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ACC

10000 | 120 | 1119

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Dec

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10000 | 120 | 1119 SG | 29 | 32/4 Progress + Strength Returns : FOLGORE.
Opened Dec. 6, 1944. Closed Feb 25, 1945
Dec. 1944. Feb. 1945

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PART I - GENERAL PROGRESS MADE TO DATE. (Contd)

H. REME.

(a) Duties of CREME.- A Directive "Italian Army Repair and Recovery Org" clearly defining these duties has been received from AFHQ REME and the CREME is now fully advised of his responsibilities. He has already issued instructions to Wings and LAD for the basic principles to be instructed but before he can assume his full duties as CREME it will be necessary for the Italian GHQ to authorise the procedure and to issue instructions to Wings, LADs and Units. This is now in hand.

(b) Wings and LAD Org. - The Wing has been org on REME lines in accordance with the AFHQ Directives. It is at present being run under close REME instructional supervision but with the present rate of progress it should be possible to considerably reduce this.

(c) Wings Stores Tools and Eqpt. - Considerable progress has been made in the sorting and binding of stores etc, but there are still seriously large deficiencies both in stores and tool kits. Also the absence of spares parts lists and catalogues and the substitution of postal Italian for Mixed stores Lorries, has impeded progress.

(d) MT Adm in the Gruppo. - The unit MT officers are showing a keen interest in their work but the standard of veh maintenance and MT road discipline is still extremely low. In order to remedy this, the Task system of maintenance has been introduced and instructions have been issued by CREME to all Wings and units. The various tasks are to be published in full (in Italian) in Part I Orders wef 1.3.45.

(e) Italian REME Inspections (MT and Ordnance) 'B' Veh Inspections (AFB 406) have been started and Lt Jamie of the Wings staff has been selected as the MT Inspecting Officer. He is rapidly picking up the Wing procedure and should prove a satisfactory MT Inspector.

Although in the British system one REME is made responsible for both MT and Ord it is felt that in the case of the Lagnano Gruppo it will be advisable to divide the responsibility and it is proposed to select a 'mechanically' minded arty officer and train him for Ord Inspections. (CREME has the matter in hand.

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MONTHLY REPORT ON TRAINING OF ARMOURED COMBAT GROUP
AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 45.

PART II - STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TECHNICAL.

A. Artillery. Adequate for operations.

B. Infantry.
(a) Carriers - Secs of carriers have been exercised tactically on rifle coy exercises, in dismounted action. Shortage of spares, such as Bogey wheels, track links etc, is retarding carrier driving instruction.
(b) Mortars - Fire control has improved. Standard of accuracy is high. Pls have been exercised with live ammo on coy schemes. Regt is still incomplete.
(c) A/Tk. - Bn A/Tk guns of Specialist Inf Regt have fired live ammo. 68 Regt have not as yet.
(d) Pioneers - Assault secs have been assisting in mine warfare trg of coys. There are no batteries for detectors as yet. Some secs have completed a course run by the Gp Engineers. Remaining secs are now attending this course.
(e) Intelligence - Int secs have been exercised in observation and map reading. Intelligence in general is behind hand compared to other In specialists. It is only recently that In Cmds and above have at last been persuaded to appreciate the importance of Int officers and their secs.
(f) Signals - Sigs personnel have been used in co-op with rifle coys. The standard of wireless operators is improving greatly.
(g) Drivers - All bns are now complete to Tp in drivers. Road discipline is poor as yet, and the standard of driving is not high.

C. Engineers. No remarks.

325

D. Signals.
(a) Operators - Gaining in experience. Fullerphones still weak.
(b) Linemen - Satisfactory
(c) Switchboard ops - Satisfactory
(d) Dis & MT - MT satisfactory.

E. RASC. The Composite Pls continue to carry out their duties in an efficient manner, and both the forming and issuing of supplies and petrol are functioning smoothly. It is hoped in the next few days that 2nd line mun will be drawn, and this will enable the mun secs to practise their proper role. At the present moment they are only dealing with a small amount of trg mun.

F. Medical. Personnel of the special departments, hygiene sec, pharmacies, etc, are performing their duties satisfactorily and receiving instruction from the Bde. Regt personnel continue to receive instruction.

G. Ordnance. The 2nd Fd Pk have now received a full range of scaling and the

(e) Intelligence - Int secs have been exercised in observation and map reading. Intelligence in general is behind hand compared to other En specialists. It is only recently that En Cmds and above have at last been persuaded to appreciate the importance of Int officers and their secs.
(f) Signals - Sigs personnel have been used in co-op with fifle coys. The standard of wireless operators is improving greatly.
(g) Drivers - All lms are now complete to Mk in drivers. Road discipline is poor as yet, and the standard of driving is not high.

C. Prisoners. No remarks.

325

D. Signals.
(a) Operators - Gaining in experience. Fullerphones still weak.
(b) Linemen - Satisfactory
(c) Switchboard ops - Satisfactory
(d) Dis & RT - 75 satisfactory.

E. RAF. The Composite Pls continue to carry out their duties in an efficient manner, and both the dressing and issuing of supplies and petrol are functioning smoothly. It is hoped in the next few days that 2nd Line sec will be drawn, and this will enable the san secs to practise their proper role. At the present moment they are only dealing with a small amount of trg san.

F. Medical. Personnel of the special departments, hygiene sec, pharmacies, etc, are performing their duties satisfactorily and receiving instruction from the Pls. Regt personnel continue to receive instruction.

G. Ordnance. The Ord Fd Pk have now received a full range of scaling and the personnel there who attended the RAOC School of Instruction will now be able to show their capabilities following their course. So far the impression has been good.

H. REME.
(a) Small Arms - Ten unit armourers have been undergoing a course in repair and maintenance of small arms in the Mech Engrs Wksps under the instruction of the Instrument armourer. Three more series of 10 each are to be given similar instruction.
(b) Instruments - The Wksp is still deficient of its 2 Inst Mechn and it therefore has been impossible to inaugurate a course of instruction. The seriousness of this position has been pointed out to the CME who is now endeavouring to obtain the necessary personnel.
(c) Wireless - At present there are no Italian wireless mechs and the position is as in II(b) above. This matter has been referred to the CME for action.
(d) Gun shop - The one gun fitter available in the Mech Engrs Wksp is at present receiving instruction on Bl army eqpt. More again additional personnel are urgently required, and the matter has been referred to the CME.
(e) MER Inspection (Italian) - The trg of a 'B' Veh Inspecting officer is going ahead and as soon as a suitable Arty officer is available the Gnl Inspections will also commence.

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PROGRESS REPORT ON TRAINING OF ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP
AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 45.

PART III - BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED.

A. Artillery. Regts concentrations are being fired on Feb 26 and Mar 2.
Regt deployment has been practised with staff vehs and was satisfactory.
It has not yet been carried out with all vehs and guns.

B. Infantry. All above coy trg.

C. Engineers. 51 Artieri Coy to complete revision on Bailey.
3 & 51 Artieri Coys to complete the following subjects by 6 Mar-
(a) Second Bailey course - launching on restricted sites; launching without rollers; landing etc.
(b) Roads and tracks - Rapid construction of jeep and mule tracks; British road expedients (Somerfield track, flex, Duckboards etc)
(c) Minefield gapping and marking.

D. Signals. Sigs are as fully trained as they are ever likely to be, short of 324
formation exercises.

E. AGT. An attachment of an RASC officer from AGT Directorate of HQ No 1 District has been arranged to assist in the trg of the unit.
Also attachment has been arranged with an Inf Div in the line, for personnel of the unit to see exactly how AGT services work in the fd.

F. Medical. The arrival of Mio to supervise medical trg is still awaited. In the meantime an extensive fd exercise was arranged by Capt Crane, RAMC who arrived from 13 Corps to supervise trg but who was recalled after four days and before the exercise took place. This exercise, which included all departments of the Medical Units, was carried out in a most efficient manner and showed that the trg by the Italian officers in the past had been extremely thorough. It is hoped to carry out further exercises of this nature in the future.

G. Ordnance. There is no balance of programme as such to be completed. It remains for the Italians - officers and ORs - to be introduced to Tech stores - as against the clothing and general stores which they are handling now. This it is intended shall be effected after the present procedure of work subsides, when two more Italian ORs including a sgt, will, it is proposed, be taken on to work in the Duty.

H. [illegible]
(a) MT officers to be given instruction in unit maintenance Trailr system etc.
(b) Units to be organised according to A(M) Directive.
(c) Establishments of Coy personnel to be made up.
(d) A system of Coy returns (internal and external) to be inaugurated.
(e) Blending and recording of MT serials and sqns to be completed.
(f) Completion of Tech Issues (Heavy and Tractors)
(g) 1000 MTA 4/5s and 700 AD 4/8s to be obtained.

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PART IV - OPERATIONAL AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE.

A. Artillery. Nil.

B. Infantry. 6 "I" officers of Gruppo and Regt HQ and Inf Bns recently attended a short course at Intelligence Trg Centre, and 2 of these officers will shortly attend a short Air Photo Interpretation course.

A short course (2 days for each Inf bn) has been run by a detachment RN FI in mine warfare. A mine museum from 17 ID Coy will be attended from 1 - 7 Mar incl and will tour the Inf, Arty and Engineer units.

C. Engineers. Nil.

D. Signals. Nil.

E. RCT. Nil.

F. Medical. One Italian MO has returned during the period under review from a general course in unit working at the 167 Fd Amb RASC.

G. Ordnance. Nil.

PROGRESS REPORT ON TRAINING OF LEARNER ASSAULT GROUP
AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 45.

PART V - ANY SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

A. Artillery. Veh maintenance due to lack of tools cannot be properly carried out. I understand that some tools are on their way, but have not arrived yet.
All the vehs have not yet been received. This will hamper their operational efficiency particularly as their complete establishment is not a generous one. I have informed the appropriate authorities of this.

B. Infantry.
(a) Shortage of tpt for British Trg Incrment team. This is a really serious handicap due to the great distances between units and sub units in this area.
(b) A recent cut in the flour ration. This gives good grounds for issue amongst the men whose trg is strenuous and who basically are really keen.
(c) The bad state in which eqpt and clothing arrives for issue - in particular, unit vehs. Vehs have no lights, no chains, no seats, frequently no tools, and are often towed in on arrival at bns. Due to the absence of tools and spares, many vehs are off the road.
(d) Lack of serviceable gas capes and great coats.

C. Engineers. Lack of German mines and mechanisms for trg Inf and other arms. Courses for trg Inf Assault Pioneer secs have had to rely almost entirely on black-board work for trg recognition, arming and neutralisation.

D. Signals. Failure of the original Gruppe organisation to define who is responsible for Signals staff duties at HQ Gruppe. Since the Signal Coy is 322 recognised as an independent unit, the Coy Comd can and does take his proper position as in part a staff officer on HQ Gruppe.

E. RAF. No real difficulties have been encountered during this period, except of course the number of personnel who are available for trg, as owing to the usual heavy tpt commitments the majority of the Coy are employed on these details. But as they are carrying out what is their normal operational role, ie. convoy driving, operation of supply and petrol points, this is not so serious as it might be.

F. Medical. No special difficulties have been encountered. Tpt facilities are not, however, sufficient to enable the units to be visited as much as is desirable.

G. Ordnance. Nil.

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PART VI - MORALE, WELFARE, ETC.
(Ref HQ AFC letter [illegible] dated 7 Feb 45)

1. The Training film T.830 - "Officers and Men" - was shown to all units of Legnano Gruppo (all available officers) during the period 19-21 Feb.

2. The following reports on this subject have been submitted by the BLO officers:-

A. Artillery. The officers of this regt have not the same relationship between officers and men as we hope to have in our units. This is doubtless partly due to 20 years of Fascism, and not a feature which will change in a short period. I think the officers themselves are to a certain extent conscious of this, but do not exactly know where to begin. As General Berardi, Chief of the Italian General Staff said to me when he visited the regt at Oriolo "you will not be able to make Englishmen of them."
However, the officers take an active interest in the feeding and clothing of their men. As to welfare in its wider sense, not very much. Their standards (and those of their men) are different from ours.

B. Infantry. Try Increment officers have concentrated on this Italian weakness for some months now. Officers of Coy Comd level and above are actively conscious of it and take a real interest in their mens' welfare. Coy messes have been run in most bns. Officers do visit their mens' meals and often reward good work on try in various ways. The junior officers and NCOs, however, still leave much to be desired in this respect.

C. Engineers. The standard has always been fairly high and little additional emphasis has been necessary. Officers (particularly Comd of En) are very "welfare conscious" and a good relationship exists between officers and men.

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D. Signals. I have never felt that any Italian signal pl officer here stands in a comparable position with his men to a British section officer's. But the Coy Comd does have an excellent approach, and, in particular, has obtained a very considerable degree of loyalty from those of his men who have been with him since early last year. OC No 2 Sig is probably the most successful of the substitute officers, and I consider his pl does work as a team. I think the officers take more personal interest in their men than might have been expected from general reports of conditions in the Italian army, but I do consider that in general they do not yet fulfil the standards required of a good British officer.

E. MT. From what one can judge as an outsider, the problem of man-management has been tackled very thoroughly in this unit. The men seem to be on very good terms with their officers, without undue familiarity. They are well looked after; for example, every man is under cover in a good billet, and has a bed to sleep on. Goodnesse are clean and tidy, and I have personally seen the OC Coy inspecting and tasting the meals. Recreation is

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ing of their men. As to welfare in the wider sense, not very much. Their standards (and those of their men) are different from ours.

B. Infantry. Trg Inspectorate officers have concentrated on this Italian weakness for some months now. Officers of Coy Comd level and above are acutely conscious of it and take a real interest in their mens' welfare. Coy messes have been run in most bns. Officers do visit their mens' meals and often reward good work on trg in various ways. The junior officers and NCOs, however, still leave much to be desired in this respect.

C. Engineers. The standard has always been fairly high and little additional emphasis has been necessary. Officers (particularly Comd of Bn) are very "welfare conscious" and a good relationship exists between officers and men.

321

D. Signals. I have never felt that any Italian signal pl officer here stands in a comparable position with his men to a British section officer's. But the Coy Comd does have an excellent approach, and, in particular, has obtained a very considerable degree of loyalty from those of his men who have been with him since early last year. OC No 2 Sig is probably the most successful of the subaltern officers, and I consider his pl does work as a team. I think the officers take more personal interest in their men than might have been expected from general reports of conditions in the Italian army, but I do consider that in general they do not yet fulfil the standards required of a good British officer.

E. REME. From what one can judge as an outsider, the problem of man-management has been tackled very thoroughly in this unit. The men seem to be on very good terms with their officers, without undue familiarity. They are well looked after; for example, every man is under cover in a good billet, and has a bed to sleep on. Cookhouses are clean and tidy, and I have personally seen the OC Coy inspecting and tasting the meals. Sanitation is also good. There is a definite feeling of pride amongst the men for their unit, and there seem to be quite a competitive spirit between the Tpt pls. Each Tpt pl incidentally displays its own pl sign on the vehs of which the drivers are very proud.

F. Medical. Personnel of the medical units of the Gruppo have been together for some considerable time past, in action and out, and take very considerable pride in their work. The Italian CMO has frequent conferences with his officers, all of whom appear to be on the most cordial terms with him and their brother officers. Discipline is good among the other ranks and the attitude of the officers towards the men appears to be very satisfactory. Recreational outings in the evenings are arranged by the officers and the welfare of patients is looked after as well as circumstances permit. Recreational rooms are provided, but the supply of reading material v/c is scanty. All men are provided with comfortable and clean sleeping quarters; kitchens and latrines are well kept and inspected regularly. Such meals as have been inspected by me during visits to units appear highly satisfactory.

G. Ordnance. In the limited fashion of the Commissariato, the powers of man management shown by Italian officers and NCOs are quite creditable.

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Q

29/2/44

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 17
25 Feb 45

Subject : Progress Report - Q

To :- Rear H.Q. 10 Corps

AFHQ - G3(Org 4)
Q(AE)
DMT
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMIA)
G
ST
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 25 Feb 45 re State of Equipment and Tpt hold by Combat Group POLGOONE is attached as Appx 'A', Parts 1 - 4, hereto.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. Q11 - 17 of 25 Feb 45

Weekly Progress Report No.16 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 25 Feb 45.

1. (a) Controlled Stores - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) |
| 1 | Bren LMG | 500 | 512 | 512 | |
| 2 | PsLAT | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 429 | 429 | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 5389 | 5407 | 5403 | |
| 5 | TSMG | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 415 | 428 | 428 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 309 | 304 | 304 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 302 | 302 | 299 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 16 | 16 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 80 | 80 | |
| 22 | Binoculars No.5 | 19 | - | - | |
| 23 | Rifles Sniper | 24 | 10 | 10 | |
| 24 | Lighting Sets 1 KW | 2 | - | - | |

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(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 56 | 56 | 56 | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 33 | 33 | 33 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 415 | 428 | 428 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 309 | 304 | 304 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 302 | 302 | 299 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 20 | 16 | 16 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 140 | 80 | 80 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 19 | - | - | |
| 22 | Binoculars No.5 | 24 | 10 | 10 | |
| 23 | Rifles Sniper | 2 | - | - | |
| 24 | Lighting Sets 1 KW | | | | |

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group POLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 56 | 56 | 56 | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 33 | 33 | 33 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)
Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 6,519 (large sizes, 6 and over required)

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44.
Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Group - 143 all ranks.

3. Other G.1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)
(a) Mugs drinking 10,000
Cooking equipment - Cookers Portable NIL
Other cooking equipment approximately 50% deficient.

(b) G.1098 scale of equipment collected :-
(i) Vote 7 and 8 Stores 80%
(ii) Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) 70%
(iii) Q controlled stores 95%

...../4. (a)

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11655

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95%./.....



Appx 'A' contd.

4. (a) Tpt - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 336 | 336 | + Includes 6 Lorries 3 ton GS issued in lieu of Lorries Special Hy. |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 60 | 50 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 18 | 18 | |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 302 | 291 | 291 | |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 73 | 59 | 59 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 7 | Lorries CS 3 ton | 334 | 343 + | 343 | Ø Includes 20 Lorries 3 ton 4x4 Stores issued in lieu of 10 Lorries 6 ton Stores. |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 51 Ø | 51 | |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 73 | 73 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 14 | 13 | |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 73 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 229 | 223 | 223 | |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 17 | - | - | |

(b) Tpt - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 15 | 15 | 15 | |
| 2 | Cars | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| 3 | Trucks 15 cwt GS | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| 4 | Trucks 15 cwt Water | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Lorries 3 ton GS | 4 | 4 | 3 | |

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29/32/4

53 B.L.U.
Ref Q11 - 14
12 Feb 45

317

Subject: Progress Report - Q

To: Rear HQ 10 Corps

AFHQ - G3(Org 4)
Q(AE)
IRET
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.(MMIA)
G
ST
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 11 Feb 45 re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE is attached as Appx 'A', Parts 1 - 4, hereto.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref Q11 - 14 of 12 Feb 45

Weekly Progress Report No. 14- State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 11 Feb 45

1. (a) Controlled Stores - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bren LMG | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 2 | PsIAT | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 426 | 426 | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 5389 | 5389 | 5385 | |
| 5 | TSMG | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 415 | 413 | 413 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 309 | 296 | 296 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 302 | 295 | 250 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 16 | 16 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 65 | 64 | 64 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 | |
| 22 | Binoculars No.5 | 19 | - | - | |
| 23 | Rifles Sniper | 24 | 10 | 10 | |

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(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 56 | 56 | 56 | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 33 | 33 | 33 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Blankets 20,000
(b) Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 6,519 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
(c) Boots 800

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 309 | 296 | 296 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 302 | 295 | 250 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 16 | 16 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 65 | 64 | 64 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 | |
| 22 | Binoculars No.5 | 19 | - | - | |
| 23 | Rifles Sniper | 24 | 10 | 10 | |

316

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 56 | 56 | 56 | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 33 | 33 | 33 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Blankets 20,000
(b) Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 6,519 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
(c) Boots 800

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MELA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44.
Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Group - 143 all ranks.

3. Other G.1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)

(a)
Knives table 5,000
Forks table 5,369
Spoons table 5,000
Mugs drinking 10;000
Cooking equipment - Cookers Portable No.1 27
No.2 -
No.3 22
Other cooking equipment approximately 90% deficient.

(b) G.1098 scale of equipment collected :-
(i) Vote 7 and 8 Stores 80%
(ii) Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) 70%
(iii) Q controlled stores 95%

...../ 4. (a)

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95%/..... "2" Appx 'A' contd.

4. (a) Tpt - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 336 | 186 | + Includes 6 Lorries 3 ton GS issued in lieu of Lorries Special Hy. |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 60 | 50 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 18 | 18 | |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 291 | 291 | 291 | |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 73 | 59 | 59 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 340 + | 340 | Ø Includes 20 Lorries 3 ton 4x4 Stores issued in lieu of 10 Lorries 6 ton Stores. |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 51 Ø | 51 | |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 73 | 73 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 13 | 13 | |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 71 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 223 | 223 | |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 35 | - | - | |

(b) Tpt - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 15 | 15 | 1 | |
| 2 | Cars | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| 3 | Trucks 15 cwt GS | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| 4 | Trucks 15 cwt Water | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Lorries 3 ton GS | 4 | 2 | 1 | |

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Ty Progress Report.

To :- Main Eighth Army (2 Copies)
Main 10 Corps (1 Copy)
D.M.T. (2 Copies)
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(SEAC) (1 Copy)

33 B.I.W.
Ref. G2 - 5Z
10 Feb 45

1. Copies as noted above are forwarded of Ty Progress Report on "ROLLBACK" I.C.O.

2. These reports were originally called for by D.M.T. as at the 10th and 25th of each month.

Major
G.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 52 of 10 Feb 45.

Progress Report on Inf Training - Combat Group FOLGORE as on 9 Feb 45

A General Progress

1. The move into this area was carried out with far less trouble than expected, and is regarded by the Gruppo Comd as a minor triumph, and a foretaste of what the Gruppo can do when put to it.

2. This attitude of optimism is reasonable as far as the NEMBO Regt is concerned. They have been training hard and well, and commanders have been putting their backs into it. They still have glaring faults, such as the invariable use on any trg exercise of many times more ammunition than necessary; indifferent use of ground; over-loquacious orders etc: but every effort is being made to eliminate these, and their commander, Col. RONCO, spares neither himself, his officers, nor his men in an effort to produce a good and battle-worthy regiment, and he is succeeding well.

3. The same cannot unfortunately be said of the S.MARCO Regt. The main trouble here is bad leadership, for the men are hardworking and keen, given the encouragement. The Commander, Capt (Naval) TESI, is a doubtful quantity. He never appears on training, and is seldom seen in the office. He appears to pay innumerable visits to the ITALIAN Admiralty, for purposes known best to himself. He has no idea of military organisation, and very little on military matters generally. Apart from one military advisor, his staff is composed entirely of naval officers, who cannot be said to have done their best to adapt themselves to the new conditions. The greater part of such organisation as exists is the result of intervention by the British training Majors. Only one - the most junior - of the Bn Comds is really "up to the job". It is again the trg Majors who have to see that orders from the Gruppo are carried out, and that the most elementary points of administration receive consideration. It is impossible to say how this Regiment would operate, for they often rise to an occasion in a surprising way; but the replacement of at least some of the Naval commanders and staff by experienced Army officers would appear to be the only way to ensure reliability.

4. The recent changes in the Gp Staff are, as far as can yet be seen, much in the interests of the Gp. General MORIGI is out watching training most of the time with at least one senior member of the Gp Staff, and is, quite properly, concentrating on the S.MARCO Regt. These visits are undoubtedly beneficial, although they tend to lead to a great deal of discussion at the expense of practical trg.

5. At Appx "X" is attached a training directive issued to the Gp in the light of orders given to the GSO I 53 BLU on his visit to HQ Eighth Army at the end of January. This has been put into force, and explains the general training policy for this month. The only exception to this is that 4 extra days have now been allotted to the S.MARCO Regt for pl trg at the expense of Regt and Div Trg.

B State of Trg of Specialists and Tradesmen

6. Signal Trg: Is proceeding satisfactorily. The Gp is still short of sufficient line to practise "laddering" adequately, but signal exercises in both R/T and L/T

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B State of Trg of Specialists and Tradesmen

6. Signal Trg: Is proceeding satisfactorily. The Gp is still short of sufficient line to practise "laddering" adequately, but signal exercises in both R/T and L/T are being carried out, with especial care being paid to security, at which the ITALIANS are normally poor.

7. Carriers: With practice, a great improvement in the standard of driving is becoming apparent. The standard of at least two alternative drivers per crew is being aimed at, and should be achieved in both Regiments before the Gp moves; very little tactical trg is being attempted.

8. 3" Mortars: Results of shoots are good, and the adjustment between the 81 mm mortar and the 3" British is proving to be an easy one. As stated in the last report there are too many mechanical failures, due to bad maintenance. The importance of this is being emphasised, and it is hoped that the standard will improve.

The present comm lay-out is adequate provided that mortars are fired as batteries. If detachments or sections are to be put under command of coys, an extra allotment of telephones, cable, and No.48 Sets will be required.

...../9. Assault

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9. Assault Pioneers: One half of the sections have already undergone a course at E.T.E. The other half are at present in process of undergoing it. Training equipment is short; but no trouble is expected here, as ITALIANS are naturally good craftsmen, and very quick to pick up the principles of new equipment.

10. 6 Pr A.Tk Guns: No full-charge shooting at moving targets has yet been carried out, but this is to be done in the near future. Results with Bren attachment have been satisfactory, and the general standard of shooting is adequate. The standard of maintenance is not all that should be wished for, and daily cleaning still has to be insisted on, as opposed to the system preferred by them of cleaning less often and then producing on inspection a spurious impression of cleanliness with the help of dubbin etc.

11. D & M: Is definitely improving. They still frequently drive too fast and carelessly, and maintenance leaves much to be desired; but far fewer towed vehs are seen now than previously. With the proviso that all drivers must have at least 15 hours driving experience, spare drivers are being produced as fast as possible.

The successful move of the Gp was an agreeable reflection on this aspect of trg.

C Balance of Trg to be Completed

12. This is made clear in Appx "X". The tactical trg of offrs and NCOs is proceeding simultaneously. There should be no great difficulty in getting at least one Regt of the Gp completely fit for ops by the target date, and the other for a strictly limited role.

D Courses and Special Training Completed

312

13. Offrs and NCOs W/T Cadre
Gp Carrier Course
Short Cadre in No.48 W/T Set
Gp Arty Course, with 3 Inf Staff Offrs
Regtl Sigs Course, NOCERA
Instrs 3" Mortar Refresher Course
Assault Pioneer Course (within Gp)
Junior Leaders Course, CMTC
Div Air Photo Course
Assault Pioneer Course, ETE
Armourers/Fitters Course
Gp Intelligence Course
Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

14. In Progress

Regt D & M Schools
F.S.S. Course

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Assault Pioneer Course, ETE
Armourers/Fitters Course
Gp Intelligence Course
Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

14. In Progress
Regt D & M Schools
F.S.S. Course
Police and Traffic Control Course
2nd Assault Pioneers Course, ETE

15. To Take Place
2nd Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

E Any Special Difficulties
Only domestic ones, which are being attended to.

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

Appx 'X' to 53 FMU letter
Ref. G2 - 52 of 10 Feb 45

FOLGORE GRUPPO TRAINING DIRECTIVE NO. 1.

1. This directive is issued under orders of Commander 8 Army.

2. It covers the period 1 - 28 Feb 45. In this period of 28 days ALL days, including SUNDAYS and days of celebration, will be working days. Hours of work will normally be 0800 hrs - 1130 hrs and 1300 hrs - 1630 hrs.

3. In the appendices to this directive specimen weekly training programmes are given on the Inf Coy level. The timings of the various subjects may be altered to suit the convenience of Bn and Coy Commanders (e.g. Tuesday's work may be done on Thursday, etc.) but all subjects shown in the specimen programmes will be carried out during the same week and the same length of time allotted to them.

4. Normal bad weather will NOT be permitted to interfere with trg. In the event of abnormally bad weather orders may be given by HQ Gruppo that indoor trg will be carried out instead of outdoor trg.

5. At the end of each week, a return will be submitted to Gruppo HQ, copy to 'D' Trg Inc, by all bns, showing all subjects NOT completed and stating the reason. NIL returns WILL be submitted.

6. Detailed Coy weekly programmes will be submitted by bns to Gruppo HQ, copies to 'D' Trg Inc, three days before the start of the week concerned. These programmes will give subjects, timings, and exact location by map reference.

7. Of the 28 days at disposal, 7 are allotted to the completion of pl trg, 4 to Coy trg, 7 to Bn trg, and 10 to Regt and Div trg. As all units are not at present at the same stage of pl trg, no detailed programme is given for the first 7 days. The following subjects, will however, be completed by all units by the end of that period.

(a) Patrolling, recce and fighting by day and night. The normal strength of a recce patrol may be taken as 3 - 4, and that of a fighting patrol as a platoon.
(b) The pl in the immediate counter-attack.
(c) The pl in all-round defence, with digging-in.
(d) Route marches up to 40km and hill-climbs carrying loads up to 27 kilos.

8. No detailed specimen programmes are given for the specialist pls. The following remarks are for the guidance of Commanders.

(a) Signals.

It is probable that, in the operational role of the Gruppo, L/T will be the main means of communication, and the use of W/T greatly restricted.

Constant practice is therefore required in cable laying and maintenance, tracing and repair offaults, buried and overhead crossings, and ALL signallers must

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311

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It is probable that, in the operational role of the Gruppo, L/T will be the main means of communication, and the use of W/T greatly restricted.

Constant practice is therefore required in cable laying and maintenance, tracing and repair offaults, buried and overhead crossings, and ALL signallers must have a thorough knowledge of the circuit and common faults of the telephone DV, Code names should be taken into use and practised.

Practice in the use of the Fullerphone and superimposing unit is important. Operators should be capable of sending and reading morse at 10 words per minute.

On the No 48 W/T set, maintenance must be of a high standard, and any improvised means of waterproofing will pay a dividend. Economy must be practised, and batteries not worn out needlessly. Code names will be used, and SECURITY strictly observed. Operators must be practised in quick netting, and keeping on the net.

All Sigs trg should be made as realistic as possible, and stations should practice in all types of terrain and at ranges that would be expected operationally, up to the extreme range of sets and cable available.

...../(b) Carriers.

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availab[illegible]/....

(b) Carriers.
The emphasis will be on driving in difficult country, and on giving drivers all the experience possible. Carriers are far more likely to be used for administration than tactical purposes.

(c) 3" mortars.
Emphasis should be laid on the QUICK engagement of targets, with constant switching, O.P. duties should be practised, with the quick and accurate indication of targets. Mortar coys and pls must get used to working as detachments, sections or batteries. Practice in smoke is of low priority. It must be borne in mind that the 3" Mortar is an area weapon rather than one of close precision. Practice is required in constant changes of position, and the quick digging or blowing of emplacements.

(d) Pioneers.
Practice in mine-laying is of the highest priority. Mine lifting, the erection of wire, preparation of demolition charges, booby-trapping, building of obstacles, making of diversions and all normal pioneer tasks must also be practised.

(e) 6 pr A.Tk Gun.
Practice in man-handling and the rapid taking up of posns is necessary. In a static position, the co-ordination of A.Tk defence is normally co-ordinated by HQ RA.

9. Other subjects to be borne in mind for examination, study, and practice where possible are :- 31[illegible]

(a) The chain of supply in the field.
(b) Mule loads.
(c) The standardising of various forms of dress, e.g. FSMO, Battle Order and Fighting Order.
(d) Practice in SHELLREPS, MORTREPS and BOMBREPS.
(e) The forming and training of sniper sections, bearing in mind the importance of fieldcraft and patience as well as marksmanship.
(f) The organisation of echelons.
(g) Map-reading, in which all officers and NCOs must be constantly practised.
(h) Intelligence sections must be given the most realistic trg possible, and function normally in all exercises from bn trg onwards.
(i) Security. This at present is very poor. Main points for concentration are concealment of identity, knowledge of action on becoming POW, secrecy of moves, and a full appreciation of the fact that it is an extremely grave military offence to divulge any information that might by any stretch of imagination be of value to the enemy.

This applies in particular to anyone who by the nature of his duties has access to secret information, e.g. officers, clerks, telephone operators etc.

[illegible]
Major
AAC
"D" Training Team

11668

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Appx "A"

## SHELLREP - BOMBREP - MORTREP

The following letter code will be used for shelling, mortaring or bombing reports. The message will be preceded by the word SHELLREP in the case of shelling reports, BOMBREP in the case of bombing reports, and MORTREP in the case of mortaring reports.

All incidents of shelling, bombing, or mortaring must be reported at once.

A. Time from
B. Time to
C. Map reference of observer
D. Area being shelled, bombed or mortared
E. Number and nature of guns, aircraft, or mortars
F. Number and nature of shells, bombs, or mortar bombs
G. Damage done
H. Bearing to flash or sound (for shelling or mortaring only)

309

Example of MORTREP.

MORTREP A 1640 B 1655 C 654123 D Village 702153 E 2 x 81mm F 10 HE G Coy HQ registered H 248° Grid.

11669

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Coy Trg.

1st day. - March not less than 8 km to trg area, with full equipment and all necessary tools. Attack a position, consolidate, and dig in.

2nd day.

Morning - Short hill climb, carrying not less than 20 kilos.

Afternoon - Rest.

Night - Repeat 1st day's programme.

3rd day

Morning - Rest.

Afternoon - Practise patrols recce and fighting.

Night - Practise fighting patrols.

4th day - The immediate counter-attack.

11679

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Appx "C"

| Bn Training | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| "A" Bn | Scheme | Scheme until relieved by "B" Bn | Free day | Bn Comd's disposal | Route march with W/T can |
| "B" Bn. | Route march with W/T can. | Morning<br>Practise Coy def posns.<br>Aftn - Rest.<br>1800 hrs.<br>Relieve "A" Bn on scheme. | Scheme. | Scheme until 1800 hrs. | Free day |
| "C" Bn | Endurance test in hills. | Route march with W/T can. | Bn Comdr's disposal. | Morning.<br>Practise Coy def posns.<br>Aftn - Rest.<br>1800 hrs.<br>Relieve "B" Bn on Scheme. | Scheme |

(a) Scheme.

The object of the scheme is that all bns practise, in miniature, a spell in the line. "A" a posn; digs in and consolidates; practises immediate counter attack by day; recces night patrols; c prepares alternative posns; sends out night patrols; practises immediate night counter attack; stand day patrols; practises maintenance in the field.

