

2023

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO.

785020

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Q003

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Q003 ORD + RENE Policy 2nd cover

May - Aug 1946

BUCK SLIP

FILE NO 9003.

DATE	SECTION OR SERVICE		ACTION REQUIRED
	FROM	TO	
30 Aug	Q	REME	To See Col AB Remarks on attached. Please consider & speak. RAC.
Discussed with AR 3 Sep Action in 9002 RAC			
			6802

COMANDO DIVISIONE DI PANTERIA "LEGnano"

- Ufficio Automobilistico -

Bergamo, Aug. 19, 1946.

DEFICIENCIES ON ALLIED SPARE SUPPLY SERVICE

1.- Supply of Allied spares and other materials interesting the maintenance and reconditioning service, suffered, since June 1945, a very remarkable reduction. Nevertheless it continued, but being not in proportion to the real needs, until November 15th 1945.

From that date ago - as it was noticed by 3rd B.L.U. - had to finish every allied supply and to begin at once Italian one. But ~~EMZ~~ of 52 nd B.L.U., which was still with our H.Q. and knew - because he lived in there - the real situation of the Division and harmful repercussions which such a sudden measure might cause to the maintenance and reconditioning service of all materials, interested competent allied authorities and obtained to protect supply until December 31st, 1945.

2.- As the allied supply ceased January 1st, 1946, the Italian Ministry of War was interested and asked for instructions by presenting difficulties in which was the Division (such as the other four ones) caused by lack of spares. Advantage was noticed to send at 557th B.O.D. in Pontecagnano personnel from the O.P.P.'s of the five Divisions as they - in proportion with their needs - might draw directly a part of spares promised by Allied Authorities in the measure of a need of 60 days.

By such an occasion it was not omitted to bring into evidence that the lack of spares for a need of 60 days, if established on the statistics of the A.D.O.S. Sealings, would be scarcely useful, because such a method was disregarding a very important factor: The real needs of the Divisions.

The proposal was not accepted by Allied Authorities and the spares in April or May of the running year, were sent to G.A.R.E. in Bologna.

3.- We know through various and fragmentary informations that materials sent in Bologna were very few and did not correspond to the real needs.

In facts, nevertheless our Division had sent to ~~2844~~ ²⁸⁴⁴ a conspicuous number of indents, in quality and quantity ~~2844~~ ²⁸⁴⁴ indents for a total of 1834 items corresponding to 21143 parts) only 4 allowances were made for a total of 31 items of 113 parts.

The hereby provided list shows practically what we obtained.

4.- To all those troubles it is necessary to join the following ones:

a) as to weapons construction, M.M.I.A. prohibited the following ones:

2.- As the allied supply ceased January 1st, 1946, the Italian Ministry of War was interested and asked for instructions by presenting difficulties in which was the Division (such as the other four ones) caused by lack of spares. Advantage was noticed to send at 557th B.C.D. in Pontecagnano personnel from the O.P.'s of the five Divisions as they - in proportion with their needs - might draw directly a part of spares promised by Allied Authorities in the measure of a need of 60 days.

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In facts, nevertheless our Division had sent to ^R ~~804~~ ⁸⁰⁴ indents for various number of indents, in quality and quantity (only 4 allowed - a total of 1834 items corresponding to 21143 parts) only 4 allowances were made for a total of 31 items of 113 parts.

The hereby provided list shows practically what we obtained.

4.- To all those troubles it is necessary to join the following ones:

a) as to weapons construction, M.E.I.A. prohibited the following ones: barrels, breech blocks, blocks. So that - in such a case - even though it would be possible to construct all the remaining spares (and it is practically impossible now for some of them) the conclusion would ever be that, being impossible to construct those parts or to get them from Allied source, it will be necessary to reduce the total amount of weapons until their complete elimination;

- b) indispensable cleaning materials are needed;
- c) lubricating motor oils which are furnished by U.I.P. are absolutely of inferior quality and their technologic data are quite different to those of the products supplied by Allied Authority;
- d) problem of tires remains a very serious one for the following reasons:

- (i) a general deficiency and a total lack for some patterns (especially 10.50 x 16; 6.00 x 16; 3.25 x 19)
- (ii) total lack of tubes;
- (iii) deficiency of materials for tubes reconditioning;
- (iv) lack of materials for tire reconditioning (at the black market, f.i., reconditioning of a tire costs more than 30.000 Lire and - naturally - it is only possible to follow this way for a minimal quantity);

5:- To avoid partially the impelling needs, Italian Ministry of War determined to create a coordination unit with the following tasks:

- a) to organize a repair service attached to the Military factories (Arsenals) and the civilian workshops, to eliminate as far as possible, the great amount of vehicles not efficient accumulated during the time (and which will ever more augment) for the cause of lack of spares;
- b) to study, organize and predispose the construction of spares in the Arsenals and Italian civil factories among which are considered the most idoneous ones;
- c) to study and prepare the rules for replacing and repair services, as the technical ones too, on the base of those of the British Army.

6.- Awaiting the establishment of the above mentioned organization, ~~the~~ of this Division was charged to provide all the mentioned services. As he begun, he was paralyzed by a lot of reasons and among them:

- a) lack of personnel;
- b) lack of materials;
- c) limits to his free action, so that today - after so many time - the problem is quite the same and the materials are ever more perishing.

7.- The problem is a very complicate one, full with difficulties and in addition to this, a pressing one. Its resolution, after an attentive examination, is very urgent.

Our technical branches think that:

- a) it is absolutely impossible to create suddenly an Italian organization able to replace the allied one and to satisfy all needs;
- b) the impossibilities may be resumed as follows:
 - (i) enormous number in quality and quantity of spares to construct;
 - (ii) lack of technical drawings;
 - (iii) lack of technical data for employed materials;

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the time (and which will ever more augment) for the cause of lack of spares;

- b) to study, organize and predispose the construction of spares in the Arsenals and Italian civil factories among which are considered the most idoneous ones;
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- b) lack of materials;
- c) limits to his free action, so that today - after so many time - the problem is quite the same and the materials are ever more perishing.

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b) the impossibilities may be resumed as follows:

(i) enormous number in quality and quantity of spares to construct;

(ii) lack of technical drawings;

(iii) lack of technical data for employed materials;

(iv) lack on data of condemnation limits;

(v) lack of some raw materials;

(vi) impossibility to predispose, organize and start in a short time an organization which had to have such a various job;

(vii) lack of technical manuals (EMI - GRO - instructions - lists - instructions for repair of all materials - lists of spares a.s.o.)

8. - Something in construction was made by ^{EMI} ~~EMI~~, taking the drawings from original parts and by an analysis of the materials, but this is

too few if the numberless needed parts are considered.

9.- A convenient solution of such a problem might be the following:

a) to create a technical organization British - Italian, to coordinate the studies which are necessary and consequently provide for their realization;

b) to create an Italian R.O.D., in a first time with allied materials;

c) to determinate which of them are the most defective and for which of them Italian authorities have to provide as soon as possible. Considering all that, it would be suitable:

(i) to provide for the parts, which are to be constructed, the most possible data and technical elements to facilitate the soonest preparation;

(ii) to maintain within a strict necessity the number of materials which are to be constructed in Italy;

(iii) as the organization progresses, to add some other types, so that insertion of the new production source (Italian) on the existing one (Allied) may occur progressively and without to produce the serious troubles which are occurring at present time;

d) to ensure allied supplies until Italian production will reach the foreseen, necessary rhythm.

It is useful to mark that the insertion of technical allied personnel in this organization is not a casual one. This might be a guarantee for the Allied Authorities that we shall make all what in our power lies to create an own organization able to provide our real needs and to free progressively Allied Authorities from the supply weight.

Only with a realistic resolution, as the present one, the Divisions might get out from the actual very serious crisis. If it would not be faced and resolved with the necessary urgency, it might change very soon in a grave or a right irreparable one.

6799

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Only with a realistic resolution, as the present one, the Divisions might get out from the actual very serious crisis. If it would not be faced and resolved with the necessary urgency, it might change very soon in a grave or a right irreparable one.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-407/NIDC NO.

785020

From : Major General T.S. AIREY,
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

2/003

(35)

8th August, 1946.

Dear Pidsley

Thank you for your letter Q.003 of 3rd August. I expect that you have now received our signal F 70093 of 4th August. I gather from Brig. LAURIE that you felt that the provision made in this signal for lists of disposal items to be sent to you would probably make it unnecessary for you to send a team to Naples. I hope that you will find these lists helpful, and I only wish we could give you more concrete help.

Yours *rw*

Frederic Airey

To : Colonel W. PIDSLEY, DSO OBE MC.
Land Forces Sub Commission, AC.
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.

TO SEE	
A/Q	
Q	
Q.1	
Q.2	
Q.3	
REMS	

AQM.G.

For information & retention in Q 003
WTD

Rae

2/003

12/8/46 Q.003

↓

SECRET

IMPORTANT

BRITISH ARMY CIPHER MESSAGE SIGS SERIAL 2246 IMPORTANT 041610B
 FROM G(SD) CMF
 TO MMIA

F70093. SECRET. FOR GENERAL GOULBURN FROM CHIEF OF STAFF.
 REFERENCE EQUIPMENT OF ITALIAN ARMY.

ONE. I HAVE BEEN INTO THE PROBLEM SINCE OUR CONFERENCE OF 30 JULY AND FEEL THE MAIN FACTORS ARE (A) ISSUES OF STORES TO ITALIAN ARMY FROM 557 BOD NOW WOULD SERIOUSLY DELAY CLOSING DEPOT AND CAUSE FURTHER DOV OF PERSONNEL. IN ANY CASE AS MMIA COULD NOT GET AN OVERALL PICTURE OF CONTENTS OF DEPOT UNTIL FINAL LISTS ARE COMPLETE ONLY PIECEMEAL RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED. IT IS CLEARLY TO BEST ADVANTAGE OF ALL CONCERNED IF 557 BOD CLOSES DOWN QUICKLY.

(B) THE HANDOVER OF COMPLETE (SPB??) DEPOTS OR BUILDINGS DIRECT TO ITALIAN ARMY WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRAVENE THE SPIRIT OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD COMMIT ITALIAN ARMY TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LARGE QUANTITIES OF USELESS STORES. USEFULNESS OF STORES IN 557 BOD IS VERY LIMITED OWING TO UNBALANCED NATURE OF STOCKS.

TWO. WE HAVE TODAY RECEIVED SIGNAL FROM TROOPERS OBSERVING THAT WE HAVE BEEN ISSUING NOT ONLY GLOBAL SURPLUSES IN THEATRE TO ITALIANS AND THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR US TO SHIP BACK LARGE QUANTITIES OF STORES AT EXPENSE OF ITALIAN ARMY.

THREE. IN ANY CASE FEEL THAT YOU WILL NOW WANT TO CONCENTRATE ON POLICY FOR EQUIPMENT PEACE TREATY ITALIAN ARMY AND IN SO DOING WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT SELECTED. PIECEMEAL ISSUES OF BRITISH EQUIPMENT WILL NOT THEREFORE BE OF REAL HELP TO YOU.

FOUR. THEREFORE WE CAN BEST HELP YOU AS FOLLOWS (A) BY GIVING YOU AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT USEFUL BRITISH EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE SO THAT BY THE TIME BOD CLOSES YOU WILL HAVE AN OVERALL PICTURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING. IN THIS CONNECTION YOU ARE TO RECEIVE COPIES OF ALL

NATURE OF STOCKS.

TWO. WE HAVE TODAY RECEIVED SIGNAL FROM TROOPERS OBSERVING THAT WE HAVE BEEN ISSUING NOT ONLY GLOBAL SURPLUSES IN THEATRE TO ITALIANS AND THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR US TO SHIP BACK LARGE QUANTITIES OF STORES AT EXPENSE OF ITALIAN ARMY.

THREE. IN ANY CASE FEEL THAT YOU WILL NOW WANT TO CONCENTRATE ON POLICY FOR EQUIPMENT PEACE TREATY ITALIAN ARMY AND IN SO DOING WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT SELECTED. ^{PIECEMEAL} ISSUES OF BRITISH EQUIPMENT WILL NOT THEREFORE BE OF REAL HELP TO YOU. ^{BY GIVING YOU AS EARLY AS} FOUR. THEREFORE WE CAN BEST HELP YOU AS FOLLOWS (A) BY GIVING YOU AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT USEFUL BRITISH EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE SO THAT BY THE TIME BOD CLOSURES YOU WILL HAVE AN OVERALL PICTURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING. IN THIS CONNECTION YOU ARE TO RECEIVE COPIES OF ALL DECLARATION FORMS PREPARED BY 557 BOD. (B) BY CLOSING DOWN 557 BOD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT CONTENTS ARE AVAILABLE WITH LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY. SUGGEST THAT AC ARRANGES WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR MMIA AND ITALIAN ARMY TO TAKE PART IN THE HANDOVER AND THAT IN THIS YOU ENLIST THE STRONG SUPPORT OF ADMIRAL STONE

CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British or U.S. Government documents. Headquarters or recipient to be advised by without being a ^{disseminated} O.I.F. need not be ^{for information}

Q elect. 203 ✓

GSD.

RENE

ORD.

S/2054

Q 138

Q 101

ACTION

(32)

Colonel W. Fidsley, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,
 Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
 (M.M.I.A.)
 HQMF.

I.003. ✓

3 August, 1946.

Dear

My B.C.S. has asked me to let you know what arrangements we have provisionally made for ensuring that the Italian Army is given the best possible opportunity of obtaining the direct transfer of maintenance stores which it needs, without in any way delaying the closing down of our ordnance depots.

I had a meeting at the War Ministry and arranged provisionally to send to Naples a team of Italian technical officers, under the control of my A.D.O.S., Lt. Col. Reed, RADC (assisted by an ordnance warrant officer). They are to remain in Naples and the surrounding area until the end of August and see and examine both the lists of material coming up for disposal and also the actual stocks on the ground. They will be prepared to remove quickly such material as SACRED will let them have direct (if any) without in any way delaying the run down of the Depot.

I am provisionally arranging to send the team down on Wednesday, 7th August, and hope this meets with your approval.

Yours

W.F.

Major General Terrence Airey, C.B.E., D.S.O.,
 Chief of Staff, A.F.H.Q.
 CASERTA.

WF/MJC.

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 6796

I 003

Equipment of the Italian Army - Colonel Pidsley's notes for the meeting with War Ministry representatives, on 2nd August, 1946.

1. Introduction The question of the transfer to the War Ministry of such surplus British equipment as you require for the Italian Army has been our most constant concern for the past 9 months. The Chief of Staff at AFHQ invited General Goulburn, with some of his staff, to discuss this question at Caserta a few days ago, when certain proposals were made for consideration by all concerned.

2. In acquainting you with these proposals this morning, I want to do four things:-

- (a) to remind you of the Allied policy in regard to this matter.
- (b) to inform you of the proposals for effecting such transfers as are possible.
- (c) to obtain your opinions on these proposals.
- (d) to ask you to consider the question of the further provision of equipment from either (a) Italian Manufacture or

(b) Imports from Great Britain
 What Allied surpluses are equated, so that at the proper time you will be in a position to state your requirements.

3. With regard to (a).

As you know the Allied Combined Chiefs of Staff have agreed, temporarily at any rate, to the Italian Army being equipped with such arms, vehicles and instruments of British pattern as may be surplus to our own requirements. They have, therefore, clearly stated that with the exception of lethal weapons and their necessary components, all of such material must be transferred through the authorized disposal agencies, who in turn hand them over to the Italian Government Agency known as ARAM. There is of course some slight ambiguity in the definition of "lethal equipment" which allows the Commander in Chief some latitude in this matter, limited not only by his directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff but also by:-

- (a) the physical method of transfer and the necessity of not delaying the Allies in closing down their depots.
- (b) the actual requirements of, and capacity for handling by, the Italian Army.
- (c) financial conditions which are not yet clear.

Are there any questions for discussion here, before I pass on to M.M.I.A.'s proposals?

4. With regard to para 2(b).

Owing to the necessity of not delaying the Allies in closing down their Depots, it will not always be possible to select in detail exact items which you may require. You may have to accept the contents of a complete lot or stock pile, even though some of the items are of no direct use to the Italian Army, or you may have to do without certain items which you most want to the

weapons and their necessary components, all of such material must be transferred through the authorized disposal agencies, who in turn hand them over to the Italian Government Agency known as AIRA. There is of course some slight ambiguity in the definition of "lethal equipment" which allows the Commander in Chief some latitude in this matter, limited not only by his directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff but also by:-

- (a) the physical method of transfer and the necessity of not delaying the Allies in closing down their depots.
- (b) the actual requirements of, and capacity for handling by, the Italian Army.
- (c) financial conditions which are not yet clear.

Are there any questions for discussion here, before I pass on to M.H.I.A.'s proposals?

4. With regard to para 2(b).

Owing to the necessity of not delaying the Allies in closing down their Depots, it will not always be possible to select in detail exact items which you may require. You may have to accept the contents of a complete but or stock pile, even though some of the items are of no direct use to the Italian Army, or you may have to do without certain items which you need owing to the labour entailed in re-sorting. If you agreed with these proposals as further suggested that a technical officer of M.H.I.A. accompanied by one or more technical officers of the War Ministry, should live close to the Depots in Naples for as long as is necessary (perhaps two or three weeks) to learn what surpluses are becoming available, identify those which would be useful to the Italian Army and authoritatively to decide which of these the War Ministry is willing to accept.

5. With regard to 2(c) I should like now to hear how you view these proposals

William
Baker
Chief of the
General Staff

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6. With regard to 2(d).

The time will soon come when the Allies will no longer be in a position to supply you with any equipment from Italy. When that time comes, and that of us hopes it will be soon, the War Ministry will be faced with the task of maintaining the Army already equipped with British weapons, British instruments, and some British vehicles, but for which no maintenance will be available locally. They will then have to decide to what extent such maintenance (which includes repairs, spare parts, special tools, etc.) shall come from Italian industry and what it will require to import. This is a very big question, far beyond the scope of our meeting, but I suggest that it is one which your Directors should begin to face now, by exploring the various possibilities, economic, financial and political, so that when the time comes there may be no delay in the actual production of whatever is needed.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNOC NO.

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COPY.

TRANSLATION.

FROM : M. of W.
TO : "Legnano" Inf. Div. H.Qs'.

Ref. 38578/DT.
5a.

Date. 19th. July. '46.

SUBJECT : Proposal to form W/Shops for repairs and inspection of individual and automatic weapons.

1 - The formation of an M.T. mobile W/Shop, entrusted with periodical inspection duties in order to ensure the degree of efficiency and maintenance of arms issued to units, are carried out by the Chief Armourers and medium repairs are done by the Divisional W/Shop. Meanwhile inspections to the arms in question are carried out periodically by the Armourer Officer appointed for such duty.

The two duties, i. e. inspection and execution of repairs, which you propose to give to the M.T. mobile W/Shops, cannot practically be done by the same unit, as this unit will have to carry out inspections to its own work.

Large Formation tradesmen, entrusted with inspection duty, are therefore, given the duties referred to at sub-para a) and b) of para 2 of your letter 07/3102.

2 - As said above, small and medium repairs, by which it is meant replacement of broken or defective parts with parts in stock, the careful cleaning and the functional control, with particular reference to wear and tear allowed, are at present carried out (as Maj. Catalano confirmed) by Chief Armourers and by Div. W/Shops; thus accomplishing the tasks mentioned in sub-para d) of para 2 of letter 07/3102 referred to above.

Even the SM. in its letter N.3303/ORD/1, dated 30/6/46, does not agree with the formation of the mobile W/Shops.

For the Minister?

(sgd) P. G. Properzi.

30/7/46
RQ

2044

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2

78A

4 BLU
4/B/14
26 July 46

Subject: Clothing for Italian Troops.

To: MMIA (for Q)

RECEIVED 30 JUL 1946

1.- During the past week the following points have been put to this unit by the Italian Commanding Officers concerned and they are herewith forwarded to you for information and any action you may deem necessary.

2.- The C.O. and Q. staff of 4 CAR feel that it is a false economy to have only a 25% reserve of boots at CAR for exchange purposes. They feel that they should have, at least, 60% reserve; above they feel that the position will not be really satisfactory until every man has a second pair.

3.- The second point is that they require PT shorts and PT shoes for physical training. They feel that it is insanitary to use the same K.D. shorts for training, PT, and walking out. At the same time they must be laundered occasionally.

4.- They have also requested camouflaged helmet covers for training purposes.

Lt. Col. G.S.

Lt. Col. G.S.

Copy to: MMIA (G Trg)
MMIA (MSB)

TO BEB	
A/Q	
Q	
C 1	
C 2	
C 3	
C 4	
C 5	
C 6	

90/6/492

4 Q 102

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2

25

TELE NO : FREEDOM 284

G(SD) Branch,
GHQ GMF.

SUBJECT : Equipment for Italian Interim Army

TO : MMIA

SD/2146/4

COPY TO : 'Q'
Ord

26 Jul 46

RECEIVED
570
29 JUL 1946

Ref your Q.003 dated 19 Jul 46.

1. It is regretted that it is impossible to issue the spares asked for before the closure of 557 BOD owing to shortage of personnel.
2. As stated in our 8159/Q1 dated 12 Jul 46, spares will become available to the Italian Government through Ministry of Supply when 557 BOD closes.

AVMT/ECD

TO SEE	
A/Q	
Q	
C. 1	
Q 2	
ORD	
REME	

T.S. AIREY,
Major-General,
Chief of Staff.

6791

Q 003

SUBJECT: W.E. - B.L.U.

A.D.M.E.
HQ M.M.I.A.

23. 50
HQ 3 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Tel: 152965 (Ext- 107)

G/35/4

13 July 46

Ref 3 BLU (REME Branch) letter ME/PER/38 of 12 Jul 46.

I am thoroughly in agreement with the suggestions put forward by Capt. ALDRIDGE as regards the inclusion of a S/Sjt Veh. Mech. and Armourer and a Cfn Veh Mech in the W.E. of the BLU.

It would also greatly help the BLU if authority could be obtained to hold two cars in lieu of the two m/cycles, as the present Veh WE, in view of the condition of some of the vehs, is inadequate.

MILAN
PME/LO

W. E. ...
Lt Col
GS

27

14 JUL 1946

*Read
67309 July*

Subject: R.E.M.E. PERSONNEL &
TRANSPORT OF "A" TYPE
B.L.U.s

To: C.S.O. 1
3 B.L.U.

REME BRANCH
HQ: 3 British Liaison Unit

ME/PMR/38
12 July 1946.

Ref. your ME/43/63 of 28 June 1946, para 1).

1. - The question of an increase in the strength of R.E.M.E. personnel has been under discussion during the past couple of months or so, between R.E.M.E. branch M.M.I.A. and the R.E.M.E.s of B.L.U.s

Requests are often received from Divisional Workshops for information or advice on the maintenance or repair of certain pieces of Allied equipment, particularly of course in respect of vehicles, artillery and small arms. I have in fact been asked more than once by the Wkps Officer if I would arrange for the attachment of an Allied armorer to his Unit in order to clear up certain technical difficulties concerning equipments with which the Italian fitters are not yet familiar. It was expected to supply the necessary instructors from Training Schools but it seems unlikely that they will be forthcoming in sufficient quantities for a considerable time.

The suggestion put forward by this office therefore is that the W.E. of an "A" Type B.L.U. be modified to include a Sgt or S/Sgt Veh. Mech. & Armourer, and one Cfu Veh. Mech.

Should it be felt that this increase is impracticable due to shortage of personnel, then we would suggest a central pool of armourers who could be allotted to B.L.U.s for work with individual divisions at the discretion of A.D.M.E., M.M.I.A.

2. - Further we feel that the present vehicle W.E. of 1 15 Cwt, 1 H.U.P., 3 cars and 2 m/cs is insufficient to meet the requirements of the R.E.M.E. (& incidentally S.G.E.) Officer. The R.E.M.E. has frequently to travel considerable distance in order to visit Wkps, Hqs of Divs. etc. apart from necessary liaison visits to other B.L.U.s - In short we suggest that an R.E.M.E. should be able to obtain a car far more frequently and easily than is the case in most B.L.U.s

Our own suggestion is that the two m/cs at present on W.E. be exchanged for two cars, as this would then facilitate to a great extent the obtaining of transport by R.E.M.E.s

Copy to: A.D.M.E.
M.M.I.A.

14 JUL 1946

24.

