

12003

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

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12004
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000 | 120 | 1056

SG/29/B

Welfare

Opened Jan. 18, 1945. Closed Mar. 16, 1945
Jan - Mar. 1945

12005

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

SUBJECT : RTC. ICF.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
S/G/29/47
16 Mar'45.

Director Military Training.
A.F.H.Q.

1. Reference DMT/127/21/MT.2. of 9 Mar.
2. It is correct that sports gear is not issued to the Italian army by British Army Welfare Services.
3. The Italian Director of Welfare is endeavouring to provide sports gear for the RTC.ICF as he is for other formations and units. The difficulties are scarcity of goods on the market and excessive prices. Three footballs have been issued to RTC ICG, in addition to the two provided by you.
4. The welfare officer at RTC ICG has been given the necessary information and instructions to construct a sports ground and to provide jumping pits, vaulting horses etc. *in short to improve*

JMcC/

SP
/

Major General
M. M. I. A.

Internal:-A.D.A.W.S.

2006

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

SUBJECT : RTC, ICF.

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING.
AFHQ CMF.

Tel : 16282

MMIA

DMT/127/21/MT.2.

Copy to : ^{BTU} RTC ICF c/o MMIA

9 March 45.

S/sec. G

1. In order to ensure that all Italian Rfts at RTC ICF attain a high standard of physical fitness before being posted to Gruppi, two APTC instructors have been attached to the BTU.
2. All Rfts in 1st and 2nd Regts carry out a daily period of PT under cadre trained NCOs.
3. It is considered desirable that Recreational Training should be included in the Syllabus, but this is at present impossible owing to the complete lack of sports gear.
4. At present the only sports gear available for the whole of the RTC ICF consists of 2 footballs which were supplied by this Directorate to the Senior APTC instructor when he left to join the unit.
5. It is understood that British Army Welfare Services are not allowed to issue sports gear to the Italian Army.
6. Will you please say whether sports gear can be provided from Italian sources.

GC/ja.

Brig.,
D.M.T.

2007

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

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794 US Army

Q 192

SUBJECT: Unit Canteens

20/47
SC/Art
28 February 1945
10 March 1945
AD

TO : ELU RTC ICF

1. Authority is granted for the establishment of the u/a Unit Canteen in accordance with the provisions of GRO 717/44, for the month of March 1945.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>No of Rations allotted</u>	<u>BIS</u>
ELU RTC ICF	60	No 37

2. This authority is valid only if the unit remains in its present location.

3. In the event of a change in location, the OG will ensure that no further supplies are drawn and that the authority is renewed through Area/Sub Area concerned.

Copy to: Land Forces Sub Commission MEMIA
Catering Adviser

~~Copy to:~~ 37 BIS

W. H. ^{1st Lieut Capt} DUCHES
Major
DAQNG

985

2008

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

Subject: EPI Sups to Gruppi.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. M. I. A.) ROME
2/2/5/1

25 Feb 1945

To: Hq 15 Army Group.

Reference your CM/52/AVA dated 13 Dec 44.

The total value of EPI goods supplied to the Gruppi during the month of Jan 45 is as follows:-

(a)	Priuli Gp.	Nil
(b)	Cremona Gp.	£743-15-2 .
(c)	Legnano Gp.	Nil
(d)	Folgore Gp.	Nil
(e)	Mantova Gp.	Nil

PFF/la

P. P. Fardell
P. P. FARDELL, J/Comd.
for Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Copies to: 50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLU
Spec Sec MMIA

~~in the explanation for~~

982

12009

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

29/47

File

8

With the object of bringing closer together the Italian Armed Forces and Patriot/Partisan organisation and to demonstrate the unity of idea and purpose the new Ministry of Occupied Territory is proposing to organise a march-past in ROME for SUNDAY 18th FEB.

There will also be a presentation of a Flag to the Partisan Association and decorations for bravery will be handed out to the Partisans and to the families of Partisans killed in action.

A meal is being organised probably in one of the Hotels in ROME.

The takings of Theatres and Cinemas will be handed over for the use of the Partisan Association.