Normal RA and RE and FA will be placed under command.

(b) Route march with W/T can.

To be not less than 32 Km, carrying not less than 20 Kg.

(c) Endurance test in hills.

By platoons, to be not less than 32 Km, carrying not less than 20 Kg.

N.B. All available officers to be present on all training, wearing the identical dress as ORs and

C.O.

1671

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Appx "C"

| y 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| me until ceved by "B" Bn | Free day | Bn Comd's disposal | Route march with W/T can | Morning<br>Practise coy def posns.<br>Afn - Rest.<br>1800 hrs<br>Relieve "C" Bn in scheme. | Leave scheme at first light.<br>Morning<br>Rest till 1400.<br>1400<br>3 hour hill climb. Minimum weight 20 kilos. |
| ning<br>ctise Coy posns.<br>- Rest.<br>0 hrs.<br>ieve "A" Bn cheme. | Scheme. | Scheme until 1800 hrs. | Free day | Bn Comdr's disposal. | Endurance test in hills. |
| te march n W/T can. | Bn Comdr's disposal. | Morning.<br>Practise Coy def posns.<br>Afn - Rest.<br>1800 hrs.<br>Relieve "B" Bn on Scheme. | Scheme | Scheme until 1800 hrs | Free day |

that all bns practise, in miniature, a spell in the line. "A" Bn first attacks and captures
ises immediate counter attack by day; recces night patrols; establishes L/T and W/T cans;
ight patrols; practises immediate night counter attack; stands to and stands down; sends out
e field.
be placed under command.

than 32 Km, carrying not less than 20 Kg.

be not less than 32 Km, carrying not less than 20 Kg.

esent on all training, wearing the identical dress as Offs and carrying the same loads.

208

Appx 'B' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 52 of 10 Feb 45.

Training Progress Report - FOLGORE Artillery Regt

A General Progress

The move from TELESE (N4591) to new area was completed in the main successfully. Of the vehicles engaged, there were several minor breakdowns, but only one accident, which was creditable in view of the number of inexperienced drivers engaged and the rigorous weather conditions.

During the first week in the new area, Btys have been settling in and carrying out maintenance. Bty Drill orders have now recommenced and special attention is being paid to deployment and staff training.

1. Gun Drill

(a) Gun Drill is efficient, but is not by any means smart. This is due partly to the reluctance of GPO's to order "Rest" and "Stand-easy". The result is that the gunners seldom kneel up.

(b) Attention is being paid to laying, which has been erratic in the past.

(c) Gun Nos. tend to be careless about ammunition.

(d) All the above points are receiving attention from Troop Officers.

2. Gunnery

Officers and specialists have reached a fair standard of efficiency in their duties. Employment of Smoke, working out barrages and Command Post Schemes are all in the current training programme.

3. Signals

(a) Line Laying with reference to laying from trucks is being practised. Demonstrations have been given to all Fd Btys by 2 British Signal serjeants. The Regt has, apart from this, had ample practice in the maintenance of line communications.

(b) Wireless is working well in all except one Bty, where the No.11 Sets are still giving trouble. This problem is receiving attention from SO R.Sigs of this BLU. There remains a certain dissatisfaction and lack of confidence in the No.11 sets and a yearning for No.22's.

4. M.T.

(a) The standard of driving is reasonable. Maintenance is attempted, but is still not good. Lack of tools and knowledge among drivers are the main causes. Supervision appears adequate.

(b) Too many vehicles are off the road for minor troubles and spare parts are not available. The LADs are still not equipped with spares or breakdown lorries and thus cannot make use of the trained fitters at their disposal.

(c) Lack of spares are the most vital problem at present.

B State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen

1. State of training is satisfactory with the following exceptions :-

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(c) Lack of spares are the most vital problem at present.

B State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen

1. State of training is satisfactory with the following exceptions :-

(a) MF fitters need more experience with British vehicles.

(b) Gunfitters are inclined to send guns into workshops which could be dealt with themselves, as they have all been trained in British equipments.

(c) Cobblers, equipment repairers and armourers are available, but have received no tools yet.

C Balance of Training to be Completed

1. 25 Pr

(a) Regimental Targets have not been practised. It is hoped to have a regimental day about Feb 20 preceded by a regimental signal scheme.

(b) Smoke: Some Smoke will be shot at the next shooting practice. British methods are being studied. Training in Smoke shoots is backward as the regiment has never shot on a range suitable for smoke screens.

(c) Course Shooting: Officers other than Troop and Bty commanders have had little chance of observing and correcting shot, owing to the need to train them in their own jobs.

2. 40 mm LAA

The Bty has not yet had a chance of practising shooting as Air co-operation was not possible when they went to a practice camp at PAESTUM. It is hoped to arrange this as soon as possible.

...../3. 17 Pr

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3. 17 Pr

(a) No important items of Training outstanding.
(b) The Bty will shoot between Feb 12 - 14 near PORTO D'ASCOLI (B9179).

D Courses and Special Training Completed

1. An Intelligence course was run by British "I" officers Feb 4 - 8, which was attended by 7 officers of the regiment.

2. Otherwise no courses or special training have taken place since last progress report.

E Special Difficulties Encountered

1. Calibration

The Regt's guns have only rough calibration data in their history sheets; in many cases wear figures only. They are not shooting together and it is essential to get them calibrated before the regt goes into the line. It would be preferable that they should be calibrated before the regt's next shooting practice.

2. Publications and Stationery

(a) Certain British publications are still outstanding, notably

Smoke Range Tables
A.T. Vol III
Maintenance Manuals

305

(b) The Regt is also short of stationery and Army Forms e.g. Target Record forms.

(c) For both these items, indenting does not seem to be very successful.

3. Controlled & Ancillary Stores

There are still many items outstanding, most important of which are 4 Directors and 1 Stiffkey stick for the LAA Bty.

4. Transport

(a) The transport situation is acute. A large proportion of the trucks are class ID and have no tools and the tools on new vehicles are scarce.

(b) Adequate spare parts are not at present available.

(c) The Regt has received only 8 of its cars 2 str or 4 str (entitlement is 37) and no recce cars.

(d) Transport of the Regt is in quantity actually lower than that of an equivalent English unit. The result is that there is no reserve. For example, a British Bty can probably with one of its 15cwt's off the road, but for Italians this creates a crisis.

(e) If a mobile role is ever contemplated for the Regiment, it will be necessary to decrease the number of men on the War Establishment drastically and slightly increase the amount of transport.

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There are certain items which savour of spoiling the ship for a ha'penny-worth of tar, e.g. a British 25 pr troop has 3 motor-cycles, an Italian troop only one.

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Appx "J" to 53 BLU letter
Ref. B2 - 52 of 10 Feb 45

Training Progress Report - ENGINEER BN - Combat Group FOLGORE.

A. General Progress.

Both companies could now be put into action, though more training will improve the standard considerably. The officers are the main weakness and evening lectures have been held to improve their knowledge. It has been difficult to get the companies to adopt the British system of command, the OCs being apt to do far too much administration and not learn enough about the field work. This tendency is being gradually overcome. 10 Fd Coy (the non-parachutist coy) have done much better in training than the other company, probably because they are better disciplined.

In the last week a platoon of 571 Fd Coy RE has been giving demonstrations in bridging, mine warfare and water supply, which have been most useful and have set a fairly high standard for the Italians to follow.

Both the companies are now almost up to British standards of Bailey bridging, mine warfare, water supply and demolitions.

B. State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

1. Compressor men have almost completed their training.
2. There is now a sufficient number of men who are capable of operating the pumps for a water point.

C. Balance of Training to be Completed.

25% Dry Bailey Bridging
10% Mine Warfare
50% Fieldcraft and Battle Training
30% Fieldworks and Water Supply
5% Demolitions.

304

D. Courses and Special Training Completed.

Nil.

E. Special Difficulties.

A new company organization has been produced but they are still working on the old S.E.L. which makes distribution of tools etc difficult.

Appx 'D' to 53 RLU letter
Ref. G2 - 52 of 10 Feb 45

Training Progress Report - SIGNALS COY, Combat Group FOLGORE.

A. General Progress.

1. Infantry.

(a) In view of recent reports from forward Groups, training in line construction and maintenance is being stressed. This is being carried out under the guidance of two British Sergeants R.Sigs.

(b) The use of W/T within the Infantry Regiments has already reached a high standard.

2. Artillery.

(a) The standard of W/T training is highly satisfactory.

(b) Stress is now being laid on the use of lines. Instruction is given by British R.Sigs Sergeants.

(c) In the near future, shoots will be carried out by the Arty Regt employing the Signals Platoon in its normal role, giving valuable practical training.

3. Signals Coy.

(a) Installation of lines and switchboards in the new area has afforded useful practical training to linemen and TSBOs.

(b) The move to the new area has given MT drivers and the few DRs possessing m/cs useful experience and training.

(c) The signals platoons of the Coy are in the process of joining their appropriate Regts. This operation will be completed by 12 Feb.

303

B. State of Training of Tradesmen.

1. Despatch Riders.

A total of 8 m/cs has now been received out of the establishment of 35. The lack of m/cs is therefore hampering training of individual DRs. It is expected that a further release of m/cs will arrive shortly.

2. Electricians Signal and Battery Charging.

Training of these may be regarded as complete and satisfactory.

3. Instrument Mechanics.

Having continually manned the I.M's workshop these have now reached a fair state of proficiency in the repair and maintenance of all the technical equipment within the Group signals.

4. Linemen.

These have installed and are maintaining a fairly extensive line network in the new area. Stress is being laid on their training, especially as

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(c) In the near future, shoots will be carried out by the Arty Regt employing the Signals Platoon in its normal role, giving valuable practical training.

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These have installed and are maintaining a fairly extensive line network in the new area. Stress is being laid on their training, especially as regards the routing of lines and speedy maintenance. A good supply of insulation tape has now been received enabling training in jointing to be carried out more successfully.

5. Operators.

W/T training has gone ahead and is now, from the point of view of general operating and handling, good. The printed Italian version of 'Procedure' has been received and distributed. Training is now aimed at perfecting the use of standard procedure.

6. Drivers.

The recent move provided excellent practical training for the drivers. The vehicles on a recent inspection were found to be clean and reasonably well maintained.

C. Balance of Training to be Completed.

Henceforth training will concentrate on using the signals platoons in their normal tactical role with their formations. Stress will be laid on obtaining good line communications speedily. Perfection in the use of Standard Procedure on the part of officers and operators concerned has yet to be achieved.

...../ D. Courses...

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

Appx 'D' (contd)

achieved./....

D. Courses and Special Training Completed.

The G II (Security) of X Branch EIGHTH ARMY visited the Group recently and gave lectures on signal security to the officers of the HLU, personnel of the Rear Link signals and to all officers of the Signals Coy and Regimental Signals officers. Lectures have also been given on R/T procedure incorporating the practical use of W/T sets, and on SLIDEX to the officers of the HLU, also on signal security to personnel of the Rear Link Signals by the SO R.Sigs.

E. Equipment.

A REME 'Z' lorry will visit the Group in the near future to inspect and carry out necessary repairs on W/T sets and technical equipment within the Group signals.

F. Special Difficulties.

The deficiency of m/cs is still felt.

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

Subject: Discipline - De[illegible]ters

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref A7 - 32
29 Dec 44

1. Ref your HQ signals SS501, 502, 503 of 27 Dec 44.

2. The question of desertion from Combat Gp FOLGORE is being investigated and a report will be submitted to your HQ in due course.

3. I visited 51 BLU immediately before Xmas and was informed by them that Combat Gp CREMONA had experienced an unduly large number of deserters since moving to their new location. It is obviously essential to prevent this happening as far as is possible with Combat Gp FOLGORE.

4. Early this month enquiries were made at this HQ by 78 Section S.I.B., AFHQ re the whereabouts of a Captain Gay of the Italian Army who it was desired to interrogate in connection with a war crime.

5. Enquiries were made immediately and the two attached reports were submitted by the Combat Gp.

6. It is considered that every effort should be made to obtain the return of any men found with "F" Recce Regt who are deserters from Combat Gp FOLGORE and on their return it will be arranged that they are dealt with severely.

7. Please inform this HQ if any assistance can be given in this matter.

G. H. Morris
Lt. Col.
G.S.

301

'NEMBO' Parachute Regt. TRANSLATION.

HQ Sec 3 Bn.

Ref 1327/R.U. di prot 7 Dec 44.

Subject :- Captain Gay.

To :- H.Q. Combat Group [illegible]

Infor :- HQ 'NEMBO' Parachute Regt.

(a) With reference to your telephone request I communicate the following .-
It does not appear that Captain Gay has been seen in this area.

(b) On 16 Nov Lt Aldo Trincas at present working with the 'F' Recce Unit introduced himself asking if he could take 300 automatice rifle magazines. With the said officer was Sgt Piero Piatti who was absent without leave from the Bn 18 Oct 44 and had joined the strength of he 'F' Recce Unit.

When the lorry set off, some soldiers of the Bn, a few carrying complete kit and others blankets, went off with it. The matter was discovered and the lorry was stopped at Telese, and 2/Lt Trincas with the soldiers returned to the Bn. Questioned, a few admitted that they wished to join the 'F' Recce Unit ... and others denied such a proposition.

Sgt Piatti was arrested by me and put in the local prison, he has since been released and has again joined the 'F' Recce Unit in accordance with the Regt C?'s order.

(c) On 26 Nov 2/Lt Genzini and 2/Lt Scaramari both of the 'F' Recce Unit came to find men to join the unit. Some officers deplored this form of encouragement that the 'F' Recce Unit offers to soldiers willing to go. The two officers answered that they had need to make up for the losses and that however from time to time they had authority from the General Staff.

From 16 Nov (date of arrival of 2/Lt Trincas) up till today 20 soldiers have absented themselves (see list attached) and it may be presumed that most of them have gone to the 'F' Recce Unit. Amongst these is the Parachutist Camiciottoli who had tried to absent himself on 16 Nov in 2/Lt Trincas's lorry.

Some soldiers had English clothes and arms. Other previous absentees were found at the 'F' Recce Unit.

(d) It is not certain that real propaganda was used to instigate the soldiers to join the 'F' Recce Unit but on the contrary were skilfully were made known the advantages which the men of the said unit would enjoy : rations of English troops, possibility of leave and frequent passes, plenty of transport, situated in a locality where the men could enjoy themselves to the fullest extent.

Indeed during the period that the 185 Parachute Regt was working with the English Division in Tuscany, the soldiers of the 'F' Recce Unit were continually making excursions to Florence on lorries and motorcycles.

(e) Captain Gay deserted from the Regt on 9 Sep 43 taking with him his company (8th of 3rd Bn) with armaments, equipment, money and transport etc.

During the inquest and after the questioning some soldiers of the Regt the following resulted :-

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a proposition.

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During the inquest and after the questioning some soldiers of the Regt the following resulted :-

(1) That with the exception of the Bn CC and Coy OCs, the other officers, NCOs and parachutists believed that they were all being used to attack the Germans again - only on the day 11 Sep, when every vehicle received a pass on which it was stated the 3rd Bn was to come under the direct command of the 26th German Division, did the soldiers understand the treachery of the OCs and the Bn was disbanded -

(2) That Captain Gay and Romano were the only two OCs who during a conference held in the afternoon of 9 Sep at 'Soveria Mannella' by Captain Sala temporary OC of the 3rd Bn (the real OC was myself, but at that time I was temporary commander of the Regt) instigated the latter to follow the Germans, threatening him whenever he did not make a decision, they having the full support of their men would have abandoned him.

Captain Gay by order of the LI C.A. has been accused by the Military War Tribunal, Naples, for complicity in the following :-

(a) Unauthorised movements of military forces.
(b) Disobedience.
(c) Abandoning the Corps to fight against the Italians.
(d) Action detrimental to the operation of the Armed Forces.

(Signed) Angelo Massimino

MAGGIORE COMANDATE.

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1683

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"RENO" Evacuate Hosp.

HQ Det 3 Bn.

List of soldiers absent without leave who have no longer returned from 16 Nov 44 to 7 Dec 44.

| Unit | Rank | Surname | Christian Name | Date of absence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 Coy | Sold. | D'ANGELO | Felice | 6 Dec 44 |
| 11 " | Parac. | FORMIA | Giuseppe | 5 Dec 44 |
| 11 " | " | BORGAN | Lino | 7 Dec 44 |
| 11 " | " | LUCIO | Mario | 7 Dec 44 |
| 12 " | Sold. | FARAGLIA | Alessandro | 3 Dec 44 |
| 9 " | Parac. | FILIPA | Francesco | 1 Dec 44 |
| 9 " | " | PEROLFI | Alfredo | 1 Dec 44 |
| 9 " | " | BOMASCHINI | Antonio | 1 Dec 44 |
| HQ | C. Magg. | COCCIOLO | Luigi | 1 Dec 44 |
| HQ | " | D'ANASTASIO | Armando | 27 Nov 44 |
| HQ | Driver | ANTONIOLI | Aldo | 27 Nov 44 |
| HQ | Sold. | COSMI | Mario | 27 Nov 44 |
| 9 Coy | Parac. | BARBAFTI | Bruno | 27 Nov 44 |
| 12 Coy | " | DAL BE | Paolo | 27 Nov 44 |
| 12 " | " | PAGLI | Bruno | 26 Nov 44 |
| 10 " | " | DE CICCO | Francesco | 25 Nov 44 |
| 9 " | Sold. | COSSI | Antonio | 22 Nov 44 |
| HQ | " | [illegible] | Gennaro | 22 Nov 44 |
| HQ | " | WELTONER | Paolo | 22 Nov 44 |
| HQ | Parac. | CAMICIOTTOLI | Dagoberto | 22 Nov 44 |
| 10 Coy | | | | |

TRANSLATION

HQ COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE

General Staff Office - 2 Branch, Personal & Secret

2152/Para 23 Dec 44

Subject: Captain Gay

To :- 53 B.A.U.

The 3rd Bn of the NEMBO Parachutist Regt is constituted of personnel who belonged to 185 Para Regt, which in 1943 operated independently in SICILY and CALABRIA.

At the Armistice, one of those officers who united with the Germans, and brought pressure to bear to get a part of his own battalion to follow him, was Capt Gay who was then commanding 8 Coy.

Due to those activities he was denounced to War Military Tribunal in NAPLES in March 1944 (see Major Massimino's statement, copy of which was sent as appx to 4177/Para of 11 Dec).

This officer today would command a unit called 1st Sqn "F Recce" Paratroopers the members of which would be in TUSCANY. He has worked up intense action within the Bn to get its soldiers to join his unit, where they would enjoy a treatment throughout identical to the troops of the United Nations.

The ORs who left the 3rd Bn turn out to have entered the abovenamed unit; it appears certain re the Paratroopers LOVATTI Mario, GORLA Luigi and VALENTINI Primo. These men were denounced as deserters and of stealing the equipment they took with them.

On 16 Nov, professing to be calling for some empty LMG magazines, the 295 unit reported first to the Bn and then to the NEMBO Regt. As an offr of the 1st Sqn, 2nd Lt TRINCAS Aldo. By watching over him and the vehicle in his charge, an attempt by several ORs to leave the Bn was thwarted.

Since this officer's activities of luring the men away could not be proven, the NEMBO Regt had to be content with having both officer and vehicle sent away immediately. In the period shortly after his leave (22Nov - 7 Dec), inspite of vigilance arranged beforehand, 20 ORs deserted the Regt.

Neither the deserters nor the truck, which was waiting somewhere in CAMPANIA to take them to the 1st Sqn could be traced through investigations carried out by the Dependent Commands and C.C.R.R.

The ORs who went away taking with them their weapons and equipment are being posted as deserters and accused of stealing military equipment. I arranged to have any theft of equipment reported to this HQ.

It will be advantageous if the competent authorities get the deserters to

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The ORs who went away taking with them their weapons and equipment are being posted as deserters and accused of stealing military equipment. I arranged to have any theft of equipment reported to this HQ.

It will be advantageous if the competent authorities get the deserters to return, and that necessary steps be taken to prevent any similar cases of desertion in other formations taking place, particularly if these are, like Combat Gp FALCONE, intended for operations.

(Signed) G.B.Cangini.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Capt Gay - 'F' Recce Sqn

TO : 15 Army Group

Copy to: 55 B.L.U.

1. From the attached copies of correspondence received on the activities of Capt Gay it will be seen that this officer, ~~of doubtful~~ Wierd, has been illicitly ~~& illegally~~ enlisting Italian soldiers ~~&~~ already serving in Combat Gps and other units ~~&~~ into 'F' Recce Sqn.

2. This unauthorised enlistment, which takes the form of exciting men to desert from their units is strongly deprecated by this H.Q. more especially in view of the fact that the activities of Capt Gay and his officers have not been restricted to one combat Gp. Both the FRIULI and LEGNANO Gps have reported desertions following the visits of Capt Gay or his collaborators. 29.

3. In view of the present serious problem of desertions in the combat gps and for the necessity of taking all possible steps to prevent absenteeism and improve the morale of the Italian Army and, in particular, of the Combat Gps, it is requested that the C.O. of 'F' Recce Sqn be notified of the activities of Capt Gay and be instructed to take prompt action in his case.

4. May this H.Q. please be kept informed of action taken.

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

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4. May t is H.Q. please be kept informed of action taken.

Major General
M.M.I.A.

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

[illegible] PROGRESS REPORT NO.2

SECRET

19 [illegible]

Jan 45.

[illegible]
[illegible]

PART I - GENERAL PROGRESS TO 7 JAN 45

1. [illegible].

Progress has been achieved in Gun Drill, Laying, Survey and Morse. Instruction in Small Arms has been confined to maintenance and that chiefly on wet days.

Each Group (3½) runs its own courses for Speed Maps and Elementary Signals.

2. [illegible].

Progress in training in Close Order Drill, Gun Drill, Musketry, Instruction, Field Craft and Tactics. Co-operation in "Scrr". Training of Tradesmen and Specialists has been limited by lack of facilities, but a certain amount is being achieved with the equipment and material available. There will be a further surge as British special equipment commences to arrive.

3. [illegible].

Personnel and Training.

Deficiencies of Officers, Specialists and Instructors still exist in the Signal Coy. It is imperative that these deficiencies be made up as soon as possible if training is not to be seriously held up.

The present course at [illegible] Finishes on 11 Jan and intensive training of all signallers (Regimental and Sig Pl personnel) will commence on 17 Jan and be continued for one month.

Training of Base Area Signals is proceeding satisfactorily.

4. [illegible].

Training in Battalions is progressing. If this is not yet entirely satisfactory the reason would appear to be the difficulties encountered in adapting the smaller Italian Officers and certain British methods.

The issue of all ranks Lorose Little to be desired. The issue of Battle Dress and Overcoats clothing has had good effect on morale generally.

Battalions are concentrating on small arms training, inspections and elementary instruction in Pl tactics. Fortnightly exercises are being [illegible] and Coy, but Coy exercises are being started every day.

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2. [illegible]

[illegible] of training in [illegible] Bridging, Bridge Building, and Warfare, Mobile Bridging, Demolitions, Road and Track Construction in "Air". Training on [illegible] has been limited by lack of facilities, but a certain amount is being achieved with the equipment and material available. This will be greatly accelerated when special equipment expected to arrive.

3. [illegible]

Essential Training.

Deficiencies of officers and Instructors are still existing in the Signal Coy. It is important that these deficiencies be made up as soon as possible as training is not to be seriously held up.

The present course at MOGADISCIO finishes on 11 Jan and intensive training of all dispatchers (Regimental and Signal personnel) will commence on 17 Jan and be continued for one month.

Training of Boer Link Signals is proceeding satisfactorily.

4. [illegible]

Training in Battalions is progressing. If this is not yet entirely satisfactory the reason would appear to be the difficulties encountered in welding the mainly Italian Officers to unfamiliar British methods.

The [illegible] all ranks leaves little to be desired. The issue of battle dress and new clothing has had good effect on morale generally.

Battalions are concentrating on small arms training, inspections and elementary instruction in Fd tactics. Practical exercises are being confined to the Pl level, but Coy problems are being studied every day.

Squads are at present large and sometimes unwieldly. This is due to a short supply of really good instructors. This situation will improve from week to week.

5. SERVICES.

(a) RT

(i) Driving and Maintenance.

Driver training is progressing satisfactorily in both the Autocar School and the Conduttori School. It is anticipated that by 15 Jan the Supply and Transport Coy will have one transport platoon

2/.....Sheet

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complete in drivers(Autieri). The Conduttori School will complete their tour of instruction at 155 Artillery Regt. on 13 Jan and it is estimated that the Regt. will have at least six fully trained drivers per Gruppo(Bty).

(ii) Maintenance Role.

The training of composite Pls is partly achieved by carrying out normal maintenance routine. The following duties are being satisfactorily executed:-

(a) Receipt of blankets from DADOS and issues to all Gruppo units by No.2 Composite Pl.

(b) Unloading and collection of supplies at railhead.

(c) Receipt, maintenance and issuing of rations to all Gruppo units by No.1 Composite Pl.

(d) Operation and maintenance of POL supply point for all Gruppo vehicles.

(b) Ordnance

Training in the recognition of British stores and the Receipt and Issue procedure continues. A series of lectures have been given on the organisation and activity of an Ordnance Field Park, and the channels of supply from the Base Ordnance Depot to the troops. 29J

6. GENERAL

In spite of the many difficulties training has on the whole, made a good start, but it is not yet possible to make a forecast of when the Division will be fit for an operational role.

PART II - STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

7. See Appendix 'A' attached

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(c) Receipt & issue of rations to all Gruppo units by No. 2 Composite Pl.

(b) Unloading and collection of supplies at railhead.

(c) Receipt, maintenance and issuing of rations to all Gruppo units by No. 1 Composite Pl.

(d) Operation and maintenance of POL supply point for all Gruppo vehicles.

(b) Ordnance

Training in the recognition of British stores and the Receipt and Issue procedure continues. A series of lectures have been given on the organization and activity of an Ordnance Field Park, and the channels of supply from the Base Ordnance Depot to the troops. 290

6. GENERAL

In spite of the many difficulties training has on the whole, made a good start, but it is not yet possible to make a forecast of when the Division will be fit for an operational role.

PART II - STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

7. See Appendix 'A' attached

PART III - BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED

8. SPECIALIST TRAINING

See Appendix 'A' attached.

3/.....sheet

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9. NON SPECIALIST INDIVIDUAL TRAINING.

(a) Artillery. 99%

(b) Engineers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Elementary Bailey Bridging | 85% |
| Mine Warfare | 80% |
| Fieldworks | 70% |
| Demolitions | 70% |
| Weapon Training | 100% |
| Road and Track Construction | 70% |
| Driving and maintenance of Vehicles | 100% |
| Water Supply | 100% |
| Fieldcraft and Battledrill | 100% |
| Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant | 100% |

(c) Signals.

| | |
|---|---|
| Driving and maintenance | 100% |
| Weapon Training | 100% |

(d) Infantry.

| | |
|---|---|
| Instructor training | 30% |
| Individual training | 50% |

Range firing. Pistol and Sten.
TEWTS, signal exercises and administrative exercises for Staff Officers.

(e) Service. 29%

| | |
|---|---|
| Training in Field duties of ST Coy. | 100% |
| Weapon Training | 100% |

PART IV - COURSES AND SPECIALIST TRAINING COMPLETED.

10. COURSES COMPLETED.

See Appendix 'A' to 56 MLU Progress Report dated 29 Dec 44.

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(c) Signals.

| | |
|---|---|
| Driving and Maintenance | 100% |
| Weapon Training | 100% |

(d) Infantry.

| | |
|---|---|
| Instructor training | 30% |
| Individual training | 90% |

Range firing. Section and Coy.
TEWTS, signal exercises and administrative exercises for Staff Officers.

29*

(e) Survey.

| | |
|---|---|
| Training in Field duties of ST Coy. | 100% |
| Weapon Training | 100% |

PART IV - COURSES AND SPECIALIST TRAINING COMPLETED.

10. COURSES COMPLETED.

See Appendix 'A' to 56 BLU Progress Report dated 29 Dec 44.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Serial | 1. | 25 pdr Specialist | 4 ORs |
| " | 11. | 3" Mortar | 12 ORs |
| " | 12. | 6 pdr. | 12 ORs |

50 half trained drivers have been classified as fully trained.

11. GENERAL.

(a) Courses of instruction in the Division are proceeding satisfactorily, with the exception of the Junior Leader's Course. This made a false start, the Italian instructors were not up to standard, and the administrative arrangements broke down. It has been found necessary to suspend the course for a few days and to rearrange it completely.

(b) For details of courses see Appendix 'A' to 56 BLU Progress Report No. 1 dated 29 Dec 44. and Appendix 'B' attached.

4/.....Sheet.

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## PART V - SPECIALIST EQUIPS.

12. ARTILLERY.

(a) Sketch of gun sights.

(b) Sample of gun tool.

(c) Proof of supervision by sudden explosion due to the incorrect amount of powder with which they have to cope each day.

(d) Sketch of radiolocator.

13. ENGINEERS.

(a) Training.

As to the possibility of providing climbing boots for part time and be doing militia training, since most of the training consists of outdoor work which cannot be carried out in inclement weather, the provision of gloves, sou'wester, groundsheets is considered essential.

(b) Transport.

The scope of training will be enlarged when more transport is available for training purposes. At present all available transport is tied up in unit administration and works within the Group.

(c) Technical Pamphlets.

The existing pamphlets in Italian on Mine Warfare and Bailey Bridging are inaccurately translated. It is understood that new and more comprehensive translations are being prepared and it is requested that they be provided in the immediate future.

29

14. SIGNALS.

A further release of switchboards (UC) 10 Line is required. The seven held at present are insufficient for training.

15. EQUIPMENT.

Cold, wet and lack of suitable clothes in which to work.
Lack of pioneer kit with which to improvise training devices.

16. STORES.

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(a) Clothing.

[illegible] to the [illegible] of [illegible] clothing for both [illegible] and [illegible] as a result, since most of the training consists of outdoor work which cannot be carried out in inclement weather. The provision of gloves, oilskins and groundsheets is considered essential.

(b) Transport.

The scope of training will be enlarged when more transport is available for training purposes. At present all available transport is tied up in unit administration and works within the Group.

(c) Technical Pamphlets.

The existing pamphlets in Italian on the Tractor and Bailey Bridging are inaccurately translated. It is understood that new and more comprehensive translations are being prepared and it is requested that they be provided in the immediate future.

29.

14. SIGNALS.

A further release of switchboards (UC) 10 Line is required. The seven held at present are insufficient for training.

15. TRAINING.

Cold, wet and lack of suitable clothes in which to train.
Lack of pioneer kit with which to improvise training devices.

16. SERVICES.

Driving and maintenance - shortage of vehicles and poor condition of vehicles in use. Antiochi School have 2 x 15 cwt GS 4 x 2 - Class V
Umbrettoni School have 3 x 15 cwt GS 4 x 2 - Class V

17. GENERAL.

(a) Italian Instructors.

The majority of Italian Officers and NCOs are poor instructors, and there is a great deal of talk and not much action. The effect on a squad when its British instructor takes over is electrical.

5/.....Sheet

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(b) Weather Conditions.

Rain and snow are seriously hindering training, especially as a great part of the Gruppo is in bivouacs.

(c) Shortage of Personnel.

The Gruppo is short of about 1600 men.

(d) Drivers.

Over 1000 are required. Intensive training is being carried out in the Division, but the problem cannot be solved with present resources.

PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS.

18. ASSISTANCE FROM C.A.T.C. AND I.R.T.D.

(a) On 23 Dec a party of officers visited the Guards Bn. I.R.T.D. and saw demonstrations of drill, range discipline, 2" mortar and interior economy.

(b) Four senior officers have attended courses at the C.A.T.C. as spectators.

(c) On 8th and 9th Jan the C.A.T.C. gave mine and booby trap demonstrations.

19. COMBAT GROUP, DEFENCE EXERCISE NO. 1.

This exercise was held on 12 Jan in a model room at the C.A.T.C. It was conducted by the Div Chief of Staff, and was attended by 34 senior officers, including the Regimental Commanders. There was lengthy and animated discussion on the tactical and administrative layout of a Combat Group in defence, and it is thought that the exercise was of considerable value.

20. TRAINING STORES AND EQUIPMENT.

The majority of items from MULGORE have been received. Equipment from M[illegible] is awaited. Principal items still required are:-

L.Cs.
Transport.

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PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS.

18. ASSISTANCE FROM C.A.T.C. AND IRTD.

(a) On 23 Dec a party of officers visited the Guards Bn. IRTD. and saw demonstrations of drill, range discipline, 2" Mortar and interior economy.

(b) Four senior officers have attended courses at the C.A.T.C. as spectators.

(c) On 8th and 9th Jan the C.A.T.C. gave mine and booby trap demonstrations.

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19. COMBAT GROUP, ARTOVAL EXERCISE NO. 1.

This exercise was held on 12 Jan in a model room at the C.A.T.C. It was conducted by the Div Comd and Chief of Staff, and was attended by 34 senior officers, including the Regimental Commanders. There was lengthy and animated discussion on the tactical and administrative layout of a Combat Group in defence, and it is thought that the exercise was of considerable value.

20. TRAINING STORES AND EQUIPMENT.

The majority of items from BULGORE have been received. Equipment from B[illegible] is awaited. Principal items still required are:-

L Cs.
Transport.
Vehicle and Gun Tools.

Lt-Col.
GS.

In the Field.
AG/cc

Attached :- Appendix 'A' State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen
Appendix 'B' Courses.

Annexure (to A&Q only)
1. Part vi to 56 BLU Trg Ins No 2
2. Part vii " " " "
3. Part iii " " " "
4. 56 BLU Trg Ins No. 3
5. 56 BLU Trg Ins No.4
6. 56 BLU Sigs Trg Ins
7. Points discussed with Col.Comd 114 Regt.
8. Combat Group. ARTOVAL Exercise No. 1.

