

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

785020

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10000/120/1753

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HANDBOOK OF THE ITALIAN ARMYChapter IVSIGNAL SERVICE(1) General Organization, Administration and Strength.A. At the Ministry of War.

- I The Signal Branch of the Inspectorate of Engineers.
- II The General Directorate of Engineers, of which the following branches concern the Signal Service.

The Signal Section of the Works Division.
The Works Division, which deals with the construction of lines and the allotment of personnel.

- III The Ministry of War Special Signal Battalion which is under the command of the Inspectorate of Engineers and is organized as follows:-

No. N. A.	Officers	ONS	Total
1. N. A. Coy.	3	82	85
1 Signal Coy. (TELEGRAPH)	7	177	184
1 " " (TELEGRAPH)	6	166	172
135 Special Wireless Coy.	5	114	119
IV At each Territorial Command.			
1 Signal Coy. BREGGIO	7	327	334
107 " " VERBAZZO	7	327	334
20 " " RIVA GI TRINIO	7	327	334
44 " " TORINO	7	327	334
101 Terr Signal Coy TORINO	4	111	115
102 " " GENOVA	3	66	69
103 " " MILAN	4	141	145
104 " " BOLZANO	2	65	67

1 Signal Coy. (TERRITORIAL) 7 177 134
 1 " " (TERRITORIAL) 6 166 172
 135 Special Wireless Coy. 5 114 119

IV At Each Territorial Command.

51 Signal Coy.	ROMA	7	327	334
107 " "	VERAZZI	7	327	334
20 " "	PIVA DI TRIVIO	7	327	334
44 " "	TORINO	7	327	334
101 Terr Signal Coy TORINO		4	111	115
102 " "	" GENOVA	3	66	69
103 " "	" MILAN	4	111	115
104 " "	" BOLOGNA	2	65	67
105 " "	" UDINE	2	77	79
106 " "	" VERONA	3	94	97
109 " "	" BARI	4	106	110
110 " "	" NAPLES	3	96	99

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The Signal Branch of the Engineer H. Co.
 The Directorate of Works which deals with works maintenance of Comms
 etc. and issues and maintenance of stores.
 The Territorial Signal Coy. ^{supplies} all units under command with communications
 also auxiliary units who have no Signal personnel of their own.

V The Italian Army Signal School ORSINIOLA

The School programme provides for the training of students in
 Signal trades as follows:-

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- 2 -

	Length of Course Months	No. of Courses per Year	No. on Courses	Total for Year
<u>Army Regt. Signallers.</u>				
Wireless and Line Operators	2	3	522	1566
" Driver Operators				
" Operators				
Switchboard Operators				
<u>Infantry Regt. Signallers</u>				
Wireless Operators	2	3	1057	3171
" and Line Operator				
Switchboard Operator				
<u>Recruits Courses</u>				
Wireless Operators				
" Drivers				
Electrician Signals				
EC Engine Maint. & Repair				
Radio Mechanics	4	3		1236
" Operators (Interception)				
Cinema Operators				
Lineless				
Switchboard Operators				
Radio Platoon	6	2		
Line Mechanics	6	2		
Teleprinter Operators	6	2		

Approx. Total 6455

Defence Courses

40 days. Commenced 21st Jan 1947, numbers as detailed by the Ministry of War.

D.A.O. will be trained when Motor Cyclon becomes available.

Overall Strength

	Officers	D.A.O.s	D.A.B.	Civ.	Total
Infantry Div. Signal Battalion	90	195	2385		2585
Ministry of War "	21	31	421		523
Mal. Territorial Command Sig. Coy.	40	45	1245		1321

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Switchboard OperatorsRadio OfficersLine TechniciansTeletypewriter OperatorsRefresher CoursesOfficersN.C.O.s

43 days. Commenced 21st Jan 1947, numbers as detailed by the Ministry of War.

P.M.O will be trained when Motor Cyclon becomes available.