It is planned that the following will take part in the Parade:

(a) Members of Italian Armed Forces.

25 Army	}	from units
25 Navy		stationed
25 Air Force		in ROME.

(b) 200 Army personnel (formerly Patriot to come from CESANO)
7pt is requested for these men.

(c) 130 Partisans - already in ROME or to come to ROME under their own arrangements.

For these people the Military Section of the Ministry of Occupied Territory is asking MMIA for:

- i. authority to issue 130 Italian rifles without arm.
- ii. Authority to issue 130 coats or Blouses to give an idea of uniformity to the Partisans. (on loan)

Authorities responsible for organisation of the military side of the Parade are:

the Territorial HQ and Gen TARASSIA, of the Welfare Branch, War Ministry.

Lt Col CAMO of the Military Section of the Ministry of Occupied Territory will be calling at MMIA at 1430 hrs 10 FEB to discuss 3

ts.

29/47 = *DD* *Spec Sec.* 7

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE ON ITALIAN WOMENS' VOLUNTARY CANTEN SERVICE HELD AT ROME ON SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY, 1945, AT 1000 HOURS.

PRESENT WERE:

Col. H. J. Wilson
Col. Clayton P. Kerr
Col. W. Pidsley
Lt. Col. J. D. Philipp
Lt. Col. Sheldon
Lt. Col. J. McCann
Lt. Col. Davis
Major E. F. Byatt
Major Blackburn
The Countess Leonardi
Brig. Gen. G. C. Tamassia
Lt. Col. A. Angeloni
Major Salvioni

DDAWS
DD. MMIA
Spec Sec. MMIA
G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.
Q. Maint AFHQ.
ADAWS. MMIA.
G-1 (A) AFHQ.
G-4 (Liaison) MMIA.
U.S. Spec Service

Dir. It. Army Welfare
Asst. Dir. It. Army Welfare
Rep. It. Min of War.

Rep. C. V. W. W. was not present.

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman.

DDAWS stated that the object of the conference was to discuss the formation of an Italian Womens' Canteen Service to operate with the Italian Forces fighting with the Allied Armies. The Countess Leonardi had approached General Clark, General Browning and General Robertson and expressed her willingness to organise such a service. The C.A.C. fully approved of this and had directed that a conference be held as soon as possible to implement this project, and to discuss the details with a view to obtaining quick action in setting the scheme into operation. DDAWS stressed that it was not intended to set up anything other than a limited service to start with and in the light of experience gained this could later be expanded.

2. Provision of Vehicles for Conversion to Mobile Canteens.

DDAWS said that 6 3-ton vehicles would be made available to start the service. *982*

Brig. Gen. G. C. Mamassia
Lt. Col. A. Angeloni
Major Salvioni

Dir. It. Army Welfare
Asst. Dir. It. Army Welfare
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DDAWS said that 6 3-ton vehicles would be made available to start the service, three from British and three from American sources. The details of release and conversion to be arranged after the conference by ADAMS, WMLA and Rep. Q. Maint. DD. WMLA stated that upon receipt of plans for conversion of these vehicles, he could arrange for the work to be carried out in workshops available to the Italian Army.

Action ADAMS, WMLA, Q. Maint. S and T. WMLA.

3. Provision of Drivers.

DDAWS stated that all must be reliable and capable of maintaining the vehicles; he suggested that they should be of N.C.O. status and selected from those already trained in driving Allied Vehicles. DD. WMLA said that the formations to which the vehicles were to be attached should provide the drivers, and the question as to whether they should be of N.C.O. status or not should be left to WMLA. It was agreed that the Division concerned should be

/ordered

ordered to provide suitable and responsible drivers. Two drivers per vehicle were considered necessary.

Action "A" MMIA.

4. Supplies to be carried.

DDAWS said that so far no decision had been reached by AFHQ regarding the provision from Allied resources of canteen supplies to Italian troops. Rep. Q. Maint. agreed to look into the present position regarding this.

DDAWS said that in the meantime the only proper basis to work on was that canteens must carry such commodities as could be purchased in the free market; wine, fruit, nuts, writing materials, small kit, etc., could be carried and it would at least be a start and provide a limited service.

DD. MMIA. said that he considered that the best method of obtaining supplies for the canteens was for both the British and American Governments to sell to the Italian Government certain supplies against dollar credits. He did not think the British or American Government would be prepared to increase their lire holdings.

DDAWS said he would point out this view in the appropriate quarter. DDAWS instructed ADAMS. MMIA. to get the views of the Italian Army Representatives, together with the type and amount of goods they required, and when these had been obtained, these to be passed to Q. Maint. for comparison with Scale already suggested.

It was recommended that a decision be given by AFHQ on this matter as soon as possible.

It was recorded that the Italian Government had already been asked to furnish a list of commodities which they could supply from their own resources.

DD. MMIA. wished it to be placed on record that it should be strongly represented to the Italian Government that such supplies as were available from civilian sources should be requisitioned.

Action DDAWS. Q. Maint. ADAMS. MMIA. It. Welfare.

5. Provision of Uniform for It. Women Volunteers.

DDAWS stated that any uniform worn by the Lady Volunteers must not resemble one of British or American design.

DD. MMIA. said that grey Italian cloth was available from Italian sources and that there was an Italian clothing factory in NAPLES capable of making all the uniforms required. The number to budget for was agreed initially at 30 uniforms.

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DDAWS stated that approval had been given for a certain amount of ATS uniform to be released but that he considered, in the light of DD.MMA.'s statement that the provision of grey Italian cloth was more desirable.

Director of Italian Welfare said that he was in agreement with this. The Countess Leonardi asked if the possible issue of ATS B/D covered the provision of shoes. Col.Pidsley, Spec.Sec.MMA. said that he was under the impression that it did.

DDAWS said that he would check on this point.

DDAWS requested the Countess Leonardi to submit a firm proposal showing the amount of material and etc., required and the design in which the Voluntary Canteen Service wished the uniforms to be made.

Action DDAWS, ADAMS.MMA. Countess Leonardi.

12014

6. Organization.

DDAWS suggested that the Headquarters of the Organization be situated with the HQ of Italian Welfare in Rome, and that the Canteens should be split into two groups, three operating in FIVE ARMY AREA and three operating in EIGHT ARMY AREA, under the control of the Senior Italian Welfare Officer in each of these commands, thus decentralizing to the two Armies concerned.

He further suggested that routing, accommodation etc. should be the responsibility of the Italian Welfare Officers at these Commands. The Countess Leonardi asked if a vehicle would be available for her to visit these canteens.

DDAWS said that this was unlikely, but that Italian Welfare Officers had been issued with vehicles and perhaps they would be able to help.

7. Control.

DDAWS stated that the question of control had been largely dealt with already, but in conclusion said that it was most important that this Canteen Service should be controlled in exactly the same way as the Allied Auxiliary Services, and operate and work under the framework of the Italian Army Welfare Service.

H. Leonardi

Colonel.
D.D.A.W.S.

Distribution.

G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.
G-1 (A) AFHQ.
Q. Maint. AFHQ.
MMA.
MMA. Welfare.
Spec. Services.

(4) — G. A/9. ST Spec. Sec.
(2)

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H. L. L.
Colonel.
D.D.A. W.S.

Distribution.

G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.
G-1 (A) AFHQ.
Q. Maint. AFHQ.
MMIA.
MMIA. Welfare.
Spec. Services.
C.V.W.W. AFHQ.
Italian Ministry of War.
Italian Welfare.
Office of C.A.C. AFHQ.
File.
War Diary (2)

(4) — G. A/4. ST. Spec. Sec.
(2)

981

SUBJECT : Italian Welfare.

29/47

6

A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/R/14.
7 Feb '45.

Spec Sec. MMIA.

1. Ref WEL/R/6 of 22 Jan and conversation.
2. Italian Welfare report as follows :-
 - (i) Italia 500 copies are ~~is not~~ available but have, in fact, only been collected once by the camp.
 - (ii) The footballs were handed over.
 - (iii) 2,000 parcels were issued (N.B. 1,500 have also been sent to Orvieto camp)
 - (iv) The concert party is available to the camp, but the camp have not yet provided the stage. They state it is now due to be ready on 8 Feb.
 - (v) The radios are in the camp and the cinema projector is also there and has been working.



Lt. Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

Major Gelardi



for info

see also pp 2 and 4

WD
7 Feb.

380

2017

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

Subject: S.P.I. Supplies to Group.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. H. L. A.) R O H R
10/2/3

2 Feb 1945

To: HQ 15 Army Group

Reference your 01/22/50A dated 13 Dec 1944.

The total value of S.P.I. items supplied to the Group during December is as follows:-

	a	b	c
(a) VALUE OF.....	378	0	2
(b) CASH ON HAND.....			
(c) CASH ON HAND.....			
(d) CASH ON HAND.....			
(e) CASH ON HAND.....			

P. P. P. S. I.
P. P. P. S. I. S/Comm.
for Major General,
M. H. L. A.

Copy to: 50 MIA
51 MIA
52 MIA
53 MIA
54 MIA
Spec. Sec. MIA

979

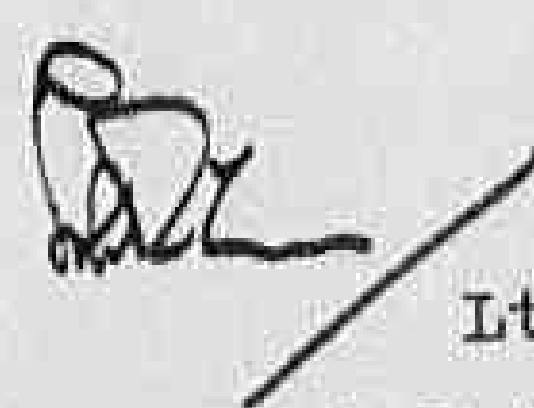
SUBJECT: Cesano Camp.

29/54 4
A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/R/11
14 Jan. 45.

Spec.Sec.MMIA.

Copy to- AQ. MMIA.

1. Reference WEL/R/8 dated 22.Jan.
2. Lt.Col.Zingone is now temporarily attached to the Combat Group Reinforcement Centre, Cesano, to assist in Welfare organization during the initial stages.


Lt.Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

12019

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

SUBJECT: Cesano Camp.

20/1/45
A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/R/8.
W Jan. 45.

Ministry of War,
Ufficio - Assistenza e Benessere del Soldato.

Copy - Spec Section M.M.I.A. —
A/Q. M.M.I.A.

1. Ref conversation Lt.Col. Angeloni - ADAWS.
2. It is suggested that, as a temporary measure, either Major Angeloni or Capt. Roncati be attached to the Combat Group Reinforcement Centre at Cesano to aid on the subject of Welfare during the initial period.
3. If this is agreed please state when the attachment will commence and for what period it will last.



Lt: Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

977

2

SUBJECT: Visit to I.C.G. Reinforcement Centre.

A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/R/6.
14 Jan. 45.

Spec. Sec. M.M.I.A. /

Copy: A/Q.M.M.I.A.

1. On 20 Jan I took Col. Micaletti and Lt. Col. Angeloni to visit the I.C.G. Reinforcement Centre at Cesano. As a result of the visit and a conference with the Italian Commander these representatives of Italian Welfare have arranged to provide the following amenities for the camp.

(i) Newspapers. They will be provided weekly, without payment, with 500 copies of "l'Italia". On publication of "la Patria" 1,000 copies will be issued (an initial ratio of circa 1 : 6)

(ii) The camp will be sent 3 footballs; also a supply of small indoor games.

(iii) 2,000 parcels, in the nature of our 'glory bags', containing soap, razor blades, writing paper etc, will be issued.

(iv) A concert party will be provided when the camp has erected an improvised stage (this is to be done on 23 Jan) this party will give two shows a day and will make sufficient visits for all men in camp to see the show.

(v) A cinema projector and two radios are already available. It is intended to connect up one radio to a loudspeaker system.