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| Serial | Tradesman or Specialist | ARTILLERY | | | | ENGINEERS | | | | SIGNALS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Trained | To be trained | Under Tr. | Trained | To be trained | Under Tr. | Trained | Trained |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | (j) | (k) | (l) |
| 19. | Gun Fitters | 17 | | 15 | | | | | | | |
| 20. | Instrument Mech | | | | | | | | | 15 | 7 |
| 21. | Linesmen | | | | | | | | | 12 | 7 |
| 22. | Mason | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23. | Motor Mech | | | | 11 | 6 | 5 | - | | | |
| 24. | Mechanics | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25. | Motor Cyclists | 16 | 27 | 23 | - | 20 | 10 | 20 | | 22 | 10 |
| 26. | Medical Orderlies | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27. | Miners | | | | 2 | 23 | 1 | | | | |
| 28. | Operators Cipher | | | | | | | | | 8 | |
| 29. | Operators Line | | | | | | | | | 20 | 1 |
| 30. | Operators W/T | | | | | | | | | 18 | 3 |
| 31. | Painters & Decorators | | | | 12 | 5 | 7 | 1 | | | |
| 32. | Plumbers | | | | 10 | 4 | 6 | | | | |
| 33. | Rigid Saddlers | 394 | 30 | 354 | 110 | | | | | | |
| 34. | Sheet Metal Wkrs | | | | 1 | - | 1 | - | | | |
| 35. | Stores | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36. | Tailors | | | | 8 | 5 | 3 | | | | |
| 37. | Valve Acetylene | | | | 1 | - | 1 | | | | |
| 38. | Valve Electric | | | | 1 | - | 1 | | | | |
| 39. | Wireless Guns | 8 | 21 | 13 | 43 | | | | | | |
| 40. | Surveyors | 66 | 4 | 34 | 26 | | | | | | |
| 41. | 3" Mortarmen | | | | | | | | | | |
| 42. | 3" Gun crews | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43. | 3" Gun Planters | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44. | Stretcher Brs. | | | | | | | | | | |

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| SIGNALS | | | | INFANTRY | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| : Trained | : To be Trained | : Under Tr. | | : Trained | : To be Trained | : Under Tr. | | : Trained | : To be Trained | : Under Tr. | | | |
| (k) | (l) | (m) | (n) | (o) | (p) | (q) | (r) | (s) | (t) | (u) | (v) | (w) | (x) |
| 15 | 5 | 10 | - | | | | | | | | | 16 | |
| 25 | 15 | - | - | 25 | 15 | 9 | - | | | | | 15 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 18 | |
| | | | | 12 | 1 | 8 | - | | | | | 12 | |
| | | | | 183 | 89 | 75 | - | | | | | 282 | 1 |
| 22 | 10 | 12 | - | 36 | 9 | 27 | - | | | | | 38 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 45 | |
| 8 | - | 8 | - | | | | | | | | | 8 | |
| 26 | 17 | 11 | 17 | | | | | | | | | 28 | |
| 75 | 30 | 43 | 30 | | | | | | 30 | | | 78 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 12 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 19 | |
| | | | | 335 | 30 | 305 | 30 | | | | 1144 | 729 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | 10 | 10 | - | - | 19 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 34 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 68 | |
| | | | | 120 | 25 | 95 | 45 | | | | | 120 | |
| | | | | 180 | 15 | 165 | 80 | | | | | 195 | |
| | | | | 37 | 11 | 26 | - | | | | | 37 | |
| | | | | 126 | - | 12 | - | | | | | 129 | |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | TOTALS | | | |
| Under Trained (a) | Trained (b) | To be Trained (c) | Under Trained (d) | Trained (e) | To be Trained (f) | Under Trained (g) | Trained (h) | To be Trained (i) | Under Trained (j) |
| | | | | | 16 | 3 | 13 | 13 | |
| | | | | | 15 | 5 | 10 | | |
| | | | | | 21 | 15 | 6 | | |
| | | | | | 10 | 10 | | | |
| | | | | | 12 | 4 | 8 | | |
| | | | | | 282 | 132 | 120 | | |
| | | | | | 36 | 9 | 27 | | |
| | | | | | 26 | 25 | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 45 | 45 | | | |
| | | | | | 8 | 8 | | | |
| | | | | | 28 | 17 | 11 | 17 | |
| | | | | | 78 | 30 | 48 | 30 | |
| | | | | | 12 | 5 | 7 | 1 | |
| | | | | | 10 | 4 | 6 | | |
| | | | | | 729 | 60 | 669 | 140 | |
| | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 10 | 10 | | | |
| | | | | | 8 | 5 | 3 | | |
| | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 64 | 21 | 43 | 43 | |
| | | | | | 68 | 4 | 64 | 38 | |
| | | | | | 120 | 25 | 95 | 40 | |
| | | | | | 180 | 15 | 165 | 60 | |
| | | | | | 37 | 11 | 26 | | |
| | | | | | 126 | | 126 | | |

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State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

Note (a) In some cases figures are incomplete
(b) Figures are not yet available for some administrative units.

| Serial: Tradesman or Specialist | ARTILLERY | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | WE | Trained | To be Trained | Under Tr | WE | Trained | To be Trained | Under Tr | WE | Trained | To be Trained | Under Tr |
| (a) (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | (j) | (k) | (l) | | |
| 1. Artificers (M) | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Armourers (Sch | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Blacksmiths. | | | | | 12 | 9 | 3 | - | | | | |
| 4. Bricklayers. | | | | | 33 | 12 | 1½ | 1 | | | | |
| 5. Butchers. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Carpenters. | | | | | 52 | 18 | 3½ | 4 | | | | |
| 7. Clerks. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Drivers Wheeled Vehicles | 251 | 10 | 231 | 30 | 124 | 23 | 111 | - | 81 | - | | |
| 9. Drivers Carriage H. | 3 | - | 3 | - | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Drivers Gasoline Elect. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Drivers Tractor | | | | | 11 | 3 | 11 | | | | | |
| 12. Driver Operators | 24 | - | 2 | - | | | | | | | | |
| 13. Electricians | | | | | 11 | 7 | 4 | - | | | | |
| 14. Electrical Sign | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Leathercraft | | | | | | | | | 11 | 10 | | |
| 16. Engine Fitters & Machinists | | | | | | | | | 12 | 10 | | |
| 17. Saddlers | | | | | 17 | 5 | 12 | - | | | | |
| 18. Gen. Specialist | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |

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Appendix '[redacted] to
56 MRU Progress Report No. 2 dated 13 Jan 45

| | ST A/A COY | | | | INFANTRY | | | | ST COY | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | WE | Trained | To be Trained | Under Trg | WE | Trained | To be Trained | Under Trg | WE | Trained | To be Trained | Under Trg | |
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | (j) | (k) | (l) | (m) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| | | | | | 62 | 15 | 45 | - | | | | | 62 |
| - | | | | | 24 | 9 | 15 | - | | | | | 24 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| | | | | | 0 | 12 | 18 | - | | | | | 82 |
| | | | | | 40 | 90 | - | - | 18 | 15 | 3 | - | 55 |
| - | 81 | - | 81 | - | 250 | 179 | 171 | - | 183 | 93 | 70 | 30 | 366 |
| | | | | | 144 | 16 | 128 | 40 | | | | | 147 |
| | | | | | 82 | 10 | 72 | 40 | | | | | 82 |
| | | | | | 48 | 17 | 31 | - | 15 | - | 15 | | 63 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 24 |
| - | | | | | 6 | 4 | 2 | - | | | | | 12 |
| | 11 | 10 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | 11 |
| | 12 | 10 | - | - | | | | | | | | | 12 |
| - | | | | | | | | | | | | | 17 |
| | | | | | 14 | 6 | 8 | - | | | | | 12 |

1703

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| ST COY | | | | | TOTALS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under Trg. | Vol. | Trained | To be Trained | Under Trg. | Vol. | Trained | To be Trained | Under Trg. | Remarks |
| (r) | (s) | (t) | (u) | (v) | (w) | (x) | (y) | (z) | (a 1) |
| | | | | | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| - | | | | | 52 | 13 | 40 | - | |
| - | | | | | 36 | 18 | 18 | - | |
| | | | | | 22 | 18 | 4 | 4 | |
| | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | |
| - | | | | | 82 | 30 | 52 | 4 | |
| - | 13 | 15 | 3 | - | 58 | 111 | 3 | - | 56 surplus to W |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| - | 163 | 93 | 70 | 30 | 369 | 305 | 564 | 60 | |
| 40 | | | | | 147 | 16 | 131 | 20 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | | | | | 32 | 10 | 72 | 40 | |
| - | 15 | - | 15 | | 62 | 20 | 42 | - | |
| | | | | | 24 | - | 24 | - | |
| - | | | | | 17 | 11 | 6 | - | |
| | | | | | 1 | 10 | 1 | 3 | |
| | | | | | 15 | 15 | - | - | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 17 | 5 | 12 | - | |
| | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | |
| - | | | | | 14 | 6 | 8 | - | |

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Appendix 'B' to 56 Air Training Squadron Report.
Dated 12 Jan 45.

SECRET

| Serial | Subject | Location | Period | | Students | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | From | To | Offrs | ORs |
| 1 | Driving | RECCE NCLM | 6 Jan | 27 Jan | 1 | 21 |

Object :- To train instructors in driving, routine maintenance and convoy discipline.

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45

Progress Report on Infantry Trg, FOLGORE Gp, as on 23 Jan 45.

A. General Progress.

1. As forecast in the last report, the impending move of the Group, together with the final collection and distribution of vehicles and equipment have considerably dislocated training.

2. Except as noted in this report, therefore, the general state of training in the Group cannot be said to have made any considerable progress beyond that recorded in the last report.

3. Morale remains high, and the prospect of a move forward has produced a general atmosphere of cheerful expectancy.

4. When it becomes known that other Italian Combat Groups have already taken their place in the line there may be added an atmosphere of restlessness which may have an adverse affect on training. In this connection it is considered most important that this Combat Group should have,
(a) early, frequent, and carefully edited bulletins on the activities of other Italian forces in the line. Rumours, good and bad, are bound to circulate especially if they cannot be curbed by official releases of news.
(b) earliest reports and directives, based on experiences in the line, on all matters which may improve the training of this Combat Group. The Italians are prone to be theorists, (even on the employment of British equipment and tactics) and any quotations of practical success or failure in battle will help to drive lessons home.

5. There has been a noticeable but not sufficiently widespread improvement in the direction and supervision of training by officers; but there is still a failure by junior officers to exert close direction and control of their sub-units, and a tendency by senior officers to assume full responsibility for details of training and administration which should be decentralised to junior commanders.

6. Reports from training officers of the San Marco Regt indicate that more interest has been paid to them by the Staff, and also by the Commander, of the Combat Group. This is no doubt a satisfactory result of the recent visit of General BROWNING, and also of direct representations made to Gen. MORIGI by G.S.O.I of this B.L.U. But it is realised that this aspect of training and co-operation will have to be continually watched and fostered.

7. Gen. MORIGI himself has been out frequently to see training and exercises, visits which have on occasions produced strong comment, both verbal and written, favourable and unfavourable, by the General to commanders concerned. As an instance of the General's keen interest in minor tactics his recent directive on infantry section leading, headed "Do not stop at the first Pub"(osteria) contained even advice on "keeping touch within a section moving through a wood", a method suggested being "a faint whistle, loud enough only to be heard by the comrade (compagno) on your right and left!" (As an instance of our language difficulties, this advice was somewhat misrepresented by an interpreter who translated "compagno" as company!)

8. The period of section training is now over, and the Demonstration Platoons of NEMBO and SAN MARCO Regts have been performing to interested audiences...

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matters which may improve the [illegible]
prone to be theorists, (even on the employment of British equipment and tactics) and any quotations of practical success or failure in battle will help to drive lessons home.

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8. The period of section training is now over, and the Demonstration Platoons of NEMBO and SAN MARCO Regts have been performing to interested audiences... Platoon tactics, however, are still generally in the Demonstration stage and practical platoon exercises have been on a restricted scale. Both Demonstration platoons are now good performers, the SAN MARCO platoon having shown marked improvement. 289

9. Training Films have been shown on three days this week, two showings each day. Audiences have been well representative of all units and arms in the Combat Group. The films, embracing section, platoon and carrier tactics, camouflage, obstacles and booby-traps, use of 3" Mortars, have been instructive and appreciated.

B STATE OF TRG OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

10. Signal Trg. This has been intensified and has improved. Trouble previously experienced with defective No.11 sets has now largely been overcome. 50 R.Sigs will be ready to embark on intensified training in the new area.

...../11. Carriers

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11. Carriers. Nembo and San Marco Regts can now be considered to have 100% of trained drivers, plus very small reserve. The general standard of these drivers is, however, much below British standards; but they still have time and opportunity to improve.

12. 3" Mortars. Training with new equipment has been carried out, and, as was forecast in last report, the Italian's previous experience of their 81 mm mortar is a useful foundation to their present training. Nembo Regt has found a number of its new equipments to be in need of mechanical adjustments; these are being made as quickly as possible. (Incidentally, the Italians, not unnaturally, claim a great preference for their own 81mm mortar, and would like to be equipped with it.) A 3" Mortar Trg Film has also had 6 showings in 3 days.

13. Assault Pioneers. Training is being carried out under the instruction of personnel who attended the Assault Pioneer Course at the E.T.E. in December. Arrangements are now in hand to send the remaining 6 sections to the E.T.E. Course beginning Feb 5.

14. 6 Pr A.Tk Guns. All have been carrying out Bren-attachment shooting with fair results. Arrangements made for full-charge shooting at EBOLI had to be cancelled, in the case of 6 prs, owing first to bad weather conditions and latterly to the impending move.

15. D & M. Drivers continue to be trained at the Regt driving schools. The insistence on a minimum 15 hrs driving has necessarily reduced the previous output, but it is expected that the standard of driving, still low by British standards, will improve. The move to the new area will undoubtedly provide good practice and a revealing test for D & M.

16. Armourers/Fitters. 14 Italian ORs representing Infantry, artillery, Engineers and REME, have taken a comprehensive course with 83 HAA Wksps. Their reports were very satisfactory, only two failing to be recommended as fully competent in their respective duties.

17. Boot Repairers. 15 representatives of all arms and services are now attending a month's course in NAPLES, which began on 15 Jan. A further 15 are to attend a similar course beginning 1 Feb.

C BALANCE OF TRG TO BE COMPLETED

18. Section trg finished on 14 Jan; Pl trg has now begun, and probably will not be completed before the next report is due, Feb 10, by which time it will be possible to assess more clearly the dislocation caused by the move, and the trg facilities afforded by the new area. There remains company and higher trg, parts of which (LEWIS, Staff Exercises, etc.) can start as soon as the new area is reached. Emphasis will be laid on officers' and communications trg.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

19. Offrs and NCOs W/T Cadre
Div Carrier Course
Short Cadre in No.48 W/T set
Gp Arty Course, with 3 Staff Officers.
Regtl Sigs Course, NOCERA
[illegible] Mortar refresher Course

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15. [redacted] drivers continue to be trained. The insistence on a minimum 15 hrs driving has necessarily reduced the previous output, but it is expected that the standard of driving, still low by British standards, will improve. The move to the new area will undoubtedly provide good practice and a revealing test for D & M.

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D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

19.
Offrs and NCOs W/T Cadre
Div Carrier Course
Short Cadre in No.48 W/T set
Gp Arty Course, with 3 Staff Officers.
Regtl Sigs Course, NOCERA
Instructors 3" Mortar refresher Course
Assault Pioneer Course (within Gp)
Junior Leaders Course CMTC
Div Air Photo Course
Assault Pioneer Course (ETE)
Armourer/Fitters Course

20. In Progress
Regtl D & M Schools
Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

21. To Take Place
2nd Assault Pioneers Course (ETE)
2nd Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

E ANY SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

22. All previously reported deficiencies in webbing, and water-bottle carriers, have now been drawn.

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Appx 'B' to 53 HAA letter
Ref. G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45.

## Training Progress Report - 'Folgore' Arty Regt.

A. General Progress.

All types of elementary training in the use of British equipment have now been completed. There remains however an amount of higher training which has not yet been tackled. Such training as Night occupations, Regimental concentrations, shooting Smoke have still to be practiced. This will be done as far as time and opportunity permit in the new area.

B. State of training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

1. Gunnery Specialists.

The specialists course at No.10 Training Team RA has not been completed. All specialists are adequately trained in their basic duties, but not in more complicated British methods e.g. Barrages.

2. Signallers.

Signaller training is progressing. Difficulties with the No.11 sets have largely diminished, although no firm verdict on wireless training can be given until sufficient wireless trucks have arrived and signallers have been tested over greater distances than at present.

3. Gun Fitters.

Practical work at 83 HAA Workshops has considerably improved the standard of gun fitter in the regiment.

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4. M.T. Fitters.

Knowledge of British vehicles is not yet good

C. Balance of Training to be completed.

1. 25-pr.

a. Regimental Concentrations.
b. Smoke.
c. Night Occupations.

2. 17-pr.

Tank Recognition - The subject is being studied. The gunners have seen British training films while at the School of Artillery, EBOLI.

3. 40 mm.

AA Shooting - The AA Bty went to PAESTUM for practice camp, but owing to bad weather, no aircraft co-operation was possible. The Bty practiced A/Tk shooting and Aircraft Recognition lectures were given.

4. Signals.

Regimental deployment schemes.- Several battery signal schemes have taken place and the Regimental net has been practiced, but no deployment of the regiment has yet been attempted.

D. Courses and Special Instruction Completed.

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Practical work at 83 HAA Workshops has considerably improved the standard of gun fitter in the regiment.

4. M.T. Fitters.

Knowledge of British vehicles is not yet good



C. Balance of Training to be completed.

1. 25-pr.

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4. Signals.

Regimental deployment schemes.- Several battery signal schemes have taken place and the Regimental net has been practiced, but no deployment of the regiment has yet been attempted.

D. Courses and Special Instruction Completed.

1. The 4 25-pr Batteries shot on the CERRETO range 15 - 18 Jan. The main emphasis was on link shooting procedure.

2. The standard gun of the regiment was calibrated at the School of Artillery 13 Jan.

3. One Bty acted as Range Bty for Course shooting by No.10 RA Training Team on 7 Jan.

4. The A/Tk Bty spent 3 days at the School of Arty during which a Convoy March was practiced, A/Tk Recognition Films were seen and full charge shooting took place against a moving target. 75% hits were obtained.

5. The AA Bty went to the AA wing training camp at PAESTUM 5 - 12 Jan. No Aircraft co-operation was possible.

6. Within the regiment, attention has been paid to occupation of positions, winch drill and signal schemes.

...../ E. Special

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Appx ' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. G[illegible] - 42 of 22 Jan 45.

Training Progress Report - Engineers Bn, Combat Group FOLGORE.

A. General Progress.

1. Considerable progress has been made since the last report, though one company has done much better than the other, mainly due to its having more enthusiastic officers. There is not enough supervision of pls by company commanders and of company commanders by the battalion commander, but this has been taken up with the General and better results should ensure. The main difficulty at the moment, is the lack of technical knowledge and organised ability on the part of the officers; the former is being overcome by holding evening classes; it is hoped that the latter will be overcome by practice.

2. Bailey bridging is now of a fairly high standard being almost up to that of a British field company.

3. Mine warfare is satisfactory though large scale exercises have not yet been carried out.

4. Training in the use of British equipment has been carried out satisfactorily and considerable progress has been made. The standard of driving is fair though maintenance is not yet good.

B. State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

Compressor men are now almost fully trained.

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C. Balance of Programme to be Completed.

1. Bailey Bridging. Training has still to be carried out in double - double and triple - double construction by day and night. Exercises on company and div level have still to be done.

2. Mine Warfare. Day and night gapping exercises on a large scale have still to be held.

3. Weapon Training. Not much more remains to be done though constant training is being carried out to reach a higher level.

4. Fieldworks etc. No water supply schemes have been carried out yet.

5. Driver Training. Further maintenance training is still to be done.

D. Courses and Special Training Completed. No change.

E. Special Difficulties.

A new war establishment for the field company has been received. There has been no change yet in the G.1098 to fit in with it. This is causing some difficulty in the distribution to platoons of tradesman's kits of tools etc.

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schemes./....

E. Special Difficulties Encountered.

1. Publications.

(a) The Regiment still has not received any Smoke Range tables. This is holding up training, as only one copy is held in the regt.

(b) Modest indents for British publications such as Maintenance Manuals, and Artillery Training Vol III have still not been met, although requirements are for very few copies and the indent was made two months ago.

2. The lack of Director Stands and Artillery covers referred to in last progress report has been rectified.

3. Vehicles.

The regiment is still short of wireless vehicles and acutely short of motor cycles and small cars. This is a handicap to training schemes.

Appx 'D' to 53 RDU letter
Ref G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45.

Training Progress Report - Signals Coy, Combat Group FOLGORE

A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Infantry.

(a) Further exercises have been carried out with the 48 Set. Officers and men concerned have nothing but praise for the high quality and effectiveness of the sets.

(b) Every effort is being made to make the Infantry commanders "signal minded".

(c) Much intensive training in the use of SLIDEX RT code is planned. This has been distributed and the officers familiarised with its use.

(d) The SAN MARCO Regiment (ex Navy) though first rate in wireless operating, are rather backward on the lines and MT side of training.

2. Artillery.

(a) The standard of operating within the Regt is already high. Enthusiasm is shown on the part of officers and men.

(b) Schemes are continuously carried out using W/T groups of up to eight stations.

(c) Every effort is being made to get the W/T sets into perfect working order.

3. Signals Coy.

(a) Manning of existing line and telegraph network has given good practical experience to linesmen, TSBOs and line operators.

(b) Normal battery charging and maintenance of W/T sets and line instruments has afforded considerable practical training to the instrument mechanics and electricians.

(c) Up till now training has concentrated mainly on the instruction of tradesmen as such. On arrival in the new area, signal platoons will work with their appropriate regiments when training will be more tactical in nature. The general standard of tradesmen is promising.

28.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

1. Despatch Riders.

Due to a complete lack of m/cs in the company practical training has been severely hampered. All DRs have previously ridden m/cs. Instruction is given regularly on the general duties etc of a DR. Only yesterday the first 4 out of 35 m/cs arrived.

2. Electricians Signals.

All these are electricians in civilian life and have done much practical work within the group while here. They may be regarded as first class tradesman.

3. Instrument Mechanics.

Under the tuition of Company officers and those who have had wide experience

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stations.

(c) Every effort is being made to get the W/T sets into perfect working order.

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Due to a complete lack of m/cs in the company practical training has been severely hampered. All DRs have previously ridden m/cs. Instruction is given regularly on the general duties etc of a DR. Only yesterday the first 4 out of 35 m/cs arrived.

2. Electricians Signals.

All these are electricians in civilian life and have done much practical work within the group while here. They may be regarded as first class tradesman.

3. Instrument Mechanics.

Under the tuition of Company officers and those who have had wide experience as mechanics in civilian life, and having done so much practical repair and adjustment to the W/T sets and line instruments of the Group, these have now reached a fairly high standard of proficiency.

4. Electricians Battery Charging

These have initially charged over 150 accumulators in the Group and have carried out the normal battery charging of W/T and vehicle batteries. They have thus reached a good standard of proficiency.

5. Linesman

During the last three months linesmen have had useful experience of laying and maintaining lines within the Group. Further training in the use of the Mechanical Layer will be carried out, also more tactical line laying at speed in the new area. Theoretical instruction has continued.

...../6. Operators

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6. Operators.
Training has been done using 19 and 1¶ sets mounted in vehicles in static and mobile roles. Netting drill and general handling of the sets is good. Much time must still be devoted to the use of standard procedure.

7. Drivers.
Practically all of the Company tpt has now arrived and all drivers have vehicles. The 'Task System' is being enforced. The standard of driving is on the whole fair, but the coming move will, it is hoped, improve matters considerably.

C BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Tactical training of signal platoons with their Regts has yet to be carried out. Intensive training in 'Standard Procedure' is required. Further familiarity with the SLIDEX R/T code is necessary on the part of all officers.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

Officers and NCOs who have done the course for instructors at NOCERA, continue to train signals personnel within Regts.

E SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

The lack of m/cs has severely hampered the training of DRs. The printed Italian version of the 'Standard Procedure' has not yet been received.

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29/32/4

Spec Sec 30

53 B.L.U.
Ref A2 - 45
5 Feb 45

Subject: Progress Reports

To :- Lend Lease Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

10 Corps (5 copies)

1. Ref your G/G/29/32 of 23 Dec 44.

2. As no personnel strength returns were submitted to your HQ in respect of Combat Group FOLGORE as at 1800 hrs 27 Jan the usual bi-monthly returns are submitted herewith.

3. Herewith reports as ordered :-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appx 'A' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of Combat Group FOLGORE. | In Quadruplicate (MMIA) |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'B' | | Weekly Progress Report No.13 - State of Equipment and Vehicles held by Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'C' | Part I | General State of organisation by arms of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | In Quadruplicate (MMIA) |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'D' | | Appendices 'A','B','C', and 'D' to 53 BLU letter ref G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45 - Report by D Training Increment (Inf) on training in the Combat Group FOLGORE. | No copy to 10Corps |

Lt.Col.
G.S.

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Appx 'A' to 53 BLO letter
Ref A2 - 45 Of 5 Feb 45.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on Organisation of Personnel of Combat Group FALCONE - State as at 1800 hrs 3 Feb 45

Part I. General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial (a) | Unit (b) | W.E. Offrs (c) | W.E. ORs (d) | Posted Strength Offrs (e) | Posted Strength ORs (f) | Strength present with unit ++ Offrs (g) | Strength present with unit ++ ORs (h) | Columns (e) & (f) as a percentage of columns (c) and (d) (i) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Combat Gp FALCONE HQ | 31 | 119 | 38 | 150 | 38 | 143 | 125 % |
| 2 | 'Tombo' Regt | 114 | 2572 | 126 | 2446 | 126 | 2359 | 96 % |
| 3 | 'San Marco' Regt | 114 | 2572 | 128 | 2602 | 126 | 2479 | 102 % |
| 4 | 42nd Regt FALCONE | 93 | 1433 | 107 | 1503 | 106 | 1469 | 105 % |
| 5 | Engineer Engineer Sigs Coy | 16 | 476 | 18 | 499 | 17 | 473 | 105 % |
| 6 | Signals Coy | 7 | 327 | 11 | 359 | 9 | 354 | 114 % |
| 7 | Medical Services | 26 | 325 | 30 | 374 | 28 | 343 | 115 % |
| 8 | Mechanical Engineers | 7 | 279 | 10 | 264 | 10 | 263 | 96 % |
| 9 | S & T | 13 | 294 | 18 | 313 | 16 | 305 | 108 % |
| 10 | Ord | 4 | 69 | 5 | 86 | 5 | 84 | 125 % |
| 11 | Rec | 2 | 102 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 93 | 289 % |
| 12 | TOTALS | 427 | 8568 | 493 | 8704 | 483 | 8370 | 102% |

++ This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave, and AWOL.

WP

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

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. 12 - 45 of 5 Feb 45

Part II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | |
| 1 | Drivers | 955 | 854 | 101 | |
| 2 | Smiths | 38 | 32 | 6 | |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 56 | 52 | 4 | |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | - | - | - | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 140 | 94 | 46 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 40 | 32 | 8 | |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 14 | 9 | 5 | |
| 8 | Sappers | 24 | 14 | 10 | |
| 9 | Artists | - | - | - | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | - | 3 | |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | 28 | 19 | 9 | |
| 12 | Boatmen | 12 | 9 | 3 | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 317 | 317 | - | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | 7 | 6 | 1 | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | 17 | 15 | 2 | |
| 16 | Linemen | - | - | - | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | 480 | 266 | 214 | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | 39 | 36 | 3 | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | 39 | 39 | - | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | 13 | 11 | 2 | |
| 21 | Director Operators | 95 | 54 | 41 | |
| 22 | Telephonists | 221 | 153 | 68 | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | 300 | 238 | 62 | |
| 24 | Armourers | 116 | 54 | 62 | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 82 | 82 | - | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 52 | 47 | 5 | |
| 28 | Signallers | 50 | 50 | - | |
| 29 | Engineers | 138 | 138 | - | |
| 30 | Artificers | 13 | 10 | 3 | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 362 | 336 | 26 | |

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App: 'C' to 53 BLU letter
Ref: -45 of 5 Feb 45.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on Organisation of Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE - State as at 1800 hrs 3 Feb 45

Part I. General State of Organisation by Arms

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength present with Unit | | Columns (e) & (f) as a percentage of columns (c) & (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | 247 Section Carabinieri | 1 | 51 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 46 | 98 % |
| 2 | 191 FD Surgical Unit - Italian | 3 | 23 | 2 | 22 | 2 | 22 | 92 % |
| 3 | 2 FD Laboratory | 1 | 31 | 1 | 39 | 1 | 39 | 125 % |
| 4 | Italian Det to 53 BLU | 1 | 28 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 28 | 100 % |
| 5 | Italian Det to D Tp, Team (Ind) | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6 | TOTALS | 6 | 137 | 5 | 139 | 5 | 135 | 100 % |

NOTE. 114 Mobile Dental Unit has not been included in the above return as the strength figures of this unit are not available.

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Part II Specialists and Tradesmen.

1. The following Auxiliary Units are attached to Combat Group FOLGORE :-

317 Section Carabinieri
2 Fd Bakery
131 Fd Surgical Unit
114 Mobile Dental Unit

2. The total deficiencies of specialists and tradesmen in the above units amount to :-

3 Drivers
5 Medical Orderlies.

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

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 13
5 Feb 45

Subject: Progress Report - Q

To :- Rear HQ 10 Corps

AFHQ - G-3 (Org 4)
Q(AF)
I&T
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMLA)
1 District Q(AF)
3 District Q(AF)
G
ST
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AF) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 4 Feb 45 re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE is attached as Appx 'A', Parts 1 - 4 hereto.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 RLU letter
Ref. Q11 - 13 of 5 Feb 45.

Weekly Progress Report No.13 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 4 Feb 45.

1. (a) Controlled Stores - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Item illegible | | | | |
| 2 | Pistols .38 | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 426 | 426 | 426 | |
| 5 | TSMG | 5389 | 5389 | 5385 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 415 | 413 | 413 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 309 | 296 | 296 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 302 | 295 | 250 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 20 | 16 | 16 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 65 | 64 | 64 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 22 | Binoculars No.5 | 140 | 70 | 50 | |
| 23 | Rifles Sniper | 19 | - | - | |
| | | 24 | - | - | |

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 56 | 56 | 56 | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 33 | 33 | 33 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Blankets 20,000
(b) Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 6,519 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
(c) Boots 800

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of [illegible]

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 65 | 64 | 64 |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 |
| 22 | Binoculars No.5 | 19 | - | - |
| 23 | Rifles Sniper | 24 | - | - |

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLCORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 7 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 56 | 56 | 56 | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 270 |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches C3 | 23 | 23 | 23 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Blankets 20,000
(b) Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 6,519 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
(c) Boots 800

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with M.I.A. letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44.
Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Group - 143 all ranks.

3. Other G.1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)

(a)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Knives table | 5,000 |
| | Forks table | 5,369 |
| | Spoons table | 5,000 |
| | Mugs drinking | 10,000 |
| Cooking equipment - Cookers Portable | No.1 | 27 |
| | No.2 | - |
| | No.3 | 22 |

Other cooking equipment approximately 90% deficient.

(b) G.1098 scale of equipment collected :-

(i) Vote 7 and 8 Stores 80%
(ii) Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) 70%
(iii) Q controlled stores 95%

...../ 4. (a)

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95%./.....

4. (a) Tpt - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 336 | 186 | + Includes 6 Lorries 3 ton GS issued in lieu of Lorries Special Hy. |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 60 | 50 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 18 | 18 | |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 291 | 291 | 291 | |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 73 | 59 | 59 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 23 | 23 | ø Includes 20 Lorries 3 ton 4x4 Stores issued in lieu of 10 Lorries 6 ton Stores. |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 340 + | 340 | |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 51 ø | 51 | |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 73 | 73 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 13 | 13 | |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 71 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 223 | 223 | |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 35 | - | - | |

(b) Tpt - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 15 | 15 | 1 | |
| 2 | Cars | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| 3 | Trucks 15 cwt GS | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| 4 | Trucks 15 cwt Water | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Lorries 3 ton GS | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| 6 | | | | | |

Ref. 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45

Progress Report on Infantry Trg, FOLGORE Gp as on 23 Jan 45.

A. General Progress.

1. As forecast in the last report, the impending move of the Group, together with the final collection and distribution of vehicles and equipment have considerably dislocated training.

2. Except as noted in this report, therefore, the general state of training in the Group cannot be said to have made any considerable progress beyond that recorded in the last report.

3. Morale remains high, and the prospect of a move forward has produced a general atmosphere of cheerful expectancy.

4. When it becomes known that other Italian Combat Groups have already taken their place in the line there may be added an atmosphere of restlessness which may have an adverse effect on training. In this connection it is considered most important that this Combat Group should have,
(a) early, frequent, and carefully edited bulletins on the activities of other Italian forces in the line. Rumours, good and bad, are bound to circulate especially if they cannot be curbed by official releases of news.
(b) earliest reports and directives, based on experiences in the line, on all matters which may improve the training of this Combat Group. The Italians are prone to be theorists, (even on the employment of British equipment and tactics) and any quotations of practical success or failure in battle will help to drive lessons home.

5. There has been a noticeable but not sufficiently widespread improvement in the direction and supervision of training by officers; but there is still a failure by junior officers to exert close direction and control of their sub-units, and a tendency by senior officers to assume full responsibility for details of training and administration which should be decentralised to junior commanders.

6. Reports from training officers of the San Marco Regt indicate that more interest has been paid to them by the Staff, and also by the Commander, of the Combat Group. This is no doubt a satisfactory result of the recent visit of General BROWNING, and also of direct representations made to Gen. MORIGI by G.S.O.I of this B.L.U. But it is realised that this aspect of training and co-operation will have to be continually watched and fostered. 274

7. Gen. MORIGI himself has been out frequently to see training and exercises, visits which have on occasions produced strong comment, both verbal and written, favourable and unfavourable, by the General to commanders concerned. As an instance of the General's keen interest in minor tactics his recent directive on infantry section leading, headed "Do not stop at the first Pub"(osteria) contained even advice on "keeping touch within a section moving through a wood", a method suggested being "a faint whistle, loud enough only to be heard by the comrade (compagno) on your right and left." (As an instance of our language difficulties, this advice was somewhat misrepresented by an interpreter who translated "compagno" as company!)

8. The period of section training is now over, and the Demonstration Platoons of NEMBO and SAN MARCO Regts have [illegible]

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8. The period of section training is now over, and the Demonstration Platoons of NEMBO and SAN MARCO Regts have been performing to interested audiences. Platoon tactics, however, are still generally inthe Demonstration stage and practical platoon exercises have been on a restricted scale. Both Demonstration platoons are now good performers, the SAN MARCO platoon having shown marked improvement.

