

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

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785020

1469

SARD/129

Inspection Note

opened Feb. 1, 1944. Closed Mar. 5, 1944

Feb - Mar. 1944

JAC/rro

26 Feb.

MEMO OF INSPECTION OF INTENDENZA DEPOTS
IN SARDINIA

The following depots were visited and a general inspection made.

1. Recovery depot--OSCHIRI

In this depot there are two workshops, one for the remaking of boots, the other for clothing. In the shoemakers shop, new boots are made out of old. This is the only way to describe that good work. Old boots are stripped down, good uppers, toe caps, etc. are washed and cleaned and the boots entirely remade - new leather being added when necessary. The output is approximately 350 pairs per week, and it is hoped to increase this to 1000 per week. Fifty soldier shoemakers are employed. Owing to a shortage of nails, wooden pegs were made in the shop and used for the heels while the soles were all sewed by hand.

In the tailor shop old tunics, trousers, shirts, and even underclothing is being remade. The garments shown to us were all serviceable and a very good job had been done, considering the state of the material from which they were remade. A large number of caps as good as new were in stock and many shirts and a number of tunics and trousers. Full particulars have been received and translations are being made. Fifty civilian women and 12 soldier tailors are employed here. They have a washing and disinfesting shop where all the clothing is treated.

The work undertaken in this depot is an excellent example of "Needs must" or "Necessity being the mother of invention".

2. Magazzino Principali Viveri and Avena Monti

The main food issue depot on the island. The stocks were very small, sufficient only for requirements up to 2/3 March, and consisted mostly of German foods with a certain amount of American flour and hard wheat. Buildings good and depot appeared well run.

3. Pareo Automobilistico--MONTI

A small M.T. workshop, consisting of two mobile workshops, a number of old German trucks out of which some ten runners had been made.

4. Deposito Artiglieria--TEITI

Mainly an ammunition depot. Although a few buildings contained all sorts of odd equipment, not sorted and unlisted, it was explained that this was equipment handed in by units being broken up. As examples, pistols and automatics were flung in a box unsorted, ammunition in the open, boxes broken open and unstacked although many of the buildings were almost empty. One building contained a few old French guns together with:

6 X 75 m/m, 1 X 65/17 m/m, 2 X 75/13 Hows.,
2 X 100/17, 4 X 155/141 Hows. (all serviceable)

Col. Capello was informed as to what we had seen and made a note and hoped to inspect the depot himself very soon.

3151

2.

5. Magazzino Genio Seziome--TEITI

The items of interest in this Engineering depot were large quantities of Signal wire; 1,200,000 metres arty.

600,000 metres inf.

and 950,000 metres engin.,

a few 7/10 line switchboards and a small quantity of telephone and telegraph equipment. There was also a large number of picks and shovels.

6. Magazzino Chimico per La Sardegna--Ozieri

This depot was not visited as Col Capello omitted to include its location on our list. The officer i/c, Maj. Pelloli, was interviewed in Col Capello's office and a description of the contents was given to us. The main item was a large quantity of gas masks, 25,000 complete and sufficient pieces to make a further 33,000. A complete stock list as at 31 January was received.

7. Magazzino Principali V.E. Sardegna, MACOMER

The main clothing depot in the island. This is the best stocked depot I have visited throughout Italy. It contained some 30,000 yds. of uniform material, over 150,000 greatcoats, 43,000 tunics, and a good quantity of underclothing and socks. A good depot, all clothing well stored and good records kept. Had expanded into a large building in the depot of the 13 Regt of Arty. In this building there is stored a quantity of material packed ready for shipment to the mainland.

8. Divesione Artiglieria Della Sardegna--NUORO

The main Arty. depot of the island, complete with machine tool, carpenters, armours, and blacksmith workshops, also a small sand casting furnace. In this depot any type of part can be made but only in small quantities. The storehouses are good, all material binned, with stock cards. Some 8,000 pack saddles had already been sent to the mainland from this depot. In the gun sheds there are 16 X 75/34 German A/T guns. Col. Attisani, the officer i/c of the depot stated that these guns were bought by the Italian Govt from the Germans.

