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11 BLU-SICILY LIAISON - REPORT

Oct. 1945 - JUNE 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

11 BLU PROGRESS REPORT NO. 11.

As at 1 June 46

Land Forces Sub-Comm, AC (T.M.I.A.)

Copy to : 10 B.L.U.

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June 46

15

PART I - GENERAL

1. DECEASED (BLU)

(a)

May 6, 1946. Major W. SYKES R.A. assumed appointment of G.S.O.2 11 B.L.U. vice Major R.E. HECTOR R.A.

May 23. Major W.A. LACEY General List assumed appointment of CC.RR. Liaison Officer 11 B.L.U. vice Major T. GOODACRE absent on Compassionate Posting to U.K.

May 27. Squadron Leader G.W. DEANE Chaplain to the R.A.F. celebrated Holy Communion and Svensons in the English Church Palermo. All personnel of 11 B.L.U. attended one or other of the Services of 11 B.L.U. officers and 3 O.Rs of 11 B.L.U.

May 30. Two Officers and 3 O.Rs of 11 B.L.U. attended Memorial Day Service in the U.S. Military Cemetery Palermo. In his address the American Consul General expressed his appreciation of the presence of a British detachment on parade.

May 31. Major W.A. LACEY and Major W. SYKES attended the funeral service in Palermo Cathedral of the eight members of the CC.RR. who were murdered at Caltanissetta and whose bodies have only recently been discovered.

Major S.E. SNEEZUM M.C. has been sick intermittently for over a fortnight suffering from a type of recurrent fever. He has been under the care of Lieutenant Jackson U.S.M. the M.C. attached to the American Naval Base who advised his attendance at a British General Hospital for thorough examination and Major

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R.A. HECTOR R.A.

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2. ITALIAN. (a) Location Statement and Order of Battle attached at Appendix "A".

(b) Staff List Italian attached at Appx "B" 2970

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2/..... 14/6/46
W.L.

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PART II - 'G'3. EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS.(a) ARMY less CC.RR."AOSTA" Division.

5th Inf. Regiment. Regt. H.Q. plus 1 Bn at TRAPANI.
2 Bn at PALERMO.
All employed on Guard and Internal
Security Duties.
(Satisfactory)

6th Inf. Regiment. Regt. H.Q. plus 2nd Bn at PALERMO.
1st Bn at CATANIA.
All employed on Guard and Internal
Security Duties.
(Very Good)

139 Inf. Regiment. Regt. H.Q. plus 1 and 2 Bns at PALERMO.
Guard and Internal Security Duties.
Pair-not up to standard of 5th and 6th
Regts.

22 Regiment. (Originally an Artillery Regiment).
Regt. H.Q. plus 1 Bn and 1 (4 Gun)
troop at AGRIGENTO.
2nd Bn and 1 troop at PALERMO.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Satisfactory).

"SABAUDA" Division.

45 Inf. Regiment. Regt. H.Q. 1 and 2nd Bns CATANIA.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Satisfactory).

46 Inf. Regiment. Regt. H.Q. 1 and 2nd Bns MESSINA.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Satisfactory).

145 Inf. Regiment. Regt. H.Q. 1 Bn less 2 Coys
CALTANISSETTA.

1st Bn at CATANIA.
All employed on Guard and Internal Security Duties.
(Very Good)

139 Inf. Regiment.
Regt. H.Q. plus 1 and 2 Bns at PALERMO.
Guard and Internal Security Duties.
Pair-not up to standard of 5th and 6th Regts.

22 Regiment.
(Originally an Artillery Regiment).
Regt. H.Q. plus 1 Bn and 1 (4 Gun) troop* at AGRIGENTO.
2nd Bn and 1 troop at PALERMO.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Satisfactory).

"SABAUDA" Division.

45 Inf. Regiment.
Regt. H.Q. 1 and 2nd Bns CATANIA.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Satisfactory).

46 Inf. Regiment.
Regt. H.Q. 1 and 2nd Bns MESSINA.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Satisfactory).

145 Inf. Regiment.
Regt. H.Q. 1 Bn less 2 Coys
CALTANISSETTA.
2nd Bn at RAGUSA.
2 Coys at ENNA.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Originally an Artillery Regt.)
Regt. H.Q. and 1 Bn at SIRACUSA.
2nd Bn less 1 Bty at CATANIA. 2969
1 Bty CALTAGIRONE.
Guard and Internal Security duties.
(Very Good).

16 Regiment.

4. TRAINING.
(a) Army less CO.NR.

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i. Training Establishments. 11 C.A.R.

It is to be hoped that the appointment of a new Commandant of the 11 C.A.R. will lead to improvement in general discipline which is long overdue. The new Commandant will have a lot of lee way to make up and I think that it would be the greatest help to him if he could have the assistance of a British Training Officer as soon as he arrives to take up his appointment even if the Training Officer could only be spared for a week or two on temporary duty here. I feel that this is most important as it would give the new Commandant a flying start and would set any change in system over at one and the same time.

ACTIONii. Other Troops.

All Regiments under command 11. C.M.M. have submitted their training programmes for June - these have been examined and are considered satisfactory. It would appear that on the average troops in Sicily are doing guard duties every other day but in all formations visited during the month training was being carried out according to Regimental Programmes.

INTELLIGENCE

(a)

Foreign Agents.

Reports are still received of Jugo-Slav agents in Sicily especially in Catania. The purpose of their presence is not known. They are reported to arrive from Dalmatia on ships which have called on that coast to unload cargoes.

The presence recently of pocket submarines off the coast near Sciacca (South western coast nearly due south from Palermo) has been confirmed by fishermen.

(b)

Frontier Activity

NIL.

ii. Other Troops.

All Regiments under command 11. C.M.T. have submitted their training programmes for June - these have been examined and are considered satisfactory. It would appear that on the average troops in Sicily are doing guard duties every other day but in all formations visited during the month training was being carried out according to Regimental Programmes.

INTELLIGENCE

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The presence recently of pocket submarines off the coast near Sciacca (South western coast nearly due south from Palermo) has been confirmed by fishermen.

(b) Frontier Activity Nil.

(c) Relation between troops and population.

Reported to be good. The "Fronte Giovanile Repubblicano" has been organising dances for soldiers and making promises that in event of a Republican victory the term of conscript service will be reduced and family allowances increased.

(d) The majority of soldiers in Sicily are said to be monarchist.

(e) There are known to be a few subversive elements in units especially in the "Autocentro" where communist propaganda is carried out by civilian employees.

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(r)

Public Security.

The "Mafia" has started operations again and every night four or five known criminals are reported killed. It is believed that the Mafia is cleaning up other criminals in order to consolidate its position.

The Mayor of Palermo Advocate GULLO who is one of the leaders of the Socialist party was stopped recently by Mafia near Palermo and relieved of everything except his pants. A few minutes before another car carrying two members of the Monarchist party was stopped in the same place but immediately allowed to proceed unharmed.

From this it is assumed that the Mafia's policy is against the "left" but conservative rather than Monarchist.

It is believed that the people of Sicily will not accept a Republican victory as they think that under a Republic the independence of Sicily would not be tolerated.

PART III - 'A'6. DOMESTIC.

(a) Deficiencies in all ranks against W.E.

Officers - D.A.A. & C.M.G.
- Training Major.

(b) Leave.

Details of all ranks on leave and when due to return within W.E.

Rfn DEARES P., L.I.B., L.I.A.P. approx return 20 June 46.

7. ITALIAN.

Deficiencies in Total Strengths and in Tradesmen and Specialists against W.E.

All ranks - 50%

{ A mistake was made in last months figures. Deficiencies evidently being read as "Present Strength".

PART III - 'A'6. DOMESTIC.

(a)

Deficiencies in all ranks against F.E.

Officers - D.A.A. & D.W.G.
 - Training Major.

(b)

Leave.

Details of all ranks on leave and when due to return within F.E.

Rfm DEARNS P.; L.I.B.; L.I.A.P. Approx
 return 20 June 46.

7. ITALIAN.

Deficiencies in Total Strengths and in Tradesmen and Specialists against F.E.

All ranks - 50% { A mistake was made in last months figures. Deficiencies evidently being read as "Present Strength".

Discipline. - Fair.

Leave Problems. The normal leave period of seven days every six months is maintained and appears to be up to date for all Ranks.

296

Pay Problems. In Palermo Junior Officers have to spend half their pay on Messing.

Morale. Very much affected by Pay Problems. Welfare is now definitely understood by all Regimental Commanders and there appears to be a healthy competition in providing welfare facilities. As an example the 16 Regt. in Syracuse has now a dance & games room with stage table tennis tables and very modern bar which actually sells coffee, icees and cakes.

5/.....

It is believed that the people of Sicily will not accept a Republican victory as they think that under a Republic the independence of Sicily would not be tolerated.

- 5 -

The Regiment has its own Regimental and Dance Bands. Basketball and Tennis Courts and when I visited the Regiment an outdoor dance floor, bandstand and tea garden were under construction - all by the men themselves.

PART IV - 'C'

8. DOMESTIC.

(a) Transport.

11 B.L.U. vehicle holdings attached at Appx. 'D'.

9. ITALIAN.

Transport.

(a) Army loss CO. PR.

(b) R.R.M.L.

- 1) The organisation and practical application of vehicle inspections and maintenance was evident in every unit that has been inspected during the month.

Task System Maintenance handbooks have not actually been received yet but are said to be on the way.

However all Transport Units and most other units holding transport have erected a large "daily task clock" which serves the same purpose.

- 2) The bi-monthly inspection of vehicles still presents a problem owing to the difficulty of sending vehicles into workshops for inspection from distant units.

This has been overcome to a certain extent by 11 Repair Unit arranging for a Sgt. Mechanic to visit monthly units situated at TRAPANI, AGGREDITO, GALTANISETTA and PACESE for the

9. ITALIAN.

Transport.

(a) ARMY LOGS CC. EN.

(b) R.E.H.R.

1) The organization and practical application of vehicle inspections and maintenance was evident in every unit that has been inspected during the month. Task System Maintenance handbooks have not actually been received yet but are said to be on the way. However all Transport Units and most other units holding transport have erected a large "daily task clock" which serves the same purpose.

2) The bi-monthly inspection of vehicles still presents a problem owing to the difficulty of sending vehicles into workshops for inspection from distant units.

This has been overcome to a certain extent by 11 Repair Unit arranging for a Sgt. Mechanic to visit monthly units situated at TRAPANI, AGRIGENTO, CALTANISSETTA and MARSALA for the purposes of carrying out the workshop 406 on vehicles held by these units.

This arrangement was put into effect from the 1st May 46.

3) The Director of Repairs is of the opinion that the problem of serving units in Sicily could be solved by:

(i) Converting 11 Repair Unit, which is at present a Class III type workshop, to a Class I.

By this means he could send strong Repair detachment to CATANIA which would

6/.....

- 6 -

serve units located in the Eastern half of the island.

- (ii) By converting the Arty. workshops located at MESSINA from an Arty. unit to an M.T. unit. He points out that at present it is doing repairs etc. for all units in the MESSINA province but to function properly in this capacity it should be organized trained and equipped as part of the Motorized Corps and NOT Artillery.

ACTION.

(c) Clothing and Equipment.

Commanders of Regiments outside Palermo have asked for supplies of leather for boot sooling instead of the present system of sending boots to Palermo for repairs.

They consider that Regimental boot repairs would be quicker and more satisfactory.

- (d) P.C.L. Nothing to report.
- (e) Supply. Nothing to report.
- (f) Medical. Nothing to report.

W. Sykes
W. SYKES, Major
G.S.C. II.,
11 B.L.U.

WS/SI

Commanders of Regiments outside Palermo have asked for supplies of leather for boot soles instead of the present system of sending boots to Palermo for repairs. They consider that Regimental boot repairs would be quicker and more satisfactory.

- (d) P.C.I. Nothing to report.
- (e) Supply. Nothing to report.
- (f) Medical. Nothing to report.

WS/SI

W. Sykes
W. SYKES, Major
G.S.C. II.,
11 B.L.N.

2965

14 DMM PROGRESS REPORT NO. 10.

18 at 1 May 46

Land Forces Sub-Comm, AG (MIA)

Copy to : 10 E.I.U.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

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6 May 46

PART I - GENERAL

1. DOMESTIC (ALU)

(a) MAJOR R.E. HECHEM M.V.O. M.C. R.A. G.S.O. II handed over all duties to MAJOR S.E. SPURTHILL M.C. H.A.A. & J.W.D. on 26 Apr. 46, and departed for home 30 Apr. 46.

(b) MAJOR W. GODDARD General List CC. 46, I.C. left the unit on compassionate posting to U.K. on 19 Apr. 46.

(c) MAJOR S.E. SPURTHILL is due to go on PYTHON in May 46 and replacements for this officer and above mentioned officers are urgently required.

(d) The unit is also now deficient of two O.Re the Dvr./T. having departed on Release and the Pte/Clerk General Duties on I.I.A.P.

(e) Staff List 11 E.I.U. attached at Appx "D"

2. ITALIAN.

(a) Location Statement and Order of Battle attached at Appx "A"

(b) Staff List Italian attached at Appx "C".

PART II - 'C'

3. EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS.

W.O. D.A.M. & G.W.G. on 26 APR. 46, and departed for ROEF 30 APR. 46.

(b) MAJOR W. GOODACRE General List CC.113. I.O. left the unit on Compassionate Posting to U.K. on 19 APR. 46.

(c) MAJOR S.T. SUMNER is due to go on PYTHON in MAY 46 and replacements for this officer and above mentioned officers are urgently required.

(d) The unit is also now deficient of two G.Rs the Dvr/M.T. having departed on Release and the Pte/Clerk General Duties on L.I.L.P.

(e) Staff List of D.I.U. attached at Appx "B"

2. ITALIAN.

(a) Location Statement and Order of Battle attached at Appx "A"

(b) Staff List Italian attached at Appx "C".

PART II - 'G'

3. EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS.

(a) Army less P.C.R.

"MOETA" DIV.

(1) 5 Regt: The Regt. H.Q. plus a Bn and Regt Support Coy located at TRAPANI.

They are accommodated in the modern type of Italian Army barracks which were left uncompleted in 1942. Construction is now being continued.

Included in these works is the construction of a large canteen, theatre and reading

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and writing rooms.

Standard of interior economy is good.

The Bn is employed on Guard duties and Internal Security.

The other Bn of the Regt is located at PALERMO also employed on Guard Duties and Internal Security. Individual and specialist training is carried out regularly.

General opinion of Regt. - Satisfactory.

(ii)

6 Regt. The Regt. H.Q. plus a Bn and Regt. Support Coy is located at PALERMO.

Other Bn located at MESSINA.

Whole Regt. employed on Guard and Internal Security.

The Regt H.Q. and Bn at PALERMO was visited towards the end of the month.

This Regt. under the very able and efficient command of Col. WILLAZZO has made progress that is an example to all other units in the Territorial COMMAND.

A Coy of volunteer recruits with less than a month's service was seen marching into barracks and the standard of marching and discipline was up to that of a GOOD British Coy.

With practically no money Col. WILLAZZO has achieved wonders in constructional and renovation work in the barracks.

He has not employed either Engineers or civil labour for these works.

Everything has been done by the men of his Regt. during their recreational hours.

They have constructed

(i) A theatre.

(ii) A canteen.

(iii) An Officers Mess and Bar.

(iv) A Sgts Mess.

(v) Extensive flower gardens in the barracks.

(vi) Vegetable gardens.

The men are now building a chapel out of stone.

Whole Regt. employed on Guard and Internal Security.

The Regt H.Q. and Bn at PALMIRI was visited towards the end of the month.

This Regt. under the very able and efficient command of Col. MIAZZO has made progress that is an example to all other units in the Territorial COMMAND.

A Coy of volunteer recruits with less than a months service was seen marching into barracks and the standard of marching and discipline was up to that of a GOOD British Coy.

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Everything has been done by the men of his Regt. during their recreational hours. They have constructed

(i) A theatre.

(ii) A canteen.

(iii) An Officers Mess and Bar.

(iv) A Serge Mess.

(v) Extensive flower gardens in the barracks.

(vi) Vegetable gardens.

The men are now building a chapel out of stone rock found in the environment 30%, completion stage has been reached.

The discipline and moral of this Regt is far higher than any other on the Island.

(111)

129 Inf Regt: Complete Regt located in Barracks at PALMIRI. Employed on Guard Duties and Internal Security.

Condition of Regt was satisfactory when it was visited in March 46 but has not been visited again since.

- 3 -

(iv)

142 Inf Regt: Regt H.Q. 1 Bn Regt. Support Coy and one troop (4 guns) of artillery located at AGRICULTO. The other Bn plus 1 troop Artillery is at PALERMO. Regt employed on Guard Duties and Internal Security.

The Barracks at AGRICULTO are in a bad state of repair and renovation works are going very slowly owing to lack of funds. Interior economy was however good and the troops are reasonably comfortable. Specialist and individual training is being carried out including range practices with M.Gs, B1 ms. Mortars and rifles.

Commander Col. BARRILE is a capable and intelligent officer and his Regt is satisfactory.

(v)

"SARAUDE" DIV.

45 Inf Regt CATANIA

46 Inf Regt MESSINA

16 Inf Regt SIRACUSA

) All employed on
(Internal Security
) and Guard Duties.
) Not visited
(during month.

(vi)

149 Regt: Regt H.Q. 1 Bn and Regt. Support Coy located at CALTANISSETTA.
2 Coys/II Bn at RAGUSA and 1 Coy/II Bn at IERLA. Employed on Guard Duties and Internal Security.

Regt was visited by R.F.S. during his visit to 11 B.L.D. who appeared to be satisfied with the standard of training and efficiency displayed.

4. TRAINING.

(a)

ARMY LESS CO. PR.

C. L. E.

(a)

Primary Training period finished on 28. Apr. 46. and 1321 recruits have been posted to other units for training.

Commander Col. BARRIA is a capable and intelligent officer and his Regt is satisfactory.

(v)

"SABUDA" Div.

45 Inf Regt CATANIA) All employed on
46 Inf Regt MASSINA (Internal Security
46 Inf Regt STRACUSA) and Guard Duties.
Not visited
(during month.

(vi)

143 Regt: Regt H.Q. 1 Bn and Regt.
Support Coy located at CALTANISSETTA.
2 Coys/II Bn at RAGUSA and 1 Coy/II Bn
at ENNA. Employed on Guard Duties and
Internal Security.
Regt was visited by D.G.S. during his
visit to 11 S.I.M. who appeared to be
satisfied with the standard of training
and efficiency displayed.

4. TRAINING.

(a)

Army less CG.SB.

C.A.B.

(a)

Primary Training period finished on 28. Apr. 46.
and 1321 recruits have been posted to other
arms for specialist training.
For this purpose a selection board was held at
the C.A.B. with reps. from Arty., Engrs., Sigs.,
V/T, Med. and Inf.
The advanced training period for the remaining
recruits (numbering 2316) commenced immediately
on the 29. Apr.

(b)

The standard of instruction during this first
period was not good. Lessons were not well
prepared or thought out and the instructors
subsequently lacked confidence.
Much of this failing is attributed to Col. LONGO
the Commandant who is not a disciplinarian and
lacks drive.

General de Castiglioni is not satisfied with Col. LONGO's work and is getting him replaced. It is hoped that improvements will be seen during the next training period.

(c)

Accommodation.

- (1) Barrack block No. 6 should be completed by 14 May which will accommodate two of the six Coys at present living in 139 Regt Barracks. The remaining barrack accommodation is scheduled for completion within 4 weeks which will take the remaining four Coys at 139 Regt

(11)

Married Quarters Permanent Staff:

12 married officers and 48 married N.C.Os are still obliged to find their own accommodation in the town. Some have not even been able to find rooms and subsequently are unable to have their families in PALERMO. Those who have found rooms are having to pay for them which an Italian Army pay is a great drain on their income. It is suggested that the problem of accommodating these married families is discussed with the Ministry of War with a view to either vesting in the Italian Army a limited power of requisition for this purpose or instituting a system of compulsory billeting by civilians.

ACTION
(letter following)

Feeding:

Cookhouse for 2000 men complete and serving whole of C.A.P. (less officers) at present. Other cookhouse for 2000 men will not be complete before middle of June.

Sets, mess and cookhouse will be complete by 20 May.

(e)

Storerooms: Work on constructing central ration store has not been started yet. Food stored at present in completed half of mess dining room.

are still obliged to find their own accommodation in the town. Some have not even been able to find rooms and subsequently are unable to have their families in PALESTINE. Those who have found rooms are having to pay for them which on Italian Army pay is a great drain on their income.

It is suggested that the problem of accommodating these married families is discussed with the Ministry of War with a view to either vesting in the Italian Army a limited power of requisition for this purpose or instituting a system of compulsory billeting by civilians.

ACTION (Letter following)

(d) Measings:

Cookhouse for 2000 men complete and serving whole of C.A.F. (less officers) at present. Other cookhouse for 2000 men will not be complete before middle of June.

Sgts. mess and cookhouse will be complete by 20 May.

(e)

Storerooms: Work on constructing central ration store has not been started yet. Food stored at present in completed half of mess dining room. Neither has work commenced on construction of an Armoury.

(f)

Welfare:

(i) Canteen: A small canteen has been functioning all the time and the main canteen as planned will be completed on 20 May.

(ii)

Band: The 6 Regt band has played at the C.A.F. on one occasion following a suggestion put forward by the J.G.S. during his visit. It is now planned to have the band at least

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once a week at the C.A.R.

- (xii) shows: Are trying to get open air cinema shows, too many other works in progress at present to construct a unit theatre.

(x) British weapons:

- (i) 4100 rifles received.
- (ii) Many rifles arrived without bayonets and a certain number of bayonets without scabbards. 1/T VII 2* mortars have arrived without sights.
- A full report on these deficiencies is awaited by this office from the C.A.R.

5. INTELLIGENCE

- (a) Reported by "Y" branch of 11 Terr. H.Q. that:
- (i) There has been a large influx of unauthorised foreign elements into SICILY during April.
- (ii) They are mainly of SLAV nationality.
- (iii) They are here to organise and stir up the Communist Party.
- (iv) They are difficult to track down since they consist of a number of very clever agents who do not even know each other and do not reside at registered hotels but in private houses.
- (v) The fishermen on the south coast of SICILY have reported as having seen a small number of very small submarines off the coast.
- If there is any foundation in this report these submarines might be the means whereby foreign elements are gaining easy access to the island. So far no person other than the fishermen have reported seeing these submarines.

- (b) Frontier Activity see last para.

- (c) Relations between the and republics.

(a) Reported by "I" branch of IT Terr. H.Q. that:

- (i) There has been a large influx of unauthorised foreign elements into Sicily during April.
- (ii) They are mainly of Slav nationality.
- (iii) They are here to organise and stir up the Communist Party.
- (iv) They are difficult to track down since they consist of a number of very clever agents who do not even know each other and do not reside at registered hotels but in private houses.
- (v) The fishermen on the north coast of Sicily have reported no having seen a small number of very small submarines off the coast.
If there is any foundation in this report these submarines might be the means whereby foreign elements are gaining easy access to the Island.
So far no person other than the fishermen have reported seeing these submarines.

(b) Frontier Activity see last para.

(c) Relations between tps and populace.

Good.

(d) Political current among tps:

(i) No strong political feeling or activities ⁽¹¹⁶⁾tps.

(ii) Fronte della Gioventù Repubblicana:
(Republican Youth Front)

This party is made up of Communists, Socialists, Actionists and Republicans (i.e. Leftists) but with Communist leaders.
Its political aims are vague but its direct work is that of putting out propaganda to the troops with a view to gaining their sympathy and setting them against their officers.

their paper propaganda consists solely of one card which is given to the troops and expresses three points:

- The strength of the Army should be decreased.
- Soldiers allowances should be increased.
- That jobs should be guaranteed to soldiers on demobilization.

The troops are also invited to dances, fiestas, etc. by this party.

The activities of this party would seem innocuous but it is thought that their underlying motive is probably a design of the Communists to gain the sympathy of the troops so that they will refuse to act if they called out to quell a Communist insurrection.

