

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

785020

ACC

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

785020

10000/120/1133

SG/29/49 W.E. of Infantry Battalion
Oct. 1944 - Feb. 1945

SUBJECT: War Establishment of an Infantry Battalion

SECRET

Land Forces Sub Com, A.C.
(M.F.I.A.)

SD/19
25 Feb 45.

TO : MAIN H.Q. & ARMY (3 Copies)

1. Reference is made to AFHQ AG 091.112/119 OCT-0 of 20 December according to which all proposals for changes in organisation of Combat Groups should be made "through normal staff channels to the Allied H.Q. concerned for decision or recommendation to M.F.I.A."

2. E.L.Us have (while Groups were still under S.M.R.E.) made a number of proposals to M.F.I.A. for changes in the W.E. of the Infantry Battalion, (mostly following on the abolition of the Scouts Platoon). It was decided that the best way to present these was to coordinate such proposals with the views of the other E.L.Us and of the Italian General Staff, and to re-write the W.E.

3. The re-written W.E. is shown at Appendix 'a'. It is based on experiences in the organisation and training period only. I consider, therefore, that this W.E. should not be put forward without reference to the experiences of the Groups in the Line.

4. The following points are to be noted in the attached W.E.

- (a) On the suggestion of all Groups, supported by the Italian General Staff, a Battalion second-in-command (Major) has been introduced.
- (b) Two officers of the Battalion H.Q., originally unassigned, have been nominated Quartermaster and Intelligence officers.
- (c) The proposal that Battalion M.C.s should be reduced from 2 to 1 (as in the British Battalion) has not been adopted as it was strongly opposed by the Italians.
- (d) No provision is made for L.C.s at Regimental H.Q. and they are not included in the present W.E. for the Infantry

1176

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1170

3. The re-written "E.E." is shown at Appendix 'A'. It is based on experiences in the organisation and training period only. I consider, therefore, that this W.E. should not be put forward without reference to the experiences of the Groups in the Line.

4. The following points are to be noted in the attached W.E.

(a) On the suggestion of all Groups, supported by the Italian General Staff, a Battalion second-in-command (Major) has been introduced.

(b) Two officers of the Battalion H.Q., originally unassigned, have been nominated Quartermaster and Intelligence officers.

(c) ~~The~~ proposal that Battalion M.C.s should be reduced from 2 to 1 (as in the British Battalion) has not been adopted as it was strongly opposed by the Italians.

(d) No provision is made for L.C.s at Regimental H.Q. and they are not included in the present W.E. for the Infantry Regiment. They are found in practice (3 per Regt) from officers who became surplus on the abolition of the original Scouts platoon.

(e) No provision is made for jeeps.

(f) No transport is allotted to the assault pioneer Sections.

5. You may consider, particularly having regard to the role allotted to Combat Groups and the possible course of events in the immediate future, that this is not the time to make any further changes. On the other hand there are many other changes being considered particularly in the Artillery and Signal organisation. None of them are vital and some of them make extra equipment which does not seem likely to materialise. In the circumstances, therefore, it is recommended that any changes involving major reorganisation or the provision of extra equipment should not be proposed unless the resulting gain is considered absolutely necessary for operational reasons.

cont'd sheet 2/..

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Sheet 2.

6. Will you please inform this H.Q. of any action you propose taking.

tvs.

INT:

AQ
STEC SEC.

A. M. Longland
LT-Col.
Major General.
M.M.I.A.
for

1169

785020

(i) Personnel

Amtdt No	
Date	
Oftrs	31X
ORs	735
Total	766
M/Cs	18
Vehs	65
Trailers	1

[illegible]

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Detail	HQ Officers	HQ Platoon	"I" Section	Snipers Sect	Signals Plat	Pioneer Plat	Total - HQ Co	HQ Platoon	4.2" Mortar	Carrier Plat	A/Tk Platoon	Total Suppo	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Plat	Total-Rifle	Total-Infan
Officer Commanding(Lt Col)	1															1
2nd i/c (Major)	1															1
Adjutant(Capt or Subaltern)	1															1
Medical Offrs(Subaltern)	2															2
Intelligence Officer (Subaltern)	1															1
Quartermaster (Capt. or Subaltern)	1															1
Cepts		1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Subalterns		1					3	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	19
Total - Officers	7	2			1	1	4	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	5	31
Warrant Offrs		1					1									1
Quartermaster Sjts		1					1	1				1	1		1	5
Ration Sjts													1			3
Signals Sjts					3		3						1		1	6
Armourer Sjts		1					1									1
M.T. Sjt		1					1									1
Sjt Majors or Sjts			1		1		6	1	5	2	3	11		2	6	35
Total - WOs & Sjts		4	1	1	3	4	13	2	5	2	3	12	3	2	9	52
Corporals		4			9	4	17	9	4	12	4	29	6	5	21	109
Privates		21	8	6	34	23	92	22	27	42	16	107	23	34	125	574
Total - Other ranks		29	9	7	46	31	122	33	36	56	23	148	32	41	155	735
Total - In Infantry Battalion	7	31	9	7	47	32	126	35	37	57	27	153	34	42	160	765

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Sheet 5.....

Total Rank and File

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(iii) Transport

Detail	HQ Officers		HQ Company				Support Company				3 Rifle Companies (each)		Total Infantry Pl
	HQ Platoon	4th Section	Engineers Section	Signals Platoon	Pioneer Platoon	Total - HQ Coy	HQ Platoon	4th Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	A/Co Platoon	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Platoons (each)	Total Rifle Coy
Motor cycles solo	1			5	6	1	2	2	1	6	2		2
Cars, 2 str 4 x 2	1				1	1				1			2
Cars 4 str 4 x 2	1				1	1							1
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS	4			3	1	8	1	3	2	1	3		24
Truck 15 Cwt 4 x 2, Water.	1				1	1							1
Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 GS	8				2	10	1			1			11
Trailers, water	1				1	1							1
Carriers, universal								13			1		16
Carriers, mortar								5					5
Carriers, Lloyd									5				5
													140

NOTE

An Infantry Platoon is organised as follows: -

H.Q.

1 Officer 1 OR.

Subaltern
Serjeant
L/Cpl
Runners.

2" Mortar Group	3 men.
INC Group	3 men.
PLAT	2 men.

3 Section

Each 10 ORTs.

Rifle Group

1 Cpl (Comm of Section.)

6 Riflemen

1 TWO

6 Rifles

YMC Group
1 L/Cpl (2 i/c)

2 Ptes LMG

1 IMG

2 Rifle

204475

785020

Translation.From: SMKE
To: MMIA.