Overall Strength

	Officers	N.C.O.s	P.M.O.	Civ.	Total
Infantry Div. Signal Battalion	30	195	2300		2525
Ministry of War	21	81	421		523
Mil. Territorial Command Sigs. Coy.	40	45	1245		1328
21st Army Establishments	17	41		365	393
Brigade Platoons	9	24	246		279
Signal School	409	232	435		827
	286	571	4693	365	5935

VI Miscellaneous

21st Engineers Workshops in Town, which is administered by Engineers Directorate, and handles repair work up to NH.

Five Troops Depots which administer Signal units, under the Direction of Engineer H.Q. of the Territorial Command.

- (A) G.M.O. Signals - NIL
- (B) Army - NIL
- (C) Corps - NIL (under review)
- (D) Divisional Signals Bn. provides Signallers for Army and Inf. Regts and Reconnaissance Bns.
- (e) Internal Security Bn. to be formed.

A new Directive relative to the employment of Signals in the field is in the course of preparation.

VII. DOCUMENTATION

A detached section of signals personnel of 4 officers and 100 U.S.S. is detached from H. of S. Signals, and is employed on the unpacking, vetting and cataloguing of all signal stores purchased from A.S.S.P.

VIII. Signals Experimental and Research Establishments.

(1) There is no specialist training for selected officers or R.O.O.s in experiment and research.

There is no equipment available for this important branch of signals. It is known that all the receiver experts have either been released or relegated to the reserve. These experts, and also other signals personnel do not receive any training after release, nor are they called-up at any time.

(2) The Special Wireless at H. of S. of R. monitors Italian wireless links and interception of non Italian wireless links.

IX. Signal Service in the Field.

(a) A new directive relative to the employment of signals in the field is in the course of preparation.

(b) Within the division the signals service is basically organized as is the British Army. :- Communications down to Infantry battalions, Artillery Batteries and Cavalry Regts. is the responsibility of the Divisional Signals Battalion, the command of which is ultimately responsible for all signals matters within the Division. Within Inf. Bns, Art. Bns, etc. communications are provided by unit signallers.

(c) The various means of communications are normally provided as follows:-

(i) Telephones down to Inf. Bn., Army Art. or equivalent level possibly to Inf. Coy. and Art. Co.

(ii) Bullaphones - down to Inf. Bn. and Art. Regt R. Co.

(iii) Radio - down to Inf. Bn. and Art. and also to advanced elements of the Divisional Headquarters Bns.

(iv) Teleprinter - down to Army Corps H. Q. and later to Divisional H. Q. Teleprinter operators are being trained and printers are available.

(v) Visual - up to the present has not been considered

(vi) Radio Teleprinter

(vii) Civil Communications - down to Army Corps H. Q.

matrices within the Division. Within Inf. Bde, Arty. Bde, etc. communications are provided by unit signallers.

(c) The various means of communications are normally provided as follows:-

- (i) Telephones down to Inf. Bn., Arty. Bty. or equivalent level possibly to Inf. Coy. and Arty. Co.
- (ii) Radiophones - down to Inf. Bn. and Arty. Bty. Bn.
- (iii) Radio-Guns to Inf. Bn. and Arty. and also to advanced elements of the Divisional Reconnaissance Bn.
- (iv) Teleprinter - down to Army Corps H.Q. and later to Divisional H.Q. Teleprinter operators are being trained and printers are available.
- (v) Visual - up to the present has not been considered
- (vi) Radio Teletypewriter " " " "
- (vii) Civil Communications - down to Army Corps H.Q.

Therefore communications will be available as follows:-

- (i) Within Inf. Bde., Arty. Bde., etc. - Radio (Speech and Key) and runners line is to be used more extensively when cable-laying apparatus becomes available.
- (ii) Between Divisional H.Q. and subordinate H.Q.s radio telephony and telegraphy, line telephony and telegraphy, and despatch rider.
- (iii) Between higher formations H.Q.s - all above means together with teleprinter and civil communications, i.e. lines taken over for military purposes. Civil lines are now used between higher formations and the take over of lines requisitioned by the British Army is almost completed.