(e) Political general: The latest political situation as reported by 'I' branch CC.RP. is as follows:

(1) Autonomists:

The "Movement for the Autonomy of Sicily", formed in MESSINA Sep 45 can be considered as a branch of the M.I.S. (Movimento Indipendenza Siciliana). Its aim is to obtain the immediate autonomy of Sicily. It is financed by the party members (about 400) with voluntary contributions leaders and active members are:

AVARNO Carlo Duke of SCIRACIO (MESSINA)

Regional President

Doctor DEODORO Antonio (PALERMO)

Vice President

Doctor DE SIMONE Leopoldo (PALERMO)

Administrative Secretary

DE VILAGNUA Pietro from PALERMO

Count TAGLIAVIA Salvatore - PALERMO

Propaganda is put out by means of wall posters and leaflets.

(11) Sicilian Federalist Movement:

Does not seem to be a federalist movement in Sicily.

(111) National Liberation Party (C.N.L. - Corpo Liberazione Nazionale).

was first mentioned in PALERMO on June 44 with the

(e) Political General: The latest political situation as reported by 'I' branch CC.PP. is as follows:

(1) Autonomists:

The "Movement for The Autonomy of Sicily", formed in MESSINA Sep. 15 can be considered as a branch of the M.I.S. (Movimento Indipendenza Siciliana). Its aim is to obtain the immediate autonomy of Sicily. It is financed by the party members (about 40%) with voluntary contributions leaders and active members are:

AVARO Carlo Duke of SOLANO (MESSINA)

Doctor PUGNARO Antonio (PALERMO) Regional President

Doctor DE SIMONE Leopoldo (PALERMO) Vice President

Administrative Secretary

BEVILACQUA Pietro from PALERMO

Count TAGLIATTA Salvatore - PALERMO

Propaganda is put out by means of wall posters and leaflets.

(ii) Sicilian Federalist Movement:

Does not seem to be a federalist movement in Sicily.

(iii) National Liberation Party (C.N.L. - Corpo Liberazione Nazionale).

A. The C.N.L. started in PALERMO on June 44 with the object of fighting the last Nazi-Fascist elements, and to help the liberation of that part of Italy still occupied by the Germans. 2959

B. Party formed by the representatives of six political parties that are in the government viz:

Actionist Party: PURPURA Vincenzo - lawyer

Liberal Party: LO MONTE Giovanni - lawyer

Christian Democrat Party: Doctor COSTINI Pasquale

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Labour Party: CRACOLICI Francesco - lawyer
 Communist Party: Doctor LICUSI Girolamo
 Socialist Party: Prof. DRAGO Giuseppe.

C. Little importance is attached to the C.L.N. either by the poplance or the above political parties. Rather than a progressive political party it is more of a safety valve used to settle differences between the various parties.

(iv) Monarchy:

A. The only 100% Monarchist party is that of the Italian Democrats.

Strong monarchist sentiments are also found in the 'central', 'right' and 'extreme right' parties viz - Christian Democrat party - Liberal - Labour Democrat - 'Uomo Qualunque' and numerous undefined political movements.

B. Leaders and most active members:

LEONE MARCHESANO Tommaso - lawyer,
 Prince LANZA Calogero Stefano Mirto,
 Prof. LO GIUDICE Domenico.
 SANTERNA Beatrice - Duchess of Arenella,
 VALCUABERA Benedetto - Duke of Arenella,
 TONELLI Mario - General of Corpo d'Armata,
 ROMASSI Giuseppe - lawyer,
 CASTELLI - General released from Army.
 ALESSI Emanuele - lawyer,
 Doctor TROINA Alfredo,
 LANZA Vincenzo.

C. Undoubtedly a certain part of the M.I.S., lead by Prince TAICA Lucio, has monarchist ideas, but it cannot be said that it is "for the King". On the contrary the major part of the movement is in favour of a republic.

D. Indirect propaganda activity in form of wall posters,

Strong monarchist sentiments are also found in the 'central', 'right' and 'extreme right' parties viz - Christian Democrat party - Liberal - Labour Democrat - Uomo Qualunque' and numerous undefined political movements.

B. Leaders and most active members:

LEONE VARCHESIMO Tommaso - Lawyer.
 Prince LANZA Calogero Stefano Ninto.
 Prof. IO GIUDICE Domenico.
 MANTERNA Beatrice - Duchess of Arenella.
 VAQUAETTERA Benvenuto - Duke of Arenella.
 TONITIL Mario - General of Corps d'Armata.
 MONASSI Giuseppe - lawyer.
 MARTINEZ - General released from Army.
 ALESSI Emanuele - lawyer.
 Doctor THOIFA Alfredo.
 LANZA Vincenzo.

C. Undoubtedly a certain part of the E.I.S., lead by Prince GASCA Lucio, has monarchist ideas, but it cannot be said that it is "for the King". On the contrary the major part of the movement is in favour of a republic.

D. Increased propaganda activity in form of wall posters, leaflets, meetings etc.

E. The monarchist parties and movements are in possession of large funds granted voluntarily by members and by the keener followers, who are nearly all rich land-owners and industrialists.

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(v) E.V.E.S. (Fondite):

This organization is now extinct.

(vi) L'Uomo Qualunque and Opposition Front.

A. 1400 copies of the newspaper "Uomo Qualunque" are

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issued weekly in SICILY and distributed as follows:

PALERMO : 4000
CATANIA : 3000

Other Provinces: 1000 each province.

The newspaper is very popular and all copies are usually sold.

B. The Uomo Qualunque party evidently expresses monarchist sympathies in order not to prejudice its members.

C. Leaders and active members are:

- Sgarbi, VIOLA Antonio - Palermo
- RUSSO GIUSEPPE - Palermo
- RUSSO GIUSEPPE
- Student FRANCO Nicola
- RUSSO GIUSEPPE da Giardini (Messina).

D. Propaganda is all organized from central office in ROME.

(vii) SEPARATISTS:

A. There is no longer a movement called "Separatists". They now come under the name of U.I.S. (Movimento Indipendenza Siciliana). The U.I.S. movement wishes to have an extensive political and administrative independence from ITALY i.e. to form a Sicilian State to be confederate with the mainland. The object of Independence is to have only Sicilians to administer to SICILY in order that the island is not exploited by the North of Italy.

B. Movement financed by its very numerous followers and sympathizers.

The possibility of other nations with future interests in the Mediterranean financing the movement cannot be excluded.

No proof of this is held.

C. Leaders and active members:

- TINOCCHIO ANDREA - lawyer.
- RUSSO GIUSEPPE - lawyer.

U. Propaganda is all organized from central office in Rome.

(via) SEPARATISTS:

A. There is no longer a movement called "Separatist". They now come under the name of M.I.S. (Movimento Indipendenza Siciliana). The M.I.S. movement wishes to have an extensive political and administrative independence from Italy i.e. to form a Sicilian State to be confederate with the mainland. The object of independence is to have only Sicilians to administer to Sicily in order that the island is not exploited by the North of Italy.

B. Movement financed by its very numerous followers and sympathizers.

The possibility of other nations with future interests in the Mediterranean financing the movement cannot be excluded.

No proof of this is held.

C. Leaders and active members:

- FINOCCHIARO APPIRE Andres - lawyer.
- DESTUCCIA Francesco - lawyer.
- VANTARO Antonio - lawyer.
- BRUNO di Belmonte Giuseppe - lawyer.
- Prince Lucio TASSA.
- DI CARACCI Guglielmo.
- DE MARTINO Raffaele - lawyer.
- ROSSI Silvio - lawyer.
- Baron CATALANO - Cefalù.
- Baron MONTA Stefano.
- BATTIATO Concetto - reporter.
- VILLASERVAGLIO Pietro - lawyer.
- TURCO Natale - Student, Catania.
- TASSA Giuseppe.
- CARACCI Gastano.

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D. All means of propaganda used: News papers, placards, meetings etc.
 Movement is very popular in SICILY since the people feel deeply the need for an extensive autonomy - NOT Separatism or Independence.

(viii) - I Branch in Mil. Terr. H.Q. reports that:

A. Communist Party: Is planning a very big demonstration to occur in the near future.
 Probably be of a violent nature and its numbers supplemented by the new foreign elements who have arrived in SICILY (see para 5 above).
 It is thought that this move on the part of the Communists in Sicily is being coordinated simultaneously with an International Communist move.
 Date of commencement of these activities may be 10 May 46.
 Quite definite that the Communist Party is not popular in SICILY and that local Communism would be ineffective. However it is organized and excited by foreign elements.

H. Fascist Movement: Is an anti-Communist organization composed of young fanatics of the late Fascist Regime. Their policy now however is anti-dictator and monarchist with a wish to vest as much power as possible in the government.
 They still support many of the old Fascist social and economical doctrines.
 In PALERMO they are about 2000 strong.

PART III - 'A'

6. DOMESTIC.

(a) Deficiencies in all ranks against M.E.

Officers - C.S.O. II.
 - Training Major.
 - CC.M. P.O.
 C.R. - Dvr. M/T.

(b) Leave.

(c) Leave. - all ranks on leave and when due

an International Communist move,

Date of commencement of these activities may be 10 May 46. Quite definite that the Communist Party is not popular in SICILY and that local Communism would be ineffective. However it is organized and excited by foreign elements.

B. Fascist Movements Is an anti-Communist organization composed of young fanatics of the late Fascist Regime. Their policy now however is anti-dictator and monarchist with a wish to vest as much power as possible in the government. They still support many of the old Fascist social and economical doctrines. In PALERMO they are about 3000 strong.

PAGE III - 'A'

6. DOMESTIC.

(a)

Deficiencies in all ranks against M.E.

Officers - G.S.C. II.

- Training Major.

- CC.RI. I.O.

O.Ps - Dir. M/T.

(b)

Leave.

(1)

Details of all ranks on leave and when due to return within M.E.

Rfm DEANES P., D.I.R., I.T.A.P. Approx return 20 June 46.

(2)

Details of all ranks due for leave in immediate future

18774 T/Major S.E. SNEZUM M.C. The Suffolk Regt. Due for P.T.T.H.O.V. in May 46.

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7. ITALIAN.

Deficiencies in Total Strengths and in Tradesmen and Specialists against V.E.

All tanks - 10%.

PART XX - 'D'

8. DOMESTIC.

(a) Transport.

11 H.I.U. vehicle holdings attached at appx 'D'.

9. ITALIAN.

(a)

Transport. Capt. F.A. Murray R.A.S.C. during his recent visit to 11 H.I.U. visited the tot Coys at CATANIA and PALERMO. He found that considerable improvements had been made since the last inspections made by Major S.E. SYMONDS. The British system of maintenance and inspections is now being universally employed. Capt. Murray was able to correct small errors which were making in the employment of the system and it is now progressing reasonably well.

(b)

R.A.S.C.

Nothing to report.

(c)

Clothing and Equipment.

ARMY LEAS CC. 22.

Attached at appx. 'E' is list of British Sqd. and cleaning material assigned by S.N.R.M. and received at C.A.R.

(d)

R.A.S.C.

Nothing to report.

(a) Transport. Capt. F.A. Murray R.A.S.C. during his weeks visit to 11 B.I.H. visited the 1st Coy at CATANIA and PABUNGO. He found that considerable improvements had been made since the last inspections made by Major S.W. SMITHSON. The British system of maintenance and inspections is now being universally employed. Capt. Murray was able to correct small errors units were making in the employment of the system and it is now progressing reasonably well.

(b) R.E.A.B.

Nothing to report.

(c) Clothing and Equipment.

Army less C.C.R.

Attached at APPX. 'D' is list of British Euph. and cleaning material assigned by S.W.R.L. and received at C.A.R.

(d) P.C.I.

Nothing to report.

(e) Supply.
(i)

Capt. F.A. MURRAY inspected food depots in 11 Terr. Command during his visit. Serious trouble is being caused by rats who are consuming a considerable amount of ²⁹⁵ rations in certain depots. Previously the Commissariat employed trained ratting dogs which were actually held on the W.I. These dogs are evidently no longer obtainable and the Commissariat suggest that an effort be made to train an adequate number of dogs to combat the very serious threat to rations in food stores.

SFB/ST
C.R.J.

Murray
S.E. SMITHSON,
Major,
T.A.A. & C.M.G.

BRITISH EQPT. AND CLEANING MATERIALS RECEIVED AT 11 C.A.R.

Serial No.	Items assigned by S.M.R.E.	Items despatched according to Clothing and Eqp't Depot Brattammore	Items received 11 C.A.R.
1	BELTS 4400	BELTS 4400	BELTS 4270
2	SHOULDER STRAPS LEFT H. SIDE 4400		
3	SHOULDER STRAPS RIGHT H. SIDE 4400		
4	HAVERSACK 4400		
5	BRACES LEFT H. 4400		
6	BRACES RIGHT 4400		
7	CARRIER WATER BOTTLE 4400		
8	WATER BOTTLE 4400		
9	POUCHES RIFLE 8000		
10	POUCHES PISTOL 91		
11	CASES PISTOL 91		
12	CASES BAYONET 4180		
13		FLANNETT YARDS 3456	2880
14		BAYONET PROGS 4180	4196
15		POUCHES BELT 8200	7990
16		BIPER OIL 80 PINTS	80

Appx 'E' to 11 B.I.U.
 Progress Report No. 10
 Dated May 46.

ELISH HOPT. AND CLEANING MATERIALS RECEIVED AT 11 C.A.E.

No.	Items despatched according to Clothing and Hopt Depot Pratermore		Items received 11 C.A.E.		Surplus	Deficiencies
400	BELTS	4400	BELTS	4270		130
400		4400		4208		192
400		4400		4106		294
400		4400		4267		113
400		4400		3840		560
400		4400		3918		482
400		4400		4282		118
400		4400		4400		-
400		800		800	-	-
401		91		91	-	8000
401		91		91	-	-
401		91		91	-	-
401		-		-	-	-
401	FLANNEL YARDS	3456		2880		4180
401	DAYDRA FROGS	4180		4196	16	516 YARDS
401	POUCHES PRAT	8200		7990	-	-
401	RIFLE OIL 80 PINTS			80	-	210
401					-	-

Visited also Unit 9th-16th Apr. 46.

2. Italian - Nil.Pt. II - up1. ORGANIZATION. a. Domestic. - Nothing to report.b. Italian. - Nothing to report.2. EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS

a. Army less CC.HH.. Some Regts still "split-up" with Inf. Coys etc. 100's of miles away from each other. The whole question of distribution of forces is being "looked-into", and a further report will be made later.

b. CC.HH.. - Nothing to report.3. TRAINING. a. Army less CC.HH.. (i) The standard of training in most Units is steadily improving.

Both the 135th & 145th Regts now have very good sand-tables and miniature-ranges.

(ii) C.A.A.. Now up to full strength, and, for the short time the recruits have been here, they appear to be getting along very well.

The C.A.A. now has three good training-grounds, and daily Basic-training is in progress.

Instructors in many cases used to be completely "foxed" in the use and handling of British arms etc., and in spite of being shown the correct methods many times, continue to "struggle" using the very dusty, dirty ground as a table.

4. INTERNAL SECURITY. (i) General situation all over Sicily 12953 quieter.

(ii) There have been a few credit-attacks around the MONTICELLI & TACCHINO areas. Some CC.HH. have been wounded.

Pt. III - up

Nothing to report.

Pt. IV - up

Nothing to report.

W. J. Hunter
W. J. Hunter, Major
S.O. II.,
11 S.O. II.

WJH/EP

I 9451

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

Ref/C/3.

31 March 1946.

Subject :- Fortnightly Progress Report No. B.L.U., II Net. 46.

To :- H.Q. B.L.U.I.,
C.M.F.

Pl. I - GENERAL

1. Domestic (B.L.U.)

Staff list, Location Statement 11 B.L.U., and M.P. Return are attached.

2. Italian

Staff list (Lt.Cols. & above) and Location Statement are attached.

Pl. II - COM

1. ORGANIZATION

- a. Domestic - Nothing to report.
- b. Italian - Nothing to report.

2. EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS

a. Army less CC.MR. - Guards at all vulnerable points still remain doubled due to recent strikes and other small disturbances.

b. CC.MR. - Mobile Bn. now being formed with 100 CC.MR. from Rome and 100 from Messina.

3. TRAINING. 1. Army less CC.MR. a. Training is continuing steadily in all Units. Numerous Units have been visited since our last report, including 5th, 139th, 5th, 46th and 145th Infantry Regts. They are all carrying on with their training programme. The 145th Regt. at CALTANISSETTA are extremely well organized for all types of training - including having a good miniature-venue. The Commanding Officer -

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RECEIVED
31 March 1946.

(12)

3. Italian

Staff List (Lt. Col. & above) and Location Statement are attached.

PL. 17 03

1. ORGANIZATION

- a. Domestic - Nothing to report.
- b. Italian - Nothing to report.

2. REPORTS OF TROOPS

- a. Army less CC, RE. - Guards at all vulnerable points until remain doubled due to recent strikes and other small disturbances.

- b. CC, RE. - Mobile Bn. now being formed with 100 CC, RE. from Rome and 100 from Cassino.

3. TRAINING. 1. Army less CC, RE. a. Training is continuing steadily in all units. Numerous units have been visited since our last report, including 6th, 139th, 5th, 15th and 145th Infantry Regts. They are all carrying on with their training programs. The 145th Regt. at Cassino is extremely well organized for all types of training - including having a good miniature-range. The Commanding Officer - Col. TAMBURO has done a very good job in the organization of training in this unit.

b. C.A.S. (1) The C.A.S. duly opened on the 15th March - up to date about half the number of recruits have arrived. Some have been accommodated at the C.A.S., and the others at another barracks nearby.

(2) As yet only limited amount of training has been started, as it has taken a few days to get recruits through all the various preliminaries.

6/4/43

12th 6.4.

Page 2.

(iii) The Adjutant/Major Lt. Col. STUBBS proved himself to be useless and we have had him removed and replaced by a younger, more efficient officer - Major GALLIO.

(iv) British weapons have arrived and will be issued during the first week in April.

(v) British equipment has not yet arrived.

(vi) No fire-precautions had been taken at the U.A.H. - this has now been arranged and supplies are being obtained with the help of the American Navy.

(vii) The old question of shaving came-up once more. At first the Territorial H.Q. decided to issue 1 razor and 2 blades to each Recruit and 1 shaving brush between each 4.

(viii) However after long discussions we agreed to the Terr. H.Q., now unhygienic this latter idea was and it was agreed to supply each man with his own shaving-brush. A sum of 30,000 Lira was spent on the buying of shaving equipment.

(ix) The Territorial Commander is not over-pleased with the commandant of the C.I.R. I am inclined to agree with him. We are going to observe this officer during the next month and a report to this effect will be made in due course.

(x) Showers are not yet complete and a Mobile Bath Unit is still being used.

(xi) Both kitchens are working now.

(xii) It is not thought that the Barracks and all the other essentials - assault course, sports ground etc. will be complete before the beginning of June.

2. C.I.R. - still unable to do much in the way of training due to lack of equipment etc.

4. INTENTION

a. POLITICAL

(i) General. The general political situation is a little quieter at present and on the whole, up to now, there have only been minor demonstrations in some villages, during the present elections.

at first the Territorial U.S. decided to issue 1 razor and 2 blades to each recruit and 1 shaving brush between each 4.

(viii) However after long discussions we proved to the Terr. U.S., how unhygienic this latter idea was and it was agreed to supply each man with his own shaving-brush. A sum of 30,000 Lire was spent on the buying of shaving equipment.

(ix) The Territorial Commander is not over-pleased with the commandant of the C.I.A. I am inclined to agree with him. He are going to observe this officer during the next month and a report to this effect will be made in due course.

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(xii) It is not thought that the barracks and all the other essentials - assault course, sports ground etc. will be complete before the beginning of June.

2. C.I.A. - still unable to do much in the way of training due to lack of equipment etc.

4. INTELLIGENCE

a. POLITICAL

(i) General. The general political situation is a little quieter at present and on the whole, up to now, there have only been minor demonstrations in some villages, during the present elections.

There is still however, much evidence of unrest amongst the people especially owing to the very high cost of living in Sicily and to the lowness of wages.

It is rumored that there will be another general strike very shortly.

There are still some minor shooting-incidents taking place. Four out of 5 C.I.A. were killed, when ambushed by 2 Bandits with a Machine Gun early this week - another was killed at PARTINICO whilst making out of his house.

These incidents are occurring daily and they are all helping to give the Sicilian people a bad feeling of unrest.

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Page 3.

(ii) Separatist Party

as reported on 27 Apr. PIERLUIGI ALFIERI chief of the Separatist Movement (recently released from GAGLI) arrived back in Palermo.

A small demonstration was staged by some 5000 supporters, wearing separatist-vests and carrying bouquets made of red and yellow flowers (separatist colours). Several separatist flags were also seen.

A number of propaganda sheets (copies attached) were also thrown about.

Pierluigi Alfieri, also broadcast on the Radio, expressed his intention of carrying on his "struggle".

(iii) Communist Party still increasing in numbers. It is thought that they were responsible for the recent strikes in Palermo and Messina.

(iv) Fascist Party continues to hold small meetings in Catania and Palermo.

(v) Socialist Republican Party - This is now comprised of both socialists and some communists.

(vi) Republican Party ^{containing} under the ideals of the late MAZZINI.

(vii) Democratic Christian Party - still increasing in its numbers and are continuing their activities and propaganda against communists.

(viii) A.V.I. - Much quieter. It is thought that only the Bandits remain as members of this Army.

(ix) Banda GIULIANO. - Expected to disappear any time now. It was reported that the mother and sister of GIULIANO were arrested. - Report unconfirmed.

(x) Local Government. - Local population now speculating as to who will be the next High Commissioner. Messore GIULIA and LA LOGGIA are the present "favourites".

(xi) Economics. Prices about the same. Plenty of food available on the Black-Market - prices being as high as ever.

(xii) Public security - about the same.

(xiii) Morale - improving.

(xiv)

in Palermo and Messina.

- (iv) Fascist Party continues to hold small meetings in Catania and Palermo.
- (v) Socialist Republican Party - This is now comprised of both socialists and some communists.
- (vi) Republican Party ^{continuing} under the leadership of the late MASARU.

(vii) Democratic Christian Party - Still increasing in its numbers and are continuing their activities and propaganda against communism.

(viii) S.V.I.S. - Such quietest. It is thought that only the Bandits remain as members of this army.

(ix) Banda GIULIANO. - Expected to disappear any time now. It was reported that the mother and sister of GIULIANO were arrested. - Report unconfirmed.

(x) Local Government. - Local population now speculating as to who will be the next High Commissioner. Reports GIULIA and LA LOGGIA are the present "favourites".

(xi) Economics. Prices about the same. Plenty of food available on the Black-Market - prices being as high as ever.

(xii) Public security - about the same.

(xiii) Moral - improving.

(xiv) Military security - Good.

Pt. III

a. Domestic. (i) Staff. Now up to full strength.

2950

(ii) Investment. Position now simplified, due to Command Paymaster "playing" and letting us have a 500,000 Lire deposit in the Bank of Sicily.

(iii) Leave. O.L.'s are keen to have leave on the mainland e.g. at Rome, Milan, Genoa etc.

We are endeavouring to make arrangements with other B.L.U.'s to this end.

b. Italian. Nothing to report.

Page 4.

Pt. IV

1. Domestic. - Nothing to report.
2. Italian : Transport.

(A) R.R.E.R.

(i) Inspections and Maintenance - The British system of routine inspections and the maintaining of inspection charts has now been put into operation by the Repair Unit at PALERMO.

This system cannot be expected to work with 100% efficiency under the present organization of workshops whereby the only two repair units for servicing the whole island are located at PALERMO and MESSINA. However M.F.I.A. letter on this matter to the Ministry of War has been noted (MR/21 dated 21 Mar. refers).

Repair system is still not being employed. Since the Director of Repairs seems to be incapable of devising a temporary system of fully tasks the commencement of this system depends upon the arrival of husband's "Inspection of Mechanical Vehicles (wheeled)". The despatch of these publications requires expediting.

ACTION

Para (3) Addi-
tional notes our
27/10 dated 25
Mar. refers.

(ii) It is thought that more control and supervision of transport units should be exercised by senior and staff officers.

The latter are capable of giving orders but they do not realize the importance of making a detailed inspection to see that they are being carried out. This failing would apply generally to all arms.

(iii) Tyres - One rpt. unit report that the system of repairing tyres by means of nuts and bolts is unsatisfactory since in the event of a puncture the head of the bolt on the inside of the cover frequently rips the inner tube. This unit now repair tyres by sewing a piece of old tyre on the inside of the cover which method has evidently been proved more satisfactory.

letter on this matter to the Director of the Army (10/21 Detachment, War. Refers).

Daily system is still not being employed. Since the Director of Repairs seems to be incapable of devising a temporary system of daily tasks the commencement of this system depends upon the arrival of handbooks "Inspection of Mechanical Vehicles (wheeled)". The despatch of these publications requires expediting.

ACTION
Para (5) Additional notes our SF/10 dated 26 War. Refers.

(11) It is thought that more control and supervision of transport units should be exercised by senior and staff officers.

The latter are capable of giving orders but they do not realize the importance of making a detailed inspection to see that they are being carried out. This failing would apply generally to all areas.

(11i) Tyres - One 1st. unit report that the system of repairing tyres by means of nuts and bolts is unsatisfactory since in the event of a puncture the head of the bolt on the inside of the cover frequently rips the inner tube. This unit now repair tyres by sawing a piece of old tyre on the inside of the cover which method has evidently been proved more satisfactory.

It is suggested that S.I.S. be advised to question all Terr. Commands on this matter.

ACTION
para (1). Additional notes our SF/10 dated 26 War. Refers.

(12) E.A.C. Clothing and Equipment.

2943

(1) The following units were visited during course of the month:-

- 11 Clothing and Equipment Depot.
- 11 Salvage Depot.
- 11 Repair Shop.

(11) These three units are all accommodated in an ex-infantry barracks and work in close co-operation.

Salvaged clothing is first sorted out in the salvage depot and assigned into groups for the making of uniforms, underclothes

Page 5.

cooks, hats, boots etc. This material is then sent to the depot laundry located in the barracks.

The clean material is then passed on to 11 Repair shop.

shop.

11 Repair shop is organized as follows:-

(a) Officers general administration of depot.

(b) Cobbler's shop. Here any number up to 300 pairs of serviceable boots are turned out per month from salvage scraps, plus a percentage of new leather.

It also performs the more difficult repairs for all units in the Terr. Command.

(c) Sewing Shop I : Some 30 civilians are employed either remounting salvaged uniforms or making up new uniforms. They had received a consignment of new cloth from the Ministry of War which they have been making up into new uniforms at the rate of between 700 - 900 a month for universal distribution to the army.

This work has now been suspended and they are engaged on making uniforms from salvage material to provide the new recruits arriving at the C.A.R. with a second uniform.

(d) Sewing Shop II:- 20 civilians employed on making up shirts underclothing socks etc. from salvage material.

(iii) 11 Clothing and Equipment Depot

Efficiently run but space is inadequate. Terr. Command have been advised to either find other accommodation for 11 Salvage Depot, who occupy the floor above, or to move the clothing depot.

(iv) There has been a definite improvement in the clothing situation during this month. This has been stated by all units that were visited.

(c) Accommodation

(i) There is a great deal of outstanding engineer work with regard to domestic facilities in all units.

(ii) Many units are without baths, have poor cook-houses, bad latrines, barracks in bad state of repair - all owing to lack of engineer labour and material.

(iii) Grant of 2,000,000 Liro made by Ministry of War

and has already been used.

the Ministry of War which they had received a considerable amount of new cloth from uniforms at the rate of about 700 - 900 needed for each of the new recruits who are being sent to the army.

This work has now been suspended and new uniforms are being made from salvaged material. The new recruits are being sent to the army in a second uniform.

(iii) Clothing and Equipment Depot

Efficiently run but space is inadequate. Terr. Command have been advised to either find other accommodation for it or to move the clothing depot.

(iv) There has been a definite improvement in the clothing situation during this month. This has been noted by all units that were visited.

(c) Accommodation

(i) There is a great deal of outstanding engineering work with regard to general conditions in all units.

(ii) Many units are without baths, have poor cook-houses, bad latrines, barracks in bad state of repair - all owing to lack of engineer labour and material.

(iii) Grant of 2,000,000 Lira made by Ministry of War for these works was insufficient and has a ready spent. Subsequently even minor repairs costing only 100,000 Lira, demanded expenditure in excess of this grant, had to be authorized by the Ministry.

(iv) Further, the Ministry is unwilling to authorize expenditure on civilian owned property at present possessed by the Army.

This affects food stores and other stores which are essential for the army. The present condition of these stores is satisfactory but could be improved considerably with engineering assistance.

(v) It is suggested that this matter be reviewed by the Ministry of War as increasing the present grant of 2,000,000 Lira.

NOTES

Our P.M./C. dated
27 Mar. 46 refers.

Page 6.

(9) S. & T. :- (i) The following depots were inspected during the month:-

- 66 Food Distribution Depot (CALTANISSETTA)
- 65 Food Distribution Depot (CAPANIA)

(ii) The standard of efficiency of these depots was estimated to be good.

(iii) An Analysis Board was carried out at 65 Food Distribution Depot on 1 Mar.

(iv) 65 Distribution Depot has now taken over from 11 P.C.D. which has been closed down, and is dealing with both Bulk Supply and Distribution.

Nothing further to M.I.A. letter ST/100 dated 21 Feb. has been heard concerning the opening of a Distribution Depot at Messina.

W. J. Hunter.

W. J. HUNTER, Major
S.S.O. II.,
11 M.I.U.

RMH/SP

Distribution :- H.Q. M.I.A. (4) ✓
S.O. 10 M.I.U. (1)
File (2).

(iv) GS Distribution Depot has now taken over from 11 B.C.O. which has been closed down, and is dealing with both Bulk Supply and Distribution.

Nothing further to M.L.I. letter 23/180 dated 21 Feb. has been heard concerning the opening of a Distribution Depot at Messine.

RHH/ED

Distribution :- H.C. M.F.I.A. (4) ✓
H.C. 10 B.L.U. (1)
File (4).

W. J. Hunter
H.E. HUNTER, Major
H.S.O. II.,
11 B.L.U.

2947

Copy.

W FIOGGHIARO APRILE !

W L'INDIPENDENZA SICILIANA !

W FIOGGHIARO APRILE + VARVARO !
RESTUCCIA

La Sicilia ai Siciliani

LA SICILIA
AI SICILIANI

BRITISH MILITARY UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

Ref: PAM/4/1.

15 March 1946.

Subject: Fortnightly Progress Report No. 2, U.S. 15 March 46.

To: H.H. M.A.I.A.
C.M.P.

Pt. I - General

1. Domestic - Nothing to report.
2. Italian - Nothing to report.

Pt. II - News

1. Organisation - A. Domestic - Nothing to report.
B. Italian - Nothing to report.

2. Employment of troops - A. Army less C.I.R. - All troops of 5th 6th and 129th Regiments, and of the "Garibaldi" Regt. employed on patrol action within Palermo due to recent riot.
B. C.I.R. - All C.I.R. patrols reinforced due to recent uprising.

3. Training - A. Army less C.I.R. (1) Individual Unit Training continues in all Units.

(11) C.I.R. - Since last report C.I.R. has been visited daily. The marked improvement in the speed of the building-operations due to a complete halt on 11 March due to a General Strike amongst all workers.

The C.I.R. will not be ready on time. However alternative arrangements have been made to cope with the first intakes.

British weapons arriving on 20th March. These weapons will be kept in "cold-storage" pending receipt of the reply

Dick
8 (2)
A
2

2. Italian - Nothing to report.

pt. II "CO"

1. Organization - a. Domestic - Nothing to report.

b. Italian - Nothing to report.

2. Employment of troops - a. Army less CC.M. - all troops of 5th 6th and 139th Regiments, and of the "Garibaldi" Regt. employed on patrol duties within Palermo due to recent riots.

b. CC.M. - all CC.M. units reinforced due to recent uprisings.

3. Training - a. Army less CC.M. (i) Individual Unit Training continues in all units.

(ii) C.A.B. - since last report C.A.B. has been visited daily. The rapid improvement in the speed of the building-operations due to a complete halt on 11 March due to a General Strike amongst all workers.

The C.A.B. will not be ready on time. However alternative arrangements have been made to cope with the first intakes.

British weapons arriving on 20th March. These weapons will be kept in "cold-storage" pending receipt of the reply to my DAI/3/17 dated 12 March 46.

b. CC.M. - A certain amount of training 2845 carried out especially in the mounted section.

4. Intelligence

Local Government

(1) High Commissioner for Sicily ALPINO resigned on 12 March - according to his own story "to enable him to give all his time to his election campaign".

A Q 1421

18-3-46

Local opinion is that as he left early at the time of the greatest strike and riot Palermo has seen for some years; it was for the sake of his own skin that he resigned.

(ii) There was a three-day riot which commenced from 11th to 13th March, during which, the rioters, who are believed to have been aided by bandit-elements opened fire on the Police, killing one "Publison Alouren" (Communist).

Police and Troops returned the fire killing and injuring a number of the rioters. Total casualties 6 killed (including 5 rioters) 25 wounded (including 1 Italian Army officers).

The rioters burnt all the records, furniture etc. at the Tax Office and at the "Municipality".

Pt. III "A"

Nothing to report.

Pt. IV "A"

Nothing to report.

Mark Hunter

R. E. HUNTER, Major
G. S. O. XI.,
11 B. L. U.

RCH/AD

Police and troops returned the fire killing and injuring a number of the rioters. Total casualties 6 killed (including 5 rioters) 25 wounded (including 2 Italian army officers).

The rioters burnt all the records, furniture etc. at the tax-office and at the "prefecture".

Pt. III "A"

Nothing to report.

Pt. IV "A"

Nothing to report.

Mr. H. H. H.

A. Z. HECTOR, Major
G. S. C. II.,
14 B. L. H.

REN/SP

2944

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

Ref: PAL/G/3.

/ March 1946.

Subject :- Fortnightly Report No. 6. F.E. 28 Feb. 46.

To :- H.Q. M.M.I.A.,
Rome, C.M.F.

Pt. I - GENERAL

1. BRITISH

Staff List, Location Statement 11 B.L.U., and Br:
M.F. Return are attached.

2. ITALIAN

Staff List (Lt.Cols' & above) Location Statement
are attached.

Pt. II - "GEN"

1. ORGANIZATION

a. Domestic. - Nothing to report.

b. Italian. (i) the Territorial Command continues to
be commanded by Maj.Gen. M.L. de CASTIGLIONI, who is
extremely well liked by all his sub-ordinate commanders
and Troops.

(ii) It is hoped that M.M.I.A. will be
able to influence the Min. of War in the appointment of
Gen. de CASTIGLIONI as "Comandante Territoriale".

2. EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS

a. ARMY LESS CC.RR. (i) With the decrease in Bandit
operations and with the arrival of the GARIBOLDI Regt.,
most Units have now been returned from special Garrison

1. BRITISH

Staff List, Location Statement 11 B.L.U., and Br: M.T. Return are attached.

2. ITALIAN

Staff List (Lt.Cols' & above) Location Statement are attached.

Pt. II - "G"

1. ORGANIZATION

a. Domestic. - Nothing to report.

b. Italian. (i) The Territorial Command continues to be commanded by Maj.Gen. M.L. de CASTIGLIONI, who is extremely well liked by all his sub-ordinate commanders and Troops.

(ii) It is hoped that M.M.I.A. will be able to influence the Min. of War in the appointment of Gen. de CASTIGLIONI as "Comandante Territoriale".

2. EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS

a. Army Less CC.RR. (i) With the decrease in Bandit - operations and with the arrival of the GARIBOLDI Regt., most Units have now been returned from special Garrison duties.

(ii) Guards on Allied Installations are down to a minimum.

(iii) O.C. British Troops Sicily 2943 attempted to "pull a fast one" and take some Italian Troops for duty at a new Officers Hostel they have opened. This did NOT take place.

b. CC.RR. - Still required to deal with a number of small incidents with small parties of Bandits.

1.

A Q 451

Page 2.

3. TRAINING

a. Army Less CC.RR. (i) Training has now re-commenced in all Units, and the "Demonstration-Platoons" are being prepared, in case they should be needed to give demonstrations at the C.A.R.

(ii) At present, it is a difficult question to decide, whether the 46th or the 6th Regiment has the more efficient Demonstration-Platoon. However, we are certainly assured of a very good and very smart Platoon for this purpose.

(iii) The GARIBOLDI Regt. (which have been in SICILY for the past month) when not in action against Bandits, has been having a series of Field exercises some of which, have been attended by parties from some of the Units of the "ACOSTA" Division.

b. C.A.R. (i) Although there has been a slight improvement in the building-situation here, the C.A.R. is still well behind schedule.