20/90

Ref: Secret
10113/2nd.
Date: 24 Jan 45Subject: Proposed modification of W/E for 3" Mortar Coys.
and 6 Pkts Coys.

In War Establishment HA/526/1 no assignment of cooks was made to Coys named above. However, an assignment of a certain number of cooks was made to other units in proportion to their strength.

Moreover, it is not possible to employ men from the personnel of the Coys in question for cooking purposes owing to the fact that each man has a specific duty to do.

Such deficiency of cooks was reported by Inf. Regts which also pointed out the serious difficulties encountered by these units for cooking meals.

Meanwhile, pending written authority, this office advised, as agreed verbally with MMIA, the following increase in W/E for these Coys:-

- 2 cooks for 3" Mortar Coys
- 4 " " 6 Pkts Coys

(Sgd) A. SANTI. 1160

Ld. Encke

Received from MMIA - 221400

229

STATO MAGGIORE REGIO ESEECITO
UFFICIO ORDINAMENTO E MOBILITAZIONE
- Sezione Ordinamento -

SEGRETO

SD

N^o 10113 / Ord. di prot.

F.M. 3800, 24 gennaio 1945

OGGETTO: Proposta di modifica agli organici della cp. mortai da 3 pollici e della cp. cannoni da 6 libbre.-

Proposed Modification of Org. Establishment of 3" Mortar Coy and 6 pounders

ALLA LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AG. (NMIA)

F O I A

Nell'organico di guerra NA/526/1 non è prevista per le compagnie in oggetto alcuna assegnazione di cuochi, ciò che invece avviene per gli altri reparti che hanno un numero di cuochieri proporzionato alla forza dei reparti stessi.-

D'altra parte non è possibile trarre dai componenti delle compagnie in questione i cuochieri occorrenti in quanto ogni militare ha già un incarico ben definito.-

Tale deficienza di cuochieri è stata rilevata dai reggimenti di fanteria, i quali si trovano in serie difficoltà per la confezione del rancio ai reparti suddetti.-

Pertanto, in attesa dell'autorizzazione scritta, è stato disposto, come d'intesa verbale con codesta M.M.I.A., l'aumento degli organici delle due compagnie aggiungendo:

- 2 cuochi alla compagnia mortai da 3 pollici;
- 4 cuochi alla compagnia cannoni da 6 libbre.-



GENERALE ADDETTO
(Alessandro Santi)

A. Santi

1164

785020

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

SUBJECT: Reallocation of weapons within the Combat Group.

SECRET

229

Lead Forces Sub Com, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

S/C/29/20

8 Jan 45.

To: Ministry of War

copy to: D.M.I. AFHQ (LMT/55/MTI of 3 Jan refers.)

H.Q. Infantry. A.F.H.Q.

52 B.L.U.

1. General ULLA, Commander LHM/HC Group, has proposed to 52 B.L.U. the following reallocation of weapons:

The addition of two TMC's to each rifle group, making a total of 3 TMCs and 2 rifles in the Group. These TMCs would come from Artillery and Drivers and be replaced by the rifles of the rifle group.

2. The reasons for the exchange are: -

(a) The increase in morale and offensive spirit which this alteration would give to the Italian infantry soldiers.

(b) Increased fire attack in the assault, and in meeting the final phase of an enemy attack.

3. O.C. 52 BLU has represented that he considers the British Section organisation to be more effective, but General ULLA is insistent that better results would be obtained on the proposed reallocation.

4. Please inform MIA if in your opinion this proposal should be adopted within the Combat Groups, so that your views can be forwarded to A.F.H.Q. and a decision requested.

rifle group.

2.

The reasons for the exchange are: -

- (a) The increase in morale and offensive spirit which this alteration would give to the Italian infantry soldiers.
- (b) Increased fire attack in the assault, and in meeting the final phase of an enemy attack.

3. O.C. 52 MU has represented that he considers the British Section organisation to be more effective, but General Villa is insistent that better results would be obtained on the proposed reallocation.

4. Please inform MIA if in your opinion this proposal should be adopted within the Combat Groups, so that your views can be forwarded to A.F.H.Q. and a decision requested.

Robb Major 1103
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

10000 copies

785020

SECRET

Tel: 11667

ΠΤ/55/ΑΤ1

3 Jan 45.

— **THE** **WORLD** **IS** **CHANGING** **—**

Copy to:
HQ 52 BUL, GIC

The attached letter number G/1A/12 dated 28 Dec 44 is forwarded to you for action.

112/116

P. H. H. - *[Signature]*
 Major
 1st Brig.,
 D. M. S.
 1162

C O P Y

SUBJECT: Reallocation of Weapons within the Gruppo.

52 British Liaison Unit,
ODP

28 Dec 44

G/1A/12

ITEM AF/Q

1. I have been approached by Gen ULLA, Commanding Legnano Gruppo, who requests the following reallocation of weapons.

The addition of two T303s to each rifle group, making a total of 3 T303s and 3 rifles in the group. These T303s to come from Arty and Drivers, and to be replaced by the rifles of the rifle group.

2. The reasons for the exchange are:

(a) The increase in morale and offensive spirit which this alteration would give to the Italian infantry soldier.

(b) Increased fire power in the assault, and in meeting the final phase of an enemy attack.

3. From what I have observed the Italian is not rifle-minded and does not appear to have much faith in the bayonet war in his own hands. I have told Gen ULLA that I consider our section organisation to be more effective, but he remains very insistent that he will obtain better results out of his troops on the proposed reallocation.

4. I therefore forward this suggestion to you for an early decision please. Meanwhile training continues on the British establishment.

1161

512/13

(Signed) F. MILLON
Lt Col
G.S.G.I.

785020

Subject :- Org. of Inf Bn in Combat Gp.

To :- M.M.I.A.

Copy - 50 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLU

21 British Liaison Unit

C 5/4

Ref 58 BLU's 2.3 - 11 of 28 Nov, please note that the following are my comments :-

1. Serial No 1

- (a) I agree that the second M.O. is redundant.
(b) I agree that it is essential to have a Bn St/c. We should be an addition to the present W.E.

Serial No 2

- (a) & (b)
I consider that this is a matter of internal arrangement within the Gruppe. No necessity to amend the W.E.