S/Capt.
(J. Aldridge)
R.E.M.E.

Recd.
19 July

23
RECEIVED (46)SUBJECT :- REME Personnel and Transport - WE10 British Liaison Unit
TORRE DEL GRECO
Tele : 55384 NAPLES
3 G15 July 46Land Forces Sub Commission AG.,
(MMIA) ROME ('G' Branch)

Reference attached letter REME 3 dated 10 July 46, recommending increased personnel and transport to an 'A' Type BLU, from EME Officer this BLU to ADME MMIA.

1. It is agreed that a Sjt - Veh/Mech and a Cpl Storeman are necessary.
2. The case for an armourer is considered even more pressing.
3. If the above are agreed to, a vehicle is considered absolutely necessary. In any event, a vehicle for the EME Officer would be of great assistance.

CMP
MMD/av

M. H. Davis
Major,
GS.

RECEIVED 16 JUL 46 6788

Rept.
17 July.

SUBJECT:- REME Personnel and Transport
for 'A' Type BLU's

10 British Liaison Unit
TORRE DEL GRECO
Tel: 55802 NAPLES
REME 3

10 July 46.

GSO I

10 British Liaison Unit

1. The EME of this BLU has to cover the whole of NAPLES, BARI and SICILY Territorial Commands as well as to liaise with the REME Base installations in NAPLES Area with ref to the handing over of certain technical equipment to the Italian Army. At present it is found quite impracticable to cover all this ground with the frequency desirable - mainly due to lack of transport and personnel.

2. It is therefore requested that the following REME personnel be either attached or added to the WE of 'A' Type BLU's.

- (a) Serjeant - Veh Mech - to carry out the more routine Workshop and other technical and MT Inspections - either in conjunction with the EME or seperately. In this way a much closer check could be kept on the standard of maintenance of MT in Italian Units and consequently more help and advice given.
- (b) Cpl - Storeman - As MT spares of all types are such a vast problem to the Italian Army, it is doubly important that they receive the maximum amount of advice and help in the laying out and accounting for stores. Relatively few units in these Three Territorial Commands are in possession of Allied Type Vehicles, and consequently Workshops are not scaled for these. A Storeman well versed in Allied MT would be most useful in liaising with the Allied Type Stores Depot at CARE, BOLOGNA, and so help in keeping these vehicles on the road - especially important for the CC.RR who are the chief possessors of Allied MT in the SOUTH of ITALY.

3. It is requested that these NCOs possess at least the ranks shown as:-

- (a) Their chief dealings will be with Italian Officers and WOs.
- (b) A fair amount of responsibility will be attached to the job, as a considerable amount can be done through own initiative.
- (c) The type and quality of men needed for this job will not warrant a lower rank. In addition these men should either be regular soldiers or of a high A/S group due to the probable long - term policy of this job.

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- (a) Their chief dealings will be with Italian Officers and WOs.
- (b) A fair amount of responsibility will be attached to the job, as a considerable amount can be done through own initiative.
- (c) The type and quality of men needed for this job will not warrant a lower rank. In addition these men should either be regular soldiers or of a high A/S group due to the probable long - term policy of this job.

4. As more REME personnel become available through the closing down of REME installations and services in this theatre, and as the Italian Army take over more British small arms, it is requested that also an Armourer - REME - be added or attached to the WE to inspect Small Arms and help the Italian Armourers to get familiar with the technical side of British Small Arms.

5. As already pointed out, the EME has to cover the whole of NAPLES, BARI and SICILY Areas. The WE of 'A' Type BLUs allows for one car L/ Utility 4 X 2 to be shared by ORD, S & T and REME Captains. This proves to be completely inadequate and in consequence this vehicle is constantly on the road, thus causing needless and excessive wear and tear.

.....2

- 2 -

It is most strongly requested that the WE of 'A' Type BLUs be increased to hold a car for REME.

(a) To allow the EME to carry out his job unhampered by constant lack of transport.

(b) To reduce the wear and tear on the greatly overstressed transport of a BLU.

It is suggested this addition be a Car 4 X 4, 5 cwt.

CMF
WSR/why

W. J. R. [Signature]
Capt, REME.

Copy to:- ADME,
Land Forces Sub Commission AC
(MMIA) REME.

(ref your ME/43/63 dated the 28 June 46.)

6786

2052

785020

Remt 23

39

Subject:--Increase of Personnel and M.T.
on the W.E. of a B.L.U.

Headquarters
4 B L U
BOLZANO
Ref: 4/GB/8-58
2 July 46

To: HQ Land Forces Sub Comm. AC
(MMIA) R O M E

ME 23/
34

ME 52/11

It is understood that the attached copies of letters from my
Capt. REME (viz. 4/ME/12-23 dated 26 June 46 and 4/ME/2-118 of
same date) have been submitted to me on instruction from ADME
HQ MMIA.

I naturally cannot support them as I appreciate that I am now
virtually under an obligation to submit no recommendations for
increase in establishments and material. They are therefore for-
warded to you for such action as you consider necessary. I would
mention however that I see no just reason why the REME personnel
should require vehicles for their sole use any more than the other
technical advisors and inspectors of this staff whose installations
etc are scattered throughout the whole Territorial Command; with
the increase in W.E. of an Ord. Officer an extra vehicle was allot-
ted to BLUs but this vehicle is pooled along with the remainder.
Priority for any additional M.T. in a BLU should be given to the
amelioration of the ever pressing administrative problems within
the unit.

Dear Mr. GSO II (50)
up with 10 July 46
JASME

Lt Col
GS

6785

Copy to: ADME (HQ MMIA)
Capt.REME (Capt.White)

RECEIVED 5 JUL 1946

SUBJECT :- War Establishments - R.E.M.E.

1. General.

Increasing quantities of Allied equipment are now passing 'on loan' to the Italian Army in some cases at short notice, and it is understood that one of the functions of this Mission is to ensure as far as is practicable the adoption of British methods and standards in the handling thereof. In addition supervisory control is to be exercised over the employment (and presumably the repair) of Allied vehicles in the Italian Army.

2. Equipments of natures not previously issued are expected to be released to the Italian Army in the near future such as elementary types of Radar, heavy A.A. artillery with their associated fuse setters and other control apparatus, and medium artillery. As the Italians, have no-one familiar with these Allied equipments, the instruction of Italian personnel in inspecting and repair procedure of this equipment necessitates the presence of various types of R.E.M.E. tradesmen not at present found on the War Establishments of BLUs or Training Incements.

3. The points set out in para 1 above affect mainly the Type 'A' BLUs and HQ MMIA; whilst those in para 2 are at present mainly the concern of 12 KLU.

4. Type 'A' BLUs.

X Consequent upon the dispersion throughout the Territorial Commands of British small arms whether with CARs, Independent Regiments or CO.RR. Mobile battalions it is ~~estimated~~ that a limited number of British armoures should be available to visit Italian units having British arms to carry out any technical inspection deemed necessary by HQ MMIA and to assist the Italian armoures until they are familiar with these weapons. To give some weight to his advice each armoured should be a Sergeant or Corporal.

5. In addition, ~~every type of~~ BLUs consider that an ACU vehicle mechanic is needed to assist the ~~BLU~~ in giving technical advice to Italian Army units on the Allied vehicles they hold, and to assist them in improving their methods of maintenance. Owing to the present elementary standard of maintenance knowledge (caused mainly by the release of experienced soldiers)

3. The points set out in para 1 above affect mainly the Type 'A' BLUs and HQ MMIA; whilst those in para 2 are at present mainly the concern of I2 BLU.

4. Type 'A' BLUS.

X Consequent upon the dispersion throughout the Territorial Commands of British small arms whether with Cais, Independent Regiments or CO.Rn. Mobile Battalions it is ~~advisable~~ that a limited number of British armoures should be available to visit Italian Units having British arms to carry out any technical inspection deemed necessary by HQ MMIA and to assist the Italian armoures until they are familiar with these weapons. To give some weight to his advice each armourer should be a Sergeant or Corporal.

5. In addition, ~~some type~~ BLUS consider that an HQ vehicle mechanic is needed to assist the EME in giving technical advice to Italian Army units on the Allied vehicles they hold, and to assist them in improving their methods of maintenance. Owing to the present elementary standard of maintenance knowledge (caused mainly by the release of experienced soldiers), more intensive instruction to units on these two matters is needed. X

6. HQ MMIA.

X In view of the large numbers of British small arms passing to the Italian Army and the initiation of a Base Small Arms workshop, technical questions affecting these arms are beginning to interest the Ministry of War. Although the present officers

2/

at HQ MMIA possess some knowledge of small arms they undoubtedly lack the detailed intimate and up to date knowledge which would be possessed by a senior British armorer. At present technical small arms questions beyond our knowledge are solved by reference to D.M.E., G.E.Q. (Assistant Inspector of Armourers), but should this appointment be abolished, delay would certainly occur in giving the advice the Italian Army expects to receive.

In addition it is thought advisable to have at HQ MMIA a senior armorer (probably a warrant officer) to assist in supervising the technical work of the armourers suggested for Type 'A' BLUs.

7. 12 BLU.

It is understood that with the release of some forms of Radar equipment to the Italian Army instruction will be necessary on its operation, and presumably British instructors will be provided for teaching the operation and adjusting of this equipment. Provision of suitable R.E.M.E. tradesmen for instruction on the calibration and light repairs can probably be arranged within the War Establishment of the Training Increment attached 12 BLU. It is thought that major repairs to this equipment may prove very difficult by Italian resources, and exchange of the complete equipment (if necessary) may prove the most economical solution, as the installation of base repair facilities in this country would not at present be economical.

8. Proposal.

It is therefore proposed that the War Establishment of Type 'A' BLU be amended by addition of :-

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|----------|
| 1 | Vehicle Mechanic | - | Sergeant |
| 1 | Armorer | - | Corporal |
| 1 | Driver I C | - | Private |

Transport

- 1 Car 4 x 2 Light Utility.

6753

This car would be primarily for the use of the armorer, but could in emergency be used by the EME who by reason of his junior rank does not always obtain the same facilities.

2056
Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NMDC NO. 785020

provided for teaching the operation and adjusting of this equipment. Provision of suitable R.E.M.E. tradesmen for instruction on the calibration and light repairs can probably be arranged within the War Establishment of the Training Increment attached to the BLU. It is thought that major repairs to this equipment may prove very difficult by Italian resources, and exchange of the complete equipment (if necessary) may prove the most economical solution, as the installation of base repair facilities in this country would not at present be economical.

8. Proposal.

It is therefore proposed that the War Establishment of Type 'A' BLU be amended by addition of :-

1	Vehicle Mechanic	- Sergeant
1	Armourer	- Corporal
1	Driver I C	- Private

Transport

1 Car 4 x 2 Light Utility.

6783

This car would be primarily for the use of the armourer, but could in emergency be used by the EME who by reason of his junior rank does not always obtain the use of 'pooled' BLU transport when necessary.

It is further proposed that the War Establishment of HQ MMIA be amended by the addition of :-

1 Armourer - Warrant Officer Class II.

AB/ag

TRANSLATION

File Q003

FROM: M. of W.
 TO: Mil. Terr. HQ. Turin
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Genova
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Milan
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Bolzano
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Udine
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Bologna
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Florence
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Rome
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Naples
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Palermo
 Mil. Terr. HQ. Bari.
 Mil. Health Dir. HQ.
 Comm. and Admin. Serv. Gen. Dir. HQ.
 Art. and M.T. Gen. Dir. HQ.
 Eng. Gen. Dir. HQ.
 Vet. Service Gen. Inspectorate HQ.
 (for info.)
 Home Office Rome
 S.M.R.E. HQ.
 CC.NR. Gen. HQ. Rome
 R.G.F. Gen. HQ. Rome
 To all other M. of W.
 Dir. and independent offices HQs.
 A.R.A.R. Gen. Dir. Rome.

REFERENCE: 215200/11
 DATE: 5/6/46

SUBJECT: War Materials Released by the Allies.

Further to circular 202600/11 dated 4 Feb. and 207400/11 dated 24/3.46.

1 - Recovery of Military Stores and Eventual Purchase.

Further to arrangements made with the A.R.A.R. Directorate, the following instructions will be observed:

- a) Inspection of military administration material in A.R.A.R. dumps and any purchases of same will be made by Mil. Terr. representatives.

Said representatives will visit these dumps after arrangement has been made with A.R.A.R. branches (Milan, Bolzano, Leghorn, Naples, Jesi, Bari);

- 2 - Mil. Terr. HQs will report to local A.R.A.R. representatives any non military stores which may be in their possession and which

- 2 -

come under the A.R.A.R. management in order that the latter may take it over;

- 3 - ~~For~~ the purpose of maintaining a continuous liaison between this Ministry and the A.R.A.R. gen. Directorate two liaison officers have been appointed: one for the Art. and M.T. Directorate who will deal with any Art. M.T. or Eng. stores, the other for the Comm. and Admin. Gen. Serv. Dir. who will deal with any comm. Medical, animal or veterinary stores.
The main task of these officers will be to inspect A.A.R. list of Allied released materials and report to the competent Directorates of this Ministry any stores which are of presumable military origin or for purchase.
Following these reports Gen. Directorates will invite Mil. Terr. HQs or Terr. Service Directorates direct to forward a list of the materials which they have chosen and request the A.A.R. representative to hold the materials pending the conclusion of agreements for the return or purchase.
The above does not substitute, but completes the instructions laid down in para 1) of circular 202600/11 dated 4 Feb. 1946, i.e. that Mil. Terr. HQs as soon as they informed that a dump has been released by the Allied to the A.R.A.R. will, of their own initiative, visit the depot, after arrangements have been made with the local A.R.A.R. branch, and report to the competent military Directorates of their Ministry any stores which have been recognised as military, for which question of ownership arises and stores which it is considered are worth buying.
- 4 - Mil. Terr. HQs are to requested to collaborate with the A.R.A.R. in order to obtain the necessary publications to enable the contents of crates, M.T., Radio, etc. to be identified; from the Allies HQs concerned;
- 5 - A.R.A.R. representatives when making a preliminary request^{FOR} the purchase of specified material for Mil. Terr. HQs will report:
a) price of each item;
b) the number of days said materials will be held. 6781
Since the maximum period laid down by A.R.A.R. after expiry of which the material can be offered to other prospective buyers, is 15 days, Mil. Terr. HQ will immediately inform the competent Gen. Directorates the latter settling agreements as soon as possible with central A.R.A.R. offices.
This Ministry has requested that this period be extended to 30 days, which according to A.R.A.R. agents cannot be reduced, but in the meantime it will be necessary to deal with these matters as soon as possible.

- 3 -

I request Mil. Terr. HQs to refrain from partial or total "freezing" of dumps. Identification and possession of material will be obtained in accordance with arrangements with A.R.A.R. representatives "freezing" will only be put into effect if agreements drawn up are not observed. Mil. Terr. HQs will then take steps to safeguard the interests of the Mil. Admin. Gen. Directorates to whom former military stores are returned will reimburse the A.R.A.R. the expenses met by them for recovery, transport, guard, storage, of said materials (actual expenses) the amount of these actual expenses will be, as each case occurs reported by A.R.A.R. these reimbursements will not constitute a reason for the A.R.A.R. to hold up the return of the material.

- 7 - Gen. Directorates under our command will settle the question of payment concerning materials received or being received as soon as possible.

Giovanni MANFREDONIA, of the Central A.R.A.R. offices, has been appointed to deal with the above matters;

- 8 - The Min. of Treasury will shortly issue instructions for paying the A.R.A.R. the sums corresponding to the materials purchased.

- 9 - As already laid down in the a/m circular 202600/11, in cases where the ownership of a specified item is doubted or disputed, identify will be confirmed by the Gen. Directorate of this Ministry at the Central A.R.A.R. offices.

11 - Guardian of Stores.

In circular 207400/11 dated 24 May 1946 you were once again reminded that troops may be used to guard Allied released material, but their employment will be limited to an absolute minimum.

I would point out that Mil. Terr. HQs must not divert all troops to this important service, but limit them to the more important depots. In particular: Troops available will be employed, together with special CC.RR. R.G.F. companies for ammunition dumps. Consequently, sworn in guards will be mainly used to guard store dumps; Army personnel R.G.F. and CC.RR. personnel will be used to guard stores containing valuable material and ammunition dumps.

Sgd. BRODIO

Subject: Equipment for Italian Interim Army.