9. Training Films have been shown on three days this week, two showings each day. Audiences have been well representative of all units and arms in the Combat Group. The films, embracing section, platoon and carrier tactics, camouflage, obstacles and booby-traps, use of 3" Mortars, have been instructive and appreciated.

B STATE OF TRG OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

10. Signal Trg. This has been intensified and has improved. Trouble previously experienced with defective No.11 sets has now largely been overcome. SO R.Sigs will be ready to embark on intensified training in the new area.

...../11. Carriers



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11. Carriers. Nembo and San Marco Regts can now be considered to have 100% of trained drivers, plus very small reserve. The general standard of these drivers is, however, much below British standards; but they still have time and opportunity to improve.

12. 3" Mortars. Training with new equipment has been carried out, and, as was forecast in last report, the Italian's previous experience of their 81 mm mortar is a useful foundation to their present training. Nembo Regt has found a number of its new equipments to be in need of mechanical adjustments; these are being made as quickly as possible. (Incidentally, the Italians, not unnaturally, claim a great preference for their own 81mm mortar, and would like to be equipped with it. A 3" Mortar Trg Film has also had 6 showings in 3 days.

13. Assault Pioneers. Training is being carried out under the instruction of personnel who attended the Assault Pioneer Course at the E.T.E. in December. Arrangements are now in hand to send the remaining 6 sections to the E.T.E. Course beginning Feb 5.

14. 6 Pr A.Tk Guns. All have been carrying out Bren-attachment shooting with fair results. Arrangements made for full-charge shooting at EBOLI had to be cancelled, in the case of 6 prs, owing first to bad weather conditions and latterly to the impending move.

15. D & M. Drivers continue to be trained at the Regt driving schools. The insistence on a minimum 15 hrs driving has necessarily reduced the previous output, but it is expected that the standard of driving, still low by British standards, will improve. The move to the new area will undoubtedly provide good practice and a revealing test for D & M.

16. Armourers/Fitters. 14 Italian ORs representing Infantry, artillery, Engineers and EME, have taken a comprehensive course with 83 HAA Wksps. Their reports were very satisfactory, only two failing to be recommended as fully competent in their respective duties. 273

17. Boot Repairers. 15 representatives of all arms and services are now attending a month's course in NAPLES, which began on 15 Jan. A further 15 are to attend a similar course beginning 1 Feb.

C BALANCE OF TRG TO BE COMPLETED

18. Section trg finished on 14 Jan; Pl trg has now begun, and probably will not be completed before the next report is due, Feb 10, by which time it will be possible to assess more clearly the dislocation caused by the move, and the trg facilities afforded by the new area. There remains company and higher trg, parts of which (HEFTS, Staff Exercises, etc.) can start as soon as the new area is reached. Emphasis will be laid on officers' and communications trg.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

19.
Offrs and NCOs W/T Cadre
Div Carrier Course
Short Cadre in No.48 W/T set
Gp Arty Course, with 3 Staff Officers.
Regtl Sigs Course, NOCERA
Instructors 3" Mortar refresher Course

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15. D & M. Drivers continue to be trained at the Regt driving schools. The insistence on a minimum 15 hrs driving has necessarily reduced the previous output, but it is expected that the standard of driving, still low by British standards, will improve. The move to the new area will undoubtedly provide good practice and a revealing test for D & M.

16. Armourers/Fitters. 14 Italian ORs representing Infantry, artillery, Engineers and EME, have taken a comprehensive course with 83 MAA Wksps. Their reports were very satisfactory, only two failing to be recommended as fully competent in their respective duties.

273

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D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

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Offrs and NCOs W/T Cadre
Div Carrier Course
Short Cadre in No.48 W/T set
Gp Arty Course, with 3 Staff Officers.
Regtl Sigs Course, NOCERA
Instructors 3" Mortar refresher Course
Assault Pioneer Course (within Gp)
Junior Leaders Course CMTC
Div Air Photo Course
Assault Pioneer Course (ETE)
Armourer/Fitters Course

20. In Progress
Regtl D & M Schools
Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

21. To Take Place
2nd Assault Pioneers Course (ETE)
2nd Boot Repairers Course, NAPLES

E ANY SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

22. All previously reported deficiencies in webbing, and water-bottle carriers, have now been drawn.

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Appx 'B' to 53 HLU letter
Ref. G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45.

Training Progress Report - 'Folgore' Arty Regt.

A. General Progress.

All types of elementary training in the use of British equipment have now been completed. There remains however an amount of higher training which has not yet been tackled. Such training as Night occupations, Regimental concentrations, shooting Smoke have still to be practiced. This will be done as far as time and opportunity permit in the new area.

B. State of training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

1. Gunnery Specialists.

The specialists course at No.10 Training Team RA has not been completed. All specialists are adequately trained in their basic duties, but not in more complicated British methods e.g. Barrages.

2. Signallers.

Signaller training is progressing. Difficulties with the No.11 sets have largely diminished, although no firm verdict on wireless training can be given until sufficient wireless trucks have arrived and signallers have been tested over greater distances than at present.

3. Gun Fitters.

Practical work at 83 HAA Workshops has considerably improved the standard of gun fitter in the regiment.

4. M.T. Fitters.

272

Knowledge of British vehicles is not yet good

C. Balance of Training to be completed.

1. 25-pr.

a. Regimental Concentrations.
b. Smoke.
c. Night Occupations.

2. 17-pr.

Tank Recognition - The subject is being studied. The gunners have seen British training films while at the School of Artillery, EBOLI.

3. 40 mm.

AA Shooting - The AA Bty went to PAESTUM for practice camp, but owing to bad weather, no aircraft co-operation was possible. The Bty practiced A/Tk shooting and Aircraft Recognition lectures were given.

4. Signals.

Regimental deployment schemes.- Several battery signal schemes have taken place and the Regimental net has been practiced, but no deployment of the regiment has yet been attempted.

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D. Courses and Special Instruction Completed.

1. The 4 25-pr Batteries shot on the CERRETO range 15 - 18 Jan. The main emphasis was on link shooting procedure.

2. The standard gun of the regiment was calibrated at the School of Artillery 13 Jan.

3. One Bty acted as Range Bty for Course shooting by No.10 RA Training Team on 7 Jan.

4. The A/Tk Bty spent 3 days at the School of Arty during which a Convoy March was practiced, A/Tk Recognition Films were seen and full charge shooting took place against a moving target. 75% hits were obtained.

5. The AA Bty went to the AA wing training camp at PAESTUM 5 - 12 Jan. No Aircraft co-operation was possible.

6. Within the regiment, attention has been paid to occupation of positions, winch drill and signal schemes.

...../ E. Special

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schemes./....

E. Special Difficulties Encountered.

1. Publications.

(a) The Regiment still has not received any Smoke Range tables. This is holding up training, as only one copy is held in the regt.

(b) Modest indents for British publications such as Maintenance Manuals, and Artillery Training Vol III have still not been met, although requirements are for very few copies and the indent was made two months ago.

2. The lack of Director Stands and Artillery covers referred to in last progress report has been rectified.

3. Vehicles.

The regiment is still short of wireless vehicles and acutely short of motor cycles and small cars. This is a handicap to training schemes.

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Appx ( ) to 53 BLU letter
Ref. G. - 42 of 22 Jan 45.

Training Progress Report - Engineers Bn, Combat Group FOLGORE.

A. General Progress.

1. Considerable progress has been made since the last report, though one company has done much better than the other, mainly due to its having more enthusiastic officers. There is not enough supervision of pls by company commanders and of company commanders by the battalion commander, but this has been taken up with the General and better results should ensure. The main difficulty at the moment, is the lack of technical knowledge and organised ability on the part of the officers; the former is being overcome by holding evening classes; it is hoped that the latter will be overcame by practice.

2. Bailey bridging is now of a fairly high standard being almost up to that of a British field company.

3. Mine warfare is satisfactory though large scale exercises have not yet been carried out.

4. Training in the use of British equipment has been carried out satisfactorily and considerable progress has been made. The standard of driving is fair though maintenance is not yet good.

B. State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

Compressor men are now almost fully trained.

C. Balance of Programme to be Completed.

1. Bailey Bridging. Training has still to be carried out in double - double and triple - double construction by day and night. Exercises on company and div level have still to be done.

2. Mine Warfare. Day and night gapping exercises on a large scale have still to be held.

3. Weapon Training. Not much more remains to be done though constant training is being carried out to reach a higher level.

4. Fieldworks etc. No water supply schemes have been carried out yet.

5. Driver Training. Further maintenance training is still to be done.

D. Courses and Special Training Completed. No change.

270

E. Special Difficulties.

A new war establishment for the field company has been received. There has been no change yet in the G.1098 to fit in with it. This is causing some difficulty in the distribution to platoons of tradesman's kits of tools etc.

Appx 'D' to 53 RMU letter
Ref G2 - 42 of 22 Jan 45

Training Progress Report - Signals Coy, Combat Group FOLGORE

A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Infantry.

(a) Further exercises have been carried out with the 48 Set. Officers and men concerned have nothing but praise for the high quality and effectiveness of the sets.

(b) Every effort is being made to make the Infantry commanders "signal minded".

(c) Much intensive training in the use of SLIDEX RT code is planned. This has been distributed and the officers familiarised with its use.

(d) The SAN MARCO Regiment (ex Navy) though first rate in wireless operating, are rather backward on the lines and MT side of training.

2. Artillery.

(a) The standard of operating within the Regt is already high. Enthusiasm is shown on the part of officers and men.

(b) Schemes are continuously carried out using W/T groups of up to eight stations.

(c) Every effort is being made to get the W/T sets into perfect working order.

3. Signals Coy.

(a) Manning of existing line and telegraph network has given good practical experience to linemen, TSBOs and line operators.

(b) Normal battery charging and maintenance of W/T sets and line instruments has afforded considerable practical training to the instrument mechanics and electricians.

(c) Up till now training has concentrated mainly on the instruction of tradesmanlas such. On arrival in the new area, signal platoons will work with their appropriate regiments when training will be more tactical in nature. The general standard of tradesmen is promising.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

1. Despatch Riders.

Due to a complete lack of m/cs in the company practical training has been severely hampered. All DRs have previously ridden m/cs. Instruction is given regularly on the general duties etc of a DR. Only yesterday the first 4 out of 35 m/cs arrived.

269

2. Electricians Signals.

All these are electricians in civilian life and have done much practical work within the group while here. They may be regarded as first class tradesmen.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785080

order.

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269

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3. Instrument Mechanics.

Under the tuition of Company officers and those who have had wide experience as mechanics in civilian life, and having done so much practical repair and adjustment to the W/T sets and line instruments of the Group, these have now reached a fairly high standard of proficiency.

4. Electricians Battery Charging

These have initially charged over 150 accumulators in the Group and have carried out the normal battery charging of W/T and vehicle batteries. They have thus reached a good standard of proficiency.

5. Linesman

During the last three months linesmen have had useful experience of laying and maintaining lines within the Group. Further training in the use of the Mechanical Layer will be carried out, also more tactical line laying at speed in the new area. Theoretical instruction has continued.

...../6. Operators

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6. Operators.
Training has been done using 19 and 11 sets mounted in vehicles in static and mobile roles. Netting drill and general handling of the sets is good. Much time must still be devoted to the use of standard procedure.

7. Drivers.
Practically all of the Company tpt has now arrived and all drivers have vehicles. The 'Task System' is being enforced. The standard of driving is on the whole fair, but the coming move will, it is hoped, improve matters considerably.

C BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Tactical training of signal platoons with their Regts has yet to be carried out. Intensive training in 'Standard Procedure' is required. Further familiarity with the SLIDEX R/T code is necessary on the part of all officers.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

Officers and NCOs who have done the course for instructors at NOCERA, continue to train signals personnel within Regts.

E SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

The lack of m/cs has severely hampered the training of DRs. The printed Italian version of the 'Standard Procedure' has not yet been received.



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CIPHER SECRET

# RAAC MESSAGE FORM

17629

| CALL | CIRCUIT No. | PRIORITY | TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NR | | |

SPACES WITHIN RED LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

DATE-TIME OF ORIGIN: 28 1100

FROM (A): 56 BLU

TO (FOR ACTION): MMIA. 8/Sec 29/11.

TO (FOR INFORMATION):

MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS: | GR:

(REF. No.): AG 4

(SECURITY CLASSIFICATION): SECRET

Ref telephone conversation Col AIDSLEY Lt Col. GIBBON ⊙ Strength of MANTOVA (as) at 27th Jan posted strength NCOs and men 8101 Officers 429 ration strength NCOs and men 6200 Officers 412 Auxiliary units Total posted strength 299 ration strength 276

See WP.

8101.
429.
8530

6200

S/G/29/32/S 267

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

PRECEDENCE: IMPORTANT

ORIGINATING SECTION:

A. G. AUTHENTICATION:

ORIGINATOR'S AUTHENTICATION: Col

THI OR TOR: 28/6 00A | OFF.

TIME CLEARED

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

Subject :- Progress Report 9.

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 11
21 Jun 45

To :- HQ 3 District
- - - - - - - -
AMAG - G-5 (Opn 4)
Q(AE)
DCI
MI - 4(SD)
Joint Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)
ST
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 21 Jun 45 re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group MOLOTOV is attached as Appx 'A', Parts 1 - 4 hereto.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. G11 - 11 of 21 Jan 45

Weekly Progress Report No 11 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 21 Jan 45.

1. (a) Controlled Stores - Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bren LMG | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 2 | PsIAT | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 426 | 426 | |
| 4 | Rifles No 4 | 5389 | 5389 | 5385 | |
| 5 | TSMG | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 415 | 413 | 413 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 309 | 296 | 296 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No 2 | 302 | 295 | 250 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No 9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No 7 | 20 | 16 | 12 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No 2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No 13 or No 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No 27 | 64 | 64 | 64 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 70 | 70 | 50 | |
| 22 | Binoculars No 5 | - | - | - | |
| 23 | Rifles Snipers | - | - | - | |

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(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 175 | 175 | 175 | |
| 3 | Rifles No 4 | 212 | 212 | 212 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 43 | 43 | 43 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| 8 | Detectors Mine | 24 | - | - | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Blankets 20,000
(b) Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 8,000 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
(c) Boots 800

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26/ of 26 Oct 44.
Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Group = 541 all ranks

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No 27 | 64 | 64 | 64 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 70 | 70 | 50 | |
| 22 | Binoculars No 5 | - | - | - | |
| 23 | Rifles Snipers | - | - | - | |

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FORCE KR

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 175 | 175 | 175 | |
| 3 | Rifles No 4 | 212 | 212 | 212 | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 43 | 43 | 43 | |
| 6 | Binoculars No 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 9 | 9 | 9 | |
| 8 | Detectors Mine | 24 | - | - | |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Blankets 20,000
(b) Greatcoats (balance in process of collection) 8,000 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
(c) Boots 800

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26/ of 26 Oct 44.
Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Group - 513 all ranks.

3. Other G.1098 Stores. (Details of major deficiencies)

(a)
Knives table 5,000
Forks table 5,369
Spoons table 5,000
Mugs drinking 10,000
Cooking equipment - Cookers Portable No 1 27
No 2 -
No 3 22
Other cooking equipment approximately 90% deficient.

(b) G.1098 scale of equipment collected :-
(i) Vote 7 and 8 Stores 80%
(ii) Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) 70%
(iii) Q controlled stores 95%

...../4(a)

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1740

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4. (a) Tpt -- Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/Cs | 369 | 186 | 186 | + Includes 6 lorries |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 50 | 50 | 3 ton GS issued in |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 18 | 18 | lieu of lorries |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15cwt | 291 | 291 | 291 | special hy. |
| 5 | Trucks Special. 15cwt | 73 | 59 | 59 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15cwt | 23 | 23 | 23 | ø Includes 20 |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 340 + | 340 | lorries 3 ton 4x4 |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 51 ø | 51 | stores issued in |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 71 ø | 119 | lieu of 10 lorries |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 13 | 13 | 6 ton stores. |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 71 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 223 | 223 | |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 35 | - | - | |

(b) Tpt -- Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/Cs | 36 | 16 | 12 16 | |
| 2 | Cars | 9 | 15 | 15 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 25 | 12 | 11 | |
| 4 | Trucks 15cwt GS | 13 | 12 | 12 | |
| 5 | Trucks 15cwt Special | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 6 | Trucks 15cwt Water | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| 7 | Trucks 30cwt | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 8 | Lorries 3 ton GS | 26 | 24 | 24 | |
| 9 | Lorries Hy Special | 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 3 | - | - | |

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39/27
49/Gr/3

Appx 'A' to 53 B.L.U. letter
Ref. G2 - 34 of 10 Jan 45.

Progress Report on infantry training of the FOLGORE div as on 10 Jan 45.

A. General Progress.

1. The Gruppo is now in the middle of the section training period. The state of individual training is satisfactory generally, except in certain specialist subjects that will be reported on below. Weapon training is of a fairly high standard, and compares not unfavourably with the average of British units. Care of arms and equipment is bad, in spite of the continued efforts of training officers. This point has never had enough attention paid to it in the Italian army; and, although they have adopted some "innovations" e.g. the boiling-out of rifles after firing, their ideas on the whole matter remain vague.

2. The two demonstration platoons, particularly that of the NEMBO Regt, are very satisfactory. The SAN MARCO dem. pl requires some more training before it can be relied upon to give good demonstrations; but it is considered that the NEMBO dem pl could demonstrate any pl exercise well now, after one rehearsal on the ground; and possibly without.

3. It is evident that the impending move of the division is going to dislocate trg considerably, although it will afford drivers valuable practice in convoy driving, and will exercise commanders in echelon grouping, traffic control etc. Were this a British formation, one would regard the possibility of its commitment to battle in the next month or so with considerable apprehension. It was pointed out, however, by General BROWNING on his recent visit that a far lower standard must be accepted; and it is hoped that, in the time remaining, the division will reach a standard adequate for a limited combat role.

4. Morale is high, and the physical condition of the men good. The problem is one of leadership and control. Direction from the top - always poor - has shown no noticeable improvement. The "Q" branch is particularly weak, and this is liable to have serious repercussions in battle conditions. The NEMBO Regt is fortunate in having an exceptionally good commander and Brigade Major; but the S.MARCO staff are decidedly amateurish. It has, however, recently been overhauled by the training team, and some results are beginning to appear e.g. senior regimental officers getting out to watch training - a thing unknown before. The lack of co-ordination of training by Gruppo HQ means that this co-ordination has to be effected as far as possible by the training team, the officers of which are called upon to help in innumerable matters in no way concerned with training. This they are fully prepared to do, though it is questionable to what extent such "wet nursing" is advisable, in that commanders are likely to feel the loss of them acutely when they go.

B. Stage of training of specialists and tradesmen.

5. More W/T and R/T exercises have been carried out and the ITALIANS like the [illegible] lack of cable running a difficulty, and some trouble has been [illegible]

and possibly without.

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B. State of training of specialists and tradesmen.

5. More W/T and R/T exercises have been carried out and the ITALIANS like the 48 W/T set. Lack of cable remains a difficulty, and some trouble has been experienced with No.11 sets. Signal trg generally is backward, and considerable attention will have to be paid to it.

6. Carriers.

The return of deficiencies of specialists shows approx 90 carrier drivers deficient in NEMBO. This figure is completely false (as are most such figures) and the total deficiencies in the Gruppo are inconsiderable. Emphasis has been placed on driving, and little tactical work has yet been done.

7. 3" Mortars.

Training has hitherto been very seriously handicapped by lack of mortars. The full complement has, however, now been received, and training will be intensified.

The situation is probably not so bad as it appears, as the mortar pls know their own 81 mm mortar well, and should not have much difficulty in adjusting themselves to the new weapon.

...../8. Pioneers.

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Appx 'A' (contd)

weapons/....

8. Pioneers.

Results of the assault sections who underwent a course at the ETE were satisfactory. The course for the remainder was postponed, and it would be a great help if it could be put on as soon as possible.

9. 6 pr A/Tk Guns.

Shoots have been carried out at small distant targets to practice ranging, issue of orders etc. It is hoped to send them shortly to EBOLI to practice firing at moving targets ; but this depends on the date of the move.

10. D & M.

New drivers continue to be trained, but the ITALIAN and BRITISH ideas of a trained driver differ greatly. It was found in one driving school that 6 hours at the wheel was regarded as adequate. This was corrected, and a minimum of 15 hours required.

As stated before, irresponsibility and bad road sense are a greater difficulty than lack of technical ability, though it is not suggested that technical ability is anything like up to BRITISH standards.

C. Balance of trg to be completed.

11. Section trg will finish in 4 days time. Platoon and higher trg remain to be done, with a considerable amount of officer trg and specialist trg as indicated in the above paragraphs.

D. Courses and special trg.

12. Completed.

Officers and NCOs W.T. cadre.
Div carrier course
Short cadre in No.48 W/T set
Div Arty course, including 3 Staff Officers
Regtl Sigs Course, NOCERA.
Instructors 3" Mortar refresher course.
Div pioneer course
Junior Leaders Course, CATC
Div Air photo course
Assault pioneer course, ETE

13. In progress.

Field craft and battle drill for dem. pls.

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Instructors 3" Mortar refresher course.
Div pioneer course
Junior Leaders Course, CATC
Div Air photo course
Assault pioneer course, ETE

262

13. In progress.

Field craft and battle drill for dem. pls.
Regimental driving schools.

14. To take place.

Second assault pioneer course at ETE.

E. Any special difficulties.

15. The Gruppo is still short of 5,000 webbing belts. This prevents 5,000 men from wearing equipment.

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Appx 'B' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 34 of 10 Jan 45.

## Training Progress Report - FOLGORE Arty Regt

A GENERAL PROGRESS

Training has been hampered during the last fortnight owing to the Christmas and New Year festivities and the number of personnel on leave. As a result no shooting has been done since last progress report.

1. Gun Drill

Standard is reasonably efficient. Detachments are at present learning maintenance of their equipment. All batteries have carried out several practices of occupying positions with the new equipment, but so far night occupations have not been attempted.

2. Signals

Wireless schemes are taking place using the new wireless trucks. So far results have not been good. Difficulty is being experienced with the No.11 sets over anything but short distances. It is hoped that further training and netting practice will remedy this.

3. M.T.

Driving training is continuing. There are still a number of partly trained drivers in the Regt who need further practice. Tractor drivers are receiving experience towing gun and limber and in the use of the Winch.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

1. Gunnery Specialists

The RA Training Team has trained enough instructors. Instruction within the Regt is temporarily handicapped by a lack of director stands for the new directors. Stands No.39 have been issued in lieu of Stands No.17A. This matter has been taken up with Q(AE). Also there is a lack of Artillery Board covers. These were indented for 6 weeks ago, but have not been received.

2. Signallers

Emphasis has been placed on the training of signallers, of whom there is a large deficiency. This training is progressing satisfactorily except as 261 indicated in para A (2).

3. Gun Fitters

83 HAA Workshops is training gun fitters in practical work on all types of gun held in the Regt.

4. M.T. Fitters

Training within batteries is taking place.

C BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

1. 25 Pr

Course shooting and regimental concentrations. Four days' practice will take place on the [illegible] ranges beginning 15 Jan.

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261

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4. M.T. Fitters
Training within batteries is taking place.

C BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

1. 25 Pr
Course shooting and regimental concentrations. Four days' practice will take place on the CERRETO range beginning 15 Jan.

2. 17 Pr
(a) Full charge shooting.
The A.Tk Bty will practise at School of Artillery, EBOLI, on 9 Jan firing full charge at a moving target.
(b) Tank Recognition.
This subject is being studied. Training films will be shown to the battery while at EBOLI

3. 40mm L/60
(a) Silent practice and shooting.
The bty is at present at AA Wing PAESTUM for a week. During this period one days' silent practice and two days' shooting have been arranged.
(b) Aircraft Recognition.
This subject is being studied. The AA Wing is putting their Aircraft recognition diagrams and models at the disposal of the Bty while at PAESTUM.

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4. Signals

Bty and Rogt Staff schemes.
It is hoped to start Bty and Rogt schemes within the next 10 days. At present wireless training is not sufficiently advanced.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

1. Specialists Course at RA Trg Team.
This course will be completed on Jan 12. Six students from the Rogt are attending the course.

2. Gun Fitters Course at 83 HAA Workshops.
It is intended to pass 24 gun fitters through the workshops. So far 12 gun fitters have been at the workshops 10 days.

E SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

1. Publications.
Certain publications have been received during the last fortnight, but there are still many outstanding, notably Arty Training Vol III, Range Tables Part I (Basic), and Maintenance Manuals for 25 pr, 17 pr, and 4On.

2. Director Stands and Arty Board covers.
This has been referred to in para B (1).

3. Vehicles.
A large number of the new vehicles have arrived in bad condition. Examples are tractors without towing hooks and trucks without headlamps. The tool kits are also in bad order. Most of the tractors have come with chains meant for different types of wheel and often broken. Checking, noting, and remedying these deficiencies is handicapping training on a troop level.

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Annex 'C' to 53 BLU letter
G2 - 34 of 10 Jan 45.

Training Progress Report - Engineer Bn Combat Group POLGONZ

A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Bailey bridging has improved considerably and organisation of work is much better. Night training has been carried out.

2. Mine warfare training is almost completed. The only exercises still to be done are night gapping exercises on platoon and company levels.

3. Training in new equipment has been carried out and driver trg is almost completed.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN.

Compressor men about 30% trained. Training going on daily. Standard of carp - enters and joiners is fairly high.

C BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Fd Coys : | 40 % | Dry Bailey bridge training |
| | 15 % | Mine Warfare training |
| | 25 % | Weapon training |
| | 90 % | Fieldcraft and Battledrill |
| | 60 % | Fieldworks and Water Supply |
| | 10 % | Driver training |
| 2. Fd Pk Coy : | 15 % | Mine Warfare training |
| | 30 % | Weapon training |
| | 5 % | Storekeeping |
| | 20 % | Driver training |

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

No Change.

E. SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

The 10 Fd Coy still lacks an O.C. This has, however, been taken up with MMA who promise action.

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Appx 'D' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 34 of 10 Jan 45

Training Progress Report - Signals Coy

A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Infantry

Training in No.48 set, ACL 2, Fullarphone and UC 10 line Sw/bd has been carried out satisfactorily. Local signal exercises have been carried out by Bns.

2. Artillery

Although all the sets are not yet fitted in vehicles, btys have been carrying out mobile signal exercises.

3. Signals Coy

All the No.19 and No.11 sets are fitted into the vehicles and mobile exercises have been carried out. Further instruction has been carried out on the sets. The coy is now carrying out wireless and instrument repairs for artillery regts and inf bns.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

1. Electricians Signals

Have now had much more practical experience with British equipment as they are now actually carrying out repairs. Are now running charging shop without supervision.

2. Instrument Mechanics

As for Electricians Signals.

3. Lineman

Instruction in cable laying, knotting and jointing has continued. They may now be considered sufficiently trained in all branches except the No.1 Mechanical Layer. This is now being fitted and instruction will be carried out.

4. Operators W/T

Standard of operation is good and knowledge of sets is satisfactory.

5. Drivers

Standard of driving has further improved.

C BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

90% of collective training is still to be done but only 50% of field training.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

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regts and inf bns.

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Standard of operation is good and knowledge of sets is satisfactory.

5. Drivers

Standard of driving has further improved.

C BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

90% of collective training is still to be done but only 50% of field training.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

Courses now being carried out in Regiments under instructors who have done NOCERA course.

E SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

Insulating tape is still not available. This is hampering training to a certain extent.

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APPENDIX 'A'

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT. - NO 5 ITALIAN CO-OPERATION GROUP.

1. (a) CONTROLLED STORES.

| ITEM | ESTABLISHMENT | RETAINED | DRAWN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pistols .38 | 428 | - | - |
| Rifles .303 | 5393 | 4500 | 4500 |
| Thompson Sub Machine Gun | 2543 | 2500 | 2500 |
| Guns machine Bren | 500 | 60 | 60 |
| Rifles sniper | 24 | - | - |
| MTAGs | 170 | 24 | 24 |
| Compasses Prismatic Mk III | 318 | 10 | 10 |
| Watches GS Mk II | 558 | 25 | 25 |
| Watches stop (1/10 sec) | 5 | - | - |
| Watches stop (1/5 sec) | 5 | - | - |
| Binoculars Prismatic No 2 Mk II | 309 | 25 | 25 |
| " " No 5 | 19 | - | - |
| Telescopes sighting No 29 Mk 1A | 32 | 19 | 10 |
| GHL Mortar 2" | 140 | 3 | 3 |
| GHL Mortar 3" | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Pistol Signal No 1 Mk III | 58 | - | - |
| Bicycles | 136 | 10 | 10 |
| Detectors Mine - Polish | 40 | 15 | 15 |
| QF 6 pr A/Tk | 36 | 8 | 8 |
| QF 25 pr | 32 | 4 | 4 |
| QF 17 pr | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| QF 40 mm | 12 | - | - |
| Range Finders No 13 | 2 | - | - |
| " " No 2 Mk VII | 6 | - | - |
| Compasses Magnetic Plane table Mk II | 3 | - | - |
| Lighting sets 1 HP Mk I | 3 | - | - |
| Telescopes Stereoscopic No 18 Mk I | 1 | - | - |
| Sights Dial No 7 Mk II | 40 | - | - |
| Telescopes Auxiliary No 1 Mk I | 1 | - | - |
| " " No 2 Mk IA | 1 | - | - |
| Director No 28 Mk 2A | 20 | 8 | 8 |
| Generating sets 2½ KVA AFP | 1 | - | - |
| Stands Instrument No 39 | | | |
| W/T Sets No 18 (Carriers) | 2 | - | - |
| No 22/18 (Carriers) | 1 | | |
| No 22 (Trucks) | 57 | 57(No 11 in Lieu) | 57 |
| W/T sets No 18 (or A8) | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| No 19 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Reception Sets R 107 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Reception Sets R 109 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Switchboards 10 line Mk I or II | 20 | 7 | 7 |
| Switchboards F & P 40 line | 1 | - | - |
| Test Frames 40 pr | 1 | - | - |
| Telephones Loudspeaking No 2 complete sets | 8 | - | - |
| Telephone Sets 2 Mk F | 150 | 150 | 150 |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Magnetic | 156 | - | - |
| Detectors Mine - Polish | 40 | 10 | 10 |
| QF 6 pr A/Tk | 36 | 15 | 15 |
| QF 25 pr | 32 | 8 | 8 |
| QF 17 pr | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| QF 40 mm | 12 | 6 | 6 |
| Range Finders No 13 | 2 | - | - |
| " " No 2 Mk VII | 6 | - | - |
| Compasses Magnetic Planetable Mk II | 3 | - | - |
| Lighting sets 1 KW Mk I | 3 | - | - |
| Telescopes Stereoscopic No 18 Mk I | 1 | - | - |
| Sights Dial No 7 Mk II | 40 | - | - |
| Telescopes Auxiliary No 1 Mk I | 1 | - | - |
| " " No 2 Mk IA | 1 | - | - |
| Director No 72 Mk 2A | 20 | 8 | 8 |
| Generating sets 2½ KVA AFP | 1 | - | - |
| Stands Instrument No 39 | | | |
| W/T Sets No 18 (Carriers) | 2 | - | - |
| No 22/18 (Carriers) | 1 | | |
| No 22 (Tanks) | 57 | 57(No 11 in line) | 57 |
| W/T sets No 18 (or 48) | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| No 19 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Reception Sets R 107 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Reception Sets R 109 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Switchboards 10 line Mk I or II | 20 | 7 | 7 |
| Switchboards F & F 40 line | 1 | - | - |
| Test Frames 40 pr | 1 | - | - |
| Telephones loudspeaking No 2 complete sets | 8 | - | - |
| Telephone Sets D Mk V | 182 | 170 | 170 |
| Telephone Sets 88 8 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Generators class D No 1 Complete Sets | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Frames D & F 10 Wire Mk I Sets | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Pullaxphones Mk IV or IV* | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Charging sets 4 KW (AFP) Mgt A | 4 | - | - |
| Charging sets 1200 No 1 | 7 | 24 | 24 |
| Charging sets 300 watt Mk I | 57 | 57 | 57 |
| Apparatus Cable laying No 5 | 14 | 4 | 4 |
| Apparatus Cable laying No 6 (or2) | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| Cable Layers Mechanical No 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Barrows drum HD Mk II | 4 | - | - |



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1. (b) A VEHS

| ITEM | ESTABLISHMENT | RECEIVED | REMARK |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carriers Universal | 99 | - | - |
| " Mortar | 48 | - | - |
| " Lloyd | 82 | - | - |
| Cave Recce | 35 | - | - |

(c) B VEHS

| ITEM | ESTABLISHMENT | RECEIVED | REMARK |
|---|---|---|---|
| Motor cycles solo | 570 | - | - |
| 15 cwt GS | 311 | - | - |
| 15 cwt water truck | 23 | - | - |
| 15 cwt office | 7 | - | - |
| 15 cwt 4 x 2 fitted for Wireless | 46 | - | - |
| 15 cwt compressor | 4 | - | - |
| 15 cwt KL Type | 1 | - | - |
| 15 cwt Generator | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton GS 4 x 2 | 321 | 6 | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 breakdown | 2 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 Wkshps | 2 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 battery charging | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton battery storage | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton disinfector | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 Cipher office | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 REV | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 4 Winch | 6 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 4 x 4 GS | 17 | - | - |
| Lorries 3 ton 6 x 4 Dimmed | 6 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 ton 6 x 4 Dimmed | 16 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 ton 6 x 4 Crane | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 x 4 Breakdown | 11 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 x 4 Machinery Type I | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 x 4 Machinery Type A or X | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 x 4 Machinery type Y | 1 | - | - |
| Lorries 6 x 4 Machinery Type DI | 1 | - | - |

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2. CLOTHING (Major Deficiencies).

| | |
|---|---|
| Boots Ankle | 9600 prs |
| Braces | 9300 prs |
| Drawers Woollen | 9600 prs |
| Greatcoats | 8800 |
| Jersey Pullovers | 9300 |
| Shirts Angola Drab | 9600 |
| Socks worsted | 27900 prs |
| Towels hand | 9300 |
| Anklets web | 3300 |
| Blouses 1940 patt. | 3300 |
| Trousers 1940 patt. | 1300 |
| Vests Woollen | 9600 |
| Ground Sheets or Capes MK | 9300 |

3. OTHER G.1098 STORES. (Major Deficiencies)

All deficient. None as yet issued.

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Army Form C 2128.