(ii) The military Engineers engaged on this work are very slack, and are seldom seen "on the job" directing operations.

They are full of promises, none of which are ever fulfilled.

(iii) Each time the C.A.R. is visited so we find something else has been forgotten.

(iv) It appears quite obvious that the Military Engineers Col. VENTURI and Major SCIOZZARI have little interest in this assignment, and lack intelligence, and above all initiative in getting this job done.

(v) We have recommended the removal of the Engineers, to Comando Territoriale, but they seem loathe to change.

It is therefore requested, that the Min. of War please be asked to give instructions for the immediate removal of these two Officers from 11 Territorial Command. ACTION

(vi) British weapons have not yet arrived.

b. CC.RR. - Still impossible to carry out much training, due to:- (a) Constant calling out for operational duties. (b) Lack of in Instructional equipment.

some of which, have been attended by parties from some of the Units of the "ACST" Division.

A. C.A.R. (1) Although there has been a slight improvement in the building-situation here, the C.A.R. is still well behind schedule.

(ii) The military Engineers engaged on this work are very slack, and are seldom seen "on the job" directing operations.

They are full of promises, none of which are ever fulfilled.

(iii) Each time the C.A.R. is visited so we find something else has been forgotten.

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(v) We have recommended the removal of the Engineers, to Comando Territoriale, but they seem loathe to change.

It is therefore requested, that the Min. of War please be asked to give instructions for the immediate removal of these two Officers from the Territorial Command. ACTION

(vi) British weapons have not yet arrived.

b. CC.RR. - Still impossible to carry out much training, due to:- (a) Constant calling out for operational duties. (b) Lack of in instructional equipment.

4. INTELLIGENCE

a. POLITICAL

(i) General. The General Political situation is somewhat quieter at the moment, although as mentioned in my previous report, much trouble is expected when the elections are held.

(ii) Separatist Movement. - Still showing a substantial increase in numbers. This movement is still active in its activities by the "BANDA GIULIANO".

Throughout the past two weeks, about 600-700 suspected Bandits have been arrested.

./.

Capt. MAZZOLA of the E.V.I.S. Army has been arrested. This man was well known all over Sicily as a Bandit.

The number of casualties inflicted on CC.NN. and Army personnel, has decreased.

It is now reported that the battle-zone has moved from the Catania & Palermo areas, to a town called PRIMI in the centre of the Island.

(iii) Fascist Party.-- This movement although still in the early stages of the re-organization, has lately spread also to the Palermo area. There have been no large scale meetings.

(iv) Democratic Christian Party.-- Numbers still increasing.

b. Local Government.-- Nothing unusual to report.

c. Economics. (i) Prices are about the same. Little change in Black-Market prices.

d. Public Security.-- No change.

e. MORALE.-- About the same.

f. MILITARY SECURITY continues to be quite good.

Pt. III "A"

a. DOMESTIC. (i) Staff.-- We have now been promised another Cpl. by CCN, and have accordingly promoted our present one (who has greatly improved) to the rank of Cpl.

(ii) Imprest.-- Still continues to give us trouble, and I am still having to go "on bended knees" to the Director of the Bank of Sicily every time I want to pay my staff, due to the Command Pay Office not meeting our demands for cash on time.

(iii) Leave.-- All ranks due for leave. Arrangements being made for G.R.'s to start leave shortly.

b. ITALIAN.-- Deficiencies in total strengths expressed as per percentage of W.E. are as follows:-

AOSTA DIV.	1%
SABAUDA DIV.	9%
ADMIN. & SERVICE UNITS	19%

- b. Local Government.-- Nothing unusual to report.
- c. Economics. (i) Prices are about the same. Little change in Black-Market prices.
- d. Public Security.-- No change.
- e. MORALE.-- About the same.
- f. MILITARY SECURITY continues to be quite good.

Pt. III "A"

a. DOMESTIC. (i) Staff.-- We have now been promised another Cpl. by ODE, and have accordingly promoted our present one (who has greatly improved) to the rank of Cpl.

(ii) Imprest.-- Still continues to give us trouble, and I am still having to go "on bended knees" to the Director of the Bank of Sicily every time I want to pay my staff, due to the Command Pay Office not meeting our demands for cash on time.

(iii) Leave.-- All ranks due for leave. Arrangements being made for R.R.'s to start leave shortly.

b. ITALIAN.-- Deficiencies in total strengths expressed as per percentage of W.E. are as follows:--

AOSTA DIV.	1%
SABAUDA DIV.	9%
ADMIN. & SERVICE UNITS	13%
TOTAL AV. Deficiency.....	10%

Pt. IV "Q"

2941

a. Transport.-- Following an inspection of 11 Tpt. Coy. (this office letter PAL/ST/10 dated 19 Feb. 46 refers) the following points were brought out:--

(1) Vehicle Inspections :--

There exists no system of routine unit and workshop inspections. Present system is, that vehicles receive a complete overhaul in units once per week of which no record is kept.

./.

Page 4.

A.B.s 406 have only been received lately but their object does not appear to be well understood. The O/C did not appreciate that all 406's pertaining to the vehicles in his Coy should come into his office once a month for checking and signature.

The system of monthly workshop inspections is practically impossible for reasons stated in R.E.M.E para below.

However the British system of routine inspections was put up to the Directorate of Repairs who has subsequently decided to employ it so far as is possible, under existing workshop facilities, in units of 11 Terr. Comd.

(ii) Maintenance:-

Daily task system is not employed and they have no equivalent Italian system. They are not yet in possession of appropriate maintenance manuals but these have been requested. It is thought however, that practical instruction would be required before the system could be properly understood.

(iii) Recommendation:-

That a V & M course be run at Cesano which will cater to train sufficient instructors to form a school at Terr. H.Q. which could instruct personnel from all units.

ACTION
(PAL/Q/7 dated
23 Feb. refers)

b. R.E.M.E.

(i) The present vehicle holding comprising all units of 11 Terr. Comd. and CC.RR. is approximately 1000. The facilities for 2nd and 3rd line repair and servicing of these vehicles are:

11 Repair unit located at PALERMO
Artillery workshops located at MESSINA.

Since units are dispersed all over SICILY, some of them 150 miles or more away from other of these workshops. it is quite impracticable for them to utilise their own workshops and are obliged to depend on civilian facilities. Although two workshops might be able to cope with repair obligations under the existing arrangement of civil...

Daily task system in not employed and they have no equivalent Italian system. They are not yet in possession of appropriate maintenance manuals but these have been requested. It is thought however, that practical instruction would be required before the system could be properly understood.

(iii) Recommendation:-

That a V & M course be run at Cesano which will cater to train sufficient instructors to form a school at Terr. H.Q. which could instruct personnel from all units.

ACTION
(VAL/C/7 dated 23 Feb. refers)

b. R.E.M.E.

(i) The present vehicle holding comprising all units of 11 Terr. Comd. and CC.BR. is approximately 1000. The facilities for 2nd and 3rd line repair and servicing of these vehicles are:

11 Repair unit located at PALERMO
Artillery wkshps located at MESSINA.

Since units are dispersed all over SICILY, some of them 150 miles or more away from other of these wkshps. it is quite impracticable for them to utilize their own wkshps and are obliged to depend on civilian facilities.

Although two wkshps might be able to cope with repair obligations under the existing arrangement of civilian aid, they cannot possibly cope with the routine inspections of some 1000 vehicles.

It would appear that the only solution to this problem would be:

(a) To increase the V.E. of 11 Repair Unit and decentralise so that a detachment could be stationed at an intermediate point (say SIRACUSA) which could serve units at CATANIA and on the S.E. peninsula.

(b) Create a new wkshps to serve latter units.

(c) 11 Light wkshps (V.E. serial 17/SERS/1) has not yet been implemented owing to unavailability of skilled

Page 5.

personnel and equipment. If this were implemented and well equipped it could at least serve the vehicles of 11 Transport Coy. and so relieve 11 Repair Unit considerably.

(12) Spare parts:- Generally in short supply and much has to be bought off black market. The tyre situation has improved considerably through the application of method authorized in S.M.E.B. letter 28100 whereby old tyres could be renovated by application of patches secured by nuts and bolts inside and outside the cover.

M. S. M. S. M. S.

M. S. M. S. M. S., Major
G.S.O. II.,
11 B.L.U.

REH/gg

ph. h. hector

H. H. HECTOR, Major
G.S.O., II.,
11 B.L.U.

RHH/EP

293

"Q" BUCK SLIP

FILE NO. 0451

9

DATE	SECTION OF SERVICE	ACTION REQUIRED
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257MB	R2	TO G (T)
-------	----	-------------

Ref Encl 7 para 3 & CTR.
Is there anything I can do to help
in the preparation of this report in
time for call-up?

/s/

25. G (T) D2

I have written to Mr. [unclear] about this
CTR - the knowledge seems to be
shortage of funds, but I am told that
this is very temporary. Cash will be
for [unclear] in [unclear] or [unclear].

② G can definitely help the
provision of central [unclear] +
[unclear] which they can all see very
shortly.

See letter and [unclear] file attached
F. 3.

/s/

Ref Incl 7 para 3 in case.
 • Is there anything I can do to help
 in the prosecution of this case in
 the for call-ups? Yes

① I have written to Mr. [redacted] about this
 case - the trouble seems to be
 shortage of cash, but I am told that
 this is very poor money & cash will be
 forthcoming in a way or two.
 ② I can definitely help the
 provision of certain furniture &
 stores which they own are in very
 short supply.

See letter in my file attached
F.3.

Mr. [redacted]

Charles, Incl. 3 to R with 293

Yes

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

200/4/3.

10 February 1946

Subject :- Fortnightly Report No. 5 - F.S. 15 Feb. 46.

To :- H.Q. E.M.I.A.
ROME, G.N.F.

Pt. I - General

1. Domestic - nil
2. Italian - nil

Pt. II - "G"

1. Organization.

- a. Domestic - nothing to report.
- b. Italian - nothing to report.

2. Employment of Troops.

a. Army less CO.NR. - The GARIBOLDI Regiment arrived at the beginning of the month and have been deployed in the MONTESERRE & CALTAGIRONE Areas.

b. CO.NR. - Still engaged in combat-duties against Bandits.

3. Training.

a. Army less CO.NR. - Individual Unit training proceeding, where possible. Most Units still engaged in guarding vulnerable-points due to Banditry.

C.I.A.R. - Since last report the C.I.A.R. has been visited on two occasions. Work is by no means going well (see my letter PAI/G/17 dated 14 Feb. 46 addressed Lt. Col. MEDIAN).

b. CO.NR. - Still unable to carry-out very much training.

1. Domestic - nil2. Italian - nilPt. II - "G"1. Organization.a. Domestic - nothing to report.b. Italian - nothing to report.2. Employment of Troops.

a. Army Less CC.RR. - The GARIBOLDI Regiment arrived at the beginning of the month and have been deployed in the MONTESERRATE & CALTAGIRONE Areas.

b. CC.RR. - Still engaged in combat-duties against Bandits.

3. Training.

a. Army Less CC.RR. - Individual Unit training proceeding, where possible. Most Units still engaged in guarding vulnerable-points due to Banditry.

C.A.I. - Since last report the C.A.I. has been visited on two occasions. Work is by no means going well (see my letter P.M./9/17 dated 14 Feb. 46 addressed Lt. Col. MEDIAN).

b. CC.RR. - Still unable to carry-out very much training due to increase in duties caused by Bandit Attacks.

2935

4. Intelligence.

Very little to report.

Situation about the same as at the beginning of the month. 2-300 Bandits have been arrested in the last week. Trouble expected when the Elections start.

Pt. III - "A"

Nothing to report.

Pt. IV - "Q"

Nothing to report.

Major
R.E. HECTOR Major Q451
G.S.O. II.
11 B.L.U.

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

PAL/C/3.

4 February 1946

Subject :- Fortnightly Progress Report No. 4 - F.S. 11 Jan. 46.

To :- H.S. M.H.L.A.
C.R.F.

PART I - General

1. Domestic (B.L.U.)

Staff List, Location Statement 11 B.L.U. and B.L. H.T. Return are attached.

2. Italian

Location Statement and Staff lists (Lt.Col.s and above) are attached.

PART II - "G"

1. Organization

a. Domestic - Nothing to report.

b. Italian - The Territorial H.A. continued to run reasonably efficiently, due to the untiring efforts of Col. GRIGGIO, Chief of Staff.

2. Employment of Troops

a. Army less G.S.H. (1) Due to the increasing Bandit Operations and to the lack of G.S.H. to efficiently cope with the situation various Units including the 5th 6th and 139th Regts in Palermo area and the 45th and 145th Regts in Catania and Galtaniferi areas, have been employed on garrison duties, and in some cases semi-combat duties.

(ii) Most of the Allied Guard-Duties have now finished and the Troops returned to the Italian Army proper.

Staff lists, positions and
are attached.

2. Italian

Location statement and Staff lists (Lt.Cols and above) are attached.

PART II - "C"

1. Organization

- a. Domestic - Nothing to report.
- b. Italian - The Territorial S.C. continues to run reasonably efficiently, due to the untiring efforts of Col. BRIMIO, Chief of Staff.

2. Employment of Troops

a. Army less CC.RR. (1) Due to the increasing Bandit Operations and to the lack of CC.RR. to efficiently cope with the situation various Units including the 5th 6th and 139th Regts in Palermo area and the 45th and 145th Regts in Catania and Galtageirone areas, have been employed on garrison-duties, and in some cases semi-combat duties.

(41) Most of the Allied Guard-Battles have now finished and the Troops returned to the Italian Army proper.

b. CC.RR. (1) During the whole of January the CC.RR. ²³⁴³ ~~2343~~ ^{seen} engaged in various battles with Separatist Bandits, and have sustained, in comparison with their numbers, quite high casualties.

(41) The Mobile Battalion with both vehicles, (and one tank and one armoured-car) have also been engaged in these battles, but unfortunately the vehicles have not always reached their destinations in time.

3. Training

a. Army less CC.RR. (1) Training continues according to programme in most Units. The 46th Regt in Messina in particular, are getting on very well.

0451

1.1.2

Page 2.

They have made full use of their Barracks and personnel in the provision of two extremely good Sand Tables and in the making of a number of demonstration models of the P.I.A.F. and 2" inch MORTAR.

(ii) Further, whilst visiting this Regiment, I was very struck by their obvious efforts at maintaining a smart turn-out.

(iii) Each Regiment (as mentioned at the conference) is in the process of training a model Platoon, for demonstration purposes, within the Regiment. The best of these Platoons will be used initially at the C.A.R.

(iv) As will be seen in para 2 most Troops are at present engaged on Garrison Duties - due to the Bandits.

C.A.R. - (i) Building operations are proceeding according to plan.

(ii) Supplies of materials have now been received, and the number of workers engaged increased from 200 to 400 men.

Other Troops. - The Engineers, both the 25th Bn. in Palermo, and 130th Bn. in Syracuse, have commenced training. At the moment only on Italian Equipment. Allied Equipment has been requested (see my SAL/G/1 dated 11 Jan.46).

b. CC.RR. Very little training has been possible due to all the available CC.RR. being used in connection with the Bandit attacks, and in reinforcing outlying stations.

4. Intelligence

a. Political. - Events have been happening far too swiftly to be good in the Sicilian Political sphere throughout the past month.

(i) Separatist movement. - This Party has had a considerable increase in its numbers since my last report - especially in the Palermo Province.

It has been confirmed that the TASCA brothers and Barone MAMCO are providing the large sums of money necessary to keep this movement going.

Numerous arrests have been made during the month including Baron LA MONTA one of the Separatist-leaders.

The Separatist Bandits are aided by the famous Sicilian "MAMMA GIULIANA".

Up to date casualties amongst CC.RR. and Troops have been

2433

to plan. 2.1.2. - (4) Building operations are proceeding according

(ii) Supplies of materials have now been received, and the number of workers engaged increased from 200 to 400 men.

Other Troops. - The Engineers, both the 28th Bn. in Palermo, and 130th Bn. in Syracuse, have commenced training. At the moment only on Italian Equipment. Allied Equipment has been requested (see my SAL/C/1 dated 11 Jan. 46).

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Numerous arrests have been made during the month including Baron LA MOTA one of the Separatist-leaders.

The Separatist Bandits are aided by the famous Sicilian "BANDA GIULIANO".

Up to date casualties amongst CC.RR. and Troops have been approx 30 CC.RR. killed and 85 wounded. Also 6 soldiers killed and 20 wounded.

So far, these Bandits have confined their activities to the Provinces of Palermo and Catania.

The general opinion in Sicily, is that these attacks are in the nature of "training" for a future large-scale up-rising, led by this Party.

(ii) Communist Party is now beginning to organize itself, and just lately has held one or two reasonable size meetings. These have been quiet and orderly.

(iii) Fascist Party - This Party, which is being organized in Catania continues to thrive, and more propaganda sheets (copy of one attached) have been distributed.

Page 3.

(iv) Democratic Christian Party.— Numbers increasing, especially to the smaller villages.

2. (1) Local Government.— A very dim view was taken of the High Commissioner ALBISIO, and the Prefect D'ANTONA leaving Sicily at the height of the crisis.

(ii) It was thought that the communists were going to attempt to overthrow ALBISIO, and try to substitute the Communist leader LI CAVALI. This however was, "just another rumour".

3. Economics (i) Food prices are about the same, but the prices of clothing and shoes are increasing; due (a) to a number of stolen UNRRA goods flooding the market, and (b) to supplies arriving from N. Italy.

(ii) The Black-Market is still thriving, and a number of previously very poor people are now seen driving most expensive motor-cars.

4. Public Security.— Definitely on the decline. The CC.NR. are doing their best, but "incidents" still continue to happen.

5. Morale of the Italian Troops is still in a rather low state. This is due mainly, to the number of CC.NR. and Soldiers who have been killed and wounded during the Bandit attacks. Almost every day we see another Military funeral.

6. Military Security.— Quite good; no incidents of any breaches of Military Security having been reported to me.

7. Move-out of workers.— It is reported that 10,000 Italian Miners are being loaned to BELGIUM and are leaving shortly.

3. "AM"

8. Domestic (1) AM/EE.— The lack of a Cpl. (Cpl.) is still felt with increasing acuteness. However, we are placing high hopes in the A.A.G.'s letter to A.F.H.Q. on this subject.

(ii) EXPENSE.— We are experiencing great difficulties in obtaining our cash drafts from M.C.B. Comd. Pay-Office. The present system is that on the 10th of each month we inform the Comd. Pay Office how much cash we require.

ACTION

They, then (in theory) arrange for this amount to be paid to us.

motor-cars.

d. Public Security.-- Definitely on the decline. The C.C.B.R. are doing their best, but "inoffensive" still continue to happen.

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g. Movement of workers.-- It is reported that 10,000 Italian Miners are being loaned to BELGIUM and are leaving shortly.

3. "A"

a. Domestica (i) EMPLOY.-- The lack of a Cpl. (Cik) is still felt with increasing acuteness. However, we are placing high hopes in the A.A.G.'s letter to S.F.H.Q. on this subject.

(ii) IMPREST.-- We are experiencing great difficulties in obtaining our cash drafts from No.8 Command Pay-Office. The present system is that on the 10th of each month we inform the Comd. Pay Office how much cash we require.

They, then (in theory) arrange for this amount to be placed in the Bank of Sicily by the 1st of the following month. In fact, what happens is; that this cash-draft does not arrive before about the 14th of the month, and consequently we have to borrow large sums of money from various sources in order to pay the civilian staff on time. May No.8 Command Pay Office please have the necessary "terrors" placed on them, and a request made, that they "remove the digital pressure".

(iii) Leave - NIL

b. Italian

(1) Deficiencies:

(a) Total Strengths
(expressed as a
percentage of N.E.).

Offrs.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	Res
-	-	18%	-	8%

ACTION

(b) Traiteman and Specialists } 23 %
(expressed as a percentage of U.S.)

(ii) Discipline: The following figures have been submitted by Terr. H.C. with regard to absentees, deserters etc. for the months of Jan. and Feb. :-

Month	Total absentees	Total listed as deserters	Total convicted by F.C.I.A. on charge of desertion.	Total convicted by F.C.I.A. on other charges	Total absentees not returned as at last day of month
Dec.	5	10	3	2	10
Jan.	5	31	3	1	5

The general impression is that discipline is being enforced with a resultant reasonably high standard of discipline considering the difficult conditions existing in the Italian Interior Army.

4. "C"

a. Domestic. Br. H.T. Statement attached.

b. Italian. (1) Transport - Army. I.M.T. (Istituto Nazionale Trasporti) of Sicily have asked this H.C. to authorize the transfer of vehicles of Italian Army origin to the Italian civil government. These vehicles were previously A.C. property and the transfer was first authorized by A.C. on M.M.I.A. Form "Indentification Certificate" (Form I.M.T.-I.C. Vehicle). The signature of the Liaison Officer M.M.I.A. was necessary to complete the authority. This had been done by the M.M.I.A. I.C. at Palermo previous the take over by this H.C.

It is thought that this is an absolute system and only a temporary circulation certificate is being granted for essential vehicles pending a decision from M.M.I.A. Letter to be forwarded on receipt of certain details from I.M.T.

(2) Transport - U.C.H.R. This, unfortunately still provides the local inhabitants with a great deal of amusement. The few vehicles they have, are well looked after, but as is already known, this lack

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It is thought that this is an obsolete system and only a temporary circulation certificate is being granted for essential vehicles pending a decision from M.M.I.A. Letter to be forwarded on receipt of certain details from I.A.F.

(2) Transport - CC.M. This, unfortunately still provides the local inhabitants with a great deal of amusement. The few vehicles they have, are well looked after, but as is already known, this lack of efficient transport provides so many "snags" and becomes a very serious handicap to them in performing their duties efficiently. (3) The need for armoured cars and radio-vehicles (as mentioned at the conference) is very great.

(3) Supplies - Army Less 20.00. Much time is at present being wasted in the distribution of supplies that arrive at MESSINA from BARI, due to the following: a. These supplies arrive at Messina by sea, where they are off-loaded.

b. They then stay on the docks until the arrival of a train - maybe three days later.

c. These stores are then sent by Rail to CATANIA, where they are put into the depot, sorted, and the bulk of the supplies returned to Messina for distribution.

Talking up with M.G.N. 18/1/46.

Page 5.

At Messine there is an admirable sight for a depot, to where all supplies arriving at Messine could be taken immediately on arrival at the docks, sorted, and the smaller amount sent to Catania, thus saving a great deal of time and expense.

This matter has been discussed with the Commandante Territoriale, who is in complete agreement.

Could authority therefore be given, for the opening of this new Depot in Messine. ACTION

(4) R.R.M.E. - Nothing to report.

(5) R.A.O.S. - A. ARMY

Clothing

At present units are allowed a 5% reserve of part worn boots in order to supply troops where their boots are in for repair. They state that this allotment is insufficient since these boots have already been repaired many times and so after a short time require to be repaired again.

They suggest that the boot situation could be improved considerably if the percentage reserve of part worn boots were increased or alternatively to keep the regimental repair shop well stocked with repair material so that repairs could be done quickly and on a large scale. At present owing to shortage of raw material a quick turnover of repairs is not possible and minor repairs cannot be attended to immediately with the result that they soon become major repairs or beyond repair.

A considerable problem is being experienced with regard to officers clothing. The present system is that an officer requiring cloth for his uniform puts in a request which is forwarded for approval by Ministry of War. The latter evidently cannot meet all of the numerous requests made on them and it is often a matter of many months before an officer can obtain the necessary release for his material.

The system would be much quicker if Comlesariato were empowered to authorize the release of this material.

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M. J. M. M., Major

2930

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The system would be much quicker if Commissariats were empowered to authorize the release of this material.

M. J. S. M. W.

M. J. S. M. W., Major
G.S.C. II.,
11 B.I.U.

2930

COPY--

COPIA DI MANIFESTINI FASCISTI RINVENUTI PER TERRA NELL'ABITATO DE
CATANIA IL MATTINO DEL 22 DICEMBRE 1945

S. P. I. F. E.

(SOCIETA' PATRIOTTICA SICILIANA FASCISTA DELL'ETNA)

Italiani,

In queste aspre vicende politiche, tenete presente il Grande Martire
della Rivoluzione Fascista:

BENITO MUSSOLINI

Siate certi, lavoriamo per risorgere, e risorgeremo, per dare al
mondo pace secondo giustizia.

VIVA LA RIVOLUZIONE FASCISTA

VIVA IL FASCISMO

VIVA LA S.P.I.F.E.

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VIVA LA S.P.I.F.E.

#####

292

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily

Ref: PAL/G/3.

16 January 1946

Subject :- Fortnightly Report No. 3 F.E. 15 Jan. 46.

To :- H.Q. M.M.I.A.
C.M.P.

PART I - GENERAL

1. Domestic B.L.U. - nil
2. Italian - nil

PART II - "C"

1. Employment of Troops - Army Less CC.RR.

a. One Battalion of 6th Infantry Regt. commanded by Lt.Col. PATTI have been re-deployed as Garrison Troops at MONTESAPONE, in an endeavour to cope with the present crime wave in that area.

b. CC.RR. - nil

2. Training

a. Army Less CC.RR. continues reasonably well in most Units that have been visited. A full report will be made at the end of the month.

b. CC.RR. when current Bandit Activities permit, a certain amount of Training both field and mobile (with old Italian armoured cars) is carried out.

3. Intelligence

1. Domestic B.L.U. - nil
2. Italian - nil

PART II - "G"

1. Employment of Troops - Army Less CC.RR.

a. One Battalion of 6th Infantry Regt. commanded by Lt.Col. PARTI have been re-deployed as Garrison Troops at MONTELEONE, in an endeavour to cope with the present crime wave in that area.

b. CC.RR. - nil

2. Training

a. Army Less CC.RR. continues reasonably well in most Units that have been visited. A full report will be made at the end of the month.

b. CC.RR. when current Bandit Activities persist, a certain amount of Training both field and mobile (with old Italian armoured cars) is carried out.

3. Intelligence

a. It is believed that large scale immigration from N. Italy through Sicily by people of various nationalities (Inc. Jews, Yugoslavs) is at present in progress.

The Jews are said to have a number of Camps in S. Sicily and arrive from MALI. They are generally "tamed to the teeth", and it is my belief that they pass through these "centres" on their way to PALESTINE, where in due course they stir-up trouble.

It is further thought that a number of these Jews and Jugoslavs are helping the famous "Banda Giuliano" in their successful Bandit Raids.

b. Separatist activities are "thriving" and numerous raids on CC.RR. Stations have been carried-out. Up to now the main fighting has been at BELLOLANO, MONTELEONE (Prov. Palermo) Caltanissetta and FONIG FORILE (Prov. Caltanissetta).

Casualties up to date 15 CC.RR. and Infantry men killed, and approx 35 wounded. A full report will be forthcoming.

3. "A"

- a. Domestic - 1 Corporal (Clerk) deficient according to W.I.
- b. Leave - NIL

Italian - a. Pay. - This is still a big problem amongst the Italian Troops here, especially in view of the very high cost of living.

b. Morale. - Improving on the whole, but many of the soldiery are very worried by these Bandit attacks, and I think if the position does not improve, this ^{will} provide a reason for large-scale desertion.

4. "B"

A. Domestic. - a. Transport. This is still a very acute problem. The transport on per W.I. is totally insufficient for our needs. It is essential that the W.I. be increased by one extra car 4 str 4x4 as soon as possible. It is hoped that this Unit will be "kept in mind" should any vehicles become available.

3. Italian - CC.RR. a. There is a great need for more transport - especially armoured-cars of Allied make, and radio equipped vehicles.

b. The question of repairs to boots is another current worry. At the moment the CC.RR. have to send Boots to Naples for repair, where - as they have numerous skilled boot-repairers in the Brigade if only they could get the leather.

It is requested that an arrangement be made where-by leather is sent to the CC.RR. HQ. here in order that they may do their own repairs in a similar way to the Army proper. ACTION

M. E. Hector

M. E. HECTOR, Major
G.S.O. II.
11 B.L.U.

b. Morale. - Improving on the whole, but many of the soldiers are very worried by these Bandit attacks, and I think if the position does not improve, this ^{will} provide a reason for large-scale desertion.

4. "Q"

A. Domestic. - a. Transport. This is still a very acute problem. The transport as per W.E. is totally insufficient for our needs. It is essential that the W.E. be increased by one extra car 4 str 4x4 as soon as possible. It is hoped that this Unit will be "kept in mind" should any vehicles become available.

B. Italian - CC.RR. a. There is a great need for more transport - especially armoured-cars of Allied make, and radio equipped vehicles.

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NEH/SP

292

Distribution:

HQ. M.M.I.A. - Rome (4) -
TO B.I.U. (1)

M.E. Hector
M.E. HECTOR, Major
C.S.O. II,
11 B.L.U.

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

3
/ January 1946

Subject :- Fortnightly Report No. 2. F.S. 11 Dec. 45.

Reference:- PAL/3/3.

To :- H.Q. M.M.I.A.
C.M.F.

1. ROUTINE

a. ST : Supplies - food stocks drawn from Bari and Naples are often late in arriving causing frequent crises at the Commissariate. Part of the stocks for Jan. 1946 have now arrived but the canned meat ration for Jan. had not been received up to 25 Dec. Even if it arrives by the 31st Dec. units will be without their meat ration for the first few days of Jan. according to time taken for distribution from M.M.I.A. It is now intended to examine the causes of these hold-ups and a report will be forwarded forthwith.

b. Ordinance : Demand for clothing and boots is at present in considerable excess of supply. A system has been arranged whereby a copy of all indents for these stores are submitted to this H.Q. by the Commissariate plus a deficiency statement. As the stores arrive a receipt statement will then be sent. M.M.I.A. will then be notified if there is any excessive delay between time of indenting and receipt and a list of indent voucher references forwarded.

c. P.O.L. : At present no demands have been made by Territorial Command requesting an increase to monthly allotment.

2. CHRISTMAS DAY TOUR

GEO II and MAJ & CWO visited the following Regiments on Christmas Day morning:-

a. 6 Inf. Regt.

There we attended a Christmas Service, then inspected the meal

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c. P.O.L. : At present no demands have been made by Territorial Command requesting an increase to monthly allotment.

2. CHRISTMAS DAY TOUR

OSO II and DAA & CMC visited the following Regiments on Christmas Day morning:-

a. 6 Inf. Regt.

There we attended a Christmas Service, then inspected the meal that was being prepared.

The Colonel commanding the Regt. (COL. MILAZZO) had done a great deal to ensure that his men had a good Christmas.

292

The turnout of the men here, was quite good.

b. 139 Inf. Regt.

This unit was inspected accompanied by Maj. Gen. DE CASTIGLIONE (G.O.C. "AOSTA" Div.), and again we found signs that the men were going to have a good Christmas.

3. TOUR OF "AOSTA" DIVISION

The Tour mentioned in my Report No. 1 unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to transport difficulties, and in fact, lack of transport capable of making the distance.

3/1/46
1545
9451

Page 2.

If conditions have improved, this tour will take place early in January.

4. T.T.C.

The Camera la Bocca is still nowhere near complete, and a great deal of my hard work will be necessary if it is to be completed by 1 Feb. 46.

The contractors are very handicapped by lack of building materials. For instance, when last visited on 29 Dec. we were informed that there was only sufficient cement for one more days' work, no petrol or naphtha for driving the machines, and only a couple of small vehicles and two or three mule-carts in the way of transport.

The officer in charge of the works - Maj. SCORRELLI appeared to be a man of words, rather than notions.

Gen. Berardi whom we accompanied on this last visit, is "cooping" in this connection.

5. GUARDS

After repeated chafing efforts, 3 District have at last given a ruling on VII-IVI Guards in Sicily.

a. The only vital Guards now necessary number 7 officers' and 36 OR's.

b. Comando Terr. has been informed accordingly, and requested to withdraw all other Guards without delay.

6. CC.BR.

a. Various complaints received from the various Consulates regarding inefficiency of the Section assigned to those duties have been investigated and the officer in charge of the Section sacked.

b. The CC.BR. situation, regarding the numbers of Carabinieri engaged on these Allied Duties is under consideration, with a view to cutting down the numbers to a minimum.

7. MORALE

Show a slight change for the better (see I.H.T. Report). 292.

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7. MORALE

Shows a slight change for the better (see I.N.T. Report), 242.

8. COMANDANTE TERRITORIALE

Gen. BUCCHINI re-assumed Command w.e.f. 28 Dec. 45. Maj. R.E. HECTOR represented 11 B.L.U. on reception committee at the airport, on his return.

9. DOMESTIC

- a. Office efficiency is still handicapped by inexperienced and inefficient clerks and the deficiency of a chief clerk as per W.N.
- b. Major R.E. Hector is visiting H.Q. M.M.I.A., on 3 Jan. 46.

REH/SP

Distribution:

HQ. M.M.I.A. - Rome (3) ✓
10. B.L.U. (1)

Maj. Hector

R.E. HECTOR, Major

B.S.O. II.

11 B.L.U.

11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
Palermo, Sicily.

21 Dec. 1945

Subject: Liaison Report No. 1 - Dec. 45.

File : PAL/G/3

To : H.Q. M.M.I.A.
C.M.F.

1. Routine Inspections.

(A) Commissariate

a. Clothing Depot (9-Dec. 45) - Supplies of material now arriving from Min. of War, and Uniforms being made at the rate of 30 a day.

b. Re-conditioned clothing is also completed and about 35 sets a day produced.

c. Boots. - Supplies low - Min. of War not meeting demands in full, and no allocation for Nov. and Dec. yet received.

Approx 10 pairs a day of re-conditioned boots being completed.

d. There was no signs of any equipment or materials being wasted, and I am satisfied that use is being made of every available scrap.

e. Food Depot. (11 Dec. 45)

Depot appears to be reasonably well run - food supplies are low, and as yet no Army supplies for January 46 have been received, although supplies for the Navy and Air-Forces were received well on time.

The depot was very clean, (possibly due to the lack of food there-in).

Bakery. - This was functioning well. The Christmas cakes are already in production, and various samples I tried were extremely good!

I was informed that a Christmas cake has only been possible through the conservation of about a gramme of sugar and flour from each Man's ration daily for the past few months.

Remarks. - I feel that there is need for a little additional pressure at the Min. of War in order that supplies of boots and food can be assured on time.

(B) 11 Repairs Unit.

Work here is going quite well, although handicapped by poor equipment.

Q 45

292

28/12
RP
H.

There is need for a certain amount of re-adjustment of duties amongst officers and Staff.

I am taking this matter up with Comando Territoriale.

Tour.

2. I have planned to tour several Units of the AOSTA Division during the next few days. I will make a full report on this later.

3. Morale.

As mentioned in my INT-Report this is still quite low due to lack of decent Equipment, Uniforms and training.

4. CC.RR.

a. I am very satisfied with CC.RR. conditions here. The commanding officer Col. CALABRO is very alive and very keen on keeping his men smart and efficient.

b. The CC.RR. are also suffering from lack of boots, due to insufficient supplies being sent from their H.Q. in Rome to meet current demands.

5. Domestic.

Maj. S. SNEEZUM D.A.A.Q.H.G. arrived on 15 Dec. 45, together with 1 dvr. 1 D.R. and 2 (inexperienced) clerks.

6. This has now changed and we are set-up in reasonable offices (see Location Statement, for address etc.).

W. J. Spector
G.E.O. II.
11 E.L.U.

REH/is

Distribution:

HQ. M.E.I.A. - Rome (3)
10. E.L.U. (1)

LIAISON OFFICE
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AG (LMIA)
Z U.S. HON PALERMO

FILE : 1600

29 October 1945

1. WEEKLY LIAISON LOG NO. 77 for WEEK ENDING 27 OCTOBER 1945.

- a. Sunday 21 Oct. Office routine. Half day off.
- b. Monday 22 Oct. Conferred with Captain Trepani of the Automobilistica in reference to the number of Load Carriers in the 11th Adm. Transport Company. Your signal ST/1020/A of the 20th refers.
- c. Tuesday 23 Oct. Office routine in the morning. Afternoon devoted to athletics.
- d. Wednesday 24 Oct. Conferred with Major Stabile, Aosta Div. in reference to the ceremony of laying a wreath of flowers on the graves of Allied soldiers in U.S. Cemetery No. 1, Palermo, by the Italian Army on 2 November.
- e. Thursday 25 Oct. Office routine in the morning. Afternoon to devoted to athletics.
- f. Friday 26 Oct. Office routine.
- g. Saturday 27 Oct. Office routine.

EDWIN T SNIDER
1st Lt AUS
L O Sicily

2923