Serial No 3

- (a) It is, of course, absurd to agree to the formation of Assault Sections to the Pnr Pl and then give it NO means of tot. Jeeps are essential for this work. There are, I believe, no more available. I note that the Deposito Mobile has 8 jeeps. I have yet to see anyone from an Ordnance Field Park even remotely near the firing line and consider that jeeps might be taken from the Deposito Mobile. This however would only equip one Bn.

Carriers would be better than nothing but in my opinion, jeeps are essential for assault pioneers.

2. Serial No 4

It was agreed by the W.E. Committee to

Serial No 5 (a)

to amend the W.E.

It is, of course, absurd to agree to the formation of Assault Sections to the Pnr Pl and then give it NO means of tot. Jeeps are essential for this work. There are, I believe, no more available. I note that the Deposito Mobile has 2 jeeps. I have yet to see anyone from an Ordnance Field Park even remotely near the firing line and consider that jeeps might be taken from the Deposito Mobile. This however would only equate one Pn.

Carriers would be better than nothing but in my opinion, jeeps are essential for assault pioneers.

2. Scout Pl.

It was agreed by the W.E. Committee to delete the Scout Pl. The men were distributed to the Pioneer and Bn H.Q. I have already suggested to you that the surplus 1460 officer be used as a Liaison Officer with Regt H.Q. in a similar manner as all British Inf Bdes who have three liaison officers. These have proved invaluable for passing of orders etc in battle.

The officers referred to are being used as I.Os in this Group.

I now note that this officer is being offered by 33 B.L.H. to W.E. Committee in part exchange for the Bn 24/c and would buy the vehicles for the Assault Pioneers. This is unusual to my mind. I hope the necessity for I.Os will be appreciated.

They will have to be provided and unless they are supplied by the now surplus Scout Pl officers they will be by this honoured custom - taken from the ordinary W.E. of the Inf Bn.

Field
11 Dec 44
BWHC/TB

B.W. Wallington

Lieut Colonel
General Staff

SUBJECT: Org of Inf Bn - ICG

CONFIDENTIAL

50 Brit Liaison Unit

G/5/17/A

16 Dec 44

Ref 53 ELU letter G3-11 dated 28 Nov 44.

1. It is felt that a halt must be called upon some time to the re-org of ICGs, particularly as certain gps are now in an adv stage of trg, and this should be borne in mind when re-org is considered by gps NOT so far advanced.

2. 53 ELUs proposals :-

Serial No.

1 (a)

It is immaterial in the case of MOs whether there is one or two; providing the ITALIANS can supply, two are better than one, but NOT essential. ITALIANS express strongest wish to retain two. 50 BLU discussed this in Oct.

(b)

It is NOT considered essential to have a Bn 2IC for the following reasons :

(i) His value tactically depends on the LOB System, which is NOT in use in ITALIAN Army. The casualty rate of bn comds in the ITALIAN Army is NOT expected to be high and when a bn cmd is written off, it is considered a coy cmd can function adequately until the bn cmd is replaced. Sp coy cmd should be an adequate substitute and he will have been in the battle with bn cmd.

(ii) Adm duties can be fulfilled adequately by adm offr at "B" Ech and OC HQ Coy at "A" Ech.

(iii) A far more important point is the fact that the sub with the HQs of a rifle coy is NOT in fact reckoned as 2IC coy. He is apparently considered as adm 'stooge', and a pl cmd normally takes over the coy in the event of the demise of the coy cmd. If

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express strongest wish to retain two. 50 MBU discussed this in Oct.

(b)

It is NOT considered essential to have a Bn ZIC for the following reasons :

(i) His value tactically depends on the LOB System, which is NOT in use in ITALIAN Army. The casualty rate of bn comds in the ITALIAN Army is NOT expected to be high and when a bn cmd is written off, it is considered a coy cmd can function adequately until the bn cmd is replaced. Sp coy cmd should be an adequate substitute and he will have been in the battle with bn cmd.

(ii) Adm duties can be fulfilled adequately by adm offr at "B" Ech and OC HQ Coy at "A" Ech.

(iii) A far more important point is the fact that the sub with the HQs of a rifle coy is NOT in fact reckoned as ZIC coy. He is apparently considered as adm 'stooge', and a pl cmd normally takes over the coy in the event of the demise of the coy cmd. If SMRE issued an order that the sub of HQ of rifle coy will be the offr to take over cmd of the coy, the necessary arrangement could be made within each gp. This is in fact being done in one regt of this gp. 119

(c)

(i) One sub is the adm offr of the bn, and it is immaterial whether he is in bn HQ or HQ Coy. He will in fact be at "B" Ech, acting as QM.

(ii) The other sub is a CW expert who has long since been converted IO by this gp.

(a)

It is agreed that HQ Coy Cmd would be better NOT shown as Cmd HQ Pl.

(b)

In fact he comds the HQ Coy and, in action, "A" Ech. It should be borne in mind that in action personnel of HQ Coy can never operate by pls: they are either with rifle coys (sigs), bn HQ (sigs dvrs), "A" Ech (cooks) or "B" Ech (pay sjts, cpls). Therefore to divide further into secs will NOT help because the QMs(?), cooks, armemrers, and storemen are already split into at least two, and the LTCs, dvrs and vehs are already split into at least three main gps or echs. Any re-org under Serial 2 will cause further misunderstanding and muddle

Serial No

61774E

with ~~the~~ real alteration in the org and,
in this gp at least, this in NOT the time for
it.

3.

Agreed.
Pmr assault secs with one 15 cwt, which they
have to steal anyhow from pl HQ, or the artisan
sec, lose at least 50% of their value.

C&F
FFKB/SYB

Copy to : 53 BLU
51 BLU

It col
GS

Handwritten signature

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1158

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

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Organisation of the Infantry Bn

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. S/G/29/20
11 Dec 44

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. The attached letter G3-11 of 28 November from 53 BLU proposes some amendments to the establishment of the Infantry Battalion.
2. Please examine these proposals and let us know your views.
3. The same letter has also been referred to other BLU's for comments.


Major General
M. M. I. A.

1157

Subject: Org of Italian Combat Gp

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

50 BLU

51 BLU

52 BLU

53 B.L.U.

Ref. G3 - 13

27 Dec 44

1. Ref this HQ letter G3 - 11 of 28 Nov and comments forwarded under 50 BLU G/5/17/A of 16 Dec 44, and 51 BLU G3/4 of 11 Dec 44.

2. 50 BLU Comments.

(a) 53 BLU proposals appear to be an embarrassment to a Combat Gp which is "now in an adv state of trg", and it is therefore suggested that "a halt must be called upon some time to the re-org of I.C.Gs."

(b) in acknowledging its debt to 50 BLU for the latter's pioneer work in the org of the I.C.G. inf bn, this BLU does not thereby discard its obligation to org and equip the POLCORE Gp so as to give it the maximum chance of success in ops. This, in fact, is the simple intention of such proposals as we may put forward; and it is still hoped to benefit progressively by the experiences, even mistakes, of the earlier-formed Combat Gps.

(c) modifications proposed by this BLU have been the result of consideration and discussion by British and Italian specialist and Staff off'rs concerned. In this respect we are fortunate in that this Combat Gp has already considerable experience of fighting under Allied comd.

(d) important considerations appear to be that the Combat Gp as a firm is to go into action

- (i) under British comd and liaison
- (ii) to relieve British commitments on the battlefield
- (iii) equipped with British materials and weapons
- (iv) trained under supervision of British personnel and, as far as possible, according to British methods.

At the same time it is realised that within the Gp the executive comd and tactical responsibility must be Italian.

(e) It seems illogical to state categorically that

- (i) "it is immaterial in the case of H.O.s whether there is one or two." The Italians stress their need for two; the British inf bn is allotted one. From the Italian standpoint it seems quite material if the supply can meet their demand.
- (ii) "the casualty rate among bn comds in the Italian Army is not expected to be high." Even if this be a true forecast, it is contrary to British policy to expect a coy comd to "function adequately" until a replacement is found for a "written-off" C.C. The L.O.B. system is surely intended to provide speedy replacement of comds in battle by officers who already know their units and are at least in the "big picture" of ops.

(f) it is agreed that the "Adm stooge" in Rifle Coy should be readily reckoned as Coy 2 i/c.

(g) grouping of MI and Adm personnel (cooks, armourers, storemen etc) in two secs (or pls) is aimed at keeping them under the "sphere of influence" of MI and G.I respectively; a system which has obvious advantages, if only that it is British! The proposal has the support of POLCORE Gp which seems to have no fears on the score of "further misunderstanding and muddle."

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"2"

middle."/.....

3. 51 BLU Comments.

(a) Jeeps in Pnr Pl. Agreed. This Combat Gp has now received its full W.E. of Jeeps. The Deposito Mobile has, in fact, already had them.

(b) Scout Pl. The proposal to use the surplus Sc Pl Comd as LO to Regt HQ was not notified to this BLU. It is agreed that this LO is essential, and that the former Sc Pl Comd should fill this appointment; and also that an officer already within the inf bn W.E. should NOT be taken away from his assigned job in the bn to be attached as LO to Regt HQ.

4. 52 BLU Comments.

These are already covered by the remarks above.

C. H. Brooks

Lt. Col.
G.S.

1150

Subject: Organisation of Inf Bn.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMB.

20 Dec 44.

5/1/25.

Land Forces Sub Comm AC (Malta).

Reference your SS453 of 12 Dec and 53 BLT G3-12 of 7 Dec 44.

The following comments on these proposals are forwarded hereunder:-

1. Ref Serial 1(a) (Bn HQ) - Not agreed. Provided Medical Officers are available, there seems no objection to having 2, and there may often be sufficient work for both of them.
2. Ref Serial 1(b) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that the provision of a Bn 2 i/c is essential.
3. Ref Serial 1(c) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that one subaltern should be Intelligence Officer. Agreed that the second subaltern should be transferred to HQ Coy, and that he should be the Bn QM.
4. Ref Serial 2(a) (HQ Coy) - This proposal is not agreed. It can also be applied to the Coy Comds of ^{1st} ~~1st~~ ^{2nd} ~~2nd~~ ^{3rd} ~~3rd~~ ^{4th} ~~4th~~ ^{5th} ~~5th~~ ^{6th} ~~6th~~ ^{7th} ~~7th~~ ^{8th} ~~8th~~ ^{9th} ~~9th~~ ^{10th} ~~10th~~ ^{11th} ~~11th~~ ^{12th} ~~12th~~ ^{13th} ~~13th~~ ^{14th} ~~14th~~ ^{15th} ~~15th~~ ^{16th} ~~16th~~ ^{17th} ~~17th~~ ^{18th} ~~18th~~ ^{19th} ~~19th~~ ^{20th} ~~20th~~ ^{21st} ~~21st~~ ^{22nd} ~~22nd~~ ^{23rd} ~~23rd~~ ^{24th} ~~24th~~ ^{25th} ~~25th~~ ^{26th} ~~26th~~ ^{27th} ~~27th~~ ^{28th} ~~28th~~ ^{29th} ~~29th~~ ^{30th} ~~30th~~ ^{31st} ~~31st~~ ^{32nd} ~~32nd~~ ^{33rd} ~~33rd~~ ^{34th} ~~34th~~ ^{35th} ~~35th~~ ^{36th} ~~36th~~ ^{37th} ~~37th~~ ^{38th} ~~38th~~ ^{39th} ~~39th~~ ^{40th} ~~40th~~ ^{41st} ~~41st~~ ^{42nd} ~~42nd~~ ^{43rd} ~~43rd~~ ^{44th} ~~44th~~ ^{45th} ~~45th~~ ^{46th} ~~46th~~ ^{47th} ~~47th~~ ^{48th} ~~48th~~ ^{49th} ~~49th~~ ^{50th} ~~50th~~ ^{51st} ~~51st~~ ^{52nd} ~~52nd~~ ^{53rd} ~~53rd~~ ^{54th} ~~54th~~ ^{55th} ~~55th~~ ^{56th} ~~56th~~ ^{57th} ~~57th~~ 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1. Ref Serial 1(a) (Bn HQ) - Not agreed. Provided Medical Officers are available, there seems no objection to having 2, and there may often be sufficient work for both of them.
2. Ref Serial 1(b) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that the provision of a Bn 2 i/c is essential.
3. Ref Serial 1(c) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that one subaltern should be Intelligence Officer. Agreed that the second subaltern should be transferred to HQ Coy, and that he should be the Bn QM.
4. Ref Serial 2(a) (HQ Coy) - This proposal is not agreed. It can also be applied to the Coy Comds of ~~the~~ ^{the} Rifle Coys and the Support Coy, who are all shown in the same way as HQ Coy Comd, i.e. in the HQ Pls. They are in the HQ Pls and do not command them - they obviously command all the Pls in their Coy. The HQ Pls are the equivalent of the British Coy HQs, and there seems no point in forming a separate Coy HQ in addition to the HQ Pl.
5. Ref Serial 2(b) (HQ Coy) - See also para 3 above. This proposal does not seem to warrant an official amendment to the WS. Sub division of the HQ Pl into 2 (or more) secs is probably a matter for domestic arrangement within the Bns. Also, it should be noted that engineers and "1" Sec are now officially part of HQ Pl.
6. Ref Serial 3 (Pnr Pl) - Not agreed. It is felt that in operations one 2 assault secs of the Pnr Pl can be carried in carriers from one Carrier Pl, and that additional carriers are not reqd. The assault sec should be 1 Sgt and 4 Pnrs, and the Pnr Pl Comd could travel on the carrier with one or other of the Assault Secs.