# MESSAGE FORM.

# CIPHER SECRET

Serial No. 41/22

| CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS | IN / OUT | No. of Groups | Office Date Stamp |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | G.R. | 144 |

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO MMIA

FROM 53 BLU

Originator's Number AQ/A2/44

Date 22

In Reply to Numbers S§ of 27 Jan R? S§ 501 of 27 Dec

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Auxiliary | units | attached | to combat | group | 5270 |
| FOLGORE | 2 Returns at | 1800 hrs | 20 Jan ⊙ | V 41 and | 2 1st 14 |
| W 44 and | 551 ⊙ | X 0 and 5 | ⊙ Y incl | and 8 | |
| 6th 1 22nd | 2 31st 31 ⊙ | Auxiliary units | include all | units as by | App "C" to |
| HQs H Q | letter A2-42 | of 15 Jan ⊙ | X and Y HQrs | for previous | 7 days |

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Originator of origin. 1609

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER.

Originator's instructions Degree of priority

T.H.I. 221830A

T.O.R.

Signed (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

| Signed System In | Time In | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

1377/PMEU/1-10/41

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

Army Form C 2128.

MESSAGE FORM.

Spec S-C 24

| CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS | IN CIPHER SECRET | No. of Groups O.R. | Office Date Stamp |
|---|---|---|---|
| | OUT | | 145 |

Serial No. 32/22

TO MMIA

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

FROM 53 BLU

Originator's Number AQ/A-43 | Date 22 | In Reply to Numbers SS501 of 27

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Combat | group | FORCE | Ins ammunition | units | Return at |
| 1800 hrs | 20 Jun | V480 and | 8256 | W491 and | 8576 |
| X 5 and 184 | Y 5 and | 3140 Z | 1st 152 | 2nd 6 | 3rd 4 |
| 5th 46 | 6th 8 | 7th 5 | 8th 10 | 10th 3 | 11th 9 |
| 12th 3 14th 1 | 15th 2 17th 207 | 18th 3 20th 2 | 21st 41 22nd 68 | 23rd 89 25th 62 | 27th 5 30th 3 |
| 31st 25 | X and | Y hotel | for | purposes | 7 days |

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means.

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER.

Signed (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority —

Time of origin. 2500.

| System In | Time In | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

T.H.I. 221700

T.O.R.

1377/PMEU/1-10/41

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

Subject: Progress Reports

53 B.L.U.
Ref. A2 - 42
15 Jan 45

To : Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMIA)

1. Ref your S/G/29/32 of 23 Dec 44.

2. Herewith reports as ordered :-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appx 'A' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of Combat Group FOLGORE. | In Quadruplicate. |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'B' | | Weekly Progress Report No.10 - State of Equipment and Vehicles held by Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'C' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | In Quadruplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'D' | | Appendices 'A','B','C' & 'D' to 53 BLU letter ref G2 - 34 of 10 Jan 45 - Report by D Training Increment (Inf) on training in the Combat Group FOLGORE. | |

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Lt.Col.
G.S.

11759

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

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 - 42 of 15 Jan 45.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on Organisation of Personnel of Combat Group FOLGORE - State as at 18.00 hrs 13 Jan 45.

Part I General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength ++ | | Strength present with unit. | | Columns (e) and (f) as a percentage of columns (c) and (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | Combat Gp FOLGORE HQ | 31 | 119 | 38 | 195 | 37 | 183 | 155% |
| 2 | 'Nembo' Regt | 114 | 2572 | 128 | 2498 | 125 | 2340 | 98% |
| 3 | 'San Marco' Regt | 114 | 2572 | 126 | 2574 | 122 | 2418 | 97% |
| 4 | Arty Regt FOLGORE | 93 | 1433 | 107 | 1505 | 106 | 1455 | 105% |
| 5 | Engineer Bn(less Sigs Coy) | 16 | 476 | 18 | 510 | 18 | 470 | 107% |
| 6 | Signals Coy | 7 | 327 | 11 | 354 | 10 | 336 | 109% |
| 7 | Medical Services | 26 | 325 | 29 | 333 | 28 | 304 | 103% |
| 8 | Mechanical Engineers | 7 | 279 | 9 | 247 | 9 | 244 | 93% |
| 9 | S & T | 13 | 294 | 18 | 302 | 16 | 283 | 104% |
| 10 | Ord | 4 | 69 | 5 | 86 | 5 | 86 | 125% |
| 11 | Pro | 2 | 102 | 2 | 100 | 2 | 93 | 98% |
| 12 | TOTALS | 427 | 8568 | 491 | 8704 | 478 | 8212 | 102% |



++ This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.

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Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 - 42 of 15 Jan 45.

Part II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength. | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | |
| 1 | Drivers | 955 | 800 | 155 | |
| 2 | Smiths | 38 | 32 | 6 | |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 56 | 51 | 5 | |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | - | - | - | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 140 | 96 | 44 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 40 | 30 | 10 | |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 14 | 5 | 9 | |
| 8 | Sappers | 24 | 12 | 12 | |
| 9 | Artists | - | - | - | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | - | 3 | |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | 28 | 16 | 12 | |
| 12 | Boatmen | 12 | 9 | 3 | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 317 | 317 | - | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | 7 | 6 | 1 | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | 17 | 12 | 5 | |
| 16 | Linemen | - | - | - | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | 480 | 273 | 207 | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | 39 | 35 | 4 | 250 |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | 39 | 39 | - | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | 13 | 12 | 1 | |
| 21 | Director Operators | 95 | 54 | 41 | |
| 22 | Telephonists | 221 | 190 | 31 | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | 300 | 209 | 91 | |
| 24 | Armourers | 116 | 50 | 66 | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 82 | 82 | - | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 52 | 47 | 5 | |
| 28 | Signallers | 50 | 50 | - | |
| 29 | Engineers | 138 | 130 | 8 | |
| 30 | Artificers | 13 | 10 | 3 | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 362 | 336 | 26 | |

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

Subject: Progress Report - Q

53 B.L.U.
Ref Q11 - 10
14 Jan 45

To :- HQ 3 District
AFHQ - G-3 (Org 4)
Q(AE)
LEM
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (AFHQ)
ST
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 14 Jan re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE is attached as Appx 'A', Parts 1 - 4 hereto.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

2/9

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
ref. Q11-10 of 14 Jan 45.

**Weekly Progress Report No.10 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 14 Jan 45**

1. (a) Controlled Stores - Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) |
| 1 | Bren LMG | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 2 | PaIAT | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 426 | 426 | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 5389 | 5389 | 5385 | |
| 5 | TSMG | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 413 | 413 | 413 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 304 | 296 | 200 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 295 | 295 | 250 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 16 | 12 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | ~~45~~ 64 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 | |

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 175 | 175 | - | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 212 | 212 | - | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | - | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 43 | 43 | - | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 5 | 5 | - | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 9 | 9 | 9 | |

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Web equipment c/w valise and pack NIL except (a) Bolts, web 5,000
(b) Carriers, Water Bottle 5,600

Greatcoats 8,000 (large sizes, 6 and over required)

Boots 3,200

Dresses 1,500

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Rangefinders No.15 or No.2 | | | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | ~~43~~ 64 |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 |

(b) Controlled Stores - Auxiliary units attached to Combat Group POLGORE

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pistols .38" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 2 | TSMG | 175 | 175 | - | |
| 3 | Rifles No.4 | 212 | 212 | - | |
| 4 | LMG Bren | 1 | 1 | - | |
| 5 | Watches GS | 43 | 43 | - | |
| 6 | Binoculars No.2 | 5 | 5 | - | |
| 7 | Compasses Prismatic | 9 | 9 | 9 | |

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Web equipment c/w valise and pack NIL except (a) Belts, web 5,000
(b) Carriers, Water Bottle 5,600

Greatcoats 8,000 (large sizes, 6 and over required)
Boots 3,200
Braces 1,500

Notes. All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Group - ~~513~~ 610 all ranks.

3. Other G1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)

(a) Knives table 5,000
Forks table 5,369
Spoons table 5,000
Mugs drinking 10,000

Cooking equipment :-
Cookers Portable No.1 27
No.2 -
No.3 22

other cooking equipment approximately 90% deficient.

(b) G1098 scale of equipment collected :-
(i) Vote 7 & 8 stores 80%
(ii) Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) 70%
(iii) Q controlled stores 95%

...../4(a)

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



4. (a) Tpt - Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 186 | 108 | + Includes 6 Lorries 3 ton GS issued in lieu of lorries Special Hy |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 50 | 23 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 18 | 12 | |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 291 | 291 | 226 | |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 73 | 59 | 44 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 23 | 14 | ø Includes 20 Lorries 3 ton 4x4 Stores issued in lieu of 10 Lorries 6 ton Stores. |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 340 + | 278 | |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 51 ø | 45 | |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 9 | 8 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 13 | 10 | |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 71 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 223 | 223 | |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 35 | - | - | |

(b) Tpt - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 36 | 16 | 12 | |
| 2 | Cars | 9 | 15 | 1 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 25 | 12 | 11 | |
| 4 | Trucks 15 cwt GS | 13 | 12 | 3 | |
| 5 | Trucks 15 cwt Special | 1 | 1 | - | |
| 6 | Trucks 15 cwt Water | 1 | 2 | - | |
| 7 | Truck 30 cwt | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 8 | Lorries 3 ton GS | 26 | 24 | 7 | |
| 9 | Lorries Hy Special | 10 | 1 | - | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 3 | - | - | |

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

Appx 'C' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 - 42 of 15 Jan 45

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on Organisation of Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE - State as at 18.00 hrs 13 Jan 45.

Part I General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength Present with Unit | | Columns (e) and (f) as a percentage of columns (c) and (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | 317 Section Carabinieri | 1 | 51 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 48 | 98% |
| 2 | 2 Fd Pk Coy - Engineers | 5 | 129 | 6 | 136 | 4 | 125 | 105% |
| 3 | 230 Fd Hosp - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 59 | 7 | 57 | 102% |
| 4 | 232 " " " | 7 | 58 | 7 | 63 | 7 | 61 | 108% |
| 5 | 522 " " " | 7 | 58 | 7 | 43 | 6 | 42 | 77% |
| 6 | 866 " " " | 7 | 58 | 7 | 50 | 7 | 50 | 88% |
| 7 | 131 Fd Surgical Unit - Medical | 3 | 23 | 2 | 21 | 2 | 20 | 92% |
| 8 | HQ 1 Amb Car Coy & 1 Pl | 4 | 69 | 5 | 65 | 5 | 65 | 96% |
| 9 | 2 Fd Bakery | 1 | 31 | 1 | 39 | 1 | 37 | 125% |
| 10 | Italian Inc to 53 BLU | 1 | 28 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 28 | 100% |
| 11 | Italian Inc to D Trg Team(Inf) | 4 | | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12 | TOTALS | 43 | 567 | 44 | 554 | 41 | 533 | 98% |

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

Appx "J" to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 - 42 of 15 Jan 45.

Part II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| 1 | Drivers | 66 | 51 | 11 | |
| 2 | Smiths | 2 | 2 | | |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 1 | 1 | | |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | | | | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 8 | Sappers | | | | |
| 9 | Artists | | | | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | | | | |
| 12 | Boatmen | | | | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 21 | 21 | | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | | | | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | | | | |
| 16 | Linemen | | | | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | | | | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | | | | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | | | | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | | | | |
| 21 | Director Operators | | | | |
| 22 | Telephonists | | | | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | | | | |
| 24 | Armourers | | | | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 4 | 4 | | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 28 | Signallers | | | | |
| 29 | Engineers | | | | |
| 30 | Artificers | | | | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 164 | 133 | 31 | |



Note :- All units stated in Part I to this Appx are included in the above with the exception of the following :-

HQ 1 Motor Ambulance Coy and 1 Pl
Italian Increment to 53 B.L.U.
Italian Increment to D Training Team (Inf)

Nil deficiency returns of specialists and tradesmen of the above three units are submitted.

1767

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

Subject: Personnel - Italian

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref A15 - 8
13 Jan 45

1. Further to this HQ signal A15 - 7 of 12 Jan .

2. Herewith copy of HQ Combat Group FOLGORE's letter ref 55/SM of 7 Jan.

3. The figures given in the attached letter of deficiencies of specialists, drivers, etc., do not appear to agree with information passed to this HQ. This point will be taken up with the Gp when their personnel returns as at 1800 hrs 13 Jan are received.

Lt. Col.
G. S.

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore'
1 Sec Op. Inf. Serv.

COPY

55/S.M.

7 Jan 45

Subject: Details of Strength.

To :- Chief of Staff, Royal Army. (Office - Ord & Mob)

Ref teleprint No.1875/Mob of 29 Dec 44.

1. Details of Strength 31 Dec 44.

(a) Effective Strength

| | Officers | NCOs & Men |
|---|---|---|
| W.E. Units of 'Folgore' Combat Group | 492 | 8725 |
| Auxiliary Units attached to the Group | 42 | 525 |
| Total | 534 | 9250 |

(b) Present Strength

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W.E. Units of 'Folgore' Combat Group | 478 | 8121 |
| Auxiliary Units attached to the Group | 40 | 473 |
| Total | 518 | 8594 |

2. Deficiencies - Officers.

(a) HQ Combat Group : 3 Senior Officers, out of which -

1 Major performing the duties of Staff Officer for the General Services Office, in place of Major Vittorio VILLA, in military hospital MANDALONI to undergo an urgent operation for gastric ulcers.

1 Chief of the MT Office, Major DIANA assigned on Minister of War despatch No.93/140/1 of 10 Nov 44, has not yet arrived, in his place there has been requested the Infantry Tank Major DE ALPARO.

1 for the 3rd "Assistance and Propaganda Section". I request for such an officer Lt.Col.GIANNINI at present working at HQ 210 Division.

(b) 'Nembo' Parachute Regt : 3 Senior Officers, of which -

1 for O.C. 2 Bn; the present O.C. is in the corse of being transferred. -
2 for the Regt HQ, to cover duties expected by W.E. -
1 Officer for judicial purposes. -
1 Officer for various assignments. -
6 Regular Army, Infantry Captains, to improve the present Battle Group of the coys.

(c) 'San Marco' Marine Regt -

2 Regular Army Infantry Captains already requested on Ref. No.2305/S.M. of 2 Dec 44. As a result of the above ref no., of the four necessary, the Regular Army Cavalry Captains FRASSETTO & DOMENICHELLI have been allotted, and only they have arrived.

(d) 'Folgore' Arty Regt. - 1 Captain.

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Total 518 854

2. Deficiencies - Officers.

(a) HQ Combat Group : 3 Senior Officers, out of which -

1 Major performing the duties of Staff Officer for the General Services Office, in place of Major Vittorio VILLA, in military hospital MARMALONI to undergo an urgent operation for gastric ulcers.

1 Chief of the MT Office, Major DIANA assigned on Minister of War despatch No.93/140/1 of 10 Nov 44, has not yet arrived, in his place there has been requested the Infantry Tank Major DE ALFARO.

1 for the 3rd "Assistance and Propaganda Section". I request for such an officer Lt.Col.GIANNINI at present working at HQ 210 Division.

(b) 'Nembo' Parachute Regt : 3 Senior Officers, of which -

1 for O.C. 2 Bn; the present O.C. is in the corse of being transferred. -
2 for the Regt HQ, to cover duties expected by W.E. -
1 Officer for judicial purposes. -
1 Officer for various assignments. -
6 Regular Army, Infantry Captains, to improve the present Battle 24/3 for the coys.

(c) 'San Marco' Marine Regt -

2 Regular Army Infantry Captains already requested on Ref. No.2305/3.M. of 2 Dec 44. As a result of the above ref no., of the four necessary, the Regular Army Cavalry Captains FRASSETTO & DOMENICHELLI have been allotted, and only they have arrived.

(d) 'Folgore' Arty Regt. - 1 Captain.

(e) 'Folgore' Engineers Bn. - 2 Captains. (1 for HQ Engr Coy & 1 for HQ Sigs Coy). and 5 Subalterns (Engineers)

(f) 522 Fd Hospital. - 2 Medical Subalterns.

Complete total - 5 Senior Officers
8 Infantry Captains
1 Artillery Captain
2 Engineer Captains (1 Engr Specialist - 1 Radio Specialist)
5 Engineer Subalterns (Engr Specialists)
2 Medical Subalterns

..../3.

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

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



Subalterns./...

3. Deficiencies - NCOs and Men, not specialists
'Nembo' Parachute Regt - 205; such deficiencies refer to the W.E. increases of 5%. Besides which, due to lack of time, the assignment of the following trained specialists is urged -

100 MT Drivers
50 W/T Operators

already requested on foglio 264.1/S.M. of 29 Dec.

4. Deficiencies - Specialists not/ radiable - 228 soldiers (see Appx No.1)

5. Initial Strength on 24 Sep 44.

| | | Officer | NCOs & Men. |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Effective Strength | | | |
| 'Nembo' Division | | 410 | 6170 |
| 'San Marco' Regt | | 133 | 1963 |
| V Pack Bty | | 21 | 404 |
| CLXVI Bty 149/19 Guns | | 27 | 284 |
| | Total | 591 | 8821 |
| (b) Present Strength. | | | |
| 'Nembo' Division | | 348 | 4798 |
| 'San Marco' Regt | | 77 | 998 |
| V Pack Bty | | 16 | 404 |
| CLXVI Bty 149/19 | | 22 | 261 |
| | Total | 463 | 6461 |

We attach on Appx 2 , the Auxiliary Units attached to this Combat Group and assigned after 24. Sep 44.

6. Personnel lost off strength from the date of its formation - 1839 soldiers.

7. The reason why they have been lost off strength is shown in Appx 3.

8. In the teleprint referred to, para 7 does not appear.

Percentage of material provided.

| | |
|---|---|
| Armaments | 80% |
| Equipment | 70% |
| Clothing | 85% |
| Transport | 50% |

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9. Morale and Discipline of the Units.

Morale good - all desire to return as soon as possible to the line. They would indeed like to know the conditions of the Armistice. The number of absentees in question can be considered proportionally moderate.
The discipline of the average soldiers has improved.

Signed - Giorgio Morigi

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

(Appx 'A' to 53 INF Letter 21
INF 12 - 36 of 1 Jun 44.

Part ... Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on Organization of personnel of Combat Group HOLMES. State as at 1650 hrs 30 Dec 44.

Part 1. General state of organization by arms.

| Serial | Unit | War Establishment | | Present Strength | | Strength present with Unit ** | | Columns (e) and (f) as a percentage of column (c) and (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | Other ranks | Offrs | Other ranks | Offrs | Other ranks | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | Combat Gp HOLMES Hq | 20 | 113 | 33 | 196 | 38 | 190 | 166 % |
| 2 | Recce Regt | 117 | 2336 | 123 | 2436 | 124 | 2223 | 97 % |
| 3 | Gun Recce Regt | 117 | 2332 | 125 | 2579 | 125 | 2467 | 100 % |
| 4 | Arty Regt Fullerton | 93 | 1453 | 107 | 1571 | 105 | 1340 | 110 % |
| 5 | Engineer Sq (Less 2 Pl Coy) | 16 | 479 | 18 | 457 | 17 | 397 | 98 % |
| 6 | Signals Coy | 7 | 327 | 11 | 377 | 11 | 344 | 116 % |
| 7 | Medical Services | 26 | 325 | 23 | 334 | 27 | 313 | 103 % |
| 8 | Ecclesiastical Services | 7 | 279 | 8 | 200 | 8 | 194 | 73 % |
| 9 | A & S | 13 | 294 | 20 | 300 | 20 | 278 | 104 % |
| 10 | RAF | 4 | 69 | 5 | 84 | 5 | 88 | 122 % |
| 11 | RAC | 2 | 108 | 2 | 101 | 2 | 91 | 93 % |
| 12 | TOTALS | 450 | 8,000 | 481 | 8657 | 482 | 8121 | 108 % |

** This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave, and AWOL.

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

25-32/15

# ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

## INCOMING MESSAGE

CIPHER SECRET

MSG Center No :
Classification : S
Precedence :
From : 55 BLU
To : HMA

Date Time Rec'd : 151040
Date Time Sent : 142315
Reference MR : 25/15 - 32/15
Cipher : 82/3

ORIG. No AQ/A2-40 Ref yr SS501 of 27 Dec

Combat group FORGORE less ancilliary units.
Return as at 1800 hrs 13 Jan.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | 478 | and | 8212 | | | | 8690 | | |
| W | 491 | and | 8704 | | | | 9195 | | |
| X | 8 | and | 241 | | | | | | |
| Y | 11 | and | 173 | | | | | | |
| Z | 1st | 155 | 2nd | 6 | 3rd | 5 | 5th 44 | 6th 10 | 7th 9 |
| | 8th | 12 | 10th | 3 | 11th | 12 | 12th 3 | 14th 1 | 15th 5 |
| | 17th | 207 | 18th | 4 | 20th | 1 | 21st 41 | 22nd 31 | 240 91 |
| | 24th and 25th | 66 | | | 27th | 5 | 29th 8 | 30th 3 | 31st 26 |

X and Y total for previous 7 days.

Major Debbs
Belandi

Note
WP

1773

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

Army Form C

MESSAGE FORM.

Serial No. 995

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN CIPHER SECRET

OUT 29/1600/4

No. of Groups. G.R.

Office Date Stamp 857

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO MMIA

FROM 53 BLU

Originator's Number AQ/A2-41

Date 14

In Reply to Numbers SS501 of 27 Dec.

Auxiliary units attached to Combat group FORGORE
1st time as at 1800 hrs, 13 Jan GV 41 and 532
W 44 and 554 X 1 and 21 Y 1st and 200
Z 1st 11 5th 1 6th 1 7th 1 10th 1 27th 1 31st 2 10 Auxiliary
units mid: all units as by Appendix "C" pantone to 53 Hq &
letter A 2-36(?) of 1 Jan 45

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER.

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of origin. 2310

Signed

Signed (BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I. 239

T.O.R.

| System in | Time in | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

1377/PMEU/1-10/41

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

# MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 23-9/08

Srl. No. | Priority | Transmission Instructions

Captain Stuart 29/12/

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) 53 BLU Originator | Date-Time of Origin 081130 | Office Date Stamp 35/7

For Action

LAND FORCES SUB COMMAND (MMIA)

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions | GR

Originator's No.

AQ/A2-38 Ref yr. SS 501 of 27 Dec ⊙ Combat group FOLGORE
less auxiliary unit 30 ⊙ Return as at 1800 hrs 6 Jan ⊙ V 476 and 8046
W 494 and 8636 ⊙ X 9 and 1142 ⊙ Y 6 and 203 ⊙ Z 1st 117 2nd 3 3rd 6 5th 33
6th 9 7th 5 8th 10 10th 3 11th 13 12th 3 14th 1 15th 12 17th 188 18th 8 19th 1
20th 1 21st 37 22nd 26 23rd 87 24th and 25th 56 27th 2 29th 17 30th 2 31st 220 ⊙
X and Y total for previous 7 days

| THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT / WIRELESS) | IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER | ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREES OF PRIORITY | Time | System | Op. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | THI or TOR 081300 | | |
| | | | Time cleared | | |
| SIGNED | SIGNED | | | | |

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

Subject: Progress Reports

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref A2 - 36
1 Jan 45

1. Ref your S/G/29/32 of 23 Dec 44.

2. Herewith reports as ordered :-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appx 'A' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of Combat Group FOLGORE. | In Quadruplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'B' | | Weekly progress report No.7 - state of equipment and vehicles held by Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'C' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | In Quadruplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of auxiliary attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | |

3. No copy of reports on training being carried out in this Group is rendered as DMT AFHQ have now asked that this be rendered twice monthly on 10th and 25th. A copy of the last report submitted to DMT was forwarded to you by this HQ letter A2 - 26 of 11 Dec.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

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

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref A2 - 36 of 1 Jan 45.

Part II Specialists and Tradesmen

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| 1 | Drivers | 955 | 812 | 143 | |
| 2 | Smiths | 38 | 35 | 3 | |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 56 | 50 | 6 | |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | - | - | - | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 140 | 110 | 30 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 40 | 35 | 5 | |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 14 | 10 | 4 | |
| 8 | Sappers | 24 | 15 | 9 | |
| 9 | Artists | - | - | - | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | - | 3 | |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | 28 | 14 | 14 | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 317 | 317 | - | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | 7 | 6 | 1 | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | 17 | 5 | 12 | |
| 16 | Linesmen | - | - | - | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | 480 | 285 | 195 | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | 39 | 32 | 7 | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | 39 | 39 | - | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | 13 | 11 | 2 | |
| 21 | Director Operators | 95 | 59 | 36 | |
| 22 | Telephonists | 221 | 196 | 25 | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Dvrs | 300 | 160 | 140 | |
| 24 | Armourers | 116 | 64 | 52 | |
| 25 | Armourers Mechanics | | | - | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 82 | 82 | - | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 52 | 52 | - | |
| 28 | Signallers | 50 | 50 | - | |
| 29 | Engineers | 138 | 134 | 4 | |
| 30 | Artificers | 13 | 11 | 2 | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 362 | 340 | 22 | |
| 12 | Boatmen | 8 | 4 | 4 | |

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



Subject: Progress Report - Q

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 8
1 Jan 45

To :- HQ 3 District
AFHQ - G-3 (Org 4)
Q(AE)
LMT
AAI - G(SD
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMLA)
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 31 Dec re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE is attached as Appx 'A', parts 1 - 4, hereto.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

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Appx 'A' to 53 HLU letter
Ref. Q11 - 8 of 1 Jan 45

Weekly Progress Report No. 8 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 31 Dec 44

1. Controlled Stores.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bren L.G | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 2 | Pal.AT | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 426 | 426 | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 5389 | 5389 | 5385 | |
| 5 | STC | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 413 | 413 | 413 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 304 | 100 | 100 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 295 | 200 | 200 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 12 | 12 | |
| 13 | RangeFinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | RangeFinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | 43 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 49 | 40 | 10 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 50 | 50 | 235 |

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Web equipment c/w valise and pack Nil except (a) Belts, web 5,000
(b) Carriers, Water Bottle 10,000
(large sizes, 6 and over required)

| | |
|---|---|
| Greatcoats | 8,000 |
| Boots | 3,200 |
| Blankets | 10,000 |
| Braces | 10,000 |

Notes.

(a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp being equipped in accordance with MELA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44.

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 12 | 12 | |
| 13 | RangeFinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailors Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | 43 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 49 | 40 | 10 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 50 | 50 | |

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2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Web equipment c/w valise and pack | Nil | except (a) Belts, web | 5,000 |
| | | (b) Carriers, Water Bottle | 10,000 |
| Greatcoats | 8,000 | (large sizes, 6 and over required) | |
| Boots | 3,200 | | |
| Blankets | 10,000 | | |
| Braces | 10,000 | | |

Notes.

(a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with MGA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44.
Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Gp - 513 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

3. Other G.1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)

(a)

| | |
|---|---|
| Knives table | 5,000 |
| Forks table | 9,500 |
| Spoons table | 5,000 |
| Housewives | 10,000 |
| Tins Mess | 640 |
| Mugs drinking | 10,000 |

(b) G.1098 scale of equipment collected :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Vote 7 & 8 stores | 75% |
| (ii) | Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) | 25% |
| (iii) | Q controlled stores | 95% |

.../4. Tpt.

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Appx 'A' (contd)

95%./...

4. Tpt.

| Serial. | Item. | Entitlement. | Released. | Drawn. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) |
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 106 | 36 | + Includes 6 |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 50 | 22 | Lorries 3 ton GS |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 12 | 12 | issued in lieu of |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 291 | 255 | 176 | Lorries Special Hy |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 73 | 53 | 38 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 23 | 14 | |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 340 + | 278 | |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 50 | 44 | |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 8 | 8 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 9 | 7 | |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 71 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 110 | 110 | |
| 13 | Armed Vehicles | 35 | - | - | |

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

Appx C to 53 Bde letter
Ref A2 - 26 of 1 Jan 45.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on organisation of Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group Polish. Strength as at 1800 hrs 30 Dec 44.

Part I General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial (a) | Unit (b) | Offrs (c) | Offrs (d) | Other Ranks (e) | Other Ranks (f) | Strength present with Unit (g) | Strength present with Unit (h) | Column (e) and (f) as a Page of column (c) and (d) (i) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 317 Section Unattached | 1 | 51 | 1 | 51 | 1 | 48 | 100 % |
| 2 | 2 Pol Fd Coy - Engineers | 5 | 129 | 6 | 129 | 6 | 121 | 101 % |
| 3 | 230 Pol Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 57 | 7 | 54 | 98 % |
| 4 | 232 Pol Hospital " | 7 | 56 | 7 | 63 | 7 | 59 | 108 % |
| 5 | 522 Pol Hospital " | 7 | 50 | 7 | 52 | 5 | 44 | 91 % |
| 6 | 866 Pol Hospital " | 7 | 56 | 7 | 52 | 7 | 51 | 94 % |
| 7 | 151 Pol Surgical Unit - Medical | 3 | 23 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 17 | 73 % |
| 8 | 1 Pol Ambulance Car Coy and 1 Pl. | 4 | 60 | 4 | 65 | 4 | 65 | 95 % |
| 9 | 2 Pol Infantry | 1 | 51 | 1 | 39 | 1 | 36 | 78 % |
| 10 | Italian Increment to 53 Bde. | 1 | 26 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 27 | 97 % |
| 11 | Italian Increment to 5 Training Team (Inf) | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 25 % |
| 12 | TOTALS | 43 | 567 | 43 | 553 | 41 | 583 | 98 % |

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Appx 'G' to 53 Div Letter
REF A2 - 35 of 1 Jan 44.

Part II Establishments and Reinforcements

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted strength | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| 1 | Drivers | 66 | 51 | 15 | |
| 2 | Cyclists | 2 | 2 | | |
| 3 | Orderlymen | 1 | 1 | | |
| 4 | Dispatchmen | | | | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 7 | Wireless Operators | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 8 | Coopers | | | | |
| 9 | Artists | | | | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 11 | Motor Mechanics | | | | |
| 12 | Boatmen | | | | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 21 | 21 | | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | | | | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | | | | |
| 16 | Miners | | | | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | | | | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | | | | |
| 19 | Switch Operators | | | | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | | | | |
| 21 | Assistant Operators | | | | |
| 22 | Telephonists | | | | |
| 23 | Tractor Vehicle Drvrs | | | | |
| 24 | Armourers | | | | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 4 | 4 | | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 28 | Signallers | | | | |
| 29 | Engineers | | | | |
| 30 | Artificers | | | | |
| 31 | Total Artillery | 164 | 151 | 33 | |

Note :- All units stated in Part I to this Appx are included in the above with the exception of the following :-

No 1 Motor Ambulance Coy and 1 FA
Italian Interpreters to 53 Div
Italian Interpreters to 1 Armoured Corps (Int)

All defaulting returns of specialists and tradesmen of the above three units are submitted.

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16

Subject: Progress Report - Q

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 9
7 Jan 45

To :- HQ 3 District

AFHQ - G-3 (Org4)
Q(AE)
D.T
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMA)
Ord

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 7 Jan re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE is attached as Appx 'A', parts 1 - 4 hereto.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

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Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. Q11 - 9 of 7 Jan 45.

Weekly Progress Report No.9 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 7 Jan 45

1. Controlled Stores.

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Released (d) | Drawn (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bren LMG | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 2 | PsIAT | 178 | 126 | 126 | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 426 | 426 | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 5389 | 5389 | 5385 | |
| 5 | TSMG | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | 66 | |
| 7 | Watches GS | 413 | 413 | 413 | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 304 | 200 | 100 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 295 | 250 | 200 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 12 | 12 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | 43 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 | |

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2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Web equipment c/w valise and Pack NIL except (a) Belts, web 5,000
(b) Carriers, Water Bottle 5,600

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Greatcoats | 8,000 | (large sizes, 6 and over required) |
| Boots | 3,200 | |
| Blankets | 10,000 | |
| Braces | 1,500 | |

Notes. (a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with MAIA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Gp - 513 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Watches GS | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 304 | 200 | 100 | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 295 | 250 | 200 | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 | |
| 11 | Sights Dial No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 12 | 12 | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 15 | 25 Pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 32 | |
| 16 | 17 Pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| 17 | 6 Pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 36 | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 12 | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | 43 | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 40 | 40 | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 70 | 50 | |

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2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies)

Web equipment c/w valise and Pack NIL except (a) Belts, web 5,000
(b) Carriers, Water Bottle 5,600

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Greatcoats | 8,000 | (large sizes, 6 and over required) |
| Boots | 3,200 | |
| Blankets | 10,000 | |
| Braces | 1,500 | |

Notes. (a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with MMA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Gp - 513 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

3. Other G.1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies)

(a)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Knives table | | 5,000 |
| Forks table | | 5,369 |
| Spoons table | | 5,000 |
| Mugs drinking | | 10,000 |
| Cooking equipment :- | | |
| Cookers Portable | No.1 | 27 |
| | No.2 | - |
| | No.3 | 32 |

other cooking equipment approximately 90% deficient.

(b) G.1098 scale of equipment collected :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Vote 7 & 8 stores | 80% |
| (ii) | Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) | 30% |
| (iii) | Q controlled stores | 95% |

..../ 4. (a) Tpt

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



95%./...

4. (a) Tpt - Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) |
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 186 | 36 | + Includes 6 Lorries 3 ton GS issued in lieu of Lorries Special Hy. |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 50 | 23 | |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 18 | 12 | |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 291 | 291 | 190 | |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 73 | 59 | 38 | |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 23 | 14 | ∅ Includes 20 Lorries 3 ton 4x4 Stores issued in lieu of 10 Lorries 6 ton Stores. |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 340 + | 278 | |
| 8 | Lorries Special Hy | 52 | 50 ∅ | 44 | |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 9 | 8 | |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 13 | 7 | |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 71 | 71 | |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 223 | 223 | |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 35 | - | - | |

(b) Tpt - Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE.

| Serial | Item | Entitlement | Released | Drawn | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) |
| 1 | M/cs | 36 | 13 | 12 | |
| 2 | Ambulances | 25 | - | - | |
| 3 | Trucks 15 cwt GS | 13 | 12 | 3 | |
| 4 | Trucks 15 cwt Special | 1 | 1 | - | |
| 5 | Trucks 15 cwt Water | 1 | 2 | - | |
| 6 | Truck 30 cwt | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Lorries 3 ton GS | 26 | 24 | 7 | |
| 8 | Lorries Hy Special | 10 | 1 | - | |
| 9 | Trailers Water | 3 | - | - | |

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

Subject: Desertions

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref AB - 3
2 Jan 45

1. Ref your SS 503 of 27 Dec 44.

2. It will be seen from appxs A and B to this HQ letter A2 - 36 of 1 Jan 45 that personnel absent without leave in Combat Group FOLGORE amounted to 106 and in auxiliary units attached to the Gp 12 as at 1800 hrs 30 Dec.

3. These figures show an increase of 17 and 12 over the position as at 1800 hrs 23 Dec though in the case of the auxiliary units 7 of the absentees are from 522 Fd Hospital, a unit which has only recently joined the Gp.

4. It is presumed that these increases in absenteeism are mainly due to the Xmas and New Year festivities.

5. Herewith copy of Gp letter to Ministry of War, ref 2217/SM of 29 Dec, on this subject. It is considered that considerable weight may well be attached to the reason given by the Combat Gp for these desertions.

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G. H. Morris.
Lt. Col.
G. S.

Seen.
File WP
10 Jan

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

Re COMBAT GROUP FOLGORE

TRANSLATION

Ref: 221/S.M.

29 Dec 44

To :- Minister of War, ROME

1. Under the present situation existing in this country, and given the voluntary spirit by which the Combat Groups exist and are supported, I consider that, to strengthen morale, discipline, and fighting efficiency, in addition to increasing the severity of repressive measures it might be of value to adopt certain concrete provisions designed to create a clear distinction between those who face the risk of fighting and those, on the other hand - unfortunately they are the great majority - who prefer comfortable and sedentary positions, or the vegetative waiting about in rear areas; or, worse still, the failure to answer the call-up of classes in the certainty that the penalties provided by Law will be incurred only on paper.

On the basis of the above I formulate the following proposals, the effect of which, in my opinion, would be to create the hoped - for and better moral and material conditions for the fighting troops.

2. Decisions regarding outstanding recommendations for awards for valour.

Many troops recommended for an award in May are still without knowledge of the outcome. It is highly desirable for reasons of:

(a) justifiable satisfaction of those concerned ~~who are~~ who are survivors of last Summer's battles and who are now making ready to go to the front for the second time.

(b) the moral effect on all troops of the Combat Groups, if these recommendations could be dealt with as soon as possible.

3. Promotion of Offrs and NCOs: It would be a provision of undoubted moral effect if the recommended promotions of officers and NCOs (who have earned them by right of service and who are now in the Combat Groups) could be accelerated.

4. Service with C.I.L. It would be desirable to give a special mark of recognition (a sign, with relative diploma) to those who have done service with and fought with the C.I.L.

5. Institution of a "policy" in favour of each individual in the Groups, and equal for all. This policy could be paid, at the opportune moment, either to the holders or to their families.

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...../6. Preference

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6. Preference in public employment to be given to Combat Group personnel as soon as they, having completed their duty, are restored to civil life. To this end the necessary provisions of State would be required.

7. Adequacy and adjustment of service indemnities to the practical value of the lire, thereby setting up an effective and real economic advantage for troops belonging to operational units.

8. Daily assistance to families of recalled soldiers: At present the highest daily subsidy for the mother and for the wife of the recalled soldier is 1¼ lire, including all increases.

The subsidy for a dependent son is 5 lire.

It is obvious that with such assistance a family, without any help in heavy manual labour, cannot satisfy even the indispensable daily necessities.

It is urgent for the peace of mind of those who have to face the arduous trials of battle that the daily assistance rates be adjusted in relation to the daily cost of living.

No one can be contented and spiritually in order who knows that his family lacks the means to live, and particularly who is forced to fear that his wife or sister can find the means of life by practices contrary to honour and morality, and which threaten the family bond which constitutes the principal "raison d'etre" of our people.

I can assure you that the largest percentage of desertions in the Combat Group are due exclusively to the necessity on the part of the soldiers to hasten home in order to assist by their own labours in obtaining the most elementary needs of life for their own family.

Setting aside the solution which is suggested for this problem, which without doubt presents a considerable burden, I consider that for the Combat Groups it would be possible to make at once certain temporary and provisional decisions which would achieve the required result and which would not constitute any appreciable strain on the Treasury, considering the small number of those who would be affected.

9. I have put forward those provisions which I consider to be the most urgent towards the "moral re-armament" of the Combat Groups.

The spirit of the fighting soldier, who, by reason of his previous merits and of his destiny, has been chosen to carry on the fight, deserves to be encouraged and nourished to the full, in the certain knowledge that his work is neither misunderstood nor ignored, and that his family is assured of at least the essential conditions of life.



(Signed) C. F. Canging (Chief of Staff)

for G. Morigi (Group Comd)

29/32/f

Appx 'A' to 53 B.L.U.
Letter G2 - 38
25 Dec 44.

Report on infantry trg of the FOLGORE div as on 25 Dec 44.

(A) General Progress.

(1) The Gruppo is now nearing the end of the individual training period. Results are satisfactory, and the troops are sound on their small arms and fieldcraft. They are fit, and have great stamina. Morale is excellent, and the troops are constantly reiterating their wish to get into battle. Training is generally regarded, as is so often the case in British units, as a necessary evil.

(2) The lack of 3" mortars (we have only hitherto had five in good condition for the whole Gruppo) has been a serious drawback. 6 1098 mortars are, however, starting to come in now, and intensive training will be carried out.

(3) The state of officers training is not easy to gauge. Senior staff officers appear in many cases to have been selected for qualities other than knowledge, drive, and clear-headedness. Junior officers tend to be more ornamental than useful, though they are intelligent if properly directed. The idea of officers undergoing hard physical strain and discomfort with the troops does NOT come naturally to the ITALIAN army, and a good deal of emphasis has to be laid on this point. On the other hand, the 25 officer students who have just completed a Junior Leaders Course at the CMTC were of a very high standard, and cease to object to dirt and fatigue as soon as they learned that BRITISH officer students underwent the same.

(4) In order to co-ordinate officers' tactical training, a series of lectures, as shown in appx 'X' is being prepared. These will first of take the form of discussions among OsC bns and senior officers of other arms, the presiding officer having previously been fully briefed and instructed by G2 Training Inc and the Gruppo training staff. These officers are then responsible for repeating the discussions in lecture form to their units.

(5) Section training starts on the 3 Jan 45 for ten working days, including a minimum of two night exercises and two field-firing exercises. Platoon training follows for twenty working days, with a minimum of four nights - and four field-firing exercises - one of the latter to be by night. It is hoped that, by the end of these periods we shall have a clear idea of how much time remains at our disposal.

(B) State of Training of specialists and tradesmen.

(6) Sigs

Training in W/T and R/T is progressing satisfactorily. Small inter-communication skeleton exercises have been carried out in bns. Training in L/T is handicapped by the very small amount of cable available - only one mile per bn.

(7) Carriers

Drivers have been much exercised in the collection of 6 1098 carriers, both universal and Loyd. There was much to criticise at first; but the last convoy of 55 carriers came in complete, in good time, and in good order, and reflected great credit on all concerned, including Major FAIRWEATHER, who has devoted a great deal of time and trouble to this aspect of training. The next convoy is to be of 110 carriers, and its performance will be an interesting test.

(8) 3" Mortars.

See para 2 above. Such firing as has been done has been encouraging, but its scope has of necessity been extremely limited.

225

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See para 2 above. Such firing as has been done has been encouraging, but its scope has of necessity been extremely limited.

(9) Pioneers

One half of the pioneer assault secs are at present on a course at the MTE, and the other half go for similar instruction on the 31 Dec. Results will be reported on as soon as known.

(10) 6 pr A.Tk guns

Training is well advanced, and shoots are carried out regularly. A full sized moving target range has yet to be constructed, but practice at moving targets with a superimposed Bren has been carried out.

A good deal of time will have to be devoted to tank recognition.

(11) D & M

As in the case of carriers, drivers have been much exercised in the collection of G1098 vehicles.

Convoy driving and discipline is still poor. Efforts are being made to improve the standard, but it is hard to induce Italian officers to check cases of bad or irresponsible driving, which they appear to regard as peccadilloes inherent in a light-hearted and high-spirited race. The Gruppo HQ has been asked to pay special attention to this.

/

...../The

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The individual tn driving classes have been centralised in two regimental drivi[illegible] schools, with proper supervision by selected instructors, and with an adequacy of vehicles and parts. But, as indicated above, the trouble does not lie in technical ability; rather in irresponsibility and bad road sense.

(C) Balance of training to be completed.
(12) As shown in paras 4 and 5 above.

(D) Courses and special training.
(13) Completed.
Officers and NCOs W.T. cadre.
Div cartier course.
Short cadre in No. 48 W/T set.
Div arty course, incl 3 staff officers.
R.S.I. sigs course, NCOsRA.
Instrs 3" Mortar refresher course.
Div pioneer course.
Junior Leaders Course CMPC.
Div Air photo course.

(14) In progress.
Assault pioneer course, MTE.
Field craft and battle drill for demonstration pls.
Driving courses as shown in para 11 above.

(15) To take place.
Second Assault pioneers course at MTE.

(E) Any special difficulties.
(16) Non-availability of 3" Mortar HE bombs.

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Appx ( ) to Appx 'A' to 53 BLU
letter Ref G2 - 28 of 25 Dec 44

OFFICER'S TRAINING

Subjects for Lectures and Discussions.

1. The organisation of the Infantry battalion.
2. Communications, intelligence, and reports.
3. Control, including "R", "O", "P", and "T" groups; appreciations; orders, verbal and written.
4. Movement and Traffic Control.
5. Co-operation with Artillery and Air O.P.; the capabilities and limitations of Hy, Med, and Fd Arty; the use, capabilities and limitations of R.E.
6. The approach - contact march and adv guards.
7. The attack and consolidation by day and night.
8. Reliefs in the line.
9. The defence, and outposts and battle patrols.
10. Patrols, movement and briefing.
11. The withdrawal.
12. River crossings.
13. The est of a bridgehead.
14. Street and village fighting.
15. Administration, incl tpt echelons; responsibility of C.O.s in maintenance of tpt.
16. The pursuit battle

Appx 'B' to 55 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 28 of 25 Dec 44.

Training Progress Report - FOLGORE Arty Regt

A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Gun Drill

Gun drill in all batteries is considered to have reached a reasonable standard of efficiency, but has yet to be tested in occupation of positions, night occupations, firing with live ammn.

2. Technical Gunnery

The same remarks apply to technical gunnery as to gun drill.

3. Signals

Training in R/T signalling has made good progress sine the return of instructors taught at Signal School at NOCERA. Schemes over medium distances with No.11 Sets have been carried out by most batteries, but so far not more than 4 sets have worked on the same net. Signal procedure has been studied but not shown in practice to any great extent. Great interest is being taken in signalling by all officers and signallers.

4. M.T.

A number of new vehicles have arrived since the last report. Driving training is continuing and appears to be bearing good results. The regiment has laid down stringent instrs on MT maint. and driving. So far these rules appear to be obeyed.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRAINEES

The only course at present, on which Specialists from the regiment are taking part, is a Gunnery Course at the RA Training Team. This is attended by 1 offr and 5 ORs and the duration is a month ending on 6 Jan.

Training of Specialists is continuing within batteries, with the main emphasis on Signallers and Drivers.

222

C BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED

1. 25 Pr

(a) Drill Orders; lack of tpt has hitherto restricted opportunities.
(b) Course Shooting; it is hoped to fit in 4 days course shooting in this area in January. On this occasion employment of Smoke, and Bty and Regt concentrations will be practised.

2. 17 Pr and 6 Pr

(a) Occupation of positions and deployment.
(b) Full charge shooting. (17 pdr only).
(c) Tank Recognition. It is hoped to use training films for teaching this subject.

3. 40 mm

(a) Shooting Practice. It is intended after Xmas to do [illegible]

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Officers and Signallers.

4. M.T.

A number of new vehicles have arrived since the last report. Driving training is continuing and appears to be bearing good results. The regiment has laid down stringent instrs on MT maint. and driving. So far these rules appear to be obeyed.

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Training of Specialists is continuing within batteries, with the main emphasis on Signallers and Drivers.

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(b) Course Shooting; it is hoped to fit in 4 days course shooting in this area in January. On this occasion employment of Smoke, and Bty and Regt concentrations will be practised.

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(a) Occupation of positions and deployment.
(b) Full charge shooting. (17 pdr only).
(c) Tank Recognition. It is hoped to use training films for teaching this subject.

3. 40 mm

(a) Shooting Practice. It is intended after Xmas to do silent practice at NAPLES Aerodrome, followed by 2 days shooting at PAESTUM.
(b) Aircraft Recognition. This subject is at present being studied. Enough publications and diagrams are available.

4. Signals

(a) Bty and Regt Staff schemes. As soon as sufficient vehicles arrive and signallers are considered proficient on No.11 Set, deployment and tactical schemes will begin.

(b) Line Laying. No practice has yet been possible owing to lack of line and line trucks. Most of the signallers have already had experience of line laying at the front. The main necessity is to get them used to British equipment.

5. M.T.

(a) Maintenance. A British Inspectorate has visited each Bty and explained the task system. Nevertheless it is felt that a great deal of supervision and practice is still necessary.

...../(b) Winch

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necessary/.....

6. G. Fitters It is hoped that a British Workshops coming to this area will be able to assist gun fitters from each bty in practical gun fitting on all types of artillery equipment.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

No change since last progress report.

E SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

With the arrival of C.1098 equipment, most training difficulties caused by lack of material have vanished.

Training difficulties being encountered at present are internal, such as the Italian system of sending 25% of their personnel on leave at Xmas and delays over distribution of new equipment.

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Appx 'C' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 28 of 25 Dec 44.

Training Progress Report - Engineer Bn Combat Group FOLGORE

(A) General Progress made to date.

Since last report further progress has been made in Bailey bridging. The coy that had not done any has now completed the initial stages. Mine warfare training and use of explosives has been carried out by both companies. G.1098 Equipment now arriving daily for all companies.

(B) State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen.

No change. Facilities for training Tradesmen are still lacking.

(C) Balance of Programme to be completed.

1. Fd Coys

| | |
|---|---|
| 75% | Dry Bailey bridge training |
| 40% | Mine Warfare training |
| 80% | Weapon training |
| 10% | Diversions and Road Maintenance |
| 100% | Fieldcraft and Battledrill |
| 90% | Fieldworks and Water Supply |
| 50% | Driver Training |

2. Fd Fk Coy

| | |
|---|---|
| 70 % | Mine Warfare training |
| 50 % | Weapon Training |
| 30 % | Storekeeping |
| 40 % | Driver Training |

(D) Courses and Special Training completed

No change.

220

(E) Special Difficulties

The Fd Fk Coy is getting its G.1098 equipment rapidly but has so far been allotted no transport. It is felt that this should be given as soon as possible to allow training in loading equipment etc to be carried out. (Release of tpt to auxiliary units has been promised for the first week in January 45.)

Appx "A" to 53 B.L.U. letter
Ref. [illegible] - 28 of 25 Dec 44.

## Training Progress Report - Signals.

A. General Progress.

1. Infantry.

The NOCERA course finished on the 12th inst and the 40 inf personnel concerned returned to their units, where they have subsequently been acting as instructors.

Training in No.48 set, A.C.L.2, Fullerphones and U.C.10 line Sw/bd has been carried out in the last fortnight.

2. Artillery.

There has been a serious hold-up in the W/T training of Artillery Signals owing to the unserviceable condition of the majority of the No.11 sets issued to this Group. These have now been exchanged for serviceable sets and training is going ahead.

3. Signals Coy.

There has been good progress in the individual training of all tradesmen.

B. State of Training of Specialists & Tradesmen of Signals Coy.

1. Despatch Riders. All are now competent riders. Instruction has been given in I.C. engine, maintenance by task system, repair of common faults. General level of knowledge not high.
2. Vehicle Mechanics. Are under instruction at Group Workshops.
3. Electricians Signals. Are all reliable men with considerable experience.
4. Instrument Mechanics. We have 11 instead of 15 and 9 of these are pupils. 6 have reached a good standard.
5. Linemen. Many of these have to be employed on maintenance of the Group line network, and as extra sw/bd operators. The remainder are following a course of instruction in cable laying, knotting and jointing etc. We are deficient of jack-knives and insulating tape.
6. Operators W/T. Very satisfactory. Have had thorough training on No.19 set, and are now beginning on No.11 set. All W/T and R/T procedure is on British lines.
7. Operators Line. Good.
8. Sw/bd Operators. Cannot take a course of training as they are fully employed at exchanges, but as several English sw/bds have now been installed they are obtaining practical experience in their use.
9. Drivers. The situation has improved. 6 experienced drivers have just joined the coy and a further 7 are expected. An additional training vehicle has been allocated for pupil-drivers.

219

C. Balance of Training to be Completed.

Owing to the lack of transport there has been very little collective or field training as yet. We anticipate doing this during January.

D. Courses and Special Training Completed.

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NOCMRA Course finished 12 Dec.

E. Special Difficulties.

1. Most equipment troubles are now over. The non-availability of insulating tape still hampers linemens' training.
2. The lack of Italian translations of the following pamphlets has been troublesome :-

Signal Training (All Arms) Pamphlet.
No.3 Electricity and Line Signalling 1942
No.5 Pt.I Radio Telephony 1943
No.8 Pt.I Morse Telegraphy, Line Telephony and Visual Signalling 1944
No.8 Pt.III Signal Office Organisation 1944.

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CIPHER SECRET

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) MESSAGE FORM Register No. 30/08

| Call | Srl. No. | Priority | Transmission Instructions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 29/32/4 |

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY — OFFICE DATE STAMP —

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLU — Date-Time of Origin: 081135A.

For Action: LAND FORCES SUB COMMAND: (MMIA)

TO (W) For information (INFO)

—Message Instructions— | —GR—

Originator's No.

AQ/A2-39 Ref your SS 501 of 27 Dec ⊙ Auxiliary units attached 1st Combat Grp FOLGORE returns 061800 to 6th Jan ⊙ V 42 and 520 W 44 and 552 X 1 and 9 Y pil and 10 Z 1st 11 5th 1 6th 1 7th 1 10th 1 27th 1 31st 31 ⊙ Auxiliary units as by appendix "C" part 1 to this HQ letter A2-36 of 1st Jan 45

| THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS [EXCEPT] WIRELESS | IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER | ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREES OF PRIORITY |
|---|---|---|
| SIGNED | SIGNED Royce | |

| Time | System | Op. |
|---|---|---|
| THI or TOR 08 mid. | | |
| Time cleared | | |

38.

S/Sec. 9.

218

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

CIPHER SECTION

ARMY FORM O 2186 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** Register No. 3915

| Call | Srl. No. | Priority |
|---|---|---|

Transmission Instructions

24/32 21

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY — Office Date Stamp —

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLU

Date-Time of Origin: 051040A

For Action: MMIA

TO (W) For Information (INFO): Intel. WP.

Message Instructions — GR —

Originator's No. A/Q-Q4-300 Ref your SS494 of 23rd Dec (Dec) being (a) 235 (b) 91 (c) 63 (d) 31 (e) 232

217

| Time | System | Op. |
|---|---|---|
| THI or TOR | | |
| 051140A | | |
| Time cleared | | |

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

SIGNED

SIGNED

1802

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

COPY

Subject: Bi-Monthly Training Reports

53 B.L.U.
Ref G2 - 28
25 Dec 44

To :- HQ CMF

1. Herewith in quadruplicate Trg Progress Reports as called for in your T.r.s. HQ/327 of 5 Dec 44.

2. Reports on separate arms of the service are rendered as Appendices to this letter as follows :-

Appx 'A' - Inf and general Trg within Group.

Appx 'B' - Arty Trg.

Appx 'C' - R.E. Trg.

Appx 'D' - Sigs Trg.

(Signed) C.C. Markes, Major
for Lt.Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 - 38 of 25 Dec 44.

Report on infantry training of the Folgore Div as on 25 Dec 44

(A) General Progress.

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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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Div Carrier Course.
Short Cadre in No.48 W/T set.
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Instrs 3" Mortar refresher course.
Div Pioneer Course.
Junior Leaders Course, CMMC.
Div Air Photo Course.

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Assault Pioneer Course, ETE.
Field-craft and Battle-drill for demonstration pls.
Driving courses as shown in para 11 above.

(15) To take place

Second Assault Pioneer Course at ETE.

(E) Any Special Difficulties

(16) Non-availability of 3" Mortar HE bombs.

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

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Appx 'J' to Appx 'A' to 53 BLU
letter Ref G2 - 28 of 25 Dec 44

OFFICER'S TRAINING

Subjects for Lectures and Discussions.

1. The organisation of the Infantry battalion.
2. Communications, intelligence, and reports.
3. Control, including "R", "O", "F", and "T" groups; appreciations; orders, verbal and written.
4. Movement and Traffic Control.
5. Co-operation with Artillery and Air O.P.; the capabilities and limitations of Hy, Med, and Fd Arty; the use, capabilities, and limitations of R.E.
6. The approach - contact march and adv guards.
7. The attack and consolidation by day and night.
8. Reliefs in the line.
9. The defence, and outposts and battle patrols.
10. Patrols, movement and briefing.
11. The withdrawal.
12. River crossings.
13. The est of a bridgehead.
14. Street and village fighting.
15. Administration, incl tpt echelons; responsibility of C.O.s in maintenance of tpt.
16. The pursuit battle.

Appx 'B' to 53 BLU letter
Ref G2 28 of 25 Dec 44.

## Training Progress Report - FOLGORE Arty Regt

### A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Gun Drill

Gun drill in all btys is considered to have reached a reasonable standard of efficiency, but has yet to be tested in occupation of positions, night occupations, firing with live ammn.

2. Technical Gunnery

The same remarks apply to technical gunnery as to gun drill.

3. Signals

Training in R/T signalling has made good progress since the return of instructors taught at Signal School at NOCERA. Schemes over medium distances with No.11 sets have been carried out by most btys, but so far not more than 4 sets have worked on the same net. Signal procedure has been studied but not shown in practice to any great extent. Great interest is being taken in signalling by all officers and signallers.

4. M.T.

A number of new vehicles have arrived since the last report. Driving training is continuing and appears to be bearing good results. The regiment has laid down stringemt instrs on MT maintenance and driving. So far these rules appear to be obeyed.

### B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

The only course at present, on which Specialists from the regt are taking part, is a Gunnery Course at the RA Trg Team. This is attended by 1 offr and 5 ORs and the duration is a month ending on 6 Jan.

Training of Specialists is continuing within btys, with the main emphasis on Signallers and Drivers.

### C BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED

1. 25 Pr
   (a) Drill Orders; lack of tpt has hitherto restricted opportunities.
   (b) Course Shooting: it is hoped to fit in 4 days course shooting in this area in January. On this occasion employment of Smoke, and Bty and Regt concentrations will be practised.
2. 17 Pr and 6 Pr
   (a) Occupation of positions and deployment.
   (b) Full charge shooting. (17 Pr only.)
   (c) Tank Recognition. It is hoped to use training films for teaching this subject.
3. 40 mm
   (a) Shooting Practice. It is intended after Xmas to do silent practice at NAPLES Aerodrome, followed by 2 days shooting at PAESTUM.
   (b) Aircraft Recognition. This subject is at present being studied. Enough publications and diagrams are available.
4. Signals

(a) Bty and Regt Staff schemes. As soon as sufficient vehicles arrive and signallers are considered proficient on No.11 Set, deployment and tactical schemes will begin.

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stringent instrs on MT maintenance and driving. So far these rules appear to be obeyed.

B STATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

The only course at present, on which Specialists from the regt are taking part, is a Gunnery Course at the RA Trg Team. This is attended by 1 offr and 5 ORs and the duration is a month ending on 6 Jan.

Training of Specialists is continuing within btys, with the main emphasis on Signallers and Drivers.

C BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED

1. 25 Pr
   (a) Drill Orders; lack of tpt has hitherto restricted opportunities.
   (b) Course Shooting: it is hoped to fit in 4 days course shooting in this area in January. On this occasion employment of Smoke, and Bty and Regt concentrations will be practised.
2. 17 Pr and 6 Pr
   (a) Occupation of positions and deployment.
   (b) Full charge shooting. (17 Pr only.)
   (c) Tank Recognition. It is hoped to use training films for teaching this subject.

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3. 40 mm
   (a) Shooting Practice. It is intended after Xmas to do silent practice at NAPLES Aerodrome, followed by 2 days shooting at PAESTUM.
   (b) Aircraft Recognition. This subject is at present being studied. Enough publications and diagrams are available.
4. Signals

(a) Bty and Regt Staff schemes. As soon as sufficient vehicles arrive and signallers are considered proficient on No.11 Set, deployment and tactical schemes will begin.

(b) Line Laying. No practice has yet been possible owing to lack of line and line trucks. Most of the signallers have already had experience of line laying at the front. The main necessity is to get them used to British equipment.

5. M.T.

(a) Maintenance. A British Inspectorate has visited each Bty and explained the task system. Nevertheless it is felt that a great deal of supervision and practice is still necessary.

6. Gun Fitters

It is hoped that a British Workshops coming to this area will be able to assist gun fitters from each bty in practical gun fitting on all types of artillery equipment.

D COURSES AND SPECIAL TRAINING COMPLETED

No change since last progress report.

...../E SPECIAL

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E SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

With the arrival of G 1098 equipment, most training difficulties caused by lack of material have vanished.

Training difficulties being encountered at present are internal, such as the Italian system of sending 25% of their personnel on leave at Xmas and delays over distribution of new equipment.

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Appx 'C' to 53 BLU letter
G2 - 28 of 25 Dec 44.

Training Progress Report - Engineer Bn Combat Group FOLKORE

(A) General Progress made to date

Since last report further progress has been made in Bailey bridging. The coy that had not done any has now completed the initial stages. Mine warfare training and use of explosives has been carried out by both companies. G 1098 equipment now arriving daily for all companies.

(B) State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen

No change. Facilities for training tradesmen are still lacking.

(C) Balance of Programme to be completed.

1. Fd Coys

75% Dry Bailey bridge training.
40% Mine Warfare training.
80% Weapon training.
10% Diversions and Road Maintenance.
100% Fieldcraft and Battledrill.
90% Fieldworks and Water Supply.
50% Driver Training.

2. Fd Pk Coy

70% Mine Warfare training.
50% Weapon Training.
30% Storekeeping.
40% Driver Training.

(D) Courses and Special Training completed.

No change.

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(E) Special Difficulties

The Fd Pk Coy is getting its G 1098 equipment rapidly but has so far been allotted no tpt. It is felt that this should be given as soon as possible to allow training in loading equipment etc to be carried out. (Release of tpt to auxiliary units has been promised for the first week in January 45.)

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Training Progress Report -
Signals

A GENERAL PROGRESS

1. Infantry.
The NCCERA course finished on the 12th inst and the 40 inf personnel concerned returned to their units, where they have subsequently been acting as instrs.
Training in No.48 set, A.C.L.2, Fullerphones and U.C.10 line Sw/bd has been carried out in the last fortnight.

2. Artillery
There has been a serious hold-up in the W/T training of the Arty Signals owing to the unserviceable condition of the majority of the No.11 sets issued to this Gp. These have now been exchanged for serviceable sets and training is going ahead.

3. Signals Coy
There has been good progress in the individual training of all tradesmen.

B State of Training of Specialists and Tradesmen of Signals Coy

1. Despatch Riders. All are now competent riders. Instruction has been given in I.C. engine, maintenance by task system, repair of common faults. General level of knowledge not high.

2. Vehicle Mechanics. Are under instruction at Group Workshops.

3. Electricians Signals. Are all reliable men with considerable experience.

4. Instrument Mechanics. We have 11 instead of 15 and 9 of these are pupils. 6 have reached a good standard.

5. Linesmen. Many of these have to be employed on maintenance of the Group line network, and as extra sw/bd operators. The remainder are following a course of instruction in cable-laying, knotting and jointing etc. We are deficient of jack-knives and insulating tape.

6. Operators W/T. Very satisfactory. Have had thorough training on No.19 set, and are now beginning on No.11 set. All W/T and R/T procedure is on British lines.

7. Operators Line. Good.

8. Sw/bd Operators. Cannot take a course of training as they are fully employed at exchanges, but as several English sw/bds have now been installed they are obtaining practical experience in their use.

9. Drivers The situation has improved. 6 experienced drivers have just joined the coy and a further 7 are expected. An additional training vehicle has been allocated for pupil drivers.

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C Balance of Training to be completed

Owing to the lack of tpt there has been very little collective or field training as yet. We anticipate doing this during January.

D Courses and Special Training completed: NCCERA Course finished 12 Dec.

E Special Difficulties.

1. Most equipment troubles are now over. The non-availability of insulating tape still hampers linemens' training.

2. The lack of Italian translations of the following pamphlets has been troublesome:-

Signal Training (All Arms) Pamphlet.
No.3 Electricity and Line Signalling 1942.
No.5 Pt.I Radio Telephony 1943
No.6 Pt.I Morse Telegraphy, Line Telephony and Visual Signalling 1944.
No.8 Pt.III Signal Office Organisation 1944.

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

CIPHER - SECRET

ARMY FORM O 2136 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** Register No. 59

| Call | Srl. No. | Priority | Transmission Instructions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 27/2/44 |

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY — Office Date Stamp 4

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLU — Date/Time of Orig'n: 011210A

For Action: MMIA

TO _____ (W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions — GR —

Originator's No. AQ/A-35 Ref your SS 501 of 27th Dec Ancillary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE return as at 180-hrs 30th Decm A VH1 and 523 WU3a653 X 1 and 2 Y nil Z 1 15 5 1 6 1 7 1 10 11 27 1 31 33 O X and Y Stats 5) for Morning Wednesday Ancillary units (include) all units as by Appx C part 2 to the HQ letter A-27 of 18th Dec plus 230 and 532 Field Hospitals

| THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT ( ) WIRELESS | IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER | ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY |
|---|---|---|
| SIGNED | SIGNED SBCpl. | |

Fig 2

| Time | System | Op. |
|---|---|---|
| THI or TOR | | 208 |
| 011555A Time cleared | | |

P S S / E / D-O 100 M 1-43 9-44

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

CIPHER SECRET

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) **MESSAGE FORM** Register No. 2461

| Call | Srl. No. | Priority | Transmission Instructions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | P | |

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLU — Date-Time of Orig'n: 041200

For Action: MFIA ✓

TO: (W) For Information (INFO)

176

Office Date Stamp: 8/Sec.

Message Instructions | GR

Originator's No.: A8/AC-340 Ref your SS 501 of 27th Dec 0 Contact Portland FOLCOSE has cancelled units 0 Returns ref 106 Lth 30th Dec 40 V 482 and 8121 W 491 and 8697 X 8 and 102 46 and 185 Zone 143 too 3 three 6 five 30 six 5 seven 4 eight 9 ten 3 23 140 24 and 25 52 29 4 30 2 31 22 G.X and Y total for previous 7 days

| This Message may be sent as written by any means except ( ) wireless | If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent in cipher | Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority | Time THI or TOR: 0430A | Op. 207 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Signed | Signed Edge | IMPORTANT | Time cleared | |

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

CIPHER SECRET

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Small) — MESSAGE FORM — Register No. 3630

| Call | Srl. No. | Priority | Transmission Instructions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 3630 | | |

639

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: 53 BLU — Date-Time of Origin: 271130A

— Office Date Stamp —

S/Sec.

For Action

MMIA /

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

—Message Instructions— | —GR—

P.S.S./B/D50/100 K 001 Pad

Originator's No.

A/O-A2-330 Ref your SS 5028 27th Dec ⊙ Combat Ops FOLGORE Strength Return as at 27 Dec ⊙ Medical Strength 489 and 3780 ⊙ Strength present with arms 482 and 8253 ⊙ Wastage due to increase Personnel on leave from 49 on 15 Dec to 238 and AWOL from 52 to 89 for corresponding date ⊙ Of hospital cases balance wastage being investigated ⊙ Your SS 494 of 22nd Dec answered by this HQ A/O-04-27 of 27 Dec

| This Message may be sent as written by any means except | If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent in cipher | Originator's Instructions degree of priority | Time THI or TOR | System 206 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Signed [illegible] WP | Signed [illegible] Cpl. | IMPORTANT | Time cleared | |

1815

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

Appx 'A' to 53 BLD letter
Ref Q11 - 7 of 24 Dec 44.

Weekly Progress Report No.7 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 24 Dec 44

1. Controlled Stores

| Serial (a) | Item (b) | Entitlement (c) | Deficiency (d) | Detail (e) | Remarks (f) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bren LMG | 500 | 500 | 500 / | |
| 2 | PaIAT | 178 | 126 | 126 / | |
| 3 | Pistols .38 | 426 | 426 | 426 / | |
| 4 | Rifles No.4 | 5389 | 5389 | 5389 / | |
| 5 | TSMG | 2543 | 2543 | 2543 / | |
| 6 | Pistols Signal | 66 | 66 | - / | |
| 7 | Watches Co | 413 | 413 | 413 / | |
| 8 | Compasses Prismatic | 304 | 100 | 100 / | |
| 9 | Binoculars No.2 | 295 | 200 | 100 / | |
| 10 | Mine Detectors American | 41 | 41 | 41 / | |
| 11 | Sights Bnd No.9 | 40 | 40 | 40 / | |
| 12 | Directors Arty No.7 | 20 | 12 | 12 / | |
| 13 | Rangefinders No.2 | 6 | 6 | 6 / | |
| 14 | Rangefinders No.13 or No.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 / | |
| 15 | 25 pr Guns | 32 | 32 | 20 / | |
| 16 | 17 pr Guns | 8 | 8 | 6 / | |
| 17 | 6 pr Guns | 36 | 36 | 29 / | |
| 18 | 40 mm Guns | 12 | 12 | 5 / | |
| 19 | Trailers Arty No.27 | 64 | 64 | 22 / | |
| 20 | Mortars 3" | 40 | 10 | 10 + | |
| 21 | Mortars 2" | 140 | 50 | 50 + | |

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

Appx 'A' to 53 RAU letter
Ref. 911-7 of 24 Dec 44.

Weekly Progress Report No.7 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLDER as at 24 Dec 44.