9. Deposito Munizione Esplosive de Prato Sardo--NUORO

A peacetime ammunition depot, the buildings well-cared-for and ammunition well stacked. It contained some 8,000,000 rds of SAA and a quantity of German Cerlike ammunition. In one building a number of guns were parked, among them 8 X 75/34 German A/T guns. They are part of the ones referred to in (8).

10. Divesione Magazzini Genio della Sardegna, ABIASANTA

The main Engineers depot in Sardinia. Had a certain amount of timber, barbed wire, etc. The items of interest were rope, signal wire (R.E. and Inf.), Signal lamps (acid required for batteries), and a certain amount of telephone equipment which could be repaired. There were 2 X 30 line exchanges and it was thought at least one serviceable one could be made from the two. There is also one complete "Kon" bridge with a 20 metre span.

3.

11. Divezione 13 Parco Automobilistico, ABBASANTA

The principal M.T. depot and workshop on the island. Well set out with 3 buildings, one L shaped 100 X 80 yds, the other two about 100 yds long. The depot is repairing approximately 120 heavy vehicles and some 30 light cars per month. A machine shop is being installed, some of the machines being already in place. Certain machines were still to come, but they were short of certain types. There is a great shortage of raw materials and the officer i/c wanted badly to install a casting foundry so that he could make spare parts. A request had already been made to higher authority for machines and raw materials necessary to carry on.

12. Magazzino Parti Ricambio Materiali Vari e Gomme 13 Parco Automobilistico, ABBASANTA

The spare parts depot for the M.T. workshop referred to in (11). The buildings were filled with racking and the material was all nicely binned, complete with stock cards. There are many more spares than are available on the mainland, but from reports received, they are nothing like sufficient for the work to be done. There are approximately 400 vehicles on the island awaiting repair.

The above gives the small picture of our different inspections. Stock lists for certain depots have been collected and when this has not been possible, the stocks have been included in the consolidated lists. Complete consolidated lists from the different services have been obtained and will be translated and copies forwarded to those concerned.

To: Col. Simmons
Army Sub-Commission
Allied Control Commission

From: Maj. J.A. Campbell
C.E.M.E.C.
Attached W.M.D. Sub-Commission
Allied Control Commission

3149

Y
Y JK/rmg

5 MARCH 1944

Memo To : Colonel Simmons

Subject : Complaint against Unknown Officer .

Lt. Colonel Capello, of the Intendenza, Capt. Cosentini, commanding the 13th Parco Automobilistico, and Lt. Grimaldi of the same organization were all interviewed but had no personal knowledge of the alleged unlawful taking of motor parts.

Sgt. Major Angelo Moregalli, 32464, 13th Parco Automobilistico, Distaccamento Calangianus, was interviewed at Tempio. Parapinto, which you were unable to find on the map, is an indistinguishable spot on the ground between Tempio and Calangianus. The Italian Army maintained there what might be called a motor dump yard. Abandoned and discarded motor vehicles were brought to the place and attempts were made to salvage working parts and to place repairable vehicles in running order. The place was under guard but Colonel Capello says that the guard was insufficient and he believed many people came to take the parts without authority. As a result the salvageable items have been moved to an enclosed area at Monti.

Moregalli states that on or about 18-14 February 1944 (exact date could not be determined), a blonde man about 25-27 years of age, wearing eye glasses, and in the uniform of a British Naval Officer having one stripe and a loop on his shoulder straps, approached the yard and was accosted by him. The person told him in broken Italian that he came from Maddalena and that he wanted a starter and a jack. Moregalli explained that an authorization was necessary, whereupon, the alleged officer promised he would get an authorization after he had the property. Moregalli then assisted with the removal of the items from a Mercedes Benz vehicle and the officer drove away saying he was going to eat and would return later. He never returned. The officer was driving an English type vehicle with a wooden body (presumed to be a station wagon or carryall). The number of the vehicle was not taken and Moregalli has no knowledge of the name or other identity of the person. He believes he could recognize him if he saw him again. He never saw the officer prior to or subsequent to the incident. He does not know the value of the parts taken.