X Letter to Vice.

At present the Italian Army uses the ordinary Italian Civil postal organisation, but will run S.R.S. when trained personnel are available.

It is proposed to form S.R.S. sections similar to British Army Troops when D.R. training becomes a part of the syllabus at the School of Signals. Shortage of S.R.S. has held up training - Motor Cycles are now available.

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III
Carrier Pigeon Service.

This organization is based on groups of one fixed loft and three mobile pigeon lofts. The fixed loft has 500 pigeons. There is no specialist training syllabus for pigeons.

In mobile operations the mobile teams are allotted to H.Q.s of Army Corps or Divisions.

Pigeon Corvix is not yet functioning on a trading basis.

XIII
 Meeting for Service.

None in existence.

Amount of Formal

- (1) Pistol. (MILITARY) Officers, U.C.S and Senior M.C.O.s.
- (2) Automatic Carbine. Operators. Privos and D.A.s
- (3) Rifle } all other Troopers.
- (4) Gren }

Author *Richard A. Anderson*

By far the greater part of the equipment held at present by the Italian Signal Service is British. Details are as follows:-

(a) Long Telephone Transactions.

Publication

(b) Ultra Telephony Instruments.

Telomeres 1157

Fig. 2

10

anti-tubercular V.O. 40 mg.

Zeppelens, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 26

THOMAS D. & P. 10 VINY

Source: *Washington Post*, 1990.

Switchboards, 2 to 2, 40

Young, visiting, 20-22.

(c) LEAP construction averaging 2 stories •

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Signal Service is British. Details are as follows:-

(a) Line Telegraph Instruments.

Fullerboxes

(b) Line Telephone Instruments.

Telephones D Mr V

P

L

Switchboard U.S. 10 line.

Superimposing Units, 4 & 5 transmitters

Trans D. & P. 10 line

Boxes, terminal

Switchboards, 2 & 4, 40 line

Frames, testing, 20 pr.

(c) Line Construction Apparatus & Stores.

No British Equipment held apart from large quantities of field cable Types D3, D8 and American C.

(d) Wireless Instruments.

Wireless Set No. 38

" " " 43

" " " 48

" " " 49

" " " 22

" " " 9 (British)

" " " 9 Mk I (Canadian)

" " " 9 Mk II or C 52 (Canadian)

" " " 52 (Carabinieri) (British)

The Carabinieri have also one Radio station RCM 359 (British) as the control station of their main command net.

Particulars of sets used for main comm. is shown on attached sheet.

These are all of Italian pattern and manufacture.

(e) Multi-Channel Equipment.(f) Visual Signalling Equipment(g) Message Throwers and Projectiles.

No British Equipment held.

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The following Italian equipment is still held by certain units:-

(a) Line Telegraph Instruments

Standard field line telegraph instruments, known as the "Cassettina Telegrafica".

(b) Line Telephone Instruments

Field Telephone Model 42
Switchboard, 30 lines dimensions 52 x 22 x 21.5 cms
Supervising transmitters.

(c) Line Construction Apparatus & Stores.

All normal field and permanent line equipment.

(d) Wireless Instruments.

Wireless Set Type R2-3	RP2	
" " " " " " " "	RP103	
" " " " " " " "	RP104	
" " " " " " " "	RP30	
" " " " " " " "	RP3A	
" " " " " " " "	RP5	
" " " " " " " "	RP4	
" " " " " " " "	RP4B	

For details see attached appendix

(e) Anti-Threat Equipment

Teleprinter, Field, S.M.T.
Teleprinter, Model, Olivetti

(f) Visual Signalling Equipment.