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2.

7. It is suggested that the subaltern who commanded the former Explorata Platoon should be retained, and that he should be the Bn LO to the Rect HQ. (At present the Rect HQ does not include any Bn LOs.) He should be provided with M/C. Together with his vehicle and batman, he could be added to the WE of the Rect HQ.

EPL/NS.

F. Elliot

Lt Col.
G.S.O.1.

Copy to: 53 British Liaison Unit.

1153

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TRANSLATION

9321/060

3800

19 Dec 44

Reference S/G/29/20 dated 11 December 1944

Regarding the proposals of 53 BLU concerning the W.E. of an Infantry Battalion of a Combat Group, we inform you of the following :-

1. (a) A decrease of one medical officer would not be advisable
- since infantry units are liable to greater casualties in action,
- since at times it is often necessary in action to have two R.A.Fs, either when the front line is far from the rear echelon or when it is enlarged (in mountainous areas for example).
(b) We approve of the addition of one quartermaster (captain) to the W.E. of a Battalion, but he must not be the second in command. This is to avoid confusion with the difference between the Italian system and the British, the appointment of second in command being designed to be more operational than administrative.
(c) There are not two subalterns in Bn H.Q., but two officers - one as M T officer (captain) and the other as chemical warfare officer (subaltern). Their duties can be seen from their appointments. The chemical warfare officer can be employed as intelligence officer, since the former has little to do as such.
2. (a) We think the proposal to differentiate between the role of coy cndr and HQ Pl cndr has already been settled. 1132
(b) It does not seem necessary to allot other officers to the HQ platoon, which is already commanded by a subaltern, since the 3 sections (H.Q. services, W.F.) which constitute the platoon are at the moment commanded by N.C.O's.
3. (a) We think that each pioneer platoon should be allotted two carriers in lieu of the jeeps, which are not granted owing to their unavailability.
(b) The total strength of the pioneer platoon in the present W.E. is one officer and 31 N.C.O's and men and not 32 N.C.O's and men, as was stated in the letter from 53 BLU. With the eventual allotment of another officer to Battalion H.Q. as Quartermaster, the total W.E. would be 31 officers, 43 N.C.O's and 695 men.

(Sgd) GENERAL SANTI

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

785020

Subject: WFO of the 1st Lt. in 1st Lt.

1. 1st Lt. James Earl Garrison, A.C. (MIA)

20 Dec 64
21 Dec 64
22 Dec 64
23 Dec 64

1. Ref MIA signal, 12/19 of 6 Dec 64, (addressed to this MIA only.)
2. Copies (3 for MIA) are forwarded of this MIA 63 - 11 of 28 Nov 64.
3. As requested in above MIA signal, will MIA please forward their comments direct to MIA, copy to this MIA.

55 D.C. 11
Ref 63 - 12
7 Dec 64

fs^c

1/5cc

1151

WP

Lt. Col.
G.D.

Myra

Subject: Org of Inf Bn in Combat Gp.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)
H.Q. Combat Group FOLGORE.

Copy - D Training Team
A/Q
M.L.A. L.O.
G1 File

53 B.L.U.

Ref. G3 - 11

28 Nov. 44.

1. Further to this HQ letter G1 - 7 of 27 Nov. 44, forwarding MIA No. S/G/29/20 of 23 Nov. 44; and G3 - 10 of 22 Nov. and G3 - 8 of 11 Nov. 44.

2. The organisation of the Inf Bn as referred to and amended in above - quoted letters would now seem to call for the following modifications :-

Serial No.	Sub-Unit.	Remarks, modifications proposed.
1.	Bn. HQ	(a) one M.O. abolished from existing W.E. (b) No Bn 2 i/c shown. Considered that O.C. H.Q. Coy is NOT suitably placed to act as Bn 2 i/c and possibly take over comd in battle. British policy tends to leave Bn 2 i/c in rear, for Adm and Sup duties, and to use O.C. Support Coy as forward tactical 2 i/c to Bn Comd. <u>Proposal.</u> Addition of one offr to Bn HQ who will be designated "Bn 2 i/c". (c) two subalterns are shown: what duties do they perform? <u>Proposal.</u> one subaltern to be Intelligence offr: the second to be abolished and added instead to HQ Coy (see serial 2b below) HQ Pl. (<u>Note:</u> Normally in action there would be a second subaltern, the Sigs offr with Bn HQ but he is already shown rightly, in Sigs Pl, HQ Coy.)
2.	H.Q. Coy.	<u>Proposal,</u> (a) that HQ Coy Comd be NOT shown as Comd of HQ Pl as it now stands since he comds the whole Coy, incl Sigs Pl. He and the requisite clerks and pay personnel should form a separate Coy HQ or Pl. (b) the present HQ Pl should be divided into two secs - one Admin Sec (cooks, armourer, storeroom etc) under comd of a

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(b) No Bn 2 i/c should be appointed until O.C. has been suitably placed to act as Bn 2 i/c and possibly take over command in battle. British policy tends to leave Bn 2 i/c in rear, for Adm and Sup duties, and to use O.C. Support Coy as forward tactical i/c to Bn Comd.

Proposal. Addition of one offr to Bn HQ who will be designated "Bn 2 i/c".

(c) two subalterns are shown: what duties do they perform?

Proposal. one subaltern to be Intelligence offr: the second to be abolished and added instead to HQ Coy (see serial 2b below) HQ Pl.

(Note: Normally in action there would be a second subaltern, the Sigs offr with Bn HQ but he is already shown rightly, in Sigs Pl, HQ Coy.)

2.
H.Q.
Coy.

Proposal,

(a) that HQ Coy Comd be NOT shown as Comd of HQ Pl as it now stands since he comds the whole Coy, incl Sigs Pl. He and the requisite clerks and pay personnel should form a separate Coy HQ or Pl.