Moregalli reported the matter to Lt. Grimaldi, who in turn reported it to Capt. Cosentini.

Recommendation:

1. I believe it impracticable to attempt to identify the officer by having Moregalli visit Maddalena and recommend the matter to be considered closed.

3148

P.S. On March 3, 1944 Capt. Roberts (Brit.) C.O. at Maddalena stated he had heard of this incident but to date had been unable to find out who the perpetrator was.

JEROME KESSNER
Lt Col, Inf

file with
original

file

Investigation
Reports

JK/rro

dinia would result in a larger proportion of salvage. I recommend
this matter be submitted to the Italian Command in Sardinia for
decision.

Army Sub-commission
A.P.O. 809, U.S. Army

19 March 1944

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Personnel

TO : Col. Simmons

Attached hereto is listing of all personnel of Italian Army
in Corsica as of 6 March 1944, together with notation of how
they are rationed.

Gen Lazzarini claims that Italians working with French are
being fed very little. He would like to supplement that mess
(about 1200) with cheese.

Gen Lazzarini would like to retain the clothing of the per-
sonnel of foreign origin who now have arrived or will arrive in
Corsica as labor companies, and for whom it is contemplated Allied
clothing will be issued. He has no facilities to repair this cloth-
ing other than the tailor kits in the individual organization. He
claims the uniforms of the other Italian troops are in very bad
condition. In my opinion the repairing of the clothing in Sar-
dinia would result in a larger proportion of salvage. I recommend
this matter be submitted to the Italian Command in Sardinia for
decision.

JEROME KESSNER
Lt Col, Inf.

copy: transcription notes
from original: Rations

JK/rro

Allied Force Headquarters
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Army Sub-commission
A.P.O. 809, U.S. Army

19 March 1944

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Motor Transport in Corsica

TO : Col. Simmons

As of 17 March 1944, the Italian Army in Corsica, had under its control, the following motor vehicles:

Staff cars	Fiat	13	(5)
Truck, light	SPA L 39	1	(1)
Truck, medium	Fiat	8)
Truck, medium	SPA 30R	7)
Truck, medium	SPA Dovunque 35	4) (15)
Truck, heavy	Lancia 3 RO	3)
	Fiat 606	1)
	O.M. Titanus	1)
Truck, wrecker (secourso)	SPA 58	1	(1) crane broken
Mobile repair shop		1	(1)
Trailer		1	(1)
Ambulances		10	(10)
Motorcycles		14	(3)

Definite information as to the number of above vehicles which can be put in good running order was unobtainable as the officer in charge of the vehicles, Lt. Tommasi, claims he has not yet had time to inspect them, his mobile repair unit having moved into the present location only about two weeks ago. The best estimates made appear in parenthesis in the above list. Lt. Tommasi claimed that no repair materials are on hand, the French having taken all repair materials on the island. The above vehicles have been earmarked for shipment to Sardinia. The claimed reason why these vehicles are so poor is that the French authorities after inspecting all of the Italian vehicles, selected the best for themselves.

3146

In addition to the above vehicles the Italians have under their control at present, and available for their use, but earmarked for transfer to the French, the following vehicles:

FROM ORIGINAL - (INSP. NOTES)
FILE: IND. EQPT. AUTOMOTIVE

2.

Staff cars.....	8
Truck, light.....	33
Truck, medium.....	16
Truck, heavy.....	30
Motorcycles.....	20
Motorcycles (three wheeler).....	46
Autobus.....	1
Motor truck.....	2

All of these vehicles are claimed to be in good running order. --

The mobile workshop unit is located at Cauro about 20 miles from Ajaccio. At present it is composed of the workshop unit, wrecker and trailer, 3 officers, 10 mechanics, and 80 others.

Submitted herewith is a list marked 1, submitted by Capt. Macchi, Acting Chief of Staff for General Lazzarini, purporting to show the disposition of motor vehicles. It will be noted that discrepancies exist between the first column "Situazione Iniziale" and the sum of the remaining columns. These discrepancies cannot be reconciled and when pressed for an answer, the Captain could only shrug and say the initial figures were based on reports received and no explanation could be given. The figures in ink were entered to bring the situation up to 17 March 1944.

JEROME KRESSNER,
Lt. Col., Inf.

/rro

Servizio Automeccanico

	Situazione iniziale	Ceduti al French 2/20/44	Transferi ti in Ser- degna al 2/20/44	Autoriz- zati al trasfer- imento	Ancora da cedere al French
Autovetture (Staff cars)	154	67 68 (10)	64	14*	8
Autofurgoncini (Light vans)	28	18 17 (9)	7	-	1
Autoc. Spa L39 (Light lorries)	250	265 (4)	29	1	10
Autocarri leggeri (Light lorries)	407	781	-	-	-
Autocarri pesanti (Heavy lorries)	257	781	-	-	-
Autocarri medi (Medium lorries)	280	774 (5)	197	33 ¹ (12)	69
Trattori (Tractors)	113	60 (3)	53	-	-
Carri armati legg. (Light tank-3.5 ton)	59	20	33	-	-
Semoventi da 47/52 (Self propelled)	47	46	-	-	-
Semoventi da 75/18 (Self propelled)	5	-	5	-	-
Autoblinda (Armored cars)	17	17	-	-	-
Autoambulanze (Ambulances)	80	46 (11)	24	10	-
Autofficine (Autoshops)	16	12 (8)	3	1	-
Autobus (Auto-bus)	4	3 (1)	-	-	1
Autosoccorso (Rescue)	6	5 (2)	-	1	-
Autofrigoriferi (Refrigerators)	10	10 (1)	-	-	-
Autobotti (Auto-tank)	11	9 (1)	-	-	8
Autocucine (Auto-kitchen)	1	1 (1)	-	-	-
Autobagni (Auto-bath)	2	1 (1)	1	-	-
Motoricicli (Motor-Tricycles)	510	326 325 (6)	98	-	47 46
Motoricicli (Motorcycles)	1113	287 (7)	682	15 ² (12)	20
Biciclette (Bicycles)	1357	-	744	-	-
Ambulanza radiologia (Ray amb.)	2	2 (1)	-	-	-
Ambulanza odontoiatrica (Dentist amb.)	1	1 (1)	-	-	-
Autocisterne (Auto-tank)	1	1 (1)	-	-	-
Autospeciali Sanita (Special Med. Auto)	2	2 (1)	-	-	-

Carburanti e lubrificanti

	Tonn.	
Benzina	1,897,983)
Gasolio	1,478,724)
Lubrificanti	1,137,199)
Petrolio	6,492)
Fusti da 200 litri	No. 18,093)
Fustini da 20 litri	275)
Pompe travaso	10)
Bascula	2)

To French

*French took 1 additional
 1 French took 4 in bad condition
 2 French took 2 additional

- (1) - verbali gia' in possesso dal Comando Truppe
- (2) - 4 verbali gia' in possesso
- (3) - 8 verbali in possesso Comando
- (4) - 226 verbali gia' in possesso
- (5) - 546 gia' in possesso
- (6) - 318 verbali gia' in possesso
- (7) - 259 verbali gia' in possesso
- (8) - 10 verbali gia' in possesso
- (9) - 16 verbali gia' in possesso
- (10) - 54 verbali gia' in possesso
- (11) - 44 verbali gia' in possesso
- (12) - monti di tali automezzi sono assolutamente inservibili.

Y LAG/rro

Allied Force Headquarters
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Land Forces Sub-commission
A.P.O. 809, U.S. Army

18 March 1944

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Inspection Tour

TO : Col. Simmons, ACCLPSC

March 8. Visited Gruppo Squadrone Cavalleggeri at CRISTANO with Lt. Miller, Vet. officer, to inspect 202 horses requested for use by the Allies. The horses were in good condition and were extremely well taken care of.

March 9. Went to Intendenza at OZIERI and received 200 halters and 250 chains needed to equip mules requested by Allies and concentrated at SAN BARTOLOMEO.