Field combined heliograph and signalling lamp apparatus.
Infrared set used at present.

(g) Message Recovery & Protection.

Nil.

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(a) Multi-channel Equipment

Teleprinter, Field, U.S.A.
 Teleprinter, Field, Olivetti

(c) Visual Signalling Equipment

Field combined heliograph and signalling lamp apparatus.
 Infra-red not used at present.

(e) Message Throwers & Projectiles

Nil.

XV Transport

Divisional Signal Bn. will ultimately be completely authorized to scale advised by M.A.I.A.

Transport in other Signal units is in short supply, and is allocated relative to their needs for administration and training.

School of Signals are at present being issued with vehicles, and it anticipated that numbers will be sufficient to ensure that training is carried out efficiently in 1947.

XVI General

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- (a) Signal school and Signal units are shortly to be issued to units with training stores, as items become available from A.R.A.R. at Ponte-Canavese and from Austria.
- (b) Signal Training in Carabinieri is covered by instruction given by Army. Colonel at the School.
- (c) There are two Signal Platoons in SICILY and one in SARDINIA with a total of 9 officers, 24 N.C.O.s and 246 O.R.s - total 279.
- (d) The Italian Army does not train personnel in ships to shore communications, ground to air, or long range V/T.
- (e) Radar equipment has not yet been released to the Italian Army.
- (f) Regiments Signal troops on British lines have not yet been formed.
- (g) Formation of Internal Security Bde. Signals is under review at M. of W.
- (h) There is an acute shortage of Junior Officers and Senior N.C.O.s.

- 6 -

- (i) maintenance of signal stores, i.e. wireless sets, telegraph and telephone instruments presents a problem, mainly due to shortage of spare parts and replacements:- this should be remedied with the imminent relief of stores from PORTUGAL and AUSTRALIA.
- (j) The Stores and Equipment Section of the Signal Inspectorate has now been separated from the Engineers Administration, and it is almost certain that signals will become a separate branch of the Army in the near future.
- (k) Pre-war Italian Army equipment is, in most cases, unserviceable and can not therefore be depended upon for operational purposes.

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APPENDIX A
HANDBOOK OF THE ITALIAN ARMY

CHAPTER XV

Italian Appointments Code.

Code words with their British equivalent.

ALFABETIC Code.	ALFABETIC Commandante	ITALIAN CODE	ITALIAN SYMBOL
G. Staff	Capo di S.M. Autentico MGS.	ROMA	BRACELL
I Staff	Uff. Informatore	TALLA	MOON
A/Q	servizi	VIOLA	EDGAR
ORD	Comandante	RAM	HICKMAN
Sigs	Colligamento	GAGLIA	FRONTO
AMES	Capo Big Santa	SPINO	STARLIGHT
Inf.	Pentaria	PLATINO	-
Arty.	Artiglieria	ORO	SPARKS
Engg.	Genio Artieri	ARGENTO	REFLECT
ST	Tras e Rifornimento	PSTO	PLATON
Med. Offr.	Ufficiale Sanita	CHISA	(STANDARD)
REAR	Uff Autocivilistica (Uff. MGS)	VICINO	BURNELL

Note: The above staff appointments do not in all cases coincide with

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ADCS	(Capo Sig Sanita	SPAGNO	SPAGNO
Inf.	Pantera	PLATINO	-
Art.	Artiglieria	GRD	SHILL/DEARE
Ing.	Genio Artieri	ARMATO	HOLIFAST
ST	Tras e Rifornimento	PRIMO	PLANTIN
Med. Offrs.	Ufficielle Sanita	CHISA	(STANLIGHT)
REAR	UFF Automovilitazione UFF Meccanico	PIORNO	BURRILL

The Italian Army Staff Appointments do not in all cases coincide with English, but the above list shows EITP and IIT equivalents as near as possible.