4. Trk.

| Serial. | Item. | Entitlement. | Released. | Drawn. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | M/cs | 369 | 6 | 6 | ✓ |
| 2 | Cars | 106 | 22 | 22 | ✓ |
| 3 | Ambulances | 18 | 8 | 8 | ✓ |
| 4 | Trucks GS 15 cwt | 291 | 120 | 106 | ✓ |
| 5 | Trucks Special 15 cwt | 75 | 30 | 30 | ✓ |
| 6 | Trucks Water 15 cwt | 23 | 14 | 14 | ✓ |
| 7 | Lorries GS 3 ton | 334 | 238 | 238 | ✓ |
| 8 | Lorries Special Fy | 52 | 39 | 39 | ✓ |
| 9 | Trailers | 74 | 4 | 4 | ✓ |
| 10 | Trailers Water | 13 | 5 | 5 | ✓ |
| 11 | Tractors | 77 | 31 | 31 | ✓ |
| 12 | Carriers | 223 | 110 | 110 | ✓ |
| 13 | Recce Vehicles | 55 | - | - | |

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

( ) ( )Appx 'A' to 53 B.A.O. Letter
Apo. 511 - 7 of 24 Dec 44.

Weekly Progress Report No. 7 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group ARMOR as at 24 Dec 44.

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies).

Web Equipment q/r value one pack Mk1 except (a) Belts, web 5000
(b) Canteens Water Bottle 10000
(Large sizes, 6 and over required)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Greatcoats | | |
| Boots | 8000 | |
| Blankets | 3200 | |
| Berets | 10000 | |
| | 10000 | |

Notes.

(a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are not being equipped in accordance with AGA letter B/G/23/26 of 26 Oct 44. 204

(b) Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to this Gp. 1480 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

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Appx 'A' to 53 B.L.U. letter
of. Q11 - 7 of 24 Dec 44.

Weekly Progress Report No. 7 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 24 Dec 44.

3. Other G 1098 Stores (Details of major deficiencies).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) | Knives table | 5000 |
| | Forks table | 9500 |
| | Spoons table | 5000 |
| | Housewives | 10000 |
| | Tins mess | 640 |
| | Mugs drinking | 10000 |

(b) G 1098 scale of equipment collected :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Vote 7 & 8 stores | 70 % |
| (ii) | Vote 9 (less Q controlled stores) | Nil |
| (iii) | Q controlled stores | 95 % |

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Appx 'A' to 55 BDU letter
Ref. 2nd - 21 of 11 Dec.44.

Training Progress Report on Engineer Bn. "TULAGHS" Gp.

1. General Progress made to date.

One company has now been partially trained in Bailey bridging but has still much of this to do. The other company has as yet done no Bailey trg. Both companies have done a certain amount of weapon trg since the last report. The bridging pl of the Field Park Coy has done about a weeks' Bailey bridging in order to accustom them to the equipment. Further training by this company has been done in weapon training, storekeeping and general discipline. A small amount of driver training has been carried out but is by no means complete. G.1098 equipment is now arriving for the Field Park Coy.

2. State of training of specialists and tradesmen.

No change since last report.

3. Balance of programme to be completed.

(a) Field Coys:-

90% dry Bailey bridge training
55% Mine warfare training
85% Weapon training
20% Diversions and road maintenance
100% Fieldcraft and battle drill
100% Field-works and water supply
70% Driver training.

(b) Fd Pk Coy.

80% Mine warfare training
60% Weapon training
50% Storekeeping
70% Driver training.

4. Courses and special training completed.

No change since last report.

5. Special difficulties.

(a) The periodic necessity, owing to floods, of erecting 60' of Bailey bridge at PONTE in order to maintain the Group's L of C. This interrupts training.
(b) Lack of transport. This is being remedied slowly, 9 x 15 cwt trucks were received yesterday.
(c) Constant moves of the two Fd Coys owing to smallpox epidemic etc. For the last ten days they have been under canvas under very bad conditions and it has been almost impossible to train in wet weather as no drying facilities have been available.
(d) 3 District will not release any material for accommodation stores, i.e. for making latrines or improving cookhouses. The necessary material therefore has to be acquired or purchased locally by the Italians which is unsatisfactory.
(e) So far it has been impossible to get any increased scale of rations for personnel

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85% Weapon training
20% Diversions and road maintenance
100% Fieldcraft and battle drill
100% Field-works and water supply
70% Driver training.

(b) Fd Pk Coy.

80% Mine warfare training
60% Weapon training
50% Storekeeping
70% Driver training.

4. Courses and special training completed.

No change since last report.

5. Special difficulties.

(a) The periodic necessity, owing to floods, of erecting 60' of Bailey bridge at POMPEI in order to maintain the Group's L of C. This interrupts training.
(b) Lack of transport. This is being remedied slowly, 9 x 15 cwt trucks were received yesterday.
(c) Constant moves of the two Fd Coys owing to smallpox epidemic etc. For the last ten days they have been under canvas under very bad conditions and it has been almost impossible to train in wet weather as no drying facilities have been available.
(d) 3 District will not release any material for accomodation stores, i.e. for making latrines or improving cookhouses. The necessary material therefore has to be acquired or purchased locally by the Italians which is unsatisfactory.
(e) So far it has been impossible to get any increased scale of rations for personnel doing intensive training.
(f) Provision of reinforcements has been slow and insufficient.
(g) There is still no commander of the Engineers Bn. This is causing great difficulty as decisions cannot be made about important questions, such as changes in company commanders, appointment of an adjutant etc., and in consequence the efficiency of the Bn is greatly decreased.

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A[illegible] to 53 B.L.U. letter
[illegible]. G[illegible] - 21 of 11 Dec.44.

TRAINING PROGRESS REPORT - SIGNALS COY.

1. General Progress.

(a) Infantry and Artillery.

40 Infantry and 40 Artillery personnel are on a Signals Course at NOCERA which finishes 12 Dec.

When these men return they should form a well-trained nucleus in their respective units. Pending their arrival the Infantry have been concentrating on Basic Training. The Artillery were prepared to begin training immediately but were held up by the unservicable condition of the majority of No.11 sets issued to the Group. These sets are being returned to Ordnance, and the REME Workshops at 3 Sub Depot is selecting and re-servicing 57 further sets, which will be ready for collection on Friday 15 Dec.

(b) Signals Coy.

Most of the factors mentioned in last report as slowing up training still prevail. Living conditions are better, as the Signal Coy is now alone in CASTELVENERE.

We have indented item by item for all tool-kits on the G.1098 of the Signals Coy. This is a slow process as a large proportion of items are not available, and repeated journeys to Sub-depots are entailed.

2. STATE OF TRAINING OF TRADES

| | |
|---|---|
| Despatch Riders | Have been training on the one m/c available. |
| Vehicle Mechanics | Have received instruction on the old tpt of the coy. |
| Electricians Signals | Handicapped by lack of tool-kits but have made a study of all British equipment. |
| E.S.s Battery Charging | Well trained. Charging is now proceeding very satisfactorily with the new 4.5 K.W. engines. |
| Instrument Mechanics | There is only one man in the coy who previously held this rating. We are training 14 others in order to make up the W.E. but progress is necessarily slow as this trade demands a particularly long apprenticeship. |
| Linesmen | 50 pliers have now been obtained. Jack-knives are promised. Tape, solder and flux are however still N.A. The linesmen have much practical training on existing routes. Theoretical training proceeds satisfactorily. Lack of cable has been a severe handicap in line - training but we are to receive our full entitlement next week. |
| Ops W/T | Satisfactory progress. W/T sets are established every day and traffic passed for 4 hrs. |
| Ops Line | Good standard of proficiency with Fullerphone. |
| T.S.H.O.s | Have now a fair practical knowledge of U.C.10. |
| Drivers | The first instalment of G.1098 transport has just arrived. The unfortunate fact is that we have not had a chance to train our drivers adequately. We are allocating the new vehicles to the best drivers and shall train the remainder on these vehicles under close supervision. |

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2. STATE OF TRAINING OF TRADES

| | |
|---|---|
| Despatch Riders | Have been training on the one m/c available. |
| Vehicle Mechanics | Have received instruction on the old tpt of the coy. |
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| Ops W/T | Satisfactory progress. W/T sets are established every day and traffic passed for 4 hrs. |
| Ops Line | Good standard of proficiency with Fullerphone. |
| T.S.B.O.s | Have now a fair practical knowledge of U.C.10. |
| Drivers | The first instalment of C.1098 transport has just arrived. The unfortunate fact is that we have not had a chance to train our drivers adequately. We are allocating the new vehicles to the best drivers and shall train the remainder on these vehicles under close supervision. |

3. BALANCE OF PROGRAMME TO BE COMPLETED

Infantry and Artillery training is very far behind schedule for reasons outlined above. Signal Coy training has made very satisfactory progress, hampered only by lack of transport, tool-kits and testing instruments. Little field training has been done as yet.

4. COURSES COMPLETED

The two NOCSRA courses finish 12 Dec.

...../5. SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

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

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



12 Dec '.....

5. SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES.

The w/e condition of No.11 sets has proved a severe setback to Artillery Sigs training. A report from 711 Telecom Workshops on six sets sent in for repair states that four are useless. It seems doubtful whether it will prove possible to obtain 57 satisfactory sets from Depot, but this attempt is now being made.

The delay in the formation of a Technical Maintenance Section to serve LECHIANO and POLCORE Gruppi will prove critical if not quickly remedied. At present 711 Telecom Workshops in Naples is the nearest available.

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

SECRET

SUBJECT: Progress Report Training.
Week ending; Sat 9 Dec 44.

54. MIU.
G 1.
9 Dec 44.

To:- M.M.I.A. Rome.
D.M.T. Naples.

1. MANTOVA Cap completed their arrival in the AMG ZONE area on 5 Dec, since when it has seldom stopped raining.

2. Carrier school. Training of 85 students in pack-mule management 197
continuing that few of them could even drive an 'A' Vehicle.

3. Inf Gun Tng Bdn. Course for 110 students in PI type and for 50 in 3" Mortar started on 7 Dec on well organised lines from the Italian side. British assistance has provided 70 mules, 12 ZEBS, 12 Lorries and 6 FIATS. CMTC have provided the invaluable loan of two 3", 3" Mortars without which the 3"Mortar course could not well have started. Confinement to Barracks of some of the MULES students through lack of boots has been remedied today. The directing staff (Col CAMPOBELLO) is handicapped by having no transport for the area reason other than the Italian lorries which maintain the school.

4. Arty. Some marching drills, map reading and lectures have been held. It is hoped to get some A.A. guns from MEDIUM Cap on 13 Dec.

5. Engineers. Nothing fresh to report.

6. Driving and mains. Nine lorries were taken today and these will be used to start a school within the Group.

7. The issue yesterday and today of boots and clothing will make training possible within all units.

(Sgd) Illegible (Major)
for Lt Col. GSO I
54. MIU.

1825

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

2a/57/4

53 B.L.U.
Ref A2 - 27
18 Dec 44

Subject: Progress Reports

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMLA)

1. Ref your HQ signal SS 465 of 12 Dec 44.

2. Herewith reports as ordered :-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appx 'A' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of Combat Group FOLGORE. | In triplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'B' | | Weekly progress report No.6 - state of equipment and vehicles held by Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'C' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | In triplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | |

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3. No copy of reports on training being carried out in this Group is rendered as DMT AFHQ have now asked that this be rendered twice monthly on 10th and 25th. A copy of the last report submitted to DMT was forwarded to you by this HQ letter A2 - 26 of 11 Dec.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

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

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref A2 - 27 of 18 Dec 44.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on organisation of Personnel of Combat Group FOLGORE. State as at 1800 hrs 15 Dec 44.

Part 1. General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength Present with Unit ++ | | Columns (g) and (h) as a %age of columns (c) and (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (h) | (i) | (j) |
| 1 | Combat Group FOLGORE HQ | 28 | 113 | 36 | 197 | 36 | 190 | 160 % |
| 2 | Nembo Regt | 117 | 2584 | 151 | 2562 | 143 | 2474 | 97 % |
| 3 | San Marco Regt | 117 | 2584 | 124 | 2674 | 122 | 2575 | 103 % |
| 4 | Arty Regt FOLGORE | 93 | 1433 | 107 | 1562 | 105 | 1531 | 107 % |
| 5 | Engineers Bn (Less Sigs Coy) | 16 | 470 | 18 | 442 | 17 | 419 | 90 % |
| 6 | Signals Coy | 7 | 327 | 11 | 388 | 11 | 375 | 116 % |
| 7 | Medical Services | 26 | 325 | 29 | 326 | 28 | 310 | 99 % |
| 8 | Mechanical Engineers | 7 | 279 | 8 | 198 | 8 | 188 | 62 % |
| 9 | S & T | 13 | 294 | 19 | 308 | 19 | 295 | 102 % |
| 10 | Ord | 4 | 69 | 5 | 75 | 5 | 74 | 108 % |
| 11 | Pro | 2 | 102 | 2 | 102 | 2 | 93 | 91 % |
| 12 | Totals | 430 | 8580 | 510 | 8834 | 496 | 8524 | 100 % |

++ This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.

1. There is no column (g)
2. What we want is e & f as a % of c & d.

8834
5/c
9344

8524
496
9020

11827

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

Appx 'A' to 53 RDU letter
Ref A2 - 27 of 18 Dec 44.

PART II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength. | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| 1 | Drivers | 955 | 797 | 158 | |
| 2 | Smiths | 38 | 36 | 2 | |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 56 | 52 | 4 | |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | - | - | - | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 140 | 109 | 31 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 40 | 35 | 5 | |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 14 | 12 | 2 | |
| 8 | Sappers | 24 | 19 | 5 | |
| 9 | Artists | - | - | - | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | 28 | 13 | 15 | |
| 12 | Boatmen | 8 | 6 | 2 | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 317 | 317 | - | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | 7 | 7 | - | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | 17 | 7 | 10 | |
| 16 | Lineman | - | - | - | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | 480 | 295 | 135 | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | 39 | 36 | 3 | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | 39 | 34 | 5 | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | 13 | 13 | - | |
| 21 | Director Operators | 95 | 58 | 37 | |
| 22 | Telephonists | 221 | 197 | 24 | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Dvrs | 300 | 165 | 135 | |
| 24 | Armourers | 116 | 64 | 52 | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | - | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 82 | 82 | - | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 52 | 52 | - | |
| 28 | Signallers | 50 | 50 | - | |
| 29 | Engineers | 138 | 138 | - | |
| 30 | Artificers | 13 | 11 | 2 | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 362 | 340 | 22 | |

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

Subject: Progress Report .

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q11 - 6
18 Dec 44

To :- HQ 3 District.

AFHQ - G-3 (Org 4)
Q(AE)
DMT
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMIA)

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 17 Dec re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE is attached as appendices "A" and "B" hereto.

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Lt.Col.
C.S.

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

Annx 'A' to 53 B.L.U. letter
[illegible]. 911 - 6 of 18 Dec 44.

Weekly Progress Report No.6 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 17 Dec 44.

1. Controlled Stores.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bren LMG | 500 |
| PsIAT | 126 |
| Pistol .38 | 426 |
| Rifles No.4 | 5385 |
| TSMG | 2543 |
| Watches GS | 413 |
| Compasses Prismatic | 100 |
| Binoculars No.2 | 100 |
| Mine Detector American | 41 |
| Sights Dial No.9 | 40 |
| Director Arty No.7 | 12 |
| Rangefinders No.2 | 6 |
| Rangefinders No.13 | 1 |
| 25 Pdr Guns | 8 |
| 17 Pdr Guns | 6 |
| 6 Pdr Guns | 22 |
| 40 mm Bofors | 5 |
| Trailer Arty No.27 | 22 |
| Mortars 2" | 50 |
| Mortars 3" | 10 |

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2. Clothing (Details of Major Deficiencies.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Web Equipment o/w valise and pack | Nil | except (a) Belts, web | 5000 |
| | | (b) Carriers Water Bottle | 10000. |
| Greatcoats | 8000 | (large sizes, 6 and over required) | |
| Boots | 8000 | | |
| Blouses B.D. | 5400 | | |
| Trousers B.D. | 16600 | | |
| Blankets | 10000 | | |
| Braces | 10000 | | |

Notes.

(a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct 44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Gp, 480 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

...../3. (a)

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per man./...

3. (a)Other G.1098 Stores.(Details of Major Deficiencies)

| | |
|---|---|
| Knives table | 5000 |
| Forks table | 9500 |
| Spoons table | 5000 |
| Housewives | 10000 |
| Tins Mess | 3900 |
| Mugs drinking | 10000 |

(b) Only G.1098 scale of equipment collected is -
(i) 90% of Combat Gp's Signal Coy stores.
(ii) 25% of stores for Auxiliary Units.

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Weekly Progress Report No.6 (contd) - State of G.1098 scale of tpt held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 17 Dec 44.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M/cs 350 cc Solo | Cl.I | 6 |
| Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 | Cl.I | 14 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS | Cl.I | 55 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS | Cl.I D | 5 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 Water | Cl.I | 5 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 Machy K Light | Cl.I | 1 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 Machy 9 KW Gen | Cl.I | 1 |
| Ambulances 4 str 4 x 2 Hvy | Cl.I | 4 |
| Lorry 3 ton 4 x 2 GS | Cl.I | 60 |
| Lorry 3 ton 4 x 4 GS | Cl.I | 18 |
| Lorry 3 ton 4 x 2 W/Shops RASC | Cl.I | 1 |
| Lorry 3 ton 4 x 2 Disinfector | Cl.I | 1 |
| Lorry 3 ton 4 x 2 Stores | Cl.I | 12 |
| Lorry 3 ton Machy Type 'A' | Cl.I | 1 |
| Trailer 7½ ton 6 whld Lt Recovery | Cl.I | 1 |
| Tractors A/Tk 4 x 4 | Cl.I | 2 |
| Tractor 4 x 4 L.A.A. | Cl.I | 12 |
| Carriers Universal | | 20 |

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

Appx 'C' to 53 BLU letter
Ref A2 - 27 of 18 Dec 44

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on organisation of Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE as at 1800 hrs 15 Dec 44.

Part I General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength Present with Unit ++ | | Columns (g) and (h) as a Page of Columns (c) and (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | 317 Section Carabinieri | 1 | 51 | 1 | 49 | - | 47 | 90 % |
| 2 | 2 Fd Pk Coy - Engineers | 5 | 129 | 6 | 133 | 6 | 129 | 101 % |
| 3 | 232 Fd Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 61 | 7 | 59 | 102 % |
| 4 | 866 Fd Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 51 | 6 | 50 | 86 % |
| 5 | 131 Fd Surgical Unit - Medical | 3 | 23 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 13 | 54 % |
| 6 | HQ 1 Ambulance Car Coy and 1 Pl | 4 | 69 | 4 | 68 | 4 | 67 | 97 % |
| 7 | 2 Fd Bakery | 1 | 31 | 1 | 39 | 1 | 37 | 119 % |
| 8 | Italian Increment to 53 BLU | 1 | 28 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 25 | 90 % |
| 9 | Italian Increment to 'D' Training Team (Inf) | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 25 % |
| 10 | | | | | | | | 189 |
| 11 | Totals | 29 | 451 | 28 | 445 | 26 | 428 | 95 % |

++ This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.

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Part II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiencies of Personnel | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) |
| 1 | Drivers | 58 | 40 | 18 | |
| 2 | Smiths | 2 | 2 | - | |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 1 | 1 | - | |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | | | | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 6 | Electricians | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| 8 | Sappers | | | | |
| 9 | Artists | | | | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | | | | |
| 12 | Boatmen | | | | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 21 | 21 | - | |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | | | | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | | | | |
| 16 | Linemen | | | | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | | | | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | | | | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | | | | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | | | | |
| 21 | Director Operators | | | | |
| 22 | Telephonists | | | | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | | | | |
| 24 | Armourers | | | | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 4 | 4 | - | |
| 27 | Mechanics | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 28 | Signallers | | | | |
| 29 | Engineers | | | | |
| 30 | Artificers | | | | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 95 | 80 | 15 | |

Note - HQ 1 Ambulance Car Coy and 1 Pl not included in any of the above figures.
No deficiency of Specialist Personnel reported in this Unit.

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

53 B.L.U.
Ref Q11 - 5
13 Dec 44

Subject: Progress Report - Q
HQ - 3 DISTRICT
To :- AFHQ - G-3(Ops 4)
Q(AE)
LMEF
AAI - G(SD)
Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

1. Ref AFHQ/9193/Q(AE) of 10 Dec 44.

2. Progress Report as at 10 Dec re state of equipment and tpt held by Combat Group FOLCOM is attached as appendices 'A' and 'B' hereto.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

AFHQ Q(AE) } No copy of report rendered - copy
HQ 3 District } submitted with Q11 - 4 of 11 Dec.

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA) No copy of report rendered - copy submitted as Appx 'B' to A2 - 26 of 11 Dec.

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

53 B.L.U.
Ref A2 - 26
11 Dec 44

Subject: Progress Report

To:- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (SEMLA)

1. Ref your S/G/29/32 of 30 Nov 44.

2. Herewith reports as ordered.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appx 'A' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of Combat Group FOLGORE. | In triplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'B' | | Weekly progress report No. 5 - state of equipment and vehicles held by Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'C' | Part I | General state of organisation by arms of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | In triplicate |
| | Part II | Specialists and Tradesmen of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE. | |
| Appx 'D' | | Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter ref G2 - 21 of 11 Dec 44 - report by D Training Increment (Inf) on training in the Combat Group FOLGORE. | |

3. This HQ letter G2 - 16 of 24 Nov 44, subject Training Progress Report is enclosed for information.

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Lt.Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref A2 - 26 of 11 Dec 44.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on organisation of Personnel of Combat Group FOLGORE.
State as at 1800 hrs 10 Dec 44.

PART I General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength Present with Unit + | | Columns (g) and (h) as a % of columns (c) and (d) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | Officers (c) | ORs (d) | Officers (e) | ORs (f) | Officers (g) | ORs (h) | (i) | (j) |
| 1 | Combat Group FOLGORE HQ | 28 | 113 | 35 | 199 | 35 | 187 | 157% | |
| 2 | Nembo Regt | 117 | 2584 | 147 | 2582 | 146 | 2505 | 98% | |
| 3 | San Marco Regt | 117 | 2584 | 141 | 2768 | 139 | 2674 | 104% | |
| 4 | Arty Regt FOLGORE | 93 | 1433 | 120 | 1592 | 117 | 1551 | 109% | |
| 5 | Engr Bn (less Sigs) | 16 | 470 | 18 | 378 | 18 | 364 | 79% | |
| 6 | Signals Coy | 7 | 327 | 11 | 434 | 10 | 415 | 127% | |
| 7 | Medical services | 26 | 325 | 29 | 303 | 28 | 288 | 90% | |
| 8 | Mechanical Engineers | 7 | 279 | 8 | 195 | 8 | 192 | 70% | |
| 9 | S & T | 15 | 294 | 19 | 306 | 18 | 298 | 103% | |
| 10 | Ord | 4 | 69 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 70 | 103% | |
| 11 | Pro | 2 | 102 | 2 | 102 | 2 | 99 | 97% | |
| 12 | TOTALS | 430 | 8580 | 536 | 8920 | 527 | 8643 | 102% | |

+ This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.



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

Part II Specialists and Tradesmen,

Appendix 'A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 -26 of 11 Dec 44.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiencies of Personnel |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
| 1 | Drivers | 955 | 694 | 261 |
| 2 | Smiths | 38 | 34 | 4 |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 56 | 54 | 2 |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | - | - | - |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 149 | 120 | 29 |
| 6 | Electricians | 40 | 35 | 5 |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 14 | 12 | 2 |
| 8 | Sappers | 24 | 19 | 5 |
| 9 | Artists | - | - | - |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | 28 | 19 | 9 |
| 12 | Boatmen | 8 | 8 | - |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 317 | 317 | - |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | 7 | 7 | - |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | 17 | 7 | 10 |
| 16 | Linesmen | - | - | - |
| 17 | W/T Operators | 480 | 286 | 194 |
| 18 | Telegraphists | 39 | 38 | 1 |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | 39 | 39 | - |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | 13 | 13 | - |
| 21 | Director Operators | 95 | 57 | 38 |
| 22 | Telephonists | 221 | 201 | 20 |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | 300 | 165 | 135 |
| 24 | Armourers | 116 | 70 | 46 |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 82 | 80 | 2 |
| 27 | Mechanics | 52 | 45 | 7 |
| 28 | Signallers | 50 | 50 | - |
| 29 | Engineers | 138 | 138 | - |
| 30 | Artificers | 13 | 11 | 2 |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 362 | 340 | 22 |

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Week's progress report No.5 (cont) -- State of U.1098 Vehicles held by Cadet Group TILCHES as at 10 Dec.44.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M/cs solo 350 cc | Cl.I | 5 |
| Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 | Cl.I | 4 |
| Ambulances 4 str 4x2 Lwy | Cl.I | 4 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 GS | Cl.I | 40 |
| Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 Water | Cl.I | 5 |
| Lorries 3 ton 4x2 GS | Cl.I | 40 |

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

Appx 'A' to 53 B.L.U. letter
Ref. A2 -26 of 11 Dec.44.

Weekly Progress Report No.5 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group DOLORES as at 10 Dec.44.

1. Controlled Stores.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rifles .303" No.4 Mk.I | 4500 |
| TSMG | 2500 |
| PsIAT | 12 |
| Sights Dial No.9 | 8 |

2. Clothing (Details of major deficiencies).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shirts Angola Drab or A/L | 2000 | |
| Web equipment c/w valise & pack | Nil | except (a) Belts, web 5000<br>(b) carriers water bottle 10000 |
| Greatcoats | 9000 | |
| Boots | 8000 | |
| Blouses B.D. | 3500 | |
| Trousers B.D. | 5000 | |
| Blankets | 10000 | |
| Berets | 10000 | |

Notes.

(a) All figures given above take into account auxiliary units of this Gp which are now being equipped in accordance with HQLA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct.44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to the Gp - 450 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Nr blankets per man.

3.(a) Other G.1098 stores (Details of major deficiencies)

| | |
|---|---|
| Knives table | 5000 |
| Forks table | 9500 |
| Spoon table | 5000 |
| Knives/ves | 10000 |
| Tins Mess | 10000 |
| Mugs drinking | 10000 |

(b) Only G.1098 scale of signal equipment has been collected. Approx 90% of this equipment has now been collected and the most serious deficiencies are tradesmens' kits (E.S., Dow Mech, Linesmen etc.)

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Appx 'C' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 26 of 11 Dec 44.

Progress Report by 53 British Liaison Unit on organisation of Auxiliary Units attached to Combat Group FOLGORE as at 1800 hrs 10 Dec 44.

**Part I** General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength Present with unit + | | Columns (g) and (h) as a %age of columns (c) and (d) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | 317 Section Carabinieri | 1 | 51 | 1 | 49 | 1 | 46 | 90 % |
| 2 | 2 Fd Pk Coy - Engineers | 5 | 129 | 6 | 106 | 6 | 106 | 84 % |
| 3 | 232 Fd Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 61 | 7 | 57 | 98 % |
| 4 | 688 Fd Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 51 | 7 | 50 | 88 % |
| 5 | 131 Fd Surgical Unit - Medical | 3 | 23 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 13 | 57 % |
| 6 | HQ 1 Ambulance Car Coy and 1 Pl | 4 | 70 | 4 | 68 | 4 | 68 | 97 % |
| 7 | 2 Fd Bakery | 1½ | 31 | 1 | 38 | 1 | 33 | 106 % |
| 8 | Italian Increment to 53 BLU | 1 | 28 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 27 | 97 % |
| 9 | Italian Increment to D Training Team (Inf) | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 25 % |
| 10 | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | 29 | 452 | 29 | 417 | 29 | 401 | 89 % |

+ This column shows posted strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.



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

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

Appx 'C' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. A2 - 26 of 11 Dec 44

Part II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiencies of Personnel |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
| 1 | Drivers | 58 | 40 | 18 |
| 2 | Smiths | 2 | 2 | - |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 1 | 1 | - |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | | | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 4 | 4 | - |
| 6 | Electricians | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 8 | Sappers | | | |
| 9 | Artists | | | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | | | |
| 12 | Boatmen | | | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 21 | 21 | - |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | | | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | | | |
| 16 | Linesmen | | | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | | | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | | | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | | | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | | | |
| 21 | Director Operators | | | |
| 22 | Telephonists | | | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | | | |
| 24 | Armourers | | | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 4 | 4 | - |
| 27 | Mechanics | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 28 | Signallers | | | |
| 29 | Engineers | | | |
| 30 | Artificers | | | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 95 | 77 | 18 |

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Note. HQ 1 Ambulance Car Coy and 1 Pl not included in any of the above figures. No deficiency of specialist personnel reported in this unit.

Appx 'A' to 53 INF letter
Ref. GS - 21 of 11 Dec.44.

Report on infantry tng of the PEACOCK Div as on 10 Dec.44.

This report is in continuation of that submitted to INF under 53 INF letter GS - 16 Appx 'A', dated 29 Nov.44.

A. General progress.

1. Training is continuing satisfactorily, and the situation has been materially eased by the issue of a further 30 Bren LMGs and 12 PIATs. The prejudice which at first existed against the No.4 rifle is fast disappearing, and results on the range - on average much the same as would be expected in British Bns - have convinced the users that it is far superior to the Mauser at anything above ousline range.

2. Weapon-training is now fully advanced, and range-work has been started out in all weapons except 3" mortars and, apart from two less, 2" mortars. There appear to be a large number of defective 2" HE mortar bombs and No.36 grenades, but it is supposed that these form part of one poor consignment.

3. The two demonstration platoons are proving a success, and work with great keenness. The Indian Infantry Specialist School has been very helpful, and has agreed to carry out certain tactical demonstrations on the 11 Dec for the benefit of our demonstration pls and for 30 officer spectators. These demonstrations are

(i) The section in the attack
(ii) The pl in the attack
(iii) The assault on a strong-point.

offensive rather than defensive subjects have been deliberately chosen because :

(a) they illustrate the lay-out of the pl better,
(b) it is intended to show how briskly and smartly good troops can move.

If this demonstration proves a success, it is hoped to follow it up with others.

4. Cyclostyled copies of I.T. Part VIII have been issued in Italian to all pl conts. One copy has been sent to MTA for printing, but it is not known when this will be ready for issue to other Corps. I.T. Part I is in process of translation at present.

5. A good deal of route-marching and P.T. has helped to put the troops in fair physical shape. It is, however, again emphasized that the section is inadequate for men undergoing hard physical strain. As an example, men can hardly be expected to "double" for long on one morning if their last meal (apart from a cup of coffee) was at 1630 hrs the previous day.

6. The next fortnight will be devoted largely to individual field training, in particular fieldcraft and advanced handling of weapons. A.A. trg is NOT being given great prominence, in view of our present great air superiority.

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3. The Ice demonstration platoon has finally arrived, and is in good [illegible]. The Indian Infantry Specialist School has been very helpful, and has agreed to carry out certain tactical demonstrations on the 11 Dec for the benefit of our demonstration pls and for 50 Officer spectators. These demonstrations are

(i) The section in the attack
(ii) The pl in the attack
(iii) The assault on a strong-point.

Offensive rather than defensive subjects have been deliberately chosen because :

(a) They illustrate the lay-out of the pl better,
(b) It is intended to show how briskly and smartly good troops can move.

If this demonstration proves a success, it is hoped to follow it up with others.

4. Cyclostyled copies of I.T. Part VIII have been issued in Italian to all pl comds. One copy has been sent to MLA for printing, but it is not known when this will be ready for issue to other Corps. I.T. Part I is in process of translation at present.

5. A good deal of route-marching and P.T. has helped to put the troops in fair physical shape. It is, however, again emphasized that the ration is inadequate for men undergoing hard physical strain. As an example, men can hardly be expected to "double" for long on one morning if their last meal (apart from a cup of coffee) was at 1630 hrs the previous day. 180

6. The next fortnight will be devoted largely to individual field training, in particular fieldcraft and advanced handling of weapons. A.A. trg is also being given great prominence, in view of our present great air superiority.

7. State of training of specialists and trainees.

(i) Sigs.

Training has so far been somewhat desultory, owing to lack of instructors. With the completion of MAT's course at POONA tomorrow, training will start in earnest.

No great difficulty is anticipated here, for the RADIO signallers are mostly experienced men who will easily adapt themselves to new equipment, and little change in the procedure for he sign is necessary; while many of the LINE signallers, being sailors, are experts and holders of the International Morse.

(ii) Despatch.

Courier training in the BAY AREA Dept is good, and trainees have good understanding ability.

Results have unfortunately not been satisfactory in the RADIO Dept, who were very slow to make a start. Their area is poor for courier driving, and this circumstance appeared to be regarded with a general attitude of "Indoor sailor". Brig.o AA has been asked to correct this, and it is hoped that time lost will be quickly made up.

/

.....(iii) Navigation

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(iii) Morkem II.

The Irvin refresher course ends on the 11 Dec.
Of the 9 sorters on the training scale, 4 are TOS, leaving 5. Even with the full number (9) on count expect such progress until the S.1098 allotment - or at least a proportion of it - is received.

(iv) Pioneers.

A divisional course in mine identification, lifting, laying, and the use of service explosives is in progress, and is due to finish in 3 days' time.
Pioneers have been engaged in general maintenance; and their specialist training will start as soon as the divisional course is completed.

(v) 6 pr A.T. guns.

Training in this subject has, as envisaged in the last report, been largely taken over by the Artillery. Each regiment has been supplied with 3 Lapl tractors, and driving instr is going ahead satisfactorily.
The construction of a moving target rope is hoped for, but depends on the availability of the necessary stores. Whether or not this materialises, practices will be carried out with Bren Mks supercharged on 6 pr barrels.

(vi) D.A.S.

Driving schools exist for all units, though they have hitherto been greatly overburdened by more students than they could properly cope with.
With the arrival of our new vehicles, the policy is :-

(a) NOT to train beginners on new vehicles, but on old British vehs held by the D.A.S. Coy which will be released by the arrival of the new.
(b) To allot a maximum of 3 partly-trained drivers to each fully-trained. These to be allowed to take their share in driving and maintenance, but ONLY under the strict supervision of the fully-trained driver. When they have had enough experience and can be regarded as fully trained, they will be allotted vehicles, and the process will be repeated.

C. Balance of manpower to be combated.

(i) The state of individual tng is shown above. To bring this to the necessary standard will take until the end of the month.
(ii) Section and platoon training : 2 - 3 weeks.
(iii) Company and bn training : 2 - 3 weeks.

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D. Courses and special tng.

(i) Completed :-
Officers and NCOs W/T cadre
Div carrier course
Tpt cadre in No.43 W/T set
Div maj course, incl 3 staff officers.

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(vi) R.A.M.C.

Driving schools exist for all units, though they have hitherto been greatly overburdened by more students than they could properly cope with.