March 10. Conference with Major Cadeddu, C.O. of Gruppo Squadrone Cavalleggeri and Lt. Miller at CRISTANO concerning the possibility of his taking care of an additional 140 horses at his camp. This latter number represents balance of horses requested by Allies and still remaining on Sardinia. The advantages of such a plan would (1) Concentrate all horses requested by Allies in one place, (2) The feeding of the animals would thus be simplified. Major Cadeddu agreed to the added responsibilities and stated that he would make a list of all requirements and present them to me at Cagliari on March 12. He gave me as an initial basis, the following information: (1) Sheds available at TANCA SPINALEA, 7 km. East of CRISTANO, capable of covering 140 horses (2) A detail of 70 km and 1 officer needed to administer the new camp.

March 11. On the basis of conference with Major Cadeddu, presented my case to Col. Harding, G-4. Col. Harding stated that sheds at TANCA SPINALEA could be ready for use by March 20. He told me to contact Lt. Monami at Italian Air Force Headquarters who would furnish men and materials required to set up the new camp. 3142

March 12. Conference with Major Cadeddu, Lt. Monami, Capt. Maniscalco and Lt. Miller at Italian Headquarters. Capt. Maniscalco stated that he could send the necessary personnel and could effect the movement of horses requested for use by the Allies to TANCA

COPY: HORSES
FROM ORIGINAL: INSP. NOTES

2.

SPINALBA by March 21-23. Accompanied Major Cadedda, Lt. Monami, Lt. Miller to TANNA SPINALBA to make a final survey of the sheds and pasture land available.

March 13. Accompanied Lt. Col. Rix, Veterinary and Remount Section, AFHQ, to SAN BARTOLOMEO to inspect mules which have not as yet been requested for use by the Allies. All of the animals inspected were in poor condition and were undernourished.

March 15. Accompanied Lt. Col. Rix and Lt. Miller to 552 Battalion at VILLASOR to inspect 8 horses, 2 of which had already been requested for use by the Allies. The animals were in a fair condition. They are being fed 3 pounds of oats and 1½ pounds of hay per day.

LOUIS A. CERUTTI,
Capt, Cavalry.

3141

Y LAC/rro

Allied Force Headquarters
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Army Sub-commission
A.P.O 509, U.S. Army

21 March 1944

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Trip to Ajaccio, Corsica on 19 March 1944

1. Left Elmas Airdrome with Col F. L. Simmons and Col J. P. Doyle on 19 March at 1000. Arrived Ajaccio airport 1100.
2. Arrived at Colonel Ratay's headquarters 1140. Made an appointment to see Brig Gen Lazzerini, commanding Italian troops in Corsica, for 1200.
3. Arrived at Gen Lazzerini's headquarters with Col Simmons, Col Doyle, Lieut Col James, G-3 NORBS. The following points were discussed:
 - a. The Italians had 167,000 rounds of ammunition, Beretta, cal 9mm. Gen Lazzerini stated that if he could obtain a letter from NORBS addressed to the French authorities permitting the Italians to draw the ammunition in question from the dumps, he could have all the ammunition at Bonifaccio within a period of one week. Lieut Col James stated that he would get approval for General Lazzerini.
 - b. Gen Lazzerini stated that he would like to have 5000 of his men clothed in American uniforms. He was in accord with the proposal of sending about 2500 uniforms to Sardinia to be repaired.
 - c. On the question of sending cheese to Corsica from Sardinia in order to supplement the ration, General Lazzerini estimated that 50 kilos of cheese per day would suffice.Left Italian Headquarters at 1240.
4. Left Ajaccio airport 1520. Arrived Elmas Airdrome 1620.

LOUIS A. CERUTTI
Captain, Cavalry

3140

Y ABZ/vjt.

ALLIED Force Headquarters
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Army Sub-commission
A.P.O. 509, U.S. Army

21 March 1944

SUBJECT: Citizenship of an Italian Soldier.

TO : Col. F. L. Simmons, Chief of Section, Army Sub-commission

On the 14 March 1944, I was detailed to Algiers by Major S. D. Martin for the purpose of gathering information regarding the American citizenship of an Italian soldier.

In compliance with orders from Major Martin I first contacted Lieut. Col. Farman, Military Government Section, AFHQ. I discussed the case with Lieut. Col. Farman but he was unable to offer an opinion. He then referred me to Mr. Estes, American representative to Algiers. Mr. Estes was not available but his office referred me to Mr. Doughfries, the American Consulate General, Algiers. After discussing the case with Mr. Doughfries, he stated that the soldier concerned in the case must file an application for citizenship, reciting all the facts of the case to the American Consul at Palermo.

A. B. ZEGARELLI,
1st Lieut, Infantry

3139

Y SIM/vjt

Allied Force Headquarters
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Land Forces Sub-commission
A.P.O. 509, U.S. Army

12 February 1944

Subject: Palermo trip

To : Colonel F. L. Simmons

1. On 25 January 1944 at 6:00 PM left Cagliari for Palermo with 1148 convicts destined for Sicily.

2. At 10:00 AM on 28 January 1944 the convicts were transported from dockside to PW enclosure No. 2 by A.T.S. 10th Port. At 11:00 AM arranged rail transportation to Catania for Col. Enrico Fois and interpreter.

3. After four days lay over at Palermo, authority M.O.A. left at 9:00 PM and arrived Cagliari 10:00 AM 31 January 1944

STEPHEN D. MARTIN
Major, C.M.P.

3138

MARTIN

Y 500/v.lt.

CONFIDENTIAL

Allied Force Headquarters
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 Land Forces Sub-commission
 A.P.O. 509, U.S. Army

12 February 1944

Subject: Naples trip

To : Colonel F. L. Simmons

1. On 21 January 1944 at about 6:45 PM left Cagliari on the Cruiser Montecucolo and destroyer Velicite with a complement of 1150 men and officers (Italian).

2. Arrived at Naples at 10:00 AM and were ordered to dock at once. At dockside at 11:50 AM, and discharged to the docks all men and equipment.

3. 6th Port, P.B.S., AMG and Italian Army Headquarters had no knowledge of our arrival. The signal arrived at P.B.S. 2 1/2 hours after my arrival.

4. Two animal hospitals 211 men and officers were staged at P.B.S. staging area. Italian Army took charge of 243 Italian Army and Navy and Air Corps personnel. After discussion with A.M.G. and Italian Army Headquarters, the Italian Army Headquarters took charge of the 693 congested.

5. On 23 January 1944 at 10:00 AM the Montecucolo was ordered to the outer harbor by the N.O.B. Of 95 congested to be returned to Sardinia only 77 were available, and were put aboard the destroyer Velicite in landing craft by A.T.S.

6. Left Naples at 6:00 PM and arrived Cagliari at 10:00 AM the following morning.

Disposition:

Taken Care of by Italian Army:

215 Air Force

18 Army

10 Navy

243Taken care of by P.B.S.:

211 Animal Hospitals

To be discharged:

331 Civilian Labourers

165 Navy at Cagliari

194 Sailors

693

Grand Total 1147

3137

A.P.V./vite. 25 Jan. 44

M. GRANITO BN. ALPINI C.O. LT. CO. PALMONERATIONS

<u>Components</u>	<u>Alloted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Meat, on 3 days, fresh	150 gr.	150 gr.
on 2 days, canned	$\frac{1}{2}$ can	$\frac{1}{2}$ can
Pasta	60 gr.	none
Olive Oil	13 gr.	13 gr.
Sugar	12 gr.	12 gr. none
Tomato paste	12 gr.	none
Cheese	50 gr., or 150 gr. on meat-less days	
Wine, for 3 days	$\frac{1}{2}$ liter	none
Vegetables	none	none
Cigarettes	5	none

There is a mess fund of 3 lire per day per man for local purchase of items such as cognac, fresh vegetables, etc. but none are available except some cabbage occasionally. The nearest vegetable market is at ORISTANO.

The C.O. proposed the following rations.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Bread	600 gr.
Pasta	250 gr.
Cheese	150 gr.
Tomato paste	20 gr.
Sugar	25 gr.
Olive Oil	30 gr.
Meat	300 gr.
Vegetables	80 gr.

He has put in a request for an increased allowance, and showed the file. The request was refused by the Comando Militare Sardegna in spite of the fact that this unit was being built up to strength in men and materials and expected to drill for probable ultimate use in combat.