(vi) The local price of wine is 60 - 70 lire a litre. It was suggested that buying should be done further afield e.g. cars visiting Rome could be used for this purpose.

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2. Col. Micaletti also discussed with the General commanding the question of allocation of funds.

976

[Signature]
Lt. Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

SUBJECT:-Italian Army Newspaper.

~~RESTRICTED~~

A.D.A.W.S.
C/O Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WHL/N/3.

15 Jan. 45.

Army Welfare Services,
AFHQ. CMF.

Copies to - AQ. MMIA.
Spec Sec. MMIA.
G (SD). MMIA.
O.C. BANU. CMF.

D
2

1. Attached at Appendix A is a draft plan for the conduct of the Italian army newspaper to be called 'La Patria'.

2. This plan has been agreed by HQ. MMIA and by the Italian Ministry of War. It is now passed to you so that AFHQ approval in detail may be obtained.

3. Attached at Appendix B is a suggested W.E. for HQ and three presses for the paper. This W.E. has been discussed with Italian Army Welfare and with O.C. BANU. It is based on the lines of the BANU W.E. but scaled down in respect of the difference in circulation figures.

4. It will be noted that authority is suggested for a large proportion of the press operators to be civilians. This is at the request of the Italians and is done to avoid as far as is possible using the army ceiling.

5. As the plan for this paper is based on the fact that it will serve all Italian army forces whether Br Itis, US Itis, or Iti Itis it is recommended that all army personnel should be held against ITI-ITI Category of the order of battle. As the ceiling of this category is now full will you say where this W.E. should be carried?

6. Ref Paras 586 of App.A. In view of the fact that O.C. BANU will in fact be holding a watching brief in matters of policy in addition to work entailed in the liaison for news and communications it is considered essential that he should have attached to him, surplus to his own W.E., a Br. officer (fluent

975

2022

2. This plan has been agreed by HQ. III and by the Italian Ministry of War. It is now passed to you so that AFHQ approval in detail may be obtained.

3. Attached at Appendix B is a suggested W.L. for HQ and three presses for the paper. This W.L. has been discussed with Italian Army Welfare and with C.C.BANU. It is based on the lines of the BANU W.L. but scaled down in respect of the difference in circulation figures.

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6. Ref Paras 5&6 of App.A. In view of the fact that O.C. BANU will in fact be holding a watching brief in matters of policy in addition to work entailed in the liaison for news and communications it is considered essential that he should have attached to him, surplus to his own W.L., a Br. officer (fluent Italian speaking). In view of the rank of the Italian officers involved the Br. officer should be of the rank of major. On this subject BANU letter HQ/CCN/P of 4 Dec Para 5(ii) refers.

7. Newsprint. Application for 334 tons of newsprint per month was made by G.I.Br.AFHQ to Allied Publications Board on 29 Dec under ref. CR/9904/G-1 (Br). The Ministry of War request that when approved this newsprint should be consigned as follows :-

ROME	134 tons.
FLORENCE	12 "
BARI	8 "
	<u>334 "</u>

12024

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8. The production of this paper will have a great effect on Italian army morale and publication can commence immediately rulings are given on the points raised in this letter. In view of this it is requested that approval and rulings may be forwarded as soon as is possible. If and when approval in principle is given and the newsprint is released publication can start immediately and it is proposed that such publication should be started first in Rome, and after initial trial be extended forthwith to serve the fighting troops.



Lt.Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

974

Proposal for the production of a Daily Newspaper for the Italian Army.