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AG
(M.M.I.A.)

0.003

17 July 1946

TO : CHQ (for Q1)

Reference your 8459/Q1 of 12 July 1946.

1. Progress is noted and all possible steps are being taken to expedite collection of equipment as soon as released.
2. It is fully appreciated that action to obtain Allied surplus stores declared to Ministry of Supply rests with the War Ministry and is an Italian Government responsibility. Difficulty is anticipated but no further action can be taken by IMIA until a request is received from the War Ministry for assistance specifying what stores they are unable to obtain from this source.
3. It is apparent that maintenance items for MT, Weapons, and Signal stores will not be available as surpluses do not exist. The effect can only be judged when details of deficiencies are known.
4. It is realised that scalings of spares can not be expected owing to shortage of personnel. In the case of Staghound Armoured Cars an attempt has been made to scale 12 months maintenance and in view of the fact that
 - (a) The 200 cars already issued were unaccompanied by any maintenance items.
 - (b) These cars are for the greater part in operational use by the CC.FA.
 - (c) Considerable delay must ensure before the War Ministry can obtain the special items which may become available through Ministry of Supply.

release of 50% items listed at Appendix "A" is requested before 557 BOD closes.

2. It is fully appreciated that action to obtain Allied surplus stores declared to Ministry of Supply rests with the War Ministry and is an Italian Government responsibility. Difficulty is anticipated but no further action can be taken by MIA until a request is received from the War Ministry for assistance specifying what stores they are unable to obtain from this source.

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- (a) The 200 cars already issued were unaccompanied by any maintenance items.
- (b) These cars are for the greater part in operational use by the CC.RR.
- (c) Considerable delay must ensure before the War Ministry can obtain the special items which may become available through Ministry of Supply.

release of 50% items listed at Appendix "A" is requested before 557 BOD closes.

Copy to: G(SD)
CC.RR. Section
RETE
ORD

De 56
R.A. CURTIS Lt Col
for Major General
M.H.I.A.

2062

785020

20 49

SUBJECT: Equipment for Italian Interim Army

C.H.Q., C.M.E.

SL59/02

12 APR 46

TO: MMIA

Reference your Q 003 of 22 May 46.

REC-22 14 JUL 1946

See 21 See 25

TRANSPORT

1. 14' Vehicles

The maximum releases possible were made four months ago under the following authorities:

- Qty 2 Carriers ACP Mk III A/VR 8850 of 5 Mar
- Qty 168 Stagbonds (T1/T1) GHQ Signal C 34602 of 30 Mar
- Qty 6 " " A/VR 8857 of 23 May 46.

It is hoped that further carriers may be released shortly from the throw up of vehicles of 2 Polish Corps.

2. Passenger Vehicles

These are in short supply in the British Army and it is unlikely that any appreciable quantity will be available unless cars 2 str 4x2 (Austin) are acceptable.

3. Load Carrying Vehicles etc

Your detailed list of requirements has now been received and issues will commence almost immediately.

4. General

The highest possible class of vehicle will be made available to the Italian Army but no guarantee can be given that part worn vehicles will not be the only vehicles available. It is not possible to issue any scalings of spares direct to the Italian Army since 557 100 have not the personnel to undertake this task. Spares will become available to the Italian Government through Ministry of Supply when 557 BOD closes.

WEAPONS AND ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT

5. Issue of these stores is now almost completed. All items are issued to HQ 1098 Scale, but no maintenance can be issued. Artillery equipment of the highest classification held in the Gun Park will be issued but prior inspection cannot be agreed.

Not so.
Only "spares"
not as high demand.
No all "part missing"
parts have been issued
before.

these are in short supply in the British Army. That any appreciable quantity will be available unless cars 2 and 4x2 (Austin) are acceptable.

3. Load Carrying Vehicles etc

Your detailed list of requirements has now been received and issues will commence almost immediately.

4. General

The highest possible class of vehicle will be made available to the Italian Army but no guarantee can be given that part worn vehicles will not be the only vehicles available. It is not possible to issue any scalings of spares direct to the Italian Army since 557 BOD have not the personnel to undertake this task. Spares will become available to the Italian Government through Ministry of Supply when 557 BOD closes.

WEAPONS AND ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT

5. Issue of these stores is now almost completed. All items are issued to Art 1098 Scale, but no maintenance can be issued. Artillery equipment of the highest classification held in the Gun Park will be issued but prior inspection cannot be agreed.

TOOLS

6. Arrangements have been made to issue tools as shown in Appendix 'A' to MIA letter Q138 dated 23 May 46. No further issues of tools can be made before the closing down of 557 BOD.

TO SUP	
A/Q	
Q	100
Q.1	1
Q.2	1
Q.3	1
Q.4	1
Q.5	1

/2....

See 100.

100/138

Not 100.
Only "Spares"
not 100/138 demand
as all "forwarding"
parts have
been issued
reports are
in progress.

ie. all the work
is done.

1003

Agent

2063

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NRDC NO.

785020

Q207 Folio 86A

- 2 -

TUBES AND TUBES

7. Instructions were issued to 557 BOD on 22 May for the following issues:

900 x 16 RF Assys	Qty 1000
1050/1100 x 20 Tubes	Qty 3000

These are the only items for which War Office authority is held to dispose of locally as Global surpluses from serviceable stocks.

SIGNAL EQUIPMENT

8. 557 BOD has been instructed to issue in accordance with DOS/7209/ Plans dated 18 Jun 46 (Copy to NMIA) and these issues should now be in progress.

TRAINING EQUIPMENT

9. Issues of equipment, mainly tools, for training tradesmen are still under discussion. Conversations Lt Cols NEEDHAM - BLUNT - HUTLIN - CLARKE 9 Jul 46 refer. Your further recommendations are awaited.

See Via MIA/D/109/11
of 12 July 48

WEB EQUIPMENT

10. Ord are proceeding with the issue of Web Equipment as detailed in NMIA letters Q 003 dated 22 May and Q/83/1 dated 30 May.

ARTILLERY TRACTORS

11. Supply of CI I or CI ID is dependent on availabilities when Polcorps have completed their hand-in. None are available at the moment.

GENERAL

12. It is understood that all stores due to be issued direct from 557 BOD are now prepared ready for issue, which is in progress.

13. If the situation generally is not clarified in the immediate future, it is suggested that a meeting might be held at this HQ during the week 21 - 27 Jul, attended by representatives of NMIA, when any outstanding difficulties could be discussed.

L.D.M. (Cen)

still under discussion. Your further recommendations are awaited.
CLARE 9 Jul 46 refer. *Clare 9 Jul 46 109*

WEB EQUIPMENT

10. Ord are proceeding with the issue of Web Equipment as detailed in MMIA letters Q 003 dated 22 May and Q/CS/1 dated 30 May.

ARTILLERY TRACTORS

11. Supply of C1 I or C1 ID is dependant on availabilities when Polcorps have completed their hand-in. None are available at the moment.

GENERAL

12. It is understood that all stores due to be issued direct from 557 BOD are now prepared ready for issue, which is in progress.

13. If the situation generally is not clarified in the immediate future, it is suggested that a meeting might be held at this HQ during the week 21 - 27 Jul, attended by representatives of MMIA, when any outstanding difficulties could be discussed.

W.D.A. Clare

W.D.A. CLARE, Lieut-Colonel,
for Major-General,
MCA.

WDAC/AG

Copy to: G(SD)
ORD

C O P Y

SUBJECT : Provision of Ordnance Personnel

G.H.Q. C.M.F.

1543/A-1

2 July 46

To : Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA)

Reference A 360 of 17 Jun. 46.

1. Your shortage of Ordnance Personnel is realised and is constantly under consideration at this GHQ.
2. You will appreciate that there is a grave theatre shortage of Ordnance Personnel. On 1 Jul, Aug, Sep and Oct the percentage deficiency of Officers will be 36, 48, 60 and 63 respectively, and the OR position is little better.
3. Reinforcements to remedy this situation are demanded from UK but it must be realised that there is little likelihood of our demands being met to any very helpful extent.
4. In order to tide over the present difficult period, Ordnance personnel are being deferred as Operationally Vital in order to keep Units at minimum strength and you will therefore have to take similar action.
5. Although no replacements are available for posting now, you may rest assured that, as it is in the interests of the theatre as a whole that your requirements should be met, you will be allotted your share of any replacements which subsequently become available.