With the arrival of our new vehicles, the policy is :-

(a) NOT to train beginners on new vehicles, but on old British vehs held by the S.A.T. Coy which will be released by the arrival of the new.

(b) To allot a maximum of 3 partly-trained drivers to each fully-trained. These to be allowed to take their share in driving and maintenance, but ONLY under the strict supervision of the fully-trained driver. When they have had enough experience and can be regarded as fully trained, they will be allotted vehicles, and the process will be repeated.

C. Delays of movement to be curtailed.

(i) The state of individual tng is shown above. To bring this to the necessary standard will take until the end of the month.
(ii) Section and platoon training : 2 - 3 weeks.
(iii) Company and bn training : 2 - 3 weeks.

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D. Courses and special tng.

(i) Completed :-
Officers and NCOs W/T cadre
Div carrier course
Short cadre in No.18 W/T set
Div Arty course, incl 3 staff officers.

(ii) In progress :-
Mule course at [redacted] (nearly completed)
Instrs refresher course 5th Hortons (nearly completed)
Div pioneer course (nearly completed)
Field-craft and battle drill course for demonstration pln.

(iii) To take place. :-
Junior leaders course at [redacted] starting 12 Dec.
Div Air photo course, 11, 12, 13 Dec.
Assault pioneer course [redacted] - date not yet fixed.

E. Any special difficulties.

None other than those explained to Major [redacted] and Major [redacted] on their recent visit.

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Annex '3' to 53 BDU letter
Ref GR - 21 of 11 Dec 44.

Training Progress Report — [illegible] Army Troops

A [illegible]

1. Gun Drill

(a) 25 pr. Individual training of gun Nos. is continuing. British gun drill is being followed. At present there are variations in procedure between the 4 Regts but the drill is now being standardised.

(b) 17 pr. Gun drill is satisfactory.

(c) 40 mm. A marked improvement has been made in the last fortnight. Standard is now reasonably efficient.

2. Technical Gunnery

Technical knowledge is good in theory but weak in application. Attention is being paid to more practical training.

3. Signals

W/T instruction on No. 11 sets has begun. 40 trained signallers return from Course at [illegible] on 19 Dec.

4. M.T.

Driving instruction is continuing, but the number of trained drivers is still inadequate.

B [illegible]

Training of specialists and tradesmen is continuing. No courses at outside British or Italian school have been attended in the last fortnight. For details of future courses see para 6(7) below.

C [illegible]

1. 25 pr.

No drill orders or Bty training have taken place yet owing to lack of tpt.

2. 17 pr.

Shooting full charge, occupation of positions and tank recognition are main items outstanding.

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3. 40 mm Bofors

Drill for engagement of ground targets, firing practice and Aircraft recognition have still to be practised.

4. Dispersal

No practice yet.

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4. Technical Theory

Technical knowledge is good in theory but weak in application. Attention is being paid to more practical training.

5. Signals

W/T instruction on No.11 sets has begun. 40 trained signallers return from Course at [redacted] on 10 Dec.

6. M.T.

Driving instruction is continuing, but the number of trained drivers is still inadequate.

D RATE OF TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS AND TRADESMEN

Training of specialists and tradesmen is continuing. No courses at outside British or Italian school have been attended in the last fortnight. For details of future courses see para 6(7) below.

E NUMBER OF PROGRAMS TO BE COMPLETED

1. 25 pr.

No drill orders on sky training have taken place yet owing to lack of tpt.

2. 17 pr.

Shooting full charge, occupation of positions and tank recognition are the items outstanding.

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3. 40 mm Bofors

Drill for engagement of ground targets, firing practice and Aircraft recognition have still to be practised.

4. Deployment

No practice yet.

5. Signalling

27 of the 40 No.11 sets issued to the regt are in need of repair. This is being dealt with through signal channels, but meanwhile instruction on the sets which are in working order, is continuing.

6. M.T.

Driving instruction is continuing. A course for 6 carrier drivers from the A.Tk Sqy starts on Sunday 11 Dec. The 16 tank maintenance system is being taught.

7. Special Training:

(a) A month's course for 1 offr and 5 ORs in gunnery specialist work is being run by 24 Trg Team 11 Dec - 5 Jan.

(b) Two one - week courses for AA Rec.1 are taking place at 24 Trg Team during December. A total of 12 students from [redacted] will attend.

(c) Infantry Instructors are being provided by 3 Trg Team to teach Platoon weapons during week 11 - 18 Dec.

...../(d) A carrier

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(d) A carrier drivers course run by 8 Fd Regt Team will be attended by 6 drivers from the A.Tk Sqn.

(e) Water duties and stretcher bearer courses to be run by Sqn doctors within their Sqns.

D COURSES AND SCHOOL TRAINING CONDUCTED

No change since last progress report, except for Senior Officers Course at HA Trg Team attended by 6 offrs of 4th Regt ROYALS 21 - 28 Nov. Object of course was to make Sqn Cmds and Regt Cmds familiar with British methods.

E DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED

The same difficulties as in the last progress report still exist with the following additions :-

1. Signals

Only 13 No.11 sets are at present in working order. It is understood that no sign of this MA has the matter in hand and will shortly be able to supply replacements.

2. M.T.

Driving instruction is handicapped by lack of training vehicles. Several British vehicles belonging to the Regt are at present off the road for lack of spare parts. These have been indented for a month ago but few have been received.

3. Publications

British publications including such subjects as Aircraft and Tank Recognition pamphlets and silhouettes have been indented for many weeks ago. So far 50 copies Range Tables, 25 pr, Part I, and 20 copies A.T. Part II, are the only British Artillery publications received.

4. Director Stands

HAT letter ref HAT/277 dated 27 Nov ordered 51 HAU to hand over 4 Stands Instrument No.17A. These have not been received by this HAU. It is felt that a new release of director stands would be more satisfactory as 51 HAU are no longer within reasonable distance.

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Subject :- Trg. Progress Rpt. etc.

53 B.A.U.
Ref. GR - 16
24 Nov. 44.

To :- XXX

Copy to :- GR Trg Team
AAFA (Appx B only)
SOSS (Appx C only)
SO R.Edges (Appx D only)

24/32/4

1. Ref your No. (T.P.R.) XXX/215 of 22 Nov. 44.

2. Trg Progress Reports are forwarded as under :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Appx A | Infantry |
| Appx B | Artillery |
| Appx C | Rly Liners |
| Appx D | Signals |

Lt. Col.
G.S.

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Appendix to 55 I.A.D. Letter
Ref. G2 - 16
15 Nov.44.

Training Progress Report (Infantry) 43rd(W) Div

(Ref Ltr: 215 dated 22 Nov.44)

1. General Progress - Infantry.

(a) With the exception of all men with boots and most of them with A.B. (some are still outstanding in the Letter going to W's A.B. or many shoes having been issued in the first place), general try has started. The episode of present to an weapon try and made something the human element in the basis of any further infantry try and the latter because we to must be shown it and just mentioned. As a result of the unit course completed at the end of last week, there are now sufficient N.C.O. instructors to carry out the weapon try both of the infantry and of the other arms.

(b) The men are quick to adapt themselves to British weapons, and results on the open ranges have been completely satisfactory. Mortars, both 2" and 3", have only very recently been received from the ordnance div, and try will start shortly in these weapons. It is considered that the div try scale of Mortars 2", Mortars 3", Rifle and Sten guns (12, 9, 24 and 60 respectively) is inadequate. In order to keep try realistic, it is intended to represent the difference between 9 rifle and try section with the Indian equivalents - e.g. (a) in one of an exercise the British 2" and 3" mortars, and Bren for Rifle sec

(c) A period of PT at the beginning of the day is carried out in units. An APTC instructor would be a great help.

(d) Officers' tactical try is right in the lecture stage, the material being gathered mostly from A.F. Vol VIII and and appropriate A.T.M. Extracts from All Observers' reports are also being translated into Italian.

(e) Arrangements are being made for the visit of an Intelligence Training team, and a 3 day course in air photo interpretation is to be conducted on the 14, 15 and 15 Nov by Capt Dutch, Int for the purpose of this.

2. Scale of Issue of Ammunition and Explosives.

(a) Rifle.

No. 36 W/T sets have been issued up to A 1093 Establishment to Inf.

Three tracks per Inf Bn have been introduced in this unit, and try in other Bns has started.

(b) Grenades.

Ten dry tracks under course in service Universal and Light Inf not 7, finished, and the results have been most satisfactory, the standard showing great promise and exceptional ability. General try in remainder plan is to start next week, [illegible] universal being the allowance to each Inf Bn.

It will be possible to issue three service Light per platoon each pl. The div is still 3 short of the try scale.

(c) Mortars 2".

As stated in para 1 (b).

(d) Mortars.

The recoil systems of the 3" are only just being issued. Training in mines and the use of service explosives is to start forthwith.

Engineers are generally fully occupied at their trades and assistance to the requirements of the division.

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(c) A period of 1½ at the beginning of the day is devoted entirely to unit training. An Army Instructor would be a great help.

(d) Officers' training by is split in the Lecture stage, the essential being delivered mostly from I.T. Vol VIII and and appropriate M.T.P. Extracts from FM Observers' reports are also being translated into English.

(e) Arrangements are being made for the visit of an Intelligence Officer, who, and a 3 day course in air photo interpretation is to be conducted on the 11, 12 and 13 Jan by Capt Scott, Lent for the purpose by GSI.

2. Units of Div not available on Exercise.

(a) Tanks.

No. 40 M/T acts have been issued up to G 1000 intitlement to two. Three tanks per Inf Bn have been distributed to this div, and they do also pls two spares.

(b) Cavalry.

The div insists under command Universal not Light Div but 7 , finished, and the results have been most satisfactory, the shocks should prove [illegible] and mechanical mobility. General lay is another pls is to start next week, [illegible] universal train, the allowance to suit her.

It will be possible to issue three carriers Lloyd per regimental H.Q. pl. The div is still 1 short of its req scale.

(c) Artillery.

As stated in para 1 (b).

(d) Sappers.

The assault sections of the Sapper pl are only just being formed. Training in close use of scaling ladders is to start forthwith.

Sappers are generally fully occupied at their trades and assisting in the maintenance of the division.

(e) Signals.

Training is continuing satisfactorily. Both the A.1000 and A.10000 regimental nets have fired on open ranges the former with pack and the latter with vehicle radios. Lack of petrol severely restricted any tactical handling, siting, of gear, etc.

In future, it is intended to centralise control of these sets very largely in the artillery. To this end, liaison visits to the artillery by the Commanders of the A.10 Sigs are being arranged.

(f) Royals.

The R.A.O. school of instruction continues to function as well as can be expected with its extremely limited number of vehicles (4).

General sympathy in spite of this difficulty, but is trying to obtain release of 6 1000 sets in a steady stream in order to enable us to train satisfactorily before in time. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the standard of training and tactical discipline is bound to be poor unless this is done soon.

3. Balance of Programme to be Completed.

Collective training up to the Battalion level is centered [illegible]. In order to reach this stage, individual tng must be completed, and sections, pl and coy tng and exercises performed. No tactical tng with troops has yet effectively begun; it must start until the individual is considered to be trained in the basic subjects.

...../Army

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Every effort is being made to speed up vehicle procuring and it is pointed out that progress has been greatly retarded by lack of equipment. The position has not improved but the inf trg equipment of the division is practically everything except rifles No. 4, MGs and mtr, still leaves much to be desired, and the rate of progress can be properly gauged only in the light of this consideration. It is thought that another month is necessary to complete individual trg, and at least a further month for collective trg.

4. (i) Courses and Special Trg Completed.
(a) Officers and NCOs Unit B.T. Centres.
(b) Div Gunnery Centres.
(c) Short Div Cadre in No. 46 W/I Set.

(ii) Courses in Progress.
(a) Div Arty Course; three inf staff officers are attending.
(b) Sigs Rif Course at BORDEN for 20 inf personnel.
(c) Fieldcraft and Battle-Drill.

Two demonstration platoons - one per regt - have been formed. It is hoped that section and pl trg will be speeded up by demonstration rather than by lectures, and these pls will supply a small fully-trained nucleus who should be invaluable if training has to be curtailed for any reason.

(iii) Courses Projected.
(a) Junior Leaders course at CWIC for 25 students starting 12 Dec.
(b) Div air photo interpretation course 11, 12 and 13 Dec.
(c) Div Pioneer course, starting 1 Dec.
(d) Instru refresher course 3rd Hussars, starting 26 Nov.

5. Any Special Difficulties etc.

(a) Non-availability of No. 69 Grenades. Otherwise men that have not been previously reported on any occasions, or noted earlier in this report.

(b) The inadequacy of the ration remains a discouraging feature, as does the complete absence of any welfare arrangements, both of which points affect morale and therefore training.

? external rels. WSP.



E.A.H.

Appx 'B' to HQ B.A.O.R.
Letter Ref G2 - 16
of 25 Nov. 44.

1. [illegible]

(a) [illegible]

Good progress has been made chiefly because the gunners are already trained gunners and have merely to learn a new equipment. Training of the 1 and 1pdrs is proceeding well. 17 pr drill is proceeding satisfactorily. Bofors drill is at present backward but has improved considerably this week. Practice in co-operation of positions will be handicapped by lack of towing vehicles.

(b) [illegible]

Technical knowledge among the officers appears to be good. Several officers and NCOs have been trained at the 21 Training Regt and the regiment has doubled to apply English methods with the Anglo-Egyptian exception. Specialist training in batteries in workshops, has not been given in practice yet.

(c) [illegible]

The regiment has received 12 x No. 22 sets.
40 x No. 11 sets.
30 x 38 telephones.

in the last few days. Knowledge of R/T and morse code is adequate. Training in R/T has hitherto been handicapped by lack of sets, but will now be intensified. Adequate instructors are available.

(d) [illegible]

Two batteries which were previously motorised are in a satisfactory position as regards drivers and mechanics. The other batteries are short of trained 15 cwt/3 ton drivers. There is a shortage of towing vehicles and though the learner drivers are on the road all day, the situation is not satisfactory.

2. [illegible]

(a) [illegible]

Generally satisfactory. 46 officers and NCOs have attended a course at Catterick. Air photographs are inadequate (see para 3).

(b) [illegible]

16 officers have attended a course at a British school. No. 4 training team in Lucknow, to train further instructors shortly.

(c) [illegible]

19 officers trained in British methods at JSTC Secunderabad. 175

(d) [illegible]

4 NCOs trained at a British school. Also all officers at 21 Training Team course were taught elementary gun firing.

(e) [illegible]

20 officers were trained at Shillong, but lack of British vehicles prevents adequate instruction of drivers and driver mechanics.

(f) [illegible]

13 officers and men have attended courses at Royal Signals School at Central India. No officers and men are at present at Delhi & Poona.

3. [illegible]

(a) [illegible]

Every training and drill effort to start as soon as transport position will allow. The delay is not considered serious in this connection as the gunners are already experienced. Course shooting by each troop will take place as it is [illegible]

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[illegible] 45 trainees divided into [illegible]
45 children per troop. There is a shortage of training vehicles and though the learner drivers are on the road all day, the situation is not satisfactory.

2. [illegible]
(a) [illegible]
[illegible] officers and NCOs have attended a course at Catterick. [illegible] (see para 5).
(b) [illegible]
10 officers have attended a course at a British school. No. 4 training area is intending to train further instructors shortly.
(c) [illegible]
1 [illegible] attended in British methods at 2/7 RH Headquarters.
(d) [illegible]
14 have trained at a British school. Also all students at 4A training area course were taught elementary gun driving.
(e) [illegible]
20 officers were trained at Shilo/Ste, but lack of British vehicles prevents adequate instruction of drivers and driver mechanics.
(f) [illegible]
10 officers and men have attended courses at Royal Signals School at Catterick. 40 officers and men are at present attending a course at Ipswich.

3. [illegible]
(a) [illegible]
Troop training and drill orders to start as soon as transport position will allow. The duty is not considered urgent in this connection at the present as already up-to-date. Course shooting by each troop will take place at 4A TI range at Correta (UA630) 1 - 4 Dec. Mine and demolition may be possible in this area, but it will probably be necessary to use 4A TD range at Sholi if necessary arrangements can be made.
(b) [illegible]
Rifle shooting at Suffolk (UA687) during week 27 Nov. Full troop range at Suffolk (UA611) has been reserved. Provision of a moving target is at present causing difficulty (see para 5). Platoon training of officers and NCOs 1 will start week 27 Nov.
(c) [illegible]
Night practice at Regina entrenchment probably 2nd week of December.
Anti aircraft, at Suffolk (UA641) as soon as range is in condition. Gun drill not at present satisfactory.
(d) [illegible]
Platoon schools will begin 2nd week December, but will necessarily have to be static. Deployment exercises etc at present not possible, but English methods are being studied.
(e) [illegible]
Driving will be given high priority the next few weeks. A/T and visual training will take place with British equipment. Although numerically the deficiency in sigs specialists appears high there are adequate trained instructors to ready also intensive comparatively [illegible].

[illegible]/2.

(f) Misc.

Driver training will continue with all available vehicles. Adequate copies of the 16 track system printed for Division are now available and will be taught to all officers and drivers.

4. Gunnery and Special Training Problems.

Subject. Remarks. School.

(a) 25 pr and Pl Gunnery. 24 officers and NCOs. RA 25 (Carver)
(b) 17 pr and A/T Gunnery. 2 " " " " " "
(c) 40mm Bofors and LAA Gunnery. 11 " " " " " "
(d) Driver Mechanics. 80 ORs. B and M School (Holdfotn)
(e) Small Arms. 12 ORs. CSME
(f) Observers. 15 officers and ORs. 557 SAD
(g) Gun Platoons. 14 ORs.
(h) Ammunition Sgts. 6 ORs.
(i) Signallers. 50 officers and ORs. Royal Signal School and Division Sig School RSOMEA.

5. Ammunition Requirements.

(a) Gun Drill.

1. 25 pr. nil.
2. 17 pr. no Telescopes sighting No. 41 issued. At least one required.
3. Bofors. Training guns are not fitted with sighting optics. At present RA TT are loaning their guns for training with this option.

(b) Technical Training.

3 Mirrotrons are available. One was received with a broken loading tubule. The number is inadequate for training 4 batteries and a Sept Survey Party. 3 more are required as a minimum. 4 Arty Boards are held. A further 6 are required.

(c) Blanks.

No difficulties so far encountered.

(d) A/T.

By far the greatest problem. Towing vehicles are required for driver training. It would be an adequate number. Mechanical knowledge and maintenance would be improved if a few old vehicles from a salvage dump could be obtained. They need not be runners.

(e) Practice Ammunition.

Adequate.

(f) Practice Ranges.

It is hoped to have a full charge A/T range for all the guns of the Division fired up at Meteren. At present no towing rope is available for the moving targets. 400 yards of rope has been indented for. It is considered that the targets can be made from local resources.

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b. 25 pr. AGL.
c. 17 pr. no Telescopes at present. No. 44 issued. At least one required.
d. Sections. Training guns are not fitted with Artillery Sights. At present RA 25 are loading their guns for training with this section.

(b) Technical Transport.

3 Mercedes are available. One was received with a broken loading table. The number is inadequate for training 4 batteries and a Dept Survey Party. 3 more are required as a minimum. 4 Lorry Bombs are held. A further 8 are required.

(c) Animals.

No difficulties as far as procured.

(d) M.T.

By far the greatest problem. Training vehicles are required for driver training. 12 would be an adequate number. Mechanical knowledge and maintenance would be improved if a few old vehicles from a salvage dump could be obtained. They need not be runners.

(e) Ammunition Acquisition.

Adequate.

(f) Ammunition Supply.

It is hoped to have a full charge A/T range for all the guns of the Division fitted up at Natuna. At present no towing rope is available for the moving targets. 400 yards of rope has been indented for. It is considered that the target can be made from local resources.

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H.Q.R.A.

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Ag [illegible] to [illegible] letter
Ref. GS - 16
25 [illegible].

[illegible]

1. Amount of work yet to be done.
The only training so far has been in mines, weapon training, improvised bridging and diversions; this is still far from complete. The training policy has been received but is still [illegible] as more of it can last by the officers up during training and demonstrations have not yet been made up. Equipments, however, have just been released and will be collected in the near future. A comprehensive collection of mines has been made and a mines museum is almost completed.

2. State of training of Pioneer Units and Companies.
It is impossible to tell at the moment the state of training of companies, as no equipment or material has been available for trade work. Judging by the small amount of pioneer work and bridging that has been possible the standard in these bodies is fairly high.

3. Nature of equipment to be completed.
(a) [illegible]
(explore dry Bailey bridge training.
(b) mine emplace training.
(c) weapon training.
(d) diversions and road maintenance.
100: fieldcraft and battle drill.
100: fieldworks and water supply.

(b) [illegible]
(a) weapon training and a small amount of mine warfare has been done so far.
All the rest of the programme including - use of British equipment
Demolitions
Bridging etc.

must still be completed.

4. Courses and special training completed.
The following number of officers and N.C.Os. have been selected and [illegible] qualified as instructors :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Field engineering | 2 N.C.Os. trained at [illegible] |
| weapon training | 2 officers 2 N.C.Os. trained at [illegible]. |
| diversions and Bailey bridging | 2 officers 3 N.C.Os. trained at [illegible]. |

5. Special difficulties.
(a) Bailey equipment not yet complete.
(b) Lack of transport, only three - 3 ton lorries held by Coy HQ.
(c) Training in almost impossible in wet weather as no pit shelters or ground - sheets are held and it is impossible to find accommodation for during [illegible].
(d) The present scale of vehicles is considered insufficient for one Coy Infantry Bailey bridge training.

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I believe this WD

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(f) Mine warfare training.
(g) Depot building.
(h) Airfields and road maintenance.
100 Watercraft and bottle drill.
100 Fieldworks and water supply.

(b) [illegible]

Only weapon training and a small amount of mine warfare has been done so far. All the rest of the programme including - use of British equipment
Obstacleing
Defence etc

must still be completed.

4. Courses and general training [illegible].

The following number of officers and N.C.Os. have done courses and are qualified as instructors :-

Field engineering — 2 N.C.Os. trained at [illegible]
Weapon training — 2 officers 9 N.C.Os. trained at [illegible].
Mines and Bailey Bridging — 2 officers 8 N.C.Os. trained at [illegible].

5. General difficulties.

(a) Bailey equipment not yet complete.
(b) Lack of transport. Only three - 3 ton lorries held by Div. Tr.
(c) Training is almost impossible in wet weather as no gas capes or greatcoats are held and it is impossible to find accommodation for drying clothes.
(d) The present scale of rations is considered insufficient for men doing strenuous Bailey bridge training.

I Cannot Quite Believe that WP

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2. [illegible] - This has been due to the unfortunate geographical situation of the Depot, the lack of transport, and the bad roads. The usual way to Purbrunham is by [illegible]. Several journeys have had to be made only to the limited number of vehicles available. There have been periods of several days when collection was held up altogether, owing either to lack of transport or subsequent bridges. Practically all the stores released by ADA have however now been collected, and are duly distributed to the various units in the Depot.

3. [illegible] - This has a paralysing effect on nearly all forms of trg. Bldg. stores can also be normally any trs. at all. Cables and lifters can go through the initial theoretical stages but are handicapped as soon as field trg should begin.

4. [illegible] - Certain controlled equipment such as [illegible] filled and Lab and Film packets are not included in the ADA release. We have been advised to demand for these, from by item. This is now being done. Certain items of uncontrolled stores are in very short supply, viz. insulating tape, rubber and fibre, batteries and plugs. Nine holds up likewise in trg.

(a) [illegible]

The following personnel from the Depot are at the school :-
Radio Signals Course 40, Artillery and Infantry Signals Course 72.
On visiting the school on Saturday 10 Nov. I found extraordinary difficulties in equipment. There were for example no No. 11 sets, no No. 48 sets with generators and many sets with batteries, no [illegible] 2 or 3, no Milbrykites and only 1 superseding unit, no charging engines, no Dean harness, no testing instruments. With Sig Dep has not arrived and I am still not optimistic on ordering by 1st Nov. I seek most of the particulars now by issuing troops a 1:50 charge. In practice no trial appears required. There are various other deficiencies in ordinary stores which can only be overcome by an inspection officer on the spot.

5. [illegible]

| | |
|---|---|
| Despatch Riders | Impossible to carry out any practical trg on the Sig Dep bus no motorcycles. |
| Vehicle instructors | Practical trg impossible owing to lack of vehicles. |
| Observation signals | Satisfactory. We have a good working knowledge of British systems. |
| Electrician signal (battery) | There were no [illegible] (dry charging) or Lucas version of engine sets. We have therefore had to train five line operators for this unit. They have made satisfactory progress and charging of new batteries has now been under their supervision at Dept Central Stores. Shortage of lubrication and vaseline. |
| Instrument mechanics | There was only one [illegible] in the Dep, whereas the establishment is 15. 14 are under training and progress is satisfactory. We have one wireless, two test sets No 65 P and one test set 1 Gp 27, but no [illegible]. |

..../[illegible]

Part 2 Cont'd.

2.

Airborne. Lack of vehicles hampers training. Also lack of transport, radios and flame, jungle-warfare and gliders.

Operations W/T. Training in British zone is satisfactory on theoretical side. Lack of transport has made it impossible to work units at normal ranges.

Operations Land. Satisfactory progress with full exercises.

A.A. & A.S. Satisfactory progress with L.A.40 and P.A.

Defence. The British School has one vehicle. At there are 20 Officers practical instruction using Jeep chassis.

3. Methods of training in Headquarters.
All training reporting, extensive use of vehicles.
Artillery and Infantry sign training in general, as lack of equipment has only just been issued.

4. Courses and special training Completed.
A small number of Corps personnel have attended British Airborne Course at Largs. They are now acting as a nucleus for training of the remainder.

5. Special difficulties.
Lack of transport is the outstanding handicap at present. Until the Corps either receives its 1000 transport or an adequate allowance of training vehicles it seriously cannot prepare for a certain war.

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

53 B.L.U.
Ref. A2 - 25
6 Dec 44.

Subject :- Progress Reports.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MMIA)

1. Ref your letter ref S/G/29/32 of 30 Nov 44 received at this HQ on 3 Dec 44.

2. As the old weekly progress report for the week ending 1800 hours 2 Dec was in process of being completed when your above mentioned letter arrived at this HQ a similar report to that rendered on previous weeks was submitted with this HQ letter A2-24 of 4 Dec.

3. In addition to the above report a return in accordance with your instruction contained in the above referred to letter is attached. Similar returns will be submitted showing the position as at 1st, 10th and 20th of each month.

4. In the attached return Appx A corresponds to Appx B of AAI letter 1605/50/73/G(SD1) of 17 Nov 44 and refers to the Combat Group above, Appx B shows the equipment state in connection with the Combat Group and the Auxiliary units attached, and Appx C is similar to Appx A but refers to the Auxiliary units only.

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Lt. Col.
G.S.

Progress report by British Liaison Unit on organisation of Personnel of Combat Group FOLGORE State as at 1800 hours 1 Dec 44.

Appx 'A' to 53BLU letter Ref. of 6 Dec 44.

PART I General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial. | Unit. | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength present with unit ++ | | Columns (g) and (H) as a %age of columns (c) and (d) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | |
| 1 | Combat Gp FOLGORE HQ | 28 | 113 | 38 | 200 | 37 | 190 | 161 % | |
| 2 | Nembo Regt | 117 | 2584 | 150 | 2607 | 147 | 2537 | 96 % | |
| 3 | San Marco Regt | 117 | 2584 | 138 | 2849 | 135 | 2822 | 109 % | |
| 4 | Arty Regt FOLGORE | 93 | 1433 | 122 | 1581 | 120 | 1542 | 109 % | |
| 5 | Engr Bn (less Sigs) | 16 | 470 | 12 | 437 | 11 | 425 | 90 % | |
| 6 | Signals Coy | 7 | 327 | 18 | 370 | 17 | 356 | 112 % | |
| 7 | Medical Services | 26 | 325 | 29 | 305 | 28 | 294 | 92 % | |
| 8 | Mechanical Engineers | 7 | 279 | 8 | 213 | 5 | 213 | 76 % | |
| 9 | S & T | 13 | 294 | 19 | 314 | 18 | 306 | 106 % | |
| 10 | Ord | 4 | 69 | 6 | 71 | 6 | 69 | 103 % | |
| 11 | Pro | 4 | 100 | 2 | 102 | 2 | 94 | 92 % | |
| 12 | Totals | 432 | 8578 | 542 | 9049 | 526 | 8848 | 104 % | |

++ This column shows Posted Strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.

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Appx 'A' to 53 BLU
Letter Ref. A2 - 25
of 6 Dec 44.

PART II. Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel. | W.E. | Personnel held on posted strength. | Deficiencies of personnel. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
| 1 | Drivers | 955 | 668 | 287 |
| 2 | Smiths | 38 | 34 | 4 |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 56 | 54 | 2 |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | | | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 149 | 118 | 31 |
| 6 | Electricians | 40 | 35 | 5 |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 14 | 12 | 2 |
| 8 | Sappers | 24 | 21 | 3 |
| 9 | Artists | | | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | 28 | 23 | 5 |
| 12 | Boatmen | 8 | 8 | - |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 317 | 317 | - |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | 7 | 7 | - |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | 17 | 3 | 14 |
| 16 | Linesmen | | | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | 480 | 284 | 196 |
| 18 | Telegraphists | 39 | 37 | 2 |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | 39 | 39 | - |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | 13 | 13 | - |
| 21 | Director Operators | 95 | 57 | 38 |
| 22 | Telephonists | 221 | 199 | 22 |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | 300 | 125 | 175 |
| 24<br>25 | Armourers<br>Armourer Mechanics | 116 | 69 | 47 |
| 26 | Carpenters | 82 | 80 | 2 |
| 27 | Mechanics | 52 | 45 | 7 |
| 28 | Signallers | 50 | 50 | - |
| 29 | Engineers | 138 | 138 | - |
| 30 | Artificers | 13 | 11 | 2 |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 362 | 340 | 22 |

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

Subject: Weekly Progress Report No.4 - State of Equipment held by Combat Group FOLGORE as at 1 Dec.44

Appx 'B' to 53 BLU letter Ref. A2 - 25 of 6 Dec.44.

1. Controlled Stores.

| | |
|---|---|
| PIATS (Complete) | 12 |
| LMG Bren (Complete) | 30 |

2. Clothing. (Details of major deficiencies)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shirts, Angola Drab or A/L | 1500 | | |
| Web Equipmet c/w valise and pack | Nil | except for Belts, web | 5000 |
| | | Carriers, water bottle | 10000 |
| Greatcoats | 6500 | | |
| Boots | 8000 | | |
| Blankets | 10000 | | |

Notes.

(a) All figures take into account auxiliary units of this Group which are now being equipped in accordance with MMIA letter S/G/29/26 of 26 Oct.44. Total strength of auxiliary units at present attached to this Group, 450 all ranks.

(b) Blanket deficiencies on scale of 2 Br blankets per man.

3. Other G.1098 stores (Details of major deficiencies)

Only G.1098 scale of signal equipment has been collected. Approx 90% of this equipment has now been collected and the most serious deficiencies are tradesmens' kits (E.S., Dvr Mech, Linesmen, Mech, etc.)

Lt. Col.
G.S.

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Appx 'C' BLU
letter Ref A2- 25
of 6 Dec 44.

Progr[illegible] Report by 53 British Liaison [illegible]t on on organ[illegible]sation of Personnel of auxiliary units attached to Combat Group POLGORE as at 1800 hours 1 Dec 44.

PART I. General state of organisation by arms.

| Serial | Unit | W.E. | | Posted Strength | | Strength present with unit ++ | | Column (g) and (H) as a %age of Columns (c) and (d) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | Offrs | ORs | | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | (j) |
| 1 | 317 Section Carabinieri | 1 | 51 | 1 | 49 | 1 | 46 | 92 % | |
| 2 | 2 Fd Pk Coy - Engineers | 5 | 129 | 6 | 106 | 6 | 105 | 83 % | |
| 3 | 232 Fd Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 63 | 7 | 62 | 106 % | |
| 4 | 866 Fd Hospital - Medical | 7 | 58 | 7 | 51 | 7 | 50 | 88 % | |
| 5 | 1200 Ambulance Car Pl - Medical | 1 | 45 | 1 | 46 | 1 | 45 | 100 % | |
| 6 | 131 Fd Surgical Unit - Medical | 3 | 23 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 16 | 69 % | |
| 7 | 2 Fd Bakery - S & T | 1 | 31 | 1 | 36 | 1 | 32 | 103 % | |
| 8 | Italian Increment to 53 BLU | 1 | 28 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 25 | 83 % | |
| 9 | Italian Increment to D Training Team (inf) | | 4 | | 1 | | 1 | 25 % | |
| 10 | Totals. | 26 | 427 | 26 | 395 | 26 | 382 | 90 % | |

++ This column shows Posted Strength less personnel in hospital, on leave and AWOL.

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Appx 'C' to 53 BLU
letter Ref. A2 - 25
of 6 Dec 44.

PART II Specialists and Tradesmen.

| Serial | Type of Personnel | W.E. | Personnel held on Posted Strength | Deficiency of Personnel |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
| 1 | Drivers | 58 | 40 | 18 |
| 2 | Smiths | 2 | 2 | - |
| 3 | Bricklayers | 1 | 1 | - |
| 4 | Draughtsmen | | | |
| 5 | Motor Mechanics | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | Electricians | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | Pump Operators | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 8 | Sappers | | | |
| 9 | Artists | | | |
| 10 | Plumbers | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 11 | Driver Mechanics | | | |
| 12 | Boatmen | | | |
| 13 | Motor Cyclists | 21 | 21 | - |
| 14 | Telephone Engineers | | | |
| 15 | Radio Mechanics | | | |
| 16 | Linesmen | | | |
| 17 | W/T Operators | | | |
| 18 | Telegraphists | | | |
| 19 | Exchange Operators | | | |
| 20 | Cipher Operators | | | |
| 21 | Directors Operators | | | |
| 22 | Telephonists | | | |
| 23 | Tracked Vehicle Drivers | | | |
| 24 | Armourers | | | |
| 25 | Armourer Mechanics | | | |
| 26 | Carpenters | 4 | 4 | - 16 |
| 27 | Mechanics | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 28 | Signallers | | | |
| 29 | Engineers | | | |
| 30 | Artificers | | | |
| 31 | Medical Orderlies | 95 | 76 | 19 |

NOTES. 1200 Ambulance Car Pl not included in any of the above figures.

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