(b) The present HQ Pl should be divided into two secs - one Admin Sec (cooks, armourer, storemen etc) under comd of a Q.M. (Subaltern); and one M.T. Sec under comd of M.T.O. (Subaltern). (One of these subalterns to be added from Bn HQ as in Serial 1 note (c) above.)

3.

Pur Pl

(a) Failure to approve addition to W.E. of three Jeeps and two m/c's reduces the total ORs by 3 drivers and 2 DRs, on the other hand the now-dismounted assault pur secs are to retain strength each of 1 sgt and 4 pms, a total addition of 2 pms to counter-balance abolition of 2 drivers in assault secs.

Total strength Pur Pl now, therefore, 1 offr, 32 ORs.

Proposal: two carriers universal be added to each pur Pl in Combat Gp, for tpt of assault secs, whose effective role in battle will be considerably hampered by lack of tpt. Of remaining tpt in Pur Pl, two 3-ton trucks are unsuitable for operations by assault tps in fwd areas, the 15 cwt being suitable only for carriage of assault pur equipment, tools, explosives etc, and possibly as pl comd's vehicle. If these two carriers were added, each assault sec would consist as before of 1 sgt, 3 pms, 1 driver.

THE

If adopted, they would reduce the total strength of officers in Ind. Bu. by one, as follows:

(a) No cost addition : 1 subaltern (from Bn HQ)

(c) Former Scout Pl. reduction : i subaltern (through abolition of pl.)

awaiting H.M.I.A. final approval, H.Q. POLICORE Gp will please examine and report any difficulties in connection with above org within the next 48 hrs, and be prepared to put it into effect as soon as approved is obtained.

Chances
for Life Saving
are

1139

160/100

2000

Further to 50 LBS letter A/2/44 dated 6 Dec 44, and
our conversation 1 (2/44) and 20 NMA - 13 Jan 45, has been referred
to the British and the following is taken from NMA 20 Jan
1945. The company is in contact in other words by my previous
information. The British staff of this Gruppe has been notified and
is provisional only.

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Period	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
TNO						
YLM						
3. 3000						
4. 3000						

(2) The total data the family is fit and the self-orientation was it to an individual. The family relations between the

$$1 \times 15 \text{ cm}^2 = 15 \text{ cm}^2$$

1940-1941

(Kong 1999: 201–202)

2.4063 for 2000 = 4.2 per Group 0
3.1120 for 2000 = 6 per Group 0

104. In the coming

P = parallel
T = trip
TMS = TMS
PMT = PMT
TMS = 3 inch motor
TMS = 2 inch motor

(a) The total and the number of the unit are given in the following table. Only stations requested are -

1 x 15 m
3 x 5 m (x 4) (groups)

and the balance time

3. House work (type witness) will be submitted.

2. House work = 12 per group
3. House work = 6 per group

1128

are not required and may be deleted from appropriate equipment sheet.

2. 104

1. 104
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NOTE

(a) one MD unit required
(b) 1 x 15 m unit added for
other MD
(c) 1 x 15 m unit added for 2 units
and 1 x 15 m unit

785020

Subject: SMO

Application of Explorata pl leaves the following surplus

1 sub	} of these	3 copies to EN HQ (see para 2 Note (a))
1 div		1 div and 1 pte to Norton pl (para 2(a))
1 div		1 pte and 1 div to 1st to carrier pl
1 div		(para 2(c))
1 sub		1 sub, 1 div, 1 div, 1 sub
1 sub		2 HQs and 2 ptes to par pl (para 2(c))

A total of -

1 sub
3 divs
2 divs
1 div
2 ptes
2 sub
1 sub

Working, investigative of specialist qualifications, 10 only, 6 ptes, and 3 subordinates who are surplus to req.

Also 3 ptes are

The two of the men from the Explorata pl who are to become specialists in the pl to which they are transferred will be done under local arrangement.

4. SP COX

(u)	1 sub
	1 sub
	1 sub

1110

The two of the men from the Isabella pl who are to become specialists in the pl to which they are transferred will be done under local arrangement.



1	end		50
2	end		50
3	all		50
4	all pay		50
5	all unit		50
6	ates all		50
7	all reads		50
8	all code		50
9	ates code		50
10	all		50
11	date		50
12	for duration		50
13	all mon		50
14	code ops W/O		50
15	ates ops W/O		50

[illegible]

三

W. O. BIRD

NOTE: (1) If change.

1130

785020

SECRET THIRD.

(b) Mortar Pl.

Carrier

Carrier

Carrier

Sgt.

Dvr.

Col.

2 Ptes. numbers.

3" Mortar.

1 T

4 r

-ditto-

-ditto-

Pl. Cards.
Carrier.

Pl. Card.

Dvr.

Pts (or 5-1).

1 T

1 T

1 r

1 IMG.

15 Cnt.
Pte.

Dvr.

2 Ptes. n.n.

Pte. sigs.

1 T

3 r

15 Cnt.
Stores.

Cnt.

Dvr.

can. mech.

radio equip.

1 T

3 r

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SHEET THREE.

Carrier

-ditto-

Carrier

-ditto-

Carrier

-ditto-

Pl. Cards.
Carrier.Pl. Card.
Dvr.
Pte (or Cpl).
1 P
1 T
1 R
1 ING.15 Gvt.
Stores.Sgt.
Dvr.
am. mech.
am. electric.
1 P
3 R

15 Gvt.
Stores.Dvr.
2 Ptes. am.
Pte. sigs.
1 T
3 R

Notes :- (I) Carrier for Pl. Card. has been asked for. Dvr. and Pte. for this carrier from Exploratory Pl.
(II) Original establishment was two dvr's short : they can be found from Exploratory pl.
(III) Total.

1 sub	P
5 gts	5 R
4 cpls	(43" 12
6 ptes/No's	2 P
	12 R
3 dvr's	8 T
4 ptes am	4 R
2 ptes sigs	2 R
1 pte or Cpl	1 R
1 am. mech	1 R
1 genicetrust	1 R
2 m/cyclists	2 T
5 Carriers	
3 r 15 Gvt.	
2 " 30.	
1 P	
26 R	
10 T	
4 " 3"	
2 " 2 1/2"	
1 Gvt. 36 3/4's.	

(IV) One Pte to Pl. Cards Carrier. One to rest of pl. store required.

785020

SHEET FOUR.

(C) Carrier Pl.

Total.

1 sub	p
2 sgts	2 r
12 cpls	12 r
24 ptes	gun (12 LG
	Ho's (12 r
	4 P
	4 2"
15 dvrs	15 r
	2 P
31/cyclists.	3 T
1 pto	1 r
37/6	
2 x 15 cat	
13 Carriers U.	
1 p	
40 r	
5 T	
12 LG	
4 P	
4 2"	
1 offr 57 ptes.	

SL			SC			SC		
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Sgt.	col	col	col	col	col	sgt	col	col
drv	drv	drv	drv	drv	drv	drv	drv	drv
2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
3 r	3 r	3 r	3 r	3 r	3 r	3 r	3 r	3 r

C	10	10	10
	10	10	10
10 cat			
drv			
col			
P			
2 r			

15 cat
gun
stones

drv
col
10

15 cat
gun
stones

drv
pto
10

785020

SHEET FOUR.

SEC

SEC

SEC

<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>C</u>
col	col	col	col	col	col	col	col	col	col
dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr	dvr
2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes	2 ptes
1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st
3 r	2nd	2nd	3 r	2nd	2nd	3 r	2nd	2nd	3 r
	3 r	3 r		3 r	3 r		3 r	3 r	

C

11 Col
dvr
col
P
2 r

1C 1C 1C
1C 1C 1C
1C 1C 1C

15 col
stores

15 col
stores

dvr
col
1C

dvr
col
1C

We can be provided from present est of Carrier 11 except for the pte in second 15 col
ers of two 1C who will come from Scout 11.

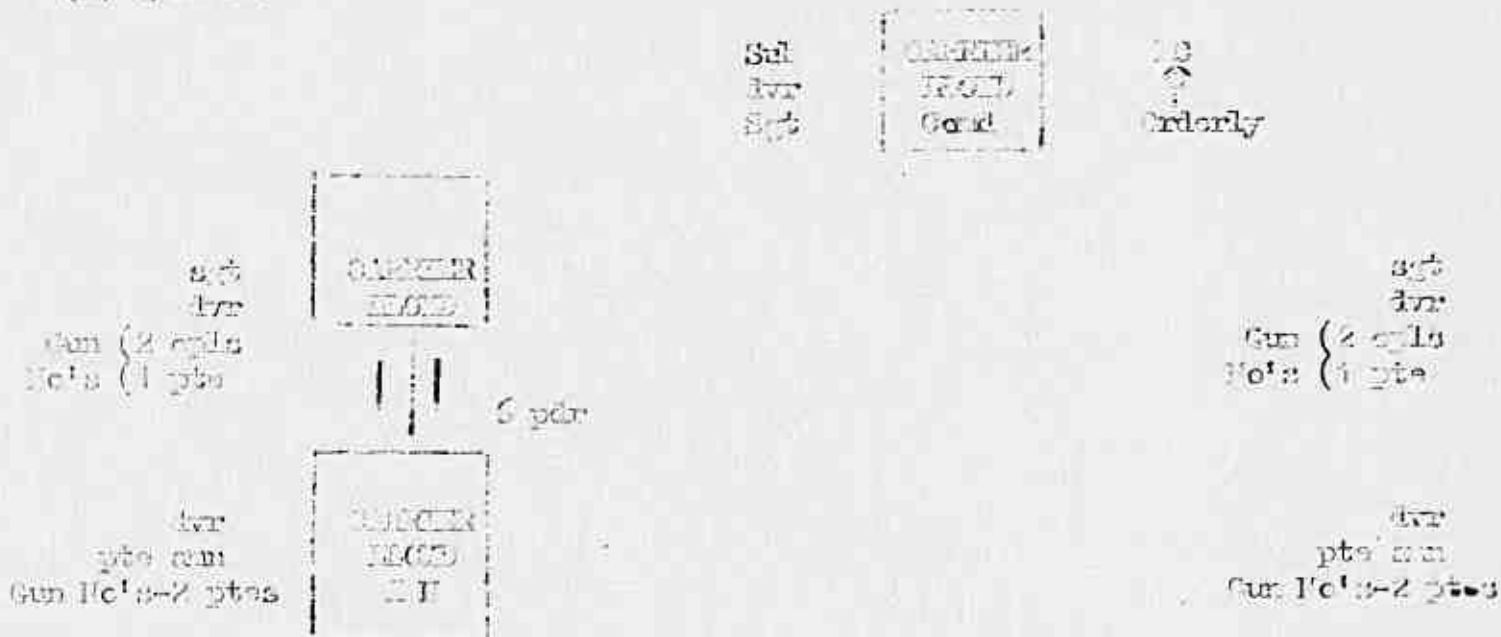
Carrier 11 do not carry 1C.

and 1/6 added from Explorata pl., a = Carrier pl has no wireless except its rear life
arrest will present a problem.

785020

SHEET FIVE.

(3) 1/11 PL.



NOTES :

1. The two gun No's carried in the gun carrier are in fact gun No's as the split in the team works out.
2. L. G. carried in each carrier totaling a gun = 2 per pl.

15
cpl

Ltr/ech
dvr

785020

SECRET FIVE.

Sgt
Ltr
Sgt

ORDER
Ltr
Sgt

Orderly

Sgt
Ltr
Gun { 2 cols
Ho's { 1 pte

ORDER
Ltr
Sgt

Ltr
pte
Gun Ho's-2 ptes

ORDER
Ltr
Sgt

15
Sgt

Ltr/ech
Ltr

Total.
1 col
3 sgts
2 ptes
1 ltr/ech
6 ltrs
4 cols/gun { 2 x 6 pte
6 ptes Ho's { 40 r
1 ltr/ech
1 ltr

1 ltr
1 x 15 col
5 x 15 col
1 ltr
16 r
7 T
2 x 8 gun
2 x 2
2 ltr
1 col 25 r

III. CONCLUSIONS

○
○

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Agenda 14 33

THE
GODDARD
SCHOOL

[illegible]

Producers use it as format in except it does not need

THE CITY OF

(ii)

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4. (i) 1000 (ii) 1000 (iii) 1000 (iv) 1000 (v) 1000
- 14 on present est. 6 cr. required (four for 1000 pi, 2 for ATK 12). Therefore spare for inf bn. Suggest allotment of one two inch mortar to each rifle co. This leaves 5 spare for bn, which is 15 per regt. Suggest allotment of one two inch mortar to each ATK gun in regt ATK gun co - total 12 per regt. This leaves 5 spare for regt or 5 spare for gun co.

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SUNNY SEVEN

4. (S) RIFLE CO.

HQ R1

1 capt
 1 sub
 1 sgt bay
 1 sgt rations
 1 sgt sigs
 1 cpl arm.
 3 ptes arm.
 1 arm mech.
 1 cpl cook
 3 ptes rock
 2 LRs
 5 avrs
 1 cpl med
 5 LRs
 2 orderlies
 1
 1 cpl bay
 2 cpls sigs
 2 ptes sigs
 2 LRs
 3 x 15 ext
 1 carrier U
 2
 17
 2 LRG
 1
 1 P plus 1 LRG
 2 cffrs 32 CEs

1 LRG
 3x
 1
 1 LRG
 3x
 2x
 5x
 1
 nil
 (4P)
 (2x)
 1
 2x
 (4x)
 (4x)

Rifle R1

HQ

Rifle R1

1 sub
 1 sgt
 1 L cpl
 1 runner
 2" M gp (3 mor)
 1 LRG (3 mor)
 PIAT gp (2 mor)

Rifle R1

NCMR (4) The LRs
 in HQ R1 cannot be
 tactically employed
 unless sent out by
 a pl - which is
 impossible - therefore
 the arm and cook teams
 are the best ones to

1
 1
 1
 (2x)
 (3x)
 (1x)
 (2x)
 (2x)

2 ptes sigs
2 mls
3 x 15 awb
1 carrier U
2 p
17 r
2 LFG
2 T
1 P plus 1 12"
2 cffrs 32 Cbs

Rifle Pl

HC

Rifle Pl

1 sub
1 sgt
1 L cpl
1 runner
2" M gp (3 mor)
MAG GP (3 mor)
PIAT GP (2 mor)
1 p
9 r
1 T
1 2nd
1 M
1 P
1. offr 11 Cbs

Rifle Pl

NOTES (1) The LMGs in HQ cannot be tactically employed unless sent out to a pl - which is impossible - therefore the am and cool teams are the best choice to have LMGs from a local def asst. (2) Consider Cvr of carrier U in rifle coy should have M3.

Squadra

Rifle GP
1 cpl (lead)
6 rfn
1 P
1 C

Squadra

LMG GP
1 L cpl (2 IG)
2 ptes LMG
1 LMG
2 r

Squadra

785020

SHEET 8.

SUMMARY, INF. BN.

Offrs L.Os ORs P T R P 13" JAG 12" 6 Pdr 1/2 jeep and/or cars											
Bn. H.Q.	5.	4.	3.	5.	3.	-	-	-	-	-	2.
Lt. Coy. HQ pl.	2.	1.	26.	2.	14.	12.	-	-	1.	-	-
Sign pl.	1.	-	46.	1.	13.	33.	1.	-	1.	-	5.
Total.	3.	1.	72.	3.	27.	45.	1.	-	2.	-	6.
Sp. Coy. HQ pl.	2.	-	33.	2.	9.	21.	-	-	-	-	1.
Mortar pl.	1.	-	36.	1.	10.	26.	2.	4.	2.	-	2.
Carrier pl.	1.	-	57.	1.	5.	40.	4.	-	12.	4.	3.
A/Co. pl.	1.	-	23.	1.	7.	16.	-	-	2.	2.	1.
Pmr. pl.	1.	-	30.	1.	8.	27.	1.	-	2.	-	2.
	6.	-	1604	6.	39.	130.	7.	4.	18.	6.	9.
Rifle Coy. Rifle pl.	1.	-	41.	1.	4.	33.	1.	-	4.	1.	-
3 pls.	3.	-	123.	3.	12.	99.	3.	-	12.	3.	-
H.Q.	2.	-	22.	2.	8.	17.	1.	-	2.	1.	-
Total Coy.	5.	-	155.	5.	20.	116.	4.	-	18.	4.	2.
3 Coys.	15.	-	465.	15.	60.	348.	12.	-	42.	12.	6.
Total. Inf. Bn.	29.	1.	724.	29.	129.	523.	20.	4.	62.	18.	21.
W.E. Inf. Bn.	31.	1.	741.	31.	142.	552.	20.	4.	64.	23.	21.
	(a)	(b)	(a)(d)						(c)	(c)	

Note :- (a) One L.O. and original pmr pl offr less.
 (b) 17 less through abolition of Explorata pl and minor re
 (c) 5 will probably be withdrawn from each Bn = 15 per Reg
 (d) Bn res of 13 to be disposed of as required.
 (e) 4 L.O.'s surplus from Explorata pl. 2 absorbed in a
 (f) For time laying and lifting stores - should be jeeps,

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SHEET 8.SUMMARY, INF. BN.

15" MAG 12" 6 Pdr 11/3							Jeeps and/or. GS. cars	15 cwt. Water	3 ton. Water.	Trailer	Carrier U. H. L.	Recco Cars.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.	1.	-	-	-	-
12.	-	-	1.	-	-	1.	-	3.	1.	8.	1.	-
33.	1.	-	1.	-	-	5.	-	3.	-	-	-	-
45.	1.	-	2.	-	-	6.	-	6.	1.	8.	1.	-
21.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	1.	1.	-	1.	-	-
26.	2.	4.	2.	-	-	2.	-	3.	-	-	-	5
40.	4.	-	12.	4.	-	3.	-	2.	-	-	13.	-
16.	-	-	2.	2.	2.	1.	-	1.	-	-	-	5.
27.	1.	-	2.	-	-	2.	3(f)	1.	-	2.	-	-
36.	7.	4.	18.	6.	2.	9.	4.	8.	-	3.	-	15. 5.5.
33.	1.	-	4.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
99.	3.	-	12.	3.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	1.	-	2.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	3.	-	10.	4.	-	2.	-	2.	-	-	1.	-
48.	12.	-	42.	12.	-	6.	-	9.	-	-	3.	-
523.	20.	4.	62.	18.	2.	21.	6.	1.	11.	1.	16. 5.5.	0.
552.	20.	4.	64.	23.	2.	21.	3.	23.	1.	11.	1.	16. 4.5.
			(c)	(c)								3.

and original per pl offer less.

through abolition of Esplorata pl and minor re-org. within bn.

Probably be withdrawn from each bn = 15 per Regt. 12 to Regt A/1st Gun Coy : 3 spare.

15 to be disposed of as required.

e surplus from Esplorata pl. 2 absorbed in re-organized Pdr pl and 2 left spare.

Laying and lifting stores - should be jeeps, but half tracks would be possible.

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

785020

1133

785020

SIXTY NINE.

File Sam Kizer
f
(Draft approved).

CONFIDENTIAL

C.I. (Ops and SD), 51, 52, 53 B.L.U.'s.

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