1. Name. It is proposed that the paper should be called "La Patria".
2. Publication. It is proposed that the paper be printed, initially, at Rome, Florence and Bari.
 - (i) Rome. To be printed at the Union Jack press at Via Tritone. O.C. BANU agrees that the necessary space can be made available.
 - (ii) Florence. To be printed at "La Nazione" press provided PWB is instructed to make it available.
 - (iii) Bari. To be printed at the "Gazzette del Mezzogiorno" press provided PWB is instructed to make it available.
3. Circulation. For a circulation figure of 60,000, (1 paper to 5 men) a monthly release of 334 tons of newsprint will be required.
4. Transport. Transport to be provided from Italian resources. The requirements are estimated at 5 vehicles (load capacity 8-15 cwt.) at each of the three presses. With present conditions and commitments it would not be possible for this paper to be distributed in co-operation with BANU by BANU transport. An exception is that it may be possible for BANU transport to help with delivery to 8th Army area from Florence. The Italian War Ministry states that delivery to Sardinia can be carried out by air.
5. Communications. It is proposed that the Italian Army newspaper unit be allowed the use of Br. Army telephone communications. Such telephone communication is possible from the Rome office which would be located beside that of BANU.
6. British Journalists. It is proposed that O.C. BANU be available as adviser to the Italian Army Newspaper Unit HQ. Similarly his editors at Rome, Florence, and Bari would be available to the local Italian press units in advisory capacities.

(114) Bari.

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6. British Journalists. It is proposed that C.O. BANU be available as adviser to the Italian Army Newspaper Unit HQ. Similarly his editors at Rome, Florence, and Bari would be available to the local Italian press units in advisory capacities.
7. Finance. The cost of running this paper would be the responsibility of the Italian Ministry of War, who have estimated the cost at Lire 2,000,000 a month. This estimate does not allow for any income which would be available if the paper is sold in L of C areas.

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8. Personnel. The Italian Ministry of War has suggested officer personnel as follows :-

	Officers.	Officer Proposed.
HQ. and Admin.		
Editor in Chief.	1.	Lt.Col. Maraldi.
Rome Edition	1.	Lieut. Bullio.
Florence Edition	1.	Capt. Battiglia.
Bari Edition	1.	Major. Nuovo.

4.

The Italian Ministry of War propose that other staff should be provided by the employment of civilians, the cost being borne from the expenditure referred to in Para 7 above.

ANNEX 'B'.

Draft War Establishment
for Italian Army Newspaper Unit.
(Note - All personnel to be Italian.)

HEADQUARTERS

Officer in Charge and
Editor-in-Chief. (Lt. Col.)
Captain
Clerk
Orderlies
Driver i/c.

3 Publication Units.

Each to consist of :-

(i) Military Personnel.

Editor i/c
Asst. Editor
Press officer
Admin. officer
Sub Editors
Orderlies

(ii) Civilian Personnel

Clerks Gen. duty 4
Compositors 4
Lino. type Operators 4

Officers	Sergeants	Corporals	Privates	TOTAL
1	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	1	1
2	-	-	3	5

Transport
Cars 2 str.
(4 x 2) 1.

Officers	Sergeants	Corporals	Privates	TOTAL
1	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	1
4	2	2	2	10

Transport
Cars 2str
(4 x 2) 1.
Trucks
15cwt 4x2 5.
M/cs. 1.

Each to consist of :-

Editor i/c
Asst. Editor
Press officer
Admin. officer
Sub Editors
Orderlies

(ii) Civilian Personnel

Officers	1	2	2	2	4
Sergeants	1	2	2	2	2
Corporals	1	2	2	2	2
Privates	1	2	2	2	2
TOTAL	1	2	2	2	10

3.2

Transport

Cars 2str
(4 x 2)

Trucks
15cwt 4x2
M/cs.

1. 5. 1.

Clerks Gen. duty
Compositors
Lino. type Operators
Machine Hands
Process Engravers
Distributors
Reporter
Drivers i/c.
Motor Cyclist

$$\begin{array}{r} 444112161 \\ \hline 24 \end{array}$$

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2.

OVERALL TOTALS.(i) Military Personnel.

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>ORs:</u>
HQ.	2.	3.
3 Publication Units.	12.	18.
	14.	21.

(ii) Civilian Personnel. (To be civilian employees -
ex-soldiers, patriots, or others who have been security tested)

Total for 3 Publication Units. - 72.

(iii) TRANSPORT.

	<u>2str.</u>	<u>15cwt.</u>	<u>M/C.</u>
HQ.	1.	-	-
3 Publication Units.	3.	15.	3.
	4.	15.	3.

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