The C.O. pointed out that the Alpine troops operate in high altitudes, operate in difficult exhausting terrain, and have the heaviest packs of all the troops in the Army and that consequently a higher ration scale was a necessity.

A.P.V./vjt

NOTES ON INSPECTION TOUR OF 11 JANUARY 1944

On 11 January 1944 a brief inspection was made of the 24 47/32 A/TK guns which were ordered to be held for A.F.Hq. These were in storage with the DIREZIONE ARTIGLIERIA at NUORO, commanded by Lt. Col. ATTISANI. The latter showed the guns and stated that all of them had been checked in his ordnance workshops and were all in serviceable condition. The guns, complete with canvas covers, were all together in a shed. The C.O. recommended that, when the time came, they be moved by truck in order to avoid the excessive handling that would be necessitated by transshipment from the narrow gauge R.R. to the standard gauge that went to Cagliari. He intimated that, very probably one truck could carry as many as six pieces.

The C.O. further stated that the 24,000 rds. of ammunition to go with these guns had been earmarked and was left in storage at the various outlying ammunition dumps.

A.P.V./Vjt.

NOTES ON INSPECTION TOUR OF 12 JANUARY 1944

Inspected were two battalions of ALPINI.

The M. MERCANTUR Battalion ALPINI is commanded by Major CASSI, whose headquarters were at GAVOI. The battalion was composed of the Headquarters Company, and the 701, 702, and 703 rifle companies.

This battalion, like the other five in Sardinia, were never front-line battalions but were recruited as replacements. Their organic strength therefore is 850 officers and men as compared to 1,200. The actual strength of this Bn. was 24 officers and approximately 500 men. This battalion had recently lost some men by transfer to the M. GRANERO Bn. which was being brought up to strength for further training with the view of probable ultimate use in battle.

The Hq. company normally has a platoon of 81 mm. mortars. The M. MERCANTUR Bn. does not have them because they were compelled to leave theirs in Corsica. The company also has the communications, clerical etc, personnel of the Bn.

The rifle companies are composed of one headquarters platoon, three rifle platoons and 1 machine-gun platoon.

The Bn. staff was composed of five officers as follows: The Bn. Commander, Adjutant, Medical Officer, Chaplain, and Communications Officer. The Medical Officer had under him in Hq. Co., a squad of enlisted assistants (litter-bearers, etc.) and there were in addition, 2 enlisted men in each rifle company to render first aid and act as litter-bearers.

The unit left CORNIGIA, about 20 October 1943. While there its mission was to defend an airfield together with some German troops. After the Armistice, it received orders to withdraw to the southern part of the island.

Most of the individuals in these battalions come from that part of Italy that includes and lies north of Tuscany.

The troops have only the uniform that they are wearing. Shoes are badly needed, as well as materials for keeping them in repair.

Normally, the men are fed twice per day; but for the past few months, they have been cut down to one meal per day.

The 703rd Co. was assembled,-- commanded by Lt. COCCIERO. The elements in the formation totaled 3 officers and 74 men. Rifles were rusty and dirty. Men did not answer questions very militarily or completely. Machine-gunners did not seem to know other similar weapons. The Bn. had only one truck to fetch supplies from NUORO every 10 days.

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A.P.V./vjt.

NOTES ON INSPECTION TOUR OF 12 JANUARY 1944 (Cont.)

Major GESA, a staff officer of the 75th Alpine Regiment (HQ. at FONNI) was present and offered to show a demonstration of rock-climbing by 10 officer-instructors. They showed how they could use the ropes in climbing and descending a large boulder. Major Gesa asked that this group and others be sent to CAPRI to give courses in rock-climbing to officers and NCO's of the Allied Armies.

Next, was inspected at TONARA, the M. GRANERO BN. ALPINI, commanded by Lt. Col. PALERONE (English-speaking). Upon approaching the town, we were met by an enlisted interpreter and a bugler posted to lead us to the C.O.