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ADMS	Cargo Sig Sanita	SPACED	SPACED
Inf.	Pontaria	PLATON	"
Arty.	Artigliaria	ORO	SHILLAMAKA
Engrs.	Genio Artieri	ARMATO	REDLEFAST
SP	Tras e Diferimento	PIRENO	PLATTING
Mod. Offrs.	Ufficiale Sanita	CHINA	(STANLIGET)
ROMAS	USF Automotivistica Genio Meccanico	PIRENO	BUTENALL

The Italian Army staff appointments do not in all cases coincide with British, but the above list shows BRIT and ITN equivalents as near as possible.

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COPY

WAm.
18/11

(33)

49

TRANSLATION

From: M. of W.
To : MMIA

Ref : 5365/Ord/I
Date: 14/11/46

Subject: Formation of the Signal Corps. -

32

Reply to letter SD/8/2 dated 4/11/46. -

The legislative provisions required for the forming of the Signal Corps are still being studied and we hope to be able to reach a conclusion soon. -

As you know the matter is vastly complicated as it regards organisation problems and the position of personnel, etc. Therefore it is necessary, before issuing the legislative provisions, to realize both their near and far influences.

This S.M. will keep you informed of further developments on the matter. -

sgt.

Liaisi
Gen.

UR

Distribution: SD/8/2.

RE

Sigs. _____

5365-25 X 521
Reg
19/11/46

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32

X521

WAm s/u.

Telephone
Rome 489081 Ext 218

LAND FORCES STB COM AG (MFA) GEF

SD/3/2

4 NOV 46

MINISTRY OF WAR

Subject:- Formation of a
Signal Corps

folio 27 B

Ref this HQ SD/3/2 dated 24 Aug 46, paragraph 2.

A reply is requested at your earliest convenience.

33

ARCM/011

Internal

RE
SICS

H. J. L. L. L.
for Major-General,
COC, MFA. *u Col*
GI

5350

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WPM 7/9

OFF
TRANSLATION

FROM : SECRETARY OF WAR

REF: WPM/ORD/I

30

TO : M.H.I.S.

Date: 4 Sept 1946

SUBJECT: Designation of Units

28

Reply to your SP/112 of 27 August 1946.

This A.M. fully agrees with the proposals contained in the a/n letter.

The necessary executive instructions are being issued.

Sgt. H. H. H. H.

SP Distribution

SP/112

'A'

'Q'

DR

WPM

CO. 75.

5349

Subject :- Administration - Italian Army

1

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
X/521
22 August 46.

To:- 'C' Branch
M.M.I.A.

1. Reference your letters 0002 dated 12 Aug and 20 Aug 46.
- 2 2. This branch agrees with the statement made in Para 4 (a) of Ministry of War letter 1/2397/Serv dated 30 July 46.

W.A.M.
W.A.T. HONGKONG, Major
S.O.R. Signals
M.M.I.A.

785020

TRANSLATION

Sigs

23

FROM : M. of W.

W.M.I.A. 30/8

Ref : 4123/ORD/I

TO : M.M.I.A.

Date : 12/8/46

SUBJECT: Formation of "Signal Corps".

16

Reply to letter SD/8/2 dated 6th June 1946.

We forward, for information, letter 220100/II dated the 3rd inst. from the Ministry of War - Cabinet - in which instructions are given for the putting into effect of the first series of instructions for the purpose of splitting up the Engineer Corps into two Signals and Sappers Branches.

The splitting up into separate categories of Engineer personnel into Sappers and Signals and formation of an appropriate local and central organisation will take place during the second stage, since their putting into effect brings about problems of a legislative and state nature the importance of which cannot escape your M.M.I.A.

Anyway this S.M., realising the urgency of the matter, will do everything within its power in order to commence the putting into effect of the second stage, which is already being studied and drawn up, as soon as possible.

DAY

Sgd. LIUZZI,
Gen.G DISTRIBUTION:Sigs
SD/8/2

5347

sb

785020

TRANSLATION

COPY

FROM : M., of W.
REF : 220100/II
Date : 5/8/46

SUBJECT: Formation of the 'Signals Corps'

I. Foreword

The Engineer Corps will gradually be split up into formations:

- Signals Corps
- Sappers Corps

-, Sappers Corps
the one completely independent of the other, each with its own
personnel and organisation.

This circular deals with the formation of the Signals Corps. The Pioneer Corps will be formed by the remaining personnel now serving with the Engineer Corps.

Formation of the "Signals Corps" will be put into effect in two stages:

- I) - formation of all signal units into a single formation, leaving unchanged:
- command of present technical administrative departments;
 - the W/E and composition of units;
- 2) - classification of signals corps personnel and formation of an appropriate local and central organisation.

The putting into effect of the first stage, for which the following instructions apply, will commence w.e.f. 1st of August. During this stage signal units and formations will form the "Engineer Corps Signal Branch".

Corps Signal Branch".
Instructions will be given later concerning the putting into effect of the second stage.

2. HQ AND UNIT ADMINISTRATION.

2) - Engineer Corps Inspectorate.

1)- formation of all signal units into a single formation, leaving unchanged;

- command of present technical administrative departments;
- the W/E and composition of units;
- 2)- classification of signals corps personnel and formation of an appropriate local and central organisation.

The putting into effect of the first stage, for which the following instructions apply, will commence w.e.f. 1st of August. During this stage signal units and formations will form the "Engineer Corps Signal Branch".

Instructions will be given later concerning the putting into effect of the second stage.

2. HQ AND UNIT ADMINISTRATION.

a)- Engineer Corps Inspectorate.

The Signals Branch will continue to be under the Engineer Corps Inspectorate same as the Pioneers.

The Inspectorate will form ~~the~~ ^{new} units, Signals unit and Pioneer unit, the first two units will deal with all matters ^{and works unit} regarding respective Branches (organisation, training, technical-administrative examination, adoption and supply of stores).

b)- Mil. Terr. Command Engineer HQ.

The Commander of the Mil Territorial Command Engineers will continue to carry out, concerning Signals Units formations located in the area under his command, all duties laid down in existing regulations.

Territorial Engineer HQ, with personnel at present on strength, will also form Works - Signals - Pioneers and hirings and claims sections, with duties similar to those of corresponding units of the Engineer Corps Inspectorate.

c)- Divisional Engineer HQ.

Remains unchanged, for the time being, regarding duties and working of Engineer HQs belonging to Infantry Divisions.

With the foreseen formation of Pioneer and Signal Bns in these Divisions, the two Battalion HQs will assume, automatically and temporarily, the functions of "Divisional Engineer HQ" and

- 2 -

"Divisional Signals Office" under the direct control, disciplinary and employment, of the Divisional Commander. The Territorial Engineer Commander will exercise, by arrangement with divisional commander technical administrative matters laid down in existing regulations.

d) - Troops

Form for the time being part of the Signal Branch:

- Signals School
- Ministry of War special Signals Battalion.
- R.T. Companies (following Signal Battalions) of the 5 Infantry Divs.
- S.I. Divisions Signal Platoons.
- Military Territorial HQ Signal Companies.

e) - Depots

The above named Units will continue to come under the present depots.

3. SIGNAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR DUTIES

Existing central and local departments of the Engineer Service will continue, for the time being, to carry out their tasks also in respect of Signal Branches, in accordance with responsibility and duties laid down by existing laws and regulations.

However these departments will effect, without making any increase to interim W/Es laid down for each formation, and actual separation between the part which concerns the Signal, Pioneers and Work Service in particular power is given to the Engineer General Directorate, with restriction stated above and in accordance with the procedure which it thinks fit, to:

- form a Signal section for the work and material division under its command;
- take similar action concerning the material office of the works Directorate and the three stores depots (Pizzighettone, Cammago and Peschiera).

21st Military Engineer establishment (21st type A Repair w/shop) remains executive organ of the Engineer Service for the Signal Branch, besides having for the time being the function of centre for the elaboration of Signal matters.

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21st Military Engineer establishment (21st type A Repair W/shop) remains executive organ of the Engineer Service for the Signal Branch, besides having for the time being the function of centre for the elaboration of Signal matters.

4. MATTERS RELATIVE TO FORMATION

Classifications.

Signal Branches Officers and NCOs will continue to serve in the present classifications of the Engineer Corps.

The formation of separate classifications (Pioneer Corps and Signal Corps) will take place in the second stage; the allocation of personnel for the two classifications will be effected in accordance with past records and certificates held and, governed by W/E requirements, bearing in mind the choice of the men concerned.

Allocation of personnel for the Signal Branch.

During the first stage the Officer personnel General Directorate and NCO and men's General Directorate, by arrangement with the Engineer Corps Inspectorate, will pay particular attention to the posting of Officers and NCOs to Signal Units and formations, to allocate them men who due to certificates, aptitude and past record, are actually suitable: this mainly in order to avoid as far as possible transfers at the time of putting into effect the second stage.

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Recruitment

Regular Officers: they will be posted to the Signal Branch when they leave the Academy, in accordance with the procedures and policy which will be communicated later; reserve officers and NCOs: through appropriate courses, in accordance with procedures being drawn up at present.

Finally, during the first stage cadres which will later become Signal Corps central and local organism will be formed; said cadres will acquire independence gradually in the internal administration of the Engineer service departments, until they are considered as only being helped by them.

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

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MEMORANDUMTo : 1st Lt.

1st Lt. 2/7.

1. GENERAL.

This memorandum puts forward for consideration the plan favoured by this office for the organisation and siting of Base Workshops and Base Spares Depots to serve those units of the Italian Army equipped with Allied equipment.

In general, so as to evolve a repair organisation independent as far as possible of civilian facilities, the principle is adopted of concentrating as much base repair work as possible in these organisations, which, adequately developed and properly supervised, should suffice for the Italian Army so far as can be seen at present.

The Spares Depots considered are NOT for the purpose of holding complete equipments but for supplying assemblies and spares used in repair operations. They could if necessary also hold accessories (such as vehicle tool kits and equipment) required, after repair of the equipment, to equip it completely for issue to a unit.

These Spares Depots would supply units (including Workshop store sections, Ordnance Field Parks and LADs) with the spares and assemblies they require. One section of each of these Spares Depots would comprise a Returned Spares Depot to receive used technical parts with a view to their being repaired.

2. WORKSHOPS.

It is intended to set up Base Workshops as follows :-

PIACENZA - artillery - to be sited in the Arsenal.
BOLOGNA - Armoured cars, carriers vehicles and motorcycles
in the Officina Automobilistica Regio Esercito (O.A.R.E.).
GARDONE VAL D'ADDA - Small arms in the Fabbrica Armi Regio Eser-

cito.

(this workshop will need considerable develop-

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- GARDONE VAL ROMPA - Small arms in the Fabbrica Armi Regio Esercito.

(This workshop will need considerable development).

In addition, base repair facilities are needed for optical instruments, and for signal equipment.

For this last, an existing Italian workshop at FAVIA has been suggested but this will require much re-construction and an alternative site is being sought.

It is considered that each of these workshops will need a Stores Section (analogous to the Stores Section of a R.E.M.E. Workshop) to supply the parent workshops with the tools, expendable material spares and assemblies that it requires. It would normally hold a fortnights supply of these items.

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3. DEPOTS.

Complete equipments, whether received from Allied or Italian sources, could be held in separate Depots or Parks, which could be sited with regard to receipt of equipments (whether in serviceable or in doubtful condition) from Allied or Italian sources. The Spares Depots, since they will be receiving the bulk of their supplies from Italian industry and since the bulk of Allied equipment is in the North, should be sited in the North.

Apart from considerations of accessibility to the units they serve, provision of suitable accommodation, and channels of communication, the availability of suitable civilian store personnel (which the Italian Army uses so much) should also be considered when selecting sites for these Spares Depots.

The Ministry of War is of the opinion that the M.I. Spares Depot should be sited at BOLOGNA and the Arty Spares Depot should be at PIACENZA; though in neither case should these Depots be under command of the adjacent Base Workshop. The site of the Small Arms Spares Depot is not yet indicated clearly but it may be combined with the Arty Spares Depot at PIACENZA, or sited at TURIN, or TERNI (near ROMA). It is considered that PIACENZA will be the most suitable site.

4. Co-ordination.

Co-ordination between Base Workshops and Spares Depots on the one hand and units on the other hand must be effected by the Ministry of War and not by Territorial Commands, though these should be kept informed of matters affecting them as regards base repair services and supply of spares to units in their Commands.

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A. D. M. E.

Lt. Col.
A.D.M.E.

AB/ag

Copies to :- Ord.
Q(3) for G(SD), RE, SIGS.

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1500-46.

RAMIFICATION

DATE 3/24/08

2/5/45

[illegible]
$$Y_{\text{I}} = \frac{G_{\text{I}}}{G_{\text{I}} + G_{\text{II}}}$$

signature: sigurd conradson

reference your letter 55/0/2 dated 13/5/46.

Reference your letter of 1/24/41.
The first stage of organizing a separate signal
corps distinct from the Inf. Corp. will commence as
soon as possible.

It is not, moreover, possible to estimate at this moment how long it will take to settle the second stage since for its putting into effect it will be advisable to await the settling of the peace treaty which may alter the entire organization of the Italian Army.

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• **U.S.:**

SUBJECT: Signal Corps Organization.

12
Reference your letter SD/6/2 dated 11/1/46.

The first stage of organizing a separate signal corps distinct from the Eng. Corp. will commence as soon as possible.

It is not, moreover, possible to estimate at this moment how long it will take to settle the second stage since for its putting into effect it will be advisable to await the settling of the peace treaty which may alter the entire organizing of the Italian Army.

Gen. LUZZAT
Gen.

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TRANSMISSION

Ministry of War

M.M.W.

Organisation and Mobilisation Office

Rome, April 1946

SUBJECT: Signals Organisation.

PROPOSAL

The complete detachment of the signals organisation from the Engineer branch may be achieved in two successive phases:

- a first phase, in which we would achieve a complete distinction, within the Engineer Corps, of the two branches: artillerist and signals;
- a second phase, of true and proper breaking away.

1) - Organisation of the 1st phase.

- a) - The Signals branch could be formed by all existing units or units shortly to be formed, employing signals equipment. These are as follows:

- 5 Infantry Divisional Signals Bns;
- 3 Internal Security Division Signals Coys (at present included in the mixed Engineer Bns of the said Divs);
- 10 Military Territorial Command Signals Coys;
- 1 Ministry of War Signals Bn;
- 1 Signals School;
- 1 repair workshops (22nd).

- b) - The Engineer central departments (Engineer Directorate-General and Engineer Inspectorate) would not suffer any transformation nor have any alteration in war establishment as a result of the distinction of the two branches.

They, on the other hand, would appoint their own personnel charged with concerning themselves exclusively with matters relating to the Signals branch, in the sphere of their own duties.

2) - Organisation of the 2nd phase.

The only initial distinction, automatically becoming more marked with the passage of time, would lead to a natural cleavage, the characteristics of which cannot be foreseen at the moment since it would take advantage of the practical experience of the 1st phase.

The complete detachment of the Signals organisation from the Engineer branch would have to be accompanied with the formation of appropriate command and inspectorate central and provincial departments in addition to eventual alterations to units' war establishments.

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