TO SEND	
A/Q	
Q	NAC
Q. 1	1/2
Q. 2	1/2
ORD	ON
REME	

for Brigadier 6776
DAG

Copy to ORD

I Q003

and

2067

785020

COPY

13-A

Telo No : Freedom 254

G(SD) Branch,
GHQ CTF.Subject : Issues to ITALIAN Army.
'Q'

ESD/81/3D

Copy to : Ord
Land Forces Sub-Comm, AC.(MMIA)
(conversation Lt-Col Medlam - Maj Inglis
of 28 June refers).

1 Jul 46

It has always been understood by all concerned that initial issues to the ITALIAN Army would be complete eqpts, together with associated stores. It appears that this has not always been the case in practice, possibly due to non-availability of the items concerned.

It is considered that such matters should be cleared between MMIA and GHQ on Ord channels.

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VMI/as

Inglis.
(?)
M.W.M. MACLEOD,
Major General,
Chief of General Staff.

SD DISTRIBUTION :

ACTION : SD/109

INFO : 'Q'
ORD
TRG3/7/46
RA

6775

A Q 003.
and

Subject :- Wastage - Economy in Clothing

1 British Liaison Unit
Q 7

18 Jun 46

To :- No 1 Italian Territorial Command
TURIN

HQ Land Forces Sub Comm LG (MILIA)

2 BLU

3 BLU

1. The British Army has, found it imperative that owing to shortages of materials, both stocks and consumption of clothing should be drastically reduced. Therefore a revised list of wastage rates has been circulated to all British Units with instructions that these figures be strictly adhered to, and all items held over and above these rates be returned to Depots.

2. The list has been compiled with a great deal of forethought, and comparison of issues, receipts and previous wastage rates therefore represent the minimum rates possible to conserve stocks, and at the same time keep the soldier smartly dressed and equipped.

3. The list is produced below and is given as a percentage of unit strength :-

Boots Ankle	15%	Jersey Pullover	5%
Trousers ED	14%	Laces Leather	30%
Blouses ED	10%	Overalls	7%
Caps	8%	Socks Woolen	35%
Drawers Summer	15%	Socks Cotton	40%
Drawers Winter	8%	Shirts	12%
Gloves	7%	Vests	8%
Greatcoats	3%	Towels Hand	12%

4. It is suggested the above wastage rates should be made known to all units in No 1 Terr Comd and orders issued stating that these wastage rates will not be exceeded. In addition Commissariats should submit a return to No 1 Terr Comd monthly showing exact issues to all units during the month, so that a check can be made on units, this return will show which units have exceeded the wastage rates and which units have exceeded the percentages. All units which have exceeded the wastage rates, should be called upon to give an explanation why the percentages have been exceeded.

5. It is further suggested that these percentages be applied to this Terr Comd - for a period, e.g., 6 months, with a view to permanency; if proved successful the system could be represented to the Ministry of War. Any assistance required for the application will be willingly given by both "Q" and ORD Branches of this HQ. Please forward to this HQ your remarks to the above proposals.

Caps	8%	Socks Woollen	55%
Drawers Summer	15%	Socks Cotton	40%
Drawers Winter	8%	Shirts	12%
Gloves	7%	Vests	8%
Greatcoats	3%	Towels Hand	12%

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TO SVE	
A/Q	
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Q 3	
REME	

Lt Col
GSO I

8972 22 JUN 1946

ORDNANCE DIRECTORATE
G.H.Q. C.M.F.

Ref : DOS/7209
Tel : Freedom 810
Date : 5th Jun 46

Subject : Issues to the Italian Army.

TO : COO, 557 BOD, CMF (6)
CC, 38 Veh Company (6) your 38HQ/167/704
dated 2 June 46 refers.

The position with regard to all issues to the Italian Army, whether they are issues which have taken place in the past or issues to be made in the future, is that they will officially be regarded as on loan.

Vouchering in all cases will be done in accordance with AFHQ letter AG.400/031 G.D.S-0 dated 6th October 44 paragraph 12(a).

In addition to the original signed vouchers to be forwarded to M.M.I.A. another signed copy is required by the Financial Adviser, GHQ, CMF.

Receipted copies of vouchers for Financial Adviser and ABOS, MMIA, will be priced where possible and accompanied by a schedule with each bundle of vouchers, the schedule to give details of the issue voucher numbers etc in each bundle.

This does not apply to issues made to the five M-I combat groups prior to 14 Nov 45 about which separate instructions have been published.

(P.W. BUTLIN) Lt. Col. ABOS PLATE
for Brigadier
D.O.S.

Copies to : GHQ.1.)
GHQ.2/13) All future issues will embody these instructions
GHQ.3)
C.O.2 Sub Depot 557 BOD your 2/50B/PC/188/17 dated
1 June 46 refers

DQMG, GHQ, CMF.
G(SD) GHQ, CMF
ABOS, Land Forces Sub Commission M.M.I.A.
Financial Adviser G.H.Q., C.M.F.

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DISTRIBUTION

H.
Q.
CC.RR.

TO	FROM
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Q. 100	CC.RR.

FROM : MINISTRY OF WAR (S.M.R.M.)

TO : M.M.I.A.

DATE : 27/5/46

SUBJECT: Mobile Workshops for Mobile CC.RR. Battalions and Workshops for CC.RR. Legions.

Reply to letter 30/4/7/2 dated 10 inst.

1. This S.M. is thoroughly convinced of the advisability of having separate workshops available for mobile battalions and CC.RR. legions, also because it is especially interested in the good maintenance of expensive stores which are difficult to replace such as transport.

The present situation however does not permit the setting into effect of what would have been desirable because, as known, the CC.RR. Arm Gen. HQ has no carabinieri tradesmen nor is it estimated, even forming appropriate courses, that we could have, in the near future, trained personnel available in the number required for the formation and working of all the s/v workshops.

On the other hand it does not appear possible to arrive at the temporary solution proposed by M.M.I.A. of allocating military tradesmen drawn from other units or employing civilians in these workshops due to the fact that:-

- the recent and next discharges of the older classes, as known, has made and will make the already deficient situation of army tradesmen still more precarious;
- the engaging of civilians would bring about a large increase (over 700 civilians) to the heavy number of these personnel at present employed by the military administration and consequently a further notable expenditure to the depleted state budget.

2. In respect of the above it will be necessary, at least for the time being, to arrive at one of the following solutions:-

(a) form only workshops for CC.RR. legions serving mobile battalion vehicles to these workshops for repairs;

(b) or form 12 mobile workshops for CC.RR. mobile battalions and legions only for those legions where they have 6712 mobile battalions in the arm. Naturally, even by adopting one of the above solutions, the workshops will only be formed gradually in relation to the availability of tradesmen.

It is however to be borne in mind that CC.RR. can always turn, as far as necessary, also to M.M. repair units belonging to M.I. Form 100.

the present situation and the fact that the present situation is not the best, as known, has made and will make the already deficient situation of army tradesmen still more precarious;

- the recent and next discharges of the older classes, as known, has made and will make the already deficient situation of army tradesmen still more precarious;
- the engaging of civilians would bring about a large increase (over 700 civilians) to the heavy number of these personnel at present employed by the military administration and consequently a further notable expenditure to the depleted state budget.

2. In respect of the above it will be necessary, at least for the time being, to arrive at one of the following solutions:-

- (a) Some only workshops for C.O.M. Legions sending mobile battalion vehicles to these workshops for repairs;
- (b) or form 12 mobile workshops for C.O.M. mobile battalions and Legions only for those Legions where they have 6772 mobile battalions in the area.

Naturally, even by adopting one of the above solutions, the workshops will only be formed gradually in relation to the availability of personnel.

It is however to be borne in mind that C.O.M. can always turn, as far as necessary, also to M.R. repair units belonging to Mil Force Regt.

3. As far as the types of workshops are concerned for the Legions proposed by your M.R.I.A. in letter 30/4/46, this S.M. having also heard the opinion of the Art. and M.R. Gen. Dir., is of the opinion to establish, for simplicity and economy of personnel, only two types of MR, instead of three, on the basis of the following scale of issue of vehicles:

- Workshop type 'A' for Legions having up to 200 vehicles
- Workshop type 'B' for Legions having from 200 to 300 vehicles.

We enclose the detailed MRs of the two types which we propose.

Translation: DAK
Copy typed: JW
29 May 46.

8003

1400001

SUBJECT:- Maintenance Italian Army.

Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C.,
M.M.I.A.
R O M E
Q.003
28 May 1946

TO : List "B"

1. The object of this letter is to explain the present position regarding "supply" of maintenance items and to dispel any suspicions that the War Ministry are not concerning themselves sufficiently with the need to repair deficiencies in Unit maintenance.
2. The maintenance of the Italian Army including the CC.RR is the responsibility of the Italian Government through the War Ministry. With the exception of British Ordnance weapons, equipment and ammunition the sources of supply are under the control of the Italian Government. As regards transport see para. 5.
3. The War Ministry control all maintenance items which are distributed down to Units through the normal administrative channels i.e. Supply Depots, Clothing Depots, Ammunition Magazines etc. The procedure for indenting, system of supply and detailed routine have been communicated to Territorial Commands in Directives issued by the War Ministry.
4. Some confusion and uncertainty has arisen regarding provision and supply of British Ordnance stores. It must be remembered that the re-organisation of the Italian Army and re-equipping of Units other than CC.RR with British weapons is coinciding with the run down of British stores in the theatre and the closing of Ordnance installations.
Every endeavour is being made by this HQ to secure for the War Ministry the stores needed to complete authorised equipment scales including maintenance items. Wherever possible (and invariably in the case of weapons and ammunition) transfer is being arranged direct military to military. In certain cases the War Ministry are acquiring stores through Allied Disposal Agencies and A.R.A.R.
5. The long term policy regarding transport is that the Italian Army shall be equipped with vehicles manufactured by the Italian Motor Industry. As a temporary measure efforts are being made to obtain further serviceable Allied vehicles and spare parts for those already held. The difficulty is the fact that there is an actual shortage in the theatre of such equipment and no allied surplus exists.
6. On receipt of the

3. The War Ministry control all maintenance items which are distributed down to Units through the normal administrative channels i.e. Supply Depots, Clothing Depots, Ammunition Magazines etc. The procedure for indenting, system of supply and detailed routine have been communicated to Territorial Commands in directives issued by the War Ministry.

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Every endeavour is being made by this HQ to secure for the War Ministry the stores needed to complete authorised equipment scales including maintenance items. Wherever possible (and invariably in the case of weapons and ammunition) transfer is being arranged direct military to military. In certain cases the War Ministry are acquiring stores through Allied Disposal Agencies and A.R.A.R.

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6. On receipt of the necessary HQ authority the transfer of British Ordnance equipment to Italian Depots is arranged. Thereafter distribution follows the normal practice.

No useful purpose is served by making detailed demands for this or that item and all concerned are requested to ensure the above situation is made clear to Territorial or other Commanders. B.L.U.'s can and should assist by advising on correct procedure and investigating whether or not the War Ministry instructions on the matter have been followed.

See 13th Nov 1945
Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Internal: "C"
ORD
RHE

SAC/ar

Subject: Equipment for Italian Interim Army

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AC
(M.M.I.A.)

Q.003

22 May 1946

R1384/1010.83.

TO : GHQ for Ord Directorete (5)

Copy to: GHQ for Q1.

Reference is made to GHQ 8159/Q1 dated 7 May 1946.

1. You are requested to state when issues will be made and to clarify what maintenance stores are to be expected.
As early notice as possible is required in order that the War Ministry may arrange to take delivery and deliver to destination without delay.

2. TRANSPORT.

(a) The figures quoted are

(i) A Vehicles	2,600
(ii) Motor Cycles	16,150
(iii) Passenger Vehs	1,600.
(iv) Load Carriers	5,300 ✓
(v) Other vehicles	850

(b) It is essential that if release of a proportion of this demand is to be made direct to the Italian Army the War Ministry shall be informed the classification and type of vehicles offered and whether or not paintenance stores can be provided. The Italian Army already hold large numbers of inefficient vehicles for which no maintenance spare parts have been supplied or can be obtained.

It will not promote the efficiency of the Army to accept further large quantities of part worn MT with the same disadvantage.

On the other hand you may be in a position to offer certain vehicles which will be of considerable value during the interim period before delivery can be made to the Army by the Italian motor industry.

3. WEAPONS

Early information is desired as to what weapons are available and what maintenance items are to be supplied.

Web equipment on an appropriate scale will be required when these

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(iv) Load Carriers 5,300

(v) Other vehicles 850

(b) It is essential that if release of a proportion of this demand is to be made direct to the Italian Army the War Ministry shall be informed the classification and type of vehicles offered and whether or not maintenance stores can be provided. The Italian Army already hold large numbers of inefficient vehicles for which no maintenance spare parts have been supplied or can be obtained.

It will not promote the efficiency of the Army to accept further large quantities of part worn MT with the same disadvantage.

On the other hand you may be in a position to offer certain vehicles which will be of considerable value during the interim period before delivery can be made to the Army by the Italian motor industry.

3. WEAPONS

Early information is desired as to what weapons are available and what maintenance items are to be supplied.

Web equipment on an appropriate scale will be required when these additional weapons are issued. Attached at Appendix "A" is the estimated quantity concerning which information as to availability is now required.

4. ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT

What is available and what maintenance items can be supplied? It is essential these stores be issued in serviceable condition and it is requested facilities be given for inspection prior to acceptance.

2/.....

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TOOLS

What is available. Tools in R.E.M.E. Workshops are being demanded in accordance with CHQ 8459/01 of 15 May 1946.

6. MEDIUM ARTILLERY

What will equipment be available. What maintenance stores are being issued. Information is also required as to type and classification of tractors.

7. FORCES TYPE B.

Information desired as in para 6 above.

8. SIGNAL EQUIPMENT

Information desired as to types, quantities and maintenance items available.

9. TYRES AND TUBES

Estimated requirements are listed at Appendix "E".

Very early release is requested of at least a proportion of what is available.

10. ARMOURD CARS

No maintenance items have been received.

At Appendix "C" is listed the immediate requirements of the Armoured Car School. May early release be arranged.

When can a scaling of necessary maintenance for the 168 Staghounds issued and 227 under issue be expected.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

C
ORD
R.E.M.E.

Major General
M.M.I.A.

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At Appendix "C" is listed the immediate requirements of the Armoured Car School. May early release be arranged.
When can a scaling of necessary maintenance for the 168 Staghouids issued and 227 under issue be expected.

W. C. C. C. C. C.
Major General
M. H. I. A.

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INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

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Appendix "A" to Q.003
dated 22 May 1946

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
Equipment, Basic, sets, (less Mosstins and large Packs)	40,000
Pouches, utility, sets	8,000
Slings, rifle	23,000
Progs, bayonet	23,000
Cases, binocular	4,000
Pouches, ammunition, revolver	2,000
Haversacks, small, Officers	2,000
Slings T.M.C.	9,000
Holsters, revolver	1,850
Holsters, Pistol signal	1,850
Cases, compass	4,000

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Appendix "B" to Q.003
of 12 May 1946

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>COVERS</u>	<u>TUBES</u>
3.25 x 19	2,000	2,000
6.00 x 16	300	300
7.00 x 16	450	450
9.00 x 13	50	50
9.00 x 16	1,000	1,000
7.50 x 20	5,000	5,000
10.50/1100 x 16	2,000	2,000
10.50/1100 x 20	3,000	3,000
1200/1350/1400 x 20	100	100

Appendix "C" to A.003
dated 1 May 1946

ARMORED CARS SCHOOL HQ.

Spare parts necessary for repairs.-

1.- Staghead Armored Cars T.17

Gaskets for engine head	15
Sets & gaskets for regulator-aspirator & exhaust syst...	2
Water pump complete with fan	2
Electric regulator	2
Petrol Pump electric	2
Wheel Studs	205
Tyres 1400 x 20	2
Shock absorber nuts (Right)	2
Gaskets cylinder head cover	6
Exhaust manifold gaskets	12
Sparking plugs	24

2.- "DAIMLER" Scout Car.-

Timing chain	2
Platinum contact sparking plugs	12
12 volt condenser	4
12 volt coils	2
Steering shaft gear	2
Steering gear shaft	2

Oil HD 30 or 50

SEE Q 138
Vol 108A

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