The Headquarters Company of the Bn was assembled for inspection. C.O. Captain FABRI. It was made up of the Headquarters Platoon, the 81 mm. Mortar platoon (4 mortars), the signal platoon and the pack train platoon. For signal equipment, the company used walkie-talkie radio, heliograph, and flags. It did not then possess the radios. The mortars had just that day arrived, but were not complete. The C.O. asked for a FELDAR (German) Aiming Circle for the Mortar platoon. The mortars he said were of an old model.

This unit also left Corsica in October, minus most of its equipment. It had only one truck to fetch supplies from NUORO. The Bn. had an organic strength of 161 mules, and 17 trucks.

The Hq. Co. had a Veterinary Officer. Each company had a medical Officer. There were 10 stretcher-bearers in the Bn.

The rations are reduced, and yet it is usually impossible to obtain all the components of the allotted rations.

<u>Components</u>	<u>Allotted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Meat, on 3 days, fresh	150 gr.	150 gr.
on 2 days, canned	$\frac{1}{2}$ can	$\frac{1}{2}$ can
Pasta	80 gr.	none.
Olive Oil	13 gr.	13 gr.
Sugar	12 gr.	none
Tomato paste	12 gr.	none
Cheese	50 gr., or 150 gr. on meat-less days	
Wine, for 3 days	$\frac{1}{2}$ liter	none
Vegetables	none	none
Cigarettes	5	none

A.P.V./vjt.

NOTES ON INSPECTION TOUR OF 12 JANUARY 1944 (Cont.)

There is a mess fund of 3 lire per day per man for local purchase of items such as cognac, fresh vegetables, etc. but none are available except some cabbage occasionally. The nearest vegetable market is at CRISTANO.

The C.O. proposed the following rations.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Bread	600 gr.
Pasta	250 gr.
Cheese	150 gr.
Tomato paste	20 gr.
Sugar	25 gr.
Olive Oil	30 gr.
Meat	300 gr.
Vegetables	80 gr.

He has put in a request for an increased allowance, and showed the file. The request was refused by the Comando Militare Sardegna in spite of the fact that this unit was being built up to strength in men and materials and expected to drill for probable ultimate use in combat.

The C.O. pointed out that the Alpine troops operate in high altitudes, operate in difficult exhausting terrain, and have the heaviest packs of all the troops in the Army and that consequently a higher ration scale was a necessity.

The clothing of the men was about the Sardinian average - the shoes in the last stages of usefulness. These are special alpine boots with thick soles and heavy nails.

This particular company was billeted in a de-sanctified church, on crude straw mattresses on the floor or on planks. Each man had 3 blankets. There were no racks for the small arms, and each soldier kept them by his bed. They were in poor condition; everywhere was the same excuse - no lubricants or cleaning and preserving equipment.

The C.O.'s comment on his men's morale was that they must be of good spirit or they would not tolerate their living conditions and rations as cheerfully as they do, but he fears that they will bitterly resent having to submit to any strenuous training without an increase in their ration.

AMV/vjt

NOTES ON INSPECTION OF 1 FEBRUARY 1944

Inspected were the 400 motor vehicle drivers scheduled to go to the mainland. This group was made up of men selected from the 13th Automobile Regiment stationed at San Bartolomeo Barracks, Cagliari, commanded by Colonel ZUBERANO. The total strength of the group was 440 officers and men. It was organized into 2 provisional companies of strength 220 each.

The 1st Autodrapello was commanded by Captain Giuseppe FICARA, and the 2nd Autodrapello by Captain Giovanni COMINOTTI. Each company had 4 lieutenants. 10% of the strength of each company was overhead, leaving 200 drivers in each company. Of the latter, all were reported to have the motor vehicle operator's license issued by the Italian Army, some indicating ability to drive gasoline powered vehicles and others diesel powered vehicles. In each company, twelve of the drivers were motorcycle drivers, included for probable convoy control.

These men were reasonably well dressed judging from the standards of the other Italian units inspected on the island. All had shoes that looked quite serviceable, although they were the individual's only pair. Each man was equipped with carbine, 36 rounds of ammunition, gas-mask, shelter-half, 2 blankets, and 2 day rations.

A brief inspection was again made of this group on board the POMPEO MAGNO on 7 February 1944, the eve of its departure for NAPLES.

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