Div. 447 officers and 8972 O.Rs, of which 5702 harvesting in POGGIA, the remainder now arriving from SARDINIA.

THE REFORM:

ORDER OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR RETENTION OR CONVERSION TO CABAN DIVISIONS

UTILI	}	C.L.L.	-----	MAINLAND
NEBO				
CREMONA	}	L.S. DIV.	-----	SARDINIA
GRANATIERI		"		
BARI		"		
OR		"		
MANTOVA	}	"	-----	MAINLAND
OR		"		
FIGUERO		"		

! Season:

CALABRIA retained as I.S. Div., SARDINIA,
SARAJEVO " " " " , SICILY.

204 } to be broken up to
226 } form "programme" units
FRULLI } for the Allies.

20.
SUBJECT: Re-arming of C.I.s with the Equipment TOP SECRET
of 3 British Divisions.

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.
Main HQ MMIA.

RCMR.

18 Jul 42 13/3/29.

MEMORANDUM 2.

1. Memorandum 1 was written after the Supreme Allied Commander had informed me in an interview that (in general terms) the C-in-C intended to use this new Italian Combat Force "on the flank." I assumed this to mean on the flank of the British Army.

2. I am now informed verbally that the idea is to employ the Italians by "Brigade Groups" with British Divisions. I appreciate that in the event of an Italian Division in the line giving way, the difficulty of restoring the situation would be greater than if it were only a Brigade Group. Also, of course, I accept any decision by C-in-C in this matter.

3. There are, however, certain difficulties and disadvantages in using Italian Brigade Groups sandwiched in between British formations, either as an addition to or substitution of a British Brigade or Brigade Groups. These really fall under 4 main headings, all inter-related :-

(a) LANGUAGE.

Interpreters or Italian-speaking liaison officers are short. The language problem is thus bound to be difficult. With the Italians operating as Divisions either in between British Divisions or as an Italian Army on the flank of the British Army, this problem would be far less serious.

(b) OPERATIONAL.

The "Brigade Group" is not a normal Italian set-up. They work as Divisions as we do.

Regimental commanders are not trained to handle a "regt. gp." of all arms.

In a war of movement, where units and formations are liable to get mixed up, difficulties such as signals and reports to rear and flanks; operation orders; artillery support to conform e.g. to a British barrage; contact between British Divisions through an Italian Bde Gp etc are bound to be exacerbated.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE.

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(c) ADMINISTRATIVE

There would be two parallel channels of supply of rations (IT and British), even assuming that the Italians were British battle dress and were equipped and supplied with British Ordnance stores.

Reinforcement arrangements would be spread over the whole front.

Casualties to men and vehicles or the Div area would have to be accepted by British services. Complications in records returns, mails and "A" work generally would ensue, as the Italian M of W is responsible for its own rear internal administration.

(d) MORALE

The Italians would be quick to realise that their use in Brigade Groups implied a lack of trust. I fear that the blow to their keenness to fight and prestige would be severe and morale would suffer accordingly.

1826

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Sheet 2.

4. It would thus seem advisable that, wherever possible, the Italians should be used as complete Divisions. Assuming nevertheless that it is decided that Italian Brigade Groups are necessary, it should be possible to organise an Italian Combat Division of two Brigades, each capable of working independently.

L.B.

18 Jul 44.
L.B.

Major General,
Director, Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

MS/hjp

A/CC 091.711

29 June 1944

SUBJECT: Further Italian participation in operations

DSH 404
29 JUN 1944

TO: Major General L. Browning, Main Hq Army Sub-Commission,
(Legione), Lecce.

1. Reference is made to the attached copies of correspondence with Marshal Messe.
2. On June 3rd both General Alexander and Marshal Messe lunched with General MacFarlane and the matter was discussed then. General Alexander saying that he would find out the situation re armament for further Italian Divisions.
3. I think this is now a matter to be handled by you direct with General Alexander and Marshal Messe.
4. Please inform me in due course of developments.

MILBY E. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief Commissioner

2 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Ltr, Supreme Command
No. 13375/SP, 30 May 44
- Incl 2 - Ltr, Hq ACC, A/CC 091.711
to Marshal Messe, 29 Jun 44

812

1828