

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

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6/TRG/13/7 Training Reports

opened Jan. 14, 1945 - Closed May 27, 1945

Jan. - May 1945

MMIA-'G'

FILE: _____

SUBJECT: Report on Artillery Training

DATE: 29 MAY 45

SECRET

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ, CMF

Tel: 16872

DMF/88/9/121

27 May 45.

HQ 'G' Trg Unit to the Italian Army, RTC, ICF

Copy to:

HQ M.M.I.A.

HQ 'F' BLU, RTC, ICF

1. Reference your DMU/A.1/392 dated 23 May 45 enclosing No 7 Training Memorandum from 10 Training Team RA, may this Directorate please be informed briefly of the number and type of courses at present being run at the Arty School and the numbers of students under instruction?

2. It is realized that, as mentioned in the final paragraph of the above quoted report, future policy about the training of the new Italian Army is not clear, but it is considered that any plans for the extension of training that were immediately on hand at the cessation of hostilities in ITALY, should still be carried out, unless instructions to the contrary are received.

3255

Brig.,
D.M.T.

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

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SUBJECT: Training Report - 803 IED.

D.M.T. A.F.H.C.
C.M.F.

Tel: 16872

DET/89/2/MT1

18 Jun 45.

HQ Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MIA).

1. Attached report from Major T.C.G. WARD A/Comd British Cadre at 803 IED and this office DET/89/2/MT1 of 16 Jun 45. are passed to you for your information.
2. It is understood that 3 District are approaching you direct in regard to the question of clothing and boots brought up in para 4 of Major WARD'S report.



J. Reddie H.C.

3258

Copies sent to G and G

Reference

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COPY

SUBJECT: Report on Training at 203 Italian Base Sgt Detot RAVENHILL.

11 Jun 45.

Ref 9/107

INT

Copy to:-- Maj BRAY 5 District.

1. GENERAL: As prerequisite to any programme of training I have started to systematise

(a) Clothing
(b) Rations
(c) Punishment Camp
(d) Morale

The present troubles appear to me to be almost wholly due to faulty supervision of the Italian Div HQ e.g. the indent system here can hardly have been supervised by the Div Admin Staff. Perhaps the lack of Dr Ordinance personnel at either end is the reason. At any rate I am convinced that these faults are easily remediable.

Taken by and large this Camp compares very favourably with other Italian Units (Gruppi, CASINO centre) and only suffers when compared to Dr Units.

2. TRAINING: Any over-ambitious scheme is doomed at the outset. I shall therefore base training, at any rate for the moment, on the following:-

(i) Interior discipline - e.g. Kit layouts, inspections, shaving of officers, cleaning boots, arms etc.

(ii) 20 two half hours each day.

(iii) One route march per week

(iv) Two half hours close order drill each day.

(v) Weapon training - to include some range work at 100 yds and 200 Yds.

(vi) "ABC" or "La Patria" (given by Senior Officers ONLY)

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supervision of the Italian Div HQ. The Italian Div HQ is the main administrative center of the Italian Div. It has been supervised by the Div Admin Staff. Perhaps the lack of Dr Ordinance personnel at either end is the reason. At any rate I am convinced that these faults are easily remediable.

Taken by and large this Camp compares very favourably with other Italian Units (Garpini, C-SAMO centre) and only suffers when compared to Dr Units.

2. TRAINING: Any over-ambitious scheme is doomed at the outset. I shall therefore base training, at any rate for the moment, on the following:-

- (i) Interior discipline - e.g. Kit layouts, inspections, shaving of officers, cleaning boots, arms etc.
- (ii) PT two half hours each day.
- (iii) One route march per week
- (iv) Two half hours close order drill each day.
- (v) Weapon training - to include some range work at 100 yds and 200 Yds.
- (vi) "ABC" or "La Patria" (given by Senior Officers (MIX))
- (vii) The Military Code.
- (viii) Games and Sports.

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3. UNIFORMS: For (i) above - a few Periodic Dress checks or photos of kit layouts. I suggest a visit by SOPT. Also a "Tough Tactics" team (as at VIMERO) for a time.

4. MISCELLANEOUS: The transport here is completely controlled by us. This is neither good for the Italians nor ourselves but apparently is necessary if grave abuses are not to occur.

The transport is of course inadequate but that I accept as part of a general malady. I had not realised that the transport on the Cedre strength had to serve for the whole Depot. I am trying to get the task system "waterproof".

A bulldozer (D 7) for some days would be a help.

A minor point which interferes with training is the "transit" scale of clothing here which would be perfectly adequate if the men only stayed a day or two but which is no use when a man stays (as he does often) for several weeks. He gets for instance only one shirt one pair of trousers and one pair of underpants. Not weather and their well know affinity for dirt make it unnecessary to say more.

Boots are a problem. I have seen letters from here requesting boot repairing outfits. The reply from Div has been "local purchase" but Black Market conditions make this impracticable.

5. SPECIALIST TRAINING. This is the biggest problem of all. Improvisation on this type of training is practically impossible. I suggest that either we do the thing properly and get the proper specialist (British) overseas and equipment or that we forget it completely. I shall be glad to have a directive on this.

Therefore is necessarily incomplete, but gives the main points I have found since I arrived here two days ago. The IR staff is perfectly satisfactory for the moment though not without problems of its own, due to understandable causes in every case. I hope to liquidate these in due course.

I realize that many of the roots of the troubles here and also those are being dealt with on a far higher plane. From my own's eye view I can say that what can be done here will be done.

Field.

Signed T. A. C. WALD.
Major Recce Corps
Temporary CO (Br Cadre) 805 Italian Base
Art Depot.

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

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Signed T. J. C. WARD.
Major Recce Corps
Temporary OC (Br Cadre) 305 Italian Base
Rt Depot.

Field.

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SUBJECT: Training Report

D.M.T. A.P.H.Q.
C.M.F.
Tel: 16872

DET/89/2/MT1

16 Jun 45.

OC Brit Cadre,
805 Italian Base Reinforcement Depot

Copy to:
H Land Forces Sub Commission AG (ISMA)
G Trg HQ 3 District

Reference your report dated 11 Jun 45.

1. Training

It is agreed that you should concentrate on basic training on the lines you suggest in your para 2 and not attempt any specialist training.

2. Needs

- (a) IRED will produce kit lay-outs for you. You will hear about these again from this office in a few days.
- (b) SOFT will be asked to visit you.

3. Miscellaneous

G II Trg from 3 District is seeing you about these points.

16872
FILED 4/29/2
DATE 20 JUN

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J. Leach
Brig.,
D.M.T.

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