Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 785020

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DEC. 1945 - JUNE 1946

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PROGRESS REPORT for MONTH of MAY.

5 British Liaison Unit.
Tel 1767.
G/ROS

1 June 46.

Land Forces Sub Comm, A.C.,
(MMIA) MRAE.

Copy to: Main 13 Corps.
HQ. I ADRA.

TO	
A/Q	
Q	
Q 1	
Q 2	
Q 3	
Q 4	
REGR	
S1	

1. SITUATIONS.

(a) Serious troubles are not expected in 5 T.G. The following places are possible danger spots, MESTRE, ROVIGO and in the small towns east of it and VITTORIO VENETO.

(b) It is thought that General Arnellini has made the best use of the limited number of troops at his disposal. Briefly they will be located as follows:

AQUILA Bn. (less Dets at BELLUNO) at MATE. The available strength will only be some 400 men. The Bn however is being made mobile and will be used as a general reserve for use if required in any part of the Command.

FRIULI Bn. HQ and two Coys MESTRE, one Coy being employed on guard duties, the other as a mobile reserve in the MESTRE Area. Two Coys at UDINE on guard duties and mobile reserve.

S.A.S. On instructions of the War Ministry, 1,000 recruits are being employed to assist the MSAR at the Polling Booths outside A.M.G. Territory.

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Copy for main HQ Corps.
HQ. I AGRA.

I. ELECTIONS.

(a) Serious troubles are not expected in 5 T.G. The following places are possible danger spots, MONFALCONE, MAVIGO and in the small towns east of it and VITTORIO VENETO.

(b) It is thought that General Armellini has made the best use of the limited number of troops at his disposal. Briefly they will be located as follows:

AQUILA Bn. (less Cos at BELLUNO) at ESTE. The available strength will only be some 400 men. The Bn however is being made mobile and will be used as a general reserve for use if required in any part of the Command.

FRIULI Bn. HQ and two Coys MESTRE, one Coy being employed on guard duties, the other as a mobile reserve in the MESTRE Area. Two Coys at UDINE on guard duties and mobile reserve.

C.A.R. On instructions of the War Ministry, 1,000 recruits are being employed to assist the CA.RR at the Polling Booths outside A.M.G. Territory.

(c) Conferences. General Armellini has held conferences with his own Commands and with all the Prefects. The latter was attended by Maj. V. Johnston. Maj. I. Johnstone attended a conference at 66 Area at which the Italian Garrison Commander General GRSANI was represented. G.I. this BDE has visited I5 Corps, I AGRA and A.M.G. and discussed the security measures which are being taken.

(d) Keen interest is being displayed by all Italian officers, but none of them appear to be unduly perturbed. There appears to be little tension in the town of UDINE.

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(c) General Ermellini has permitted the local leaders of the various major political parties to address all recruits at the C.A.R.

2. C.A.R.

(a) This continues to flourish. Range practices at FORMIGNE are under way. Our hint to smarten up the barracks and surrounds by paint whitewash etc has been taken, with effective results.

(b) Arrangements have been made with I AGRA for a British Armourers team to visit the C.A.R. Grd I AGRA has also been helpful in issuing certain training stores on loan.

(c) It is hoped to arrange football matches etc with British units in the neighbourhood.

3. AQUILA Bn - FELTRE Bn.

I have not as yet had an opportunity of visiting these two Bns and so I have no first hand information. I know however that there are no outstanding difficulties.

4. TORNADO Bn.

This unit has been visited as you are aware, it is under operational command 13 Corps and is split up on road checking duties. The officers not appeared to be pleasant and the Commander efficient. During this month the Bn received a consignment of Welfare goods from 13 Corps; this was much appreciated, the items have been distributed to Sub units.

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5. INTELLIGENCE.

(a) Some 300 Italian P.O.W. have arrived in the Command ex Yugo-Slavia. They were well fed, well clothed and well shod. It is understood that they were unwilling to give much information. They stated however that there were still some 18,000 Italian P.O.W. in YUGO-SLAVIA. Refugees arriving at the same time as the P.O.W., presented a somewhat different picture.

(b) Reports have been received of a considerable

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results.

(b) Arrangements have been made with I AGRA for a British Armourers team to visit the G.A.R. and I AGRA has also been helpful in issuing certain training stores on loan.

(c) It is hoped to arrange football matches etc with British units in the neighbourhood.

3. AQUILA Bn - FALTRE Bn.

I have not as yet had an opportunity of visiting these two Bns and so I have no first hand information. I know however that there are no outstanding difficulties.

4. FOLGORE Bn.

This unit has been visited as you are aware. It is under operational command 13 Corps and is split up on road checking duties. The officers met appeared to be pleasant and the Commander efficient. During this month the Bn received a consignment of welfare goods from 13 Corps; this was much appreciated, the items have been distributed to sub units.

3411

5. INTELLIGENCE.

(a) Some 500 Italian P.O.W. have arrived in the Command ex Yugo-Slavia. They were well fed, well clothed and well shod. It is understood that they were unwilling to give much information. They stated however that there were still some 15,000 Italian P.O.W. in YUGO-SLAVIA. Refugees arriving at the same time as the P.O.W. presented a somewhat different picture.

(b) Reports have been received of a considerable smuggling and gun running trade between CHIOGGIA (G 52) and the coast of ISTRIA. The local SOMUR and Guardia Finanza appear to be useless. The General was approached with a view to some action being taken, but it is doubtful whether much will be done, as he has no control over Italian Air Force and Naval Units in the Command. He is however organising an armed mobile recce into the area during the Election period.

(c) Apart from the above little information of "I" value has been received.

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6. ITALIAN SENIOR OFFICERS.

It is understood that the General is a little worried over the efficiency of his Arty and Engineer Commanders. The question has apparently been represented by him to the War Ministry, but so far no action has been taken. Although no Italian Engineer or Arty units exist at present in 5 T.D., it is thought that in the future this Command will assume an increased importance and it is therefore desirable that more efficient Commanders be earmarked.

7. BRIXEN PROVINCE.

The General has raised the question with the War Ministry as to the transferring of this Province to his Command. The request has been refused. I am in favour of the General's proposal for the following reasons:

(i) the province is now within IX Corps boundary.

(ii) Owing to the lack of accommodation in 5 T.D. it is necessary to locate 6 Regt HQ and one Bn in BRIXEN. These are under the operational Command of 5 T.D., but under 4 T.D. for local admin. This is not very satisfactory.

(8) "C" POINTS.

Arm Dumps.

(a) (i) 5 T.D. is now responsible for guarding 8 Dumps, and a further 4 are to be handed over directly after the Elections. Owing to the lack of troops most of the guarding is done by Civilians. During the Election period the guards will be strengthened by the employment of Italian soldiers in addition to the Civilians.

(ii) We are still not quite clear on the question of the disposal of arm of foreign origin in territory under A.M.G. jurisdiction. Our letter AG/GO/IIB of 28 May refers.

ACCOMMODATION.

(b) The situation is still acute and it is likely to get worse rather than better. I can see no prospect of accommodating the MONZA G.A.R. in this area for some time to come.

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Action Taken

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following reasons:

(i) the province is now within 13 Corps boundary.

(ii) Owing to the lack of accommodation in 6 T.D. it is necessary to locate a Dept HQ and one Bn in BELLUNO. These are under the operational Command of 5 T.D., but under 4 T.D. for local admin. This is not very satisfactory.

(E) "G" MATTERS.

Ammunition Dumps.

(a) (i) 5 T.D. is now responsible for guarding 8 Dumps, and a further 4 are to be handed over directly after the Elections. Owing to the lack of troops most of the guarding is done by Civilians. During the Election period the guards will be strengthened by the employment of Italian soldiers in addition to the Civilians.

(ii) We are still not quite clear on the question of the disposal of ammn of foreign origin in territory under A.M.G. jurisdiction. Our letter A/60/119 of 28 May refers.

3410

Action taken

ACCOMMODATION.

(b) The situation is still acute and it is likely to get worse rather than better. I can see no prospect of accommodating the MODENA C.A.R. in this Area for some time to come.

KHAKI DRILL.

(c) K.D. has now been issued to the C.A.R., but not yet taken into use owing to alterations etc not having been completed. Sufficient K.D. material is available to clothe all Italian Soldiers in the Command, it is at present being made up by tailors under contract. The full issue is not likely to be completed before the end of June.

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TRANSPORT.

(a) This H. has supported a request of QUEENS Bn to exchange 6 x 3 tonners for 3 x 15 cwts. The Bn is employed by 13 Corps on widely dispersed road blocks on the UDINE - GRULIA border. A 15 cwt is more economical and convenient than a 3 tonner for the task in hand. It is hoped to effect an exchange through 13 Corps.

P.O.L.

(a) Once again C.I.P. have fallen down over the supply of petrol to the QUEENS Bn, and once again we have had to apply through I. AGRA to 13 Corps for assistance. This crisis appears to occur regularly at the end of each month.

Written SHAEF 13 June

9. HEADQUARTERS.

(a) Visits. (i) The officers of 3 I.G. were very disappointed (as were also the officers of this H.) that the visit of General Browning and Colonel Clayton-Carr fell through.

(ii) Satisfactory liaison visits have been made by the G.I. this H. to the principal staff officers at 13 Corps, to the Command and Staff of I. AGRA and to A.M.G.

(b) Liaison. 13 Corps and I. AGRA are helpful and always give favourable consideration to any requests that we may make.
On 24 May, 4 Hussars allowed a det of Alpini to enter PADERNO Bns and lay a wreath on the Alpini Memorial. This concession was much appreciated by the Alpini officers at P. G. Bn.

10. R.E.M. Domestic.

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(a) E.E. Progress in implementing the new establishment is slow. The Capt REME has been posted but not yet joined. No notification has been received regarding the new [illegible]

New Comd Sig Lt AB

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we have had to apply through I. AGRA to 13 Corps for assistance. This crisis appears to occur regularly at the end of each month.

9. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) Visits. (i) The officers of 5 T.C. were very disappointed (as were also the officers of this HQ) that the visit of General Browning and Colonel Clayton-Kerr fell through.

(ii) Satisfactory liaison visits have been made by the G.I. this HQ to the principal Staff officers at 13 Corps, to the Command and Staff of I. AGRA and to A.M.S.

(b) Liaison. 13 Corps and I. AGRA are helpful and always give favourable consideration to any requests that we may make.
On 24 May, 4 Hussars allowed a det of Alpini to enter PANZERO Bks and lay a wreath on the Alpini Memorial. This concession was much appreciated by the Alpini officers at T. C. HQ.

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10. R.E.M. Domestic.

(a) R.E. Progress in implementing the new establishment is slow. The Capt RAME has been posted but not yet joined. No notification has been received regarding the RASC of MCO officers. No additional OR's have been received, but authority has been obtained from GHQ to fill two existing MCO vacancies from our own resources.

(b) Accommodation.

This is acute. The existing offices ideally situated in T.C. HQ are barely sufficient to accommodate the present staff. The problem of accommodating the services element of the HQ when it arrives has not yet been solved. The same applies to the question of the officers Mess and the OR's billets.

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The officers share a small flat with an Italian family, whilst the OR's are spread about in odd places including the KYSA Hotel.
Not a very satisfactory arrangement, but at the moment it seems difficult to find a better.

II. STOP PRESS - Disturbances in Civil Prison.

On the night of Thurs 30 May a fairly serious disturbance occurred in the Civil Prison at UDINE. Considerable damage was done and it was necessary for the CC.RR to open fire, there were no casualties on either side and no prisoners escaped.

As a result of this disturbance, General L. AGRA asked this HQ for an unarmed Italian guard for duty inside the prison. General Arnellini, whilst willing to co-operate, was most reluctant to comply with this request on the grounds that (i) Ministry of War instrs state that Italian soldiers will not be used for internal prison guards.

(ii) The responsibility for guarding civil prisoners is that of the local civilian authority.

(iii) In view of the fact that the prisoners were brigands, murderers etc be considered that if ~~in jail~~ inside the jail a guard was necessary it should be armed.

L. AGRA's request was eventually withdrawn, and no guard was in fact mounted.

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inside the jail

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Lieut-Col.

G.S.

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(12)

END OF MONTH REPORT FOR APRIL.

G(V)
'A'
'Q'

British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.
G/103
1 May 46.

Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.,
(MMIA) ROME.
Copy to: Main IS Corps.
I AGRA.

C.A.R.

Progress with the recruit training at Sacile is most satisfactory and the recruits continue to be keen. The Easter break, although not on the official programme was a good thing I think in view of the very long hours of work which might otherwise produce staleness over an unbroken period. Many of the instructors are first rate. There is only one weak subject, Drill. A pity because (a) of its importance and (b) the many long hours allotted to it in the programme. If only the instructors could acquire a great deal more "bark", shorter hours and better results would be achieved. The Training Amn has still not arrived from Bari, but for the present initial 30 yd Range work the BLU has borrowed some for the C.A.R. from a British Unit. All the Webb Equipment is composed of UTILITY Pouches and not basic pouches. Gen Cadorna from Min of War, inspected the C.A.R. Sacile on Sunday the 28 th

At Modena the recruits were addressed by Colainni a

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At Modena the recruits were addressed by Colainni a member of the Govt, a Communist himself. The gist of his speech was that; a Communist Govt would require just as good an army as any other govt.

Gen. Armellini apparently had a good crack at him over the civil communist's activities towards the Italian Army in that Area. As a result he visited the local Communist HQ afterwards in an effort to get them to cease their subversive anti-Army activities. The real answer to Modena troubles, i.e. the barracks at Pordenone for the next intake is definately off.

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IS Corps have had to put some Armd Units in these barracks.

DEM Pl

The DEM Pl provided by Cremona Group is a bad show, it wont be fit to demonstrate anything to anybody until after at least 6 weeks preperation and gyp. It is composed of men from several different units, a poor show on the part of Cremona Group and not co-operative. This platoon has now been returned & another will be provided by Cremona Gp.

I wish all sucess to Col Medlam in his efforts to get another Trg Maj. for 7 BLU, Bologna to help Modena C.A.R. I have persuaded Col Scarpa to produce a DEM Section for Sacile from the l'Aquila Bn.

SALPINI REGT.

8 Alpini Regt and l'Aquila Bn are now installed in Belluno. They had a great welcome from the civilians of Belluno on arrival. This was well reported in the local press. The l'Aquila Bn is still a good show. This in spite of the serious fact that it has been deprived not only of its M.T. by Legnano Div before its departure, but also of its important signal Equipment. Feltre Bn has moved to ESTE from MESTRE for 2 months training. This Bn needs it, and Col Scarpa the Regimental Commander is wasting no time in getting this started.

This raises a most important question. When are the Indep Regts likely to get their Br. Arms?

The first batch of recruits from the C.A.R. are due to join their units on the 26 Jun. These recruits, who are trained solely on Br. weapons and unit organisation, will be joining

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ALPINI REGT.

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The first batch of recruits from the C.A.R. are due to join their units on the 26 Jun. These recruits, who are trained solely on Br. weapons and unit organisation, will be joining 2 Bns in this Area which are armed solely with Italian arms and with completely Italian organisation. I know that all that can be done, is being done, to get Br. arms quickly in order to reduce this awfull mix-up period to a minimum. But if there is any priority necessary due to only limited arms being available, then I must strongly submit that the units in UDINE Territorial Comd be given priority one.

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sheet 3.....

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If on the other hand, these arms will not yet be available for some considerable time, might it not be better to make an exception of this Area and train up these two Bns in their present organisation and arms?

In view of future possible developments, I should appreciate your views on this.

TOLMEZZO ALPINI Bn. Brig Bastin, I3 Corps, has asked some of the more wealthy civilians and the banks in Trieste Area to subscribe towards welfare amenities for this Bn. Some have already subscribed and in about 3 weeks time he hopes to have enough to buy a fair quantity of sports kit for Tolmezzo Bn. He has obtained GHQ authority to buy certain articles at the NAAFI with this money and at NAAFI prices. This will be a great fillip to Tolmezzo Bn, whose C.O. Col Egizi, is about to improve the welfare ~~spirit~~ amenities in this Bn.

GENERAL POINTS. At a recent D.A.F. Air Display here, General Morgan talked to General Armellini and told him that this BLU was to be an "A" Type shortly. On 29 April Brig Rogers, Comd, I AGRA, very kindly invited General Armellini and several of his staff and wives to I AGRA dance in UDINE Castle. This was much appreciated by the officers of Terr. HQ, who were thus able to meet and mix once again with British officers. The GOC, I3 Corps was there and talked with

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DOMESTIC. Major Selby, DAA & QMG, leaves on release on May 6th. No replacement has yet arrived. It is most important that one be posted here forthwith in order to take over properly.

Our 80/75 of 29 March 46 and your reply A 700 of 3 Apr refers

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The orders to covert this BLU to an "A" Type have also arrived. Unless at least a temporary replacement for DAA & QMG can be provided, this "A" Type BLU will consist again of one officer and four ORs.

Ray Selby, quite apart from his speaking fluent Italian, will be a great loss to the BLU and to Terr. HQ. He has done absolutely sterling work whilst with this BLU.

PRISON GUARDS. Found by Tolmezzo Bn.

I have approached A.M.G. with the possible solution that a part of these guards be found by the Pefetura Police Guards, some who are merely duplicating frontier posts already manned quite adequatly by Tolmezzo Bn. A.M.G. state that this is not on , if this solution were to be put into effect the prisoners would escape tomorrow. Public Safety Officer, A.M.G., has reported frequently to A.C. Rome Public Safety Dept, that more Trained Police are required here from Rome, but so far without result.

"A" POINTS.

The Italian officers and NCOs of the former Trieste Military District, who were also interned at Laterina Camp owing to their Fascists and collaboration activities have returned to Trieste, having been released, unpunished,

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"A" POINTS.

The Italian officers and NCOs of the former Trieste Military District, who were also interned at Laterina Camp owing to their Fascists and collaboration activities have returned to Trieste, having been released, unpunished, by the Min of War. These men are now back in Trieste as civilians and continue to drew the full Army allowances due to officers and ORs awaiting re-employment. The news of this War Min decision has had strong repercussions amongst the staff of the 5 Comiliter, who are disgusted at the whole affair. When things like this happen, one begins to realise why the stock of the Min of War is invariable so rock bottom at subordinate levels. The following are the main points:

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(a) These personnel collaborated with the Germans and some assisted the "Jugs" in their reprisal activities against Italian civilians in V.G.

(b) After six months of discussions and correspondence between us to the V.G. Police, GS.I , I3 Corps and 5 Terr. HQ, we were in a strong position to have these men arrested by I3 Corps V.G. Police and handed over to 5 Comiliter.

(c) Some of the accused are surely undesirable in Trieste, especially during this critical period.

(d) The return of these men has caused violent anti-Army feeling and criticism in the local press against the War Min, with some justification.

(e) Their financial positions, far from deteriorating has improved in that they receive Army allowances and are free at the same time to find employment as civilians. This causes righteous indignation amongst serving Italians, officers and NCOs who have no black mark against their name, but continue to serve loyally and exist miraculously on their meagre Army pay and rations. No comment has yet been made by I3 Corps, but it is considered that the War Ministry's decision has been most unfair. Parties of the extreme left in Tieste have a strong trump card to play against what they often express as the Italian "Fascist" Army.

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BASILIANO WKSPS. The arrival of 5I Lt AA Regt into this area has necessitated the cession of part of the Accn at Basiliano to this Unit as covered wksps space. 5I Lt AA, are under canvas and have no covered accn for stripping, cleaning and re-assembling their AA guns. The O.C. pointed out the urgent necessity for such accn and asked for space at Basiliano. This has been granted for operational reasons, but means that 5 Comiliter Wksps

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have considerably less wksps space for the many vehicles either awaiting repairs or disposal. There are some 40 official Army vehicles at Basiliano which 5 Comiliter cannot move or assign to units until the War Min. issues instructions for their disposal. It would greatly assist them if these official vehs now lying idle at Basiliano could be assigned by the Min. to units badly in need of tpt, thus making available urgently required covered space at Basiliano for the work of 5 Repair Unit.

It will be seen from the above that accn, especially wksps and covered space is becoming more and more the problem of the day, not only for the Italians, but increasingly more so for British Units too.

PORDENONE ACCN. On a visit to 13 Corps they pointed out that they, themselves, are finding it increasingly difficult to satisfy the demands of G.H.Q. for storage space, unit and wksps accn in this area.

AMN DUMPS. More C.E. Amn Dumps will be handed over to the Italian Army next month. They are the Medeuzza, Rivolto and Spilimbergo Dumps. The Arty Directorate is obliged to employ sworn guards, recruited from civilians, on these dumps as A.M.G. who are the ~~[illegible]~~ responsible

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It will be seen from the above that accn, especially wksps and covered space is becoming more and more the problem of the day, not only for the Italians, but increasingly more so for British Units too.

PORDENONE ACCN. On a visit to ~~Q~~ 13 Corps they pointed out that they, themselves, are finding it increasingly difficult to satisfy the demands of G.H.Q. for storage space, unit and wksps accn in this area.

AMN DUMPS. More C.E. Amn Dumps will be handed over to the Italian Army next month. They are the Medeuzza, Rivolto and Spilimbergo Dumps. The Arty Directorate is obliged to employ sworn guards, recruited from civilians, on these dumps as A.M.G. who are the ~~[illegible]~~ responsible Allied Authority in this area for C.E. Dumps are unable to fulfill their commitments owing to the unavailability of Amn experts, guards and technicians.

3402

J.H. Johnstone

Major,

GSO II.

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'Q'

(11)

CONFIDENTIAL

Bi-Monthly Report - April.

5 British Liaison Unit,
G.M.F.
G/108
17 Apr 46

Land Forces Sub Comm, A.C.,
(Ital) ROME.

SDDist
G(L)
'A'
'Q'

[redacted].

C.A.R.

Trouble at MODENA C.A.R.

Attached at Appendix "A" are reports on incidents in the C.A.R at MODENA. There is little doubt that the outside civilian influence has an immense amount to do with all this. In fact it is the real cause of the trouble. The head, orderly and contented recruits at SAVILE, who are recruited from the same areas and stock are in strong contrast.

Improvement at the next intake is the answer to the above troubles. Attached at Appendix "B" is copy of my letter to XIII Corps. XIII Corps have promised to review the question of the barracks at Pordenone again.

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C.A.R.

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Furthermore at the next intake is the answer to the above troubles. Attached at Appendix "B" is copy of my letter to XIII Corps. XIII Corps have promised to review the question of the barracks at Furlenmo again.

At S/GIZ, the general tone is good. Col Gallo, the Commandant, is full of ideas and welfare conscious.

At the Saturday dances for example, in the canteen, civilians are invited free but on condition that they bring 2 books each for the CAR library.

There is now a 5th Company composed of the 200 odd extra Alpini allowed.

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13 Corps have now sanctioned L'AQUILA Bn and 5 Alpini Regt being allowed in Caserma Fantuzzi and Caserma Salsa Barracks at BELLUNO. Most satisfactory.

513 Gd Bn left ESTE for Legnano Div on 18 April. L'AQUILA will start arriving by train on 21 April and will be installed at BELLUNO by the end of the month.

Tolmezzo Bn are very appreciative of the small Amgi allotment per month allowed by 13 Corps.

Col Egisi, although he has only commanded for approx 2½ months, has improved the general tone of this Bn very considerably. 13 Corps are now taking more interestin this Bn than formerly.

Attached at Appendix "G" is final lay out of operational troops in this command.

"A" Points.

Italian Army witnesses on British Courts Martial seem to be the order of the day. We are busy endeavouring to trace five witnesses - 2 officers and 3 Ors - due to give evidence at two trials in the coming week. So far none of these have been traced. In my signal AA/58 of 1 Apr you were asked to despatch Capt Antonucci to 22 Br Gen Hospital, reputed to be on leave in Rome. He has not appeared yet.

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3400

"Q" Points.

A slight flap was caused the other day when some REME Officers from 13 Corps visited the Comiliter Shops and I.V.P. at Basiliano and told the Officer i/c that the accomodation and plant was required by them and that the Unit might have to move at an early date.

S Comiliter begged us to do all we could to stop any move, especially as valuable machinery and equipment for the repair of some 90 heavy vehicles has recently been brought from Milan and installed at Basiliano.

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13 Corps was asked for clarification and the matter has now died a natural death, much to the relief of the Comiliter.

Ammunition Dumps.

In approximately 7 days time the MEDEUZZA, REVOLTO and ARENAE Ammunition Dumps will be handed over to the Direzione Artiglieria - 5 Comiliter by 13 Corps. This handover will mean more sworn civil guards and more responsibility for 5 Comiliter. It is hoped that the authorised civilian firms will be able to clear these dumps in a few weeks time.

All Italian ammunition at Fort ROSEOLE (8685896) is being cleared by 86 Area. 5 Comiliter are providing AE's and L.C's for this work. The Fort is required by 86 Area, as additional storage space for Allied material.

Disbandment of 718 Raggruppamento.

Proposals for the disbandment of 718 have been submitted to 13 Corps for approval. 5 Comiliter are all for this as it is clear that, with the small number of BR-ITI Units in this area, 718 have served no useful purpose. Moreover passed experience has proved that all urgent matters concerning BR-ITI Units and the Tolmezzo BM are handled, through 5 B.L.U., by 5 Comiliter.

3399

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718 have muddled matters on three occasions and we would be pleased to see this Unit disbanded.

3399

J.H. Johnstone

Major.
G.S.O. II.

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CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX "A"

Copy of 6 Terr. HQ. letter to
Ministry of War for information.

SUBJECT:- Incidents at 5 C.A.R. Modena.

The call-up of class 24 has taken place in the dependent territory with sufficient regularity and satisfactory discipline and relative operations should have been finished at 24 hours of March 28, 1946; but, practically, it happens still at almost all Military Districts that recruits come in later, owing to them having exercised their political franchise. Presumably it will last till April 8-9/1946.

I'll send a more details with the final report on the call-up, as required by you. However if the coming of the recruits has not allowed any remarks, the situation, after their enlistment in the C.A.Rs., is not so good everywhere. As a matter of fact, at the C.A.R. of MODENA happened some incidents, whose gravity comes out from the Commander's report, copy of which I think opportune to have forwarded to you integrally. But as to the concern, it is rightful , in my opinion, to say that the incidents lamented at the C.A.R. of MODENA are to be most probably linked to a local stretched situation. I have been allowed to think so, after the report on other incidents which occured at MODENA recently, copy of which is herewith attached.

As far as it concerns the cause being taken as a pretext for the serious incidents that took place in the C.A.R., an immediate inquiry has been made by my order, and, as a result of it, it has been known that bread and rations in distribution there match with the regulations as well, either for quality or for make. I have already informed of above incidents 5 Comiliter of Udine, statingthat an urgent inspection by its Commander would be a very opportune one, so that he might axcertain too whether there has been any failure of good command or of timely intervention.

The specific threats of individuals inside or outside the C.A.R., which are being disclosed by the attached report N. 9., may lead to believe that more serious incidents could take place again, which couldn't be faced, but with adequate, and exceptional and severe precautions.

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So far, it has been provided for an intervention of patrolling troops of 155 "Mantua" Arty Regiment and of 87 "Feltre" Regt - "Granatieri" Bn., located at Reggio Emilia - Taking into consideration the place in which new incidents could happen and the reaction to severe precautions in civil and political circles too, I would be grateful to you if you disclose your mind on the matter, in order that any action of mine be in accordanced with the Governments views.

As a prevention advice, there is no possibility of intervention, in my opinion, but the transfer to other places, as proposed by the C.A.R. Commander, of the most undisciplined men, having already been detected; but such action is to be previously confirmed by investigations carried out, as above mention, by the Commander of 5 Comiliter of Udine. No remarkable inconveniences have been taken place inside of the C.A.R. of PESARO, except a

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large participation of recruits in uniform to meetings of electors outside the Barracks.

General Commander,
Angelo CERICA.

Report by RAVALIOLI Q, Col Commander, 5 C.A.R..

Incidents which took place at 5 C.A.R. Modena.

Last Sunday 31 Mar there were adminastrative elections at Modena, in view of this troops were confined to barracks. This precaution was taken in view of the intense propaganda of the Comm at Modena and to prevent the new recruits from coming in contact with them. This preventative could be double edged, so to prevent this a special meal was laid on for Sunday evening, also a show by Orfei Circus from 17.30 hrs to 19.30 hrs. So the day passed quietly. The next day, 1 Apr. following the victory of the Comm in the elections, all the town was merry making, parades with red flags, loud speakers applauding the victory, songs etc. The men were not confined to barracks as it was thought that this was not an opportune moment to suspend leave for two days and for political reasons. The troops on entering the town found a burning atmosphere of enthusiasm, anti-military, anti communistic. One might have felt this as several recruits failed to report in to the barracks at the correct time, coming in late and entering the barracks by climbing the walls. Both, Gens, Armellini and Cessari , who had been all the afternoon paying a visit to the barracks, inspecting sleeping quarters, messes and cook-houses and also having a long talk with the men, were able to notice this.

Yesterday morning, at about 08.00 hrs, as I entered the barracks, the picket officer reported to me that a mutiny had taken place in No 8 Coy at reveille. Men in a sleeping quarter were refusing to get up and said that an NCO, who assisted with the distribution of coffee, said he would place under arrest, a recruit who refused to get up and that the bread was black and not white as it had been in the past few days.

The intervention of the Orderly officer, Sub Lt Polese, Sub Lt Petrini and inspecting Capt Zella (who has sleeping accomodation at the barracks by my order) made all men get up.

The Coy walked out for training purposes at about 07.10 hrs. Four recruits, the most undisciplined of them, (two of them still in civilian clothes for lack of uniforms) were placed under arrest.

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The Coy walked out for training purposes at about 07.10 hrs. Four recruits, the most undisciplined of them,(two of them still in civilian clothes for lack of uniforms) were placed under arrest.

I waited for the return of the Coy at 11.00 hrs and spoke for a short time with the Bn Comd, Maj Savorino (who meanwhile had addressed the men at the parade ground). At about 11.30 hrs I went to the jail to question personally the four arrested men and I stopped there an hour, attempting to persuade them to be reasonable. Some of their complaints are as follows: black bread, always the same bad meals, family allowance of 2,000 lire not enough, only that the poor were being called up and that the rich were paying the Districts for excemtions, that they should be excempt from service for family reasons, too many working hours and not enough leave etc. I felt that I had persuaded them all except a Pte Rossi, the others all gave their word of honour that they would refrain from suborning the other service men and would make good soldiers.

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Pte Rossi promised that he too would be a good soldier if the causes of his disatisfaction were removed.

Pte Naccari frankly stated that everything was planned the night before: so the foregoing motives cannot be taken as reliable any longer. He added that his behaviour would be good if he was transferred to the Air Force in which he had previously served for 30 months.

So I understand that it was a question of collective in-discipline being planned outside the barracks the night before, in agreement with subversive individuals. Thinking that the news of what had happened would leak outside the barracks, I told the men I would have them transferred to another unit, but accepted their word to say nothing outside on this I released them. The names of these four are: Naccari Bruno, Rossi Paolo, Gullo Giovanni and Casotti Nino.

At 12.30 hrs I walked out of jail with these men, the Bn Comd, Major Severino and Adj Major Casu. As soon as I reached the court yard north side of the barracks, I saw a crowd of some 300 to 400 soldiers who were shouting, whistling and cursing and another little group were singing the Red Flag.

The inspecting Capt and the duty officer were making an attempt to quell the riot. The other officers were at the Mess outside the barracks. I faced the soldiers who immediately shut up, I removed them from the gateway to as far as the cook-house, but not all the men followed me; new small groups were surrounding the other four officers and I listened for three hours to their complaints endeavouring to persuade them to a resonable frame of mind.

Main complaints and objections are as far as I can remember:

1. Bread black and uneatable.
2. Meals are unsatisfactory and always the same.
3. Macaroni always the same, spaghetti should be distibuted.
4. An issue of 113 grams of meat not 80 grams.
5. Pay 25 lire instead of 24 (see attached folio).
6. Apples and almonds always issued. Could not these be replaced by other kinds ?
7. The soldiers of the Mess Committee are not honest.
8. The officers enjoy much better food, they should get the same as Offs.
9. They were told at the Mil District that Allied rations would be given and not the bad ones they were getting.
10. It is an injustice the soldiers only get 24 lire and a policeman gets 300 lire. 24 lire is not enough to send home letters.

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11. The men called up are all poor, the rich have not been called up; they are paying the Mil Districts for this.
12. They are being cheated by those 2,000 lire.
13. 7 training hours are too long with the rations allowed.
14. The hrs of freedom are very few and lights out too early, (18.00 hrs to 21.30 hrs).
15. They have a mind to come back to barracks at their leisure, for a few sleeping hrs are enough for them.
16. The officers want to teach them how to be disciplined. But they don't agree with it, being a fascist stuff.

Sheet 4/.....

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17. They want to report personally to the Colonel at their own convenience, not through the usual channels any more, because it is not democracy but fascism.
18. There is still the Crown of Savoia on the official seals as well as on the badges, and they want to get rid with this.
19. They have presented themselves on account of a lot of good things promised them, otherwise they wouldn't have come . If things are going on this way, they will return home.
20. The duty officer usually brings his revolver on the (Sam Browne) belt, and this is a challenge.
21. If the Government has no money to feed them properly and to improve their living standard, it is useless to call-up soldiers.
22. The men belonging to the first four-month period of class 1924 have served for a quarter only, while they have to serve for a year.
23. The Government is not entitled to call-up soldiers, as it is not a regular one. Moreover many of them stated that they should be exempt from military service, because of their family situation.

At 15.30 hrs I succeeded in getting them back to their sleeping quarters for training. A Coy, according to the programme, took ablutions.

Some officers reported to me that some soldiers went away while I was addressing them saying: Let Him do it; we have not come here for them; we know why we got here !

Other men, astraddle on the wall were talking with civilians standing by Emilia street and looking for weapons. A corporal came on and sent them away.

At 17.30 hours the second meal was distributed without incidents. As soon as I returned to my office, I asked for a phone relay with 5 Territorial H.Q. Udine, but I did not get it, and with the Infantry Command of Venice too, but General Cessari was still out. Later I sent my adjutant to Bologna to report on to those Territorial H.Q. and I personally called upon the "Prefect" of Modena . Afterwards I informed the Group Command of Carabinieri of Modena about the incidents.

Through notices I have checked up that:

1. The meal distribution was issued at 11.15 hours very quietly.
2. At about 12.15 hours a score of soldiers, moving from the south-side of the barracks and calling downstairs their fellows from the pavillions, started a strike; the a crowd growing up gradually met at the north court-yard, where

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to improve their living standard, it is advisable to call-up soldiers.

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I think that the reasons of above incidents are as follows:

1.) Undoubtedly the actual rations don't match with the habit and requirements of our soldiers. Perhaps no fresh or dry fruits, no tinned meat with vegetables, but more macaroni and rice and normal rations of fresh meat would be welcome. One cannot say that bread rations are not enough or bad, but white bread turning suddenly into black has been a pretext and caused discontentment.

Newspapers have promised too much, as well as the Communes and Mil Districts. As a matter of fact, these soldiers have come in full of striking pretenses, that are very difficult to deal with.

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3.) They cannot be really called recruits, as many of them served either in republican or german or partisan formations and are already full of rebelling and antimilitarist spirit.

4.) In view of administrative and political elections, there has been an intense propeganda and the situation is somewhat uncertain. In my opinion, the left party has operated deeply in this zone, raising excitement, by organized and systematic work.

5.) Corporals, lance-corporals, N.C.Os. as well as the subaltern officers are not trained suitably and can't properly take care and morally master their men, neutralizing any suborning plot coming from outside.

6.) As each Coy numbers 325 men, no efficient control can be carried on.

7.) Subversive propaganda cells are existing among the recruits themselves, perhaps in any Coy or smaller unit too.

Last night to-day (April3) everything was regular and very quiet. As soon as I came into the barracks, I was told that:

1. Soldiers of 1 Bn were very sorry for what happened yesterday and wished to apologize to me.

2. Other soldiers had a mind to strike again, and I believe that what has happened or will happen is due to outside influence.

Besides eventual provisions to make better meals and family-allowances, I think that it is necessary to have the rebelling servicemen transferred to Central or southern Italy, and to stop sending bad individuals from other C.A.Rs. to that Modena ; for the zone of Modena is particularly turbulent specially at this time. This is the advise of local Authorities too.

Herewith attached a report of the local press, to-day's issue, which is not reliable for its alterations of truth.

Colonel Commander
Sgd: Q. RAVAIOLI

3394

Newspaper-extract "Unita' Democratica"

April 3, 1946, issue.

MEALS ARE BAD AND 6 ARTY REGIMENT MEN STRIKE.

"Orbis" Agency reports from Modena:
6 Arty Regiment recruits have been on strike to-day in the

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MEALS ARE BAD AND 6 ARTY REGIMENT MEN STRIKE.

"Orbis" Agency reports from Modena:
6 Arty Regiment recruits have been on strike to-day in the Barracks in west-Emilia street against vile meals. Some soldoers have been singing "Bandiera Rossa", and the officers have confined to barracks. An armed Guard was put in charge of them, but strikers overpowered it. The Colonel Commander addressed the soldiers, but the rebellion lasted till the afternoon. A Coy refused to walk out for training purposes.

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A ENDIX 2

5 C.A.R. - H.Q.

25 Mar '46

No. 905/M

SUBJECT:- Soldiers' suborning.

Copy of C.A.R. Sub-Lieutnant Joseph Orioles's report on an incident with some civilians (is) forwarded to you.

Please dispose a petrol service in the places mostly frequented by the recruits during duty free hours.

When guard platoon arrives at C.A.R., inlying pickets will be issued by this H.Q.

2/Lt Orioles has been mentioned in despatches by me.

In view of the Admin Elections which will take place on 31 apr 46, please let me know whether, and what duty free hours should be allowed.

Sub-Lt Orioles has been mentioned in despatches be me.

Col Comd,
Q. Ravaioli.

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24 Mar 46. MODENA.

A report on an incident between Dvr Pompettin Alessandro of 6 Feltre Bn and two partisans of the local police.

This is the statement of the a/m Drv.

On 23 Mar 46., at about 13.15 hrs Dvr Pompetti A. , of this Regt was passing the Royal Military Academy towards the railway station to take the Bologna train, when two partisans most probably serving in the police Corps of the town, laughed at him, saying: Look at that buffoon; Dvr Pompetti asked if they bore him ill-will and they answered affirmatively and inquired about his intention too, at this moment Pompetti punched twice one man who was knocked down, this one afterwards ran away. Pompetti then carried on fighting with the

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be issued by this H.Q.

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A report on an incident between Dvr Pompettin Alessandro of 6 Feltre Bn and two partisans of the local police.

This is the statement of the a/m Drv.

On 23 Mar 46., at about 13.15 hrs Dvr Pompetti A. , of this Regt was passing the Royal Military Academy towards the railway station to take the Bologna train, when two partisans most probably serving in the police Corps of the town, laughed at him, saying: Look at that buffoon; Dvr Pompetti asked if they bore him ill-will and they answered affirmatively and inquired about his intention too, at this moment Pompetti punched twice one man who was knocked down, this one afterwards ran away. Pompetti then carried on fighting with the other man until two " Carabinieri and four other policemen (partisans) arrived. The Carabinieri asked the Dvr for his documents and after he had handed them his leave warrant for Bologna, these were given back again to him and he was allowed to go, whilst the four partisans were sent back and prevented from detaining him. Pompetti arrived at the station a few mimuits, after the train had gone.

3393

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APPENDIX 4

MODENA GARRISON H.Q.

29 Mar 46.

No. 86/R

SUBJECT:- Incidents between soldiers and policemen.

TO: Police Commissioner - MODENA.

Copy to: Territorial H.Q. - BOLOGNA.

Terr. and Various Affairs Office - BOLOGNA.

Prefect.- MODENA.

Complaints and reports on incidents between serviemen and partisan police constables are being delivered to these H.Q.

Besides the regrettable incident we already reported, these HQ. are investigating on another one, which took place in a brothel.

Partisan policemen, after arguing with some G.A.R. NCOs and threatening with weapons, compelled them to walk out hands-up.

Incidents were lamented inside "Fanti" Barracks. As a matter of fact, the policemen keep showing themselves from windows looking over the Barracks-court-yard, and criticizing on whatever happens there and now laughing at and then insulting the soldiers.

As a precautionary measures and in order to prevent from other serious incidents, that civilians are talking unfavourably on, please issue order to have the above windows permanently shut.

3392

Colonel Commander
(sgd) Nicolo' Di Vita.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NDC No. 785020

APPENDIX 'B'

SUBJECT:- Accomodation - Italian Army.

5 British Liaison Unit
CMF

AQ/53/103

16 Apr 46.

Rear 13 Corps.

Reference our AQ/53/96 of 30 March on Barracks occupied by German hospital at Pordenone and your reply thereto.

There is now one additional and serious factor from the Italian Army point of view, which I know you will seriously consider when reviewing the question of whether or not these or other barracks in this area can be handed over.

It is that at the training centre of MODENA, which had to be sited there due to no further barracks being available in this area, training is not going at all well. This is because the MODENA - BOLOGNA Area is one of the worst communist strongholds in Italy. The new young Italian troops at MODENA are subjected to every form of Anti-Army, Anti-Authority propaganda by the civilians there. They are encouraged, and bribed to desertion or mutiny by organised propaganda from the town. It is difficult to imagine a worse place to put young soldiers for their initial training, discipline and morale. There has been some trouble in the training centre as a result of this already. The young Italian troops who get approx 30 Lira a day only, are susceptible to propaganda if it is continuous and organised. It is both at MODENA.

3391

As a result, the contrast between the general tone of the recruits at SACILE and those at MODENA, although

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3391

As a result, the contrast between the general tone of the recruits at SACILE and those at MODENA, although they are all recruited from the same district, is very great.

Accordingly, I hope you will consider this additional factor in favour of giving the barracks at Pordenone back to the Italian Army.

Major,
G II. 5 BLU-UDINE

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

APPENDIX 'C'

5 British Liaison Unit
CMF

G/125/9

12 Apr 46.

Main 13 Corps.

Ref your signal 0309 of 11 April.

Present locations of major operational Units of Italian Army in 13 Corps Area are these:-

1. 516 Gd Bn (Feltre Bn) MESTRE. With one Coy detached at UDINE
2. 517 Gd Bn (Tolmezzo Bn) HQ.LOVARIA. 1 Coy at S.MARTINO DI CODROIPO
   2 Coy at REMANZACCO
   3 Coy at PALMANOVA
   4 Coy at LOVARIA

NOTE. 513 Gd Bn left ESTE to-day for Legnano Div Area Milan and has not yet been replaced in 13 Corps Area by l'AQUILA Bn - my G/110/15 of 1st April refers.

The above is position at present.

FUTURE MOVES IN PERIOD 17 - 22 APRIL.

a) L'AQUILA Bn will arrive in 13 Corps Area from Sondrio. This Bn less 2 Coys will establish in BELLUNO.Fantuzzi Barracks.

b) 5 Alpini Regt HQ. from Sondrio will also establish in BELLUNO. - Salsa Barracks.

c) 516 Gd Bn (Feltre Bn) will move from present locations at Mestre and Udine to BELLUNO for a period of 2 months for training. In order to do this,it will be relieved by one Coy l'AQUILA Bn at UDINE,and one Coy l'AQUILA Bn at MESTRE. The 2 Coys referred in Para (A) above.

Therefore the position of major Italian operational troops by 24 April 46 will be as follows:-

5 Alpini Regt HQ at BELLUNO

3390

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0452

2 Coy at KREMENAGCO

3 Coy at PALMANOVA

4 Coy at LOVARIA

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3390

Therefore the position of major Italian operational troops by 24 April 46 will be as follows:-

5 Alpini Regt HQ at BELLUNO

- L'AQUILA Bn at BELLUNO
  - 1 Coy detached MESTRE
  - 1 Coy detached UDINE
- 516 Gd Bn (Feltre Bn) at BELLUNO.
- 517 Gd Bn (Tolmezzo Bn) Present location HQ. LOVARIA

Major,
G.II 5 B.L.U.

Copy to:- M.M.I.A. ROME.

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0454

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

2.10 860

BRITISH ARMY CIPHER MESSAGE. RAAC SIGS SERIAL 5400. QVR 2.

FROM MAIN 13 CORPS. 101915B

RECEIVED 1630 11 APR 1946

ROUTINE

ACTION G(SD) GHQ CMF

INFO MMIA

11/4/46

SECRET

O 307. SECRET. REF YOUR FX 62436 DATED 11 MAR. NO ACCN HAS YET BEEN FOUND IN UDINE FOR 1 MT CORPS DEP .SEARCH IS CONTINUING WITHOUT GREAT PROSPECT OF SUCCESS

CIPHER

ROUTINE

Copy to. G(SD)
ST

V/22/11

CIPHER TELEGRAM 3389

This message will not be distributed out
British or U.S. Government Departme
Headquarters or retransmitted even in
without being paraphrased. (Messages
O.T.P. must not be paraphrased.)

I Q 458

CONFIDENTIAL.

9

End of month report - March.

5 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.
G/103
31 Mar 46.

G(2)
A
Q

Land Forces Sub Comm, A/C.,
(MMIA) ROME.

Copy to 13 Corps.

GENERAL.

The Call-up in UDINE Ter. Comd has been most successful. There has been no incidents. The type of chap presenting himself has been really good. The overall percentage of recruits to present themselves todate is 88%. The arrangements for onward routing to the C.A.R.s, has gone smoothly.

On Thursday 27 March, members of the press were invited to attend the opening of the Canteen for SACILE C.A.R. This is in a fine building in Palazzo BIGLIA and was presented to the C.A.R. by the Mayor and people of Sacile. Afterwards, the press representatives were taken on an extensive tour of the C.A.R. and were much impressed thereby. They have reported this in the press too. The ARMS. have now arrived there. The chaps show every indication of

3388

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3383

9.4.46

sheet 2.....

P 0458

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This has caused some real disappointment amongst Army recruits whose families are Alpini minded and I think that another 350 odd could be earmarked for Alpini with great advantage. I have spoken with Col Scarpa, the Regimental Commander at length on this and he was convinced that were this to be done, it would not make, 516, [redacted], 517, Gd Bns (to be Alpini) overstrength by the time the recruits are posted to those units. Due to demobilisation all ~~xxxx~~ three Bns are well under strength now and will be much more so in three months time. General Armellini and the BIU are examining ways and means of increasing the Alpini allotment always keeping within the initial number allowed of course. BIU will keep you informed on this.

L'AQUILA.

General Armellini by his interest in the call-up and G.A.R.s, and his knack of being at the right place at the right time has profoundly impressed this BIU. We previously got the impression that he was ~~either~~ rather too busy acting the great man instead of being the great man. It proves however that we were completely wrong in this impression, he has been very much in evidence and very much to the point.

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

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3387

INTELLIGENCE

There is great and mounting interest amongst the civilian population on the outcome of the Allied Commission's present tour of Venezia Giulia area. Recently the demonstrations in Trieste area have become markedly Pro-Italian. The Italian Army whilst very interested in the outcome indeed, remains immune and aloof from it all. Though naturally the rumoured No of Divisions that TITO has on the Morgan line is a constant topic of conversation in most officers messes.

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I think that this is a good thing in that it has imparted a certain keenness amongst many officers, which was not quite so apparent before these rumours started. In fact the coincidence of the call-ups commencing at the same period as the arrival of the Allied Commission was a most fortunate one, making the call-ups take place when patriotic feelings are running fairly high amongst the better type of civilians and consequently producing a better type of recruit.

DOMESTIC

Major Ray Selby is due for release in the first or second week of May, it will be a great loss to this B.L.U.. It is therefore essential that his successor arrives about 26 April in order to take over properly in this rather tricky Area.

ZOI Sub Area.

Ceases to exist on the 31 March 46. It will be replaced by I. AGRA, Comd. Brig Rogers RA. Col Pirie who has been a helpful hand to 5 Terr. HQ here, will be a great loss. On Wednesday last General Armellini and officers of 5 Terr, HQ, entertained him and some officers of his staff at a farewell Party given at 5 Terr.HQ officers Club

The BLU has asked Corps for permission to start

3386

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NRDC No. 785020

type of recruit.

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3386

The BLU has asked Corps for permission to start repairs on those barracks at Pordenone not actually occupied by the German Hospital (but in the same barracks) and is now awaiting the reply.

It is planned that 513 Gd Bn leave ESTS for Milan Command on the 9 or IO of April 46. L'Aquila Bn arrives approximately I6 April 46. General Armellini has proposed to the Min of War that the name of 5 Alpini Regt be changed to 8 Alpini Regt. Reason being that 8 Alpini Regt has a fine tradition in the region of UDINE, SACILE and PONTEBBA and its name is

sheet 4.....

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well known to civilians in this area. A good move.

The BIII have taken up the delicate but serious matter of officers shaving with General Armellini. He has given orders that All officers in All units with this command will shave daily. (less of course certain Alpini types with genuine beards). This is surely a first essential for the New Italian Army.

WELFARE.

13 Corps have given authority for the Tolmezzo Bn to draw certain E.F.I. items such as soap, blades etc from 20 B.I.S. Udine. This concession on the part of 13 Corps has been very well received by the Bn and 5 Terr HQ and will mean that officers and men are guaranteed a regular supply of toilet requisites. There will be no excuse for unshaven beards.

On Thursday 28 March a visit was paid to the Sacile G.A.R. for the opening of the Casa del Soldato. This Welfare Club is most excellently fitted out with reading rooms, bar and dance hall. The Sindaco of Udine, supported and helped by the leading lights in the place have been most helpful in finding this club in a town which is badly bombed and much overcrowded. The opening went very well and the many new recruits

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3385

sheet 6.....

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 785020

The press was represented and were pleased with the club and during an inspection of the C.A.R. expressed amazement at the excellent work done in a short time and the good layout and efficient planning of the building. The write-up in the press next day was given a prominent place.

MORALE.

The morale of the recruits at Sacile is excellent. The general physical and mental standard is high. I talked to many recruits and they are all amazed at the good treatment they receive and the efficient and friendly attitude of the instructors. They were all well turned out and pleased with their uniforms and boots.

Q Points

ARMS

British arms have now arrived at the Sacile C.A.R.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

Both are good at the C.A.R.. Great care has been taken to ensure that men have well fitted boots and uniforms.

ACCOMMODATION.

The C.A.R. at Sacile is well fitted out with arm stores, beds and chairs. The bath rooms and showers are excellent. New equpt has been used [illegible]

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Both are good at the C.A.R.. Great care has been taken to ensure that men have well fitted boots and uniforms.

ACCOMMODATION.

The C.A.R. at Sacile is well fitted out with amm stores, beds and chairs. The bath rooms and showers are excellent. New equpt has been used throughout and there is constant hot water. The mens kitchens are fitted with modern cookers and are spotlessly clean. The new mens dining hall is not yet completed but it will soon be ready. We have again asked Corps to authorise thr Genio to start minor repairs on those parts of the Pordenone German Hospital at present vacant. If Corps give there permission much of the prelimanary repair work on these buldings will be complete in readiness for the next call-up when it is hoped that the other section of 5 Comiliter

3384

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C.A.R. will be established at Pordenone. Corps have not yet had time to reply to our letter.

AMMUNITION DUMPS.

The Osoppo, Codroipo, S. Marghera and Valbruna C.E.M. Amn Dumps were handed over to the Italian Army by A.M.G. during the month. 5 Comiliter have to use sworn civilian guards on all except Valbruna which is within the 25 km Frontier Zone. It is hoped that the civilian firm in Udine authorised by the Govt to dispose of all categories of unserviceable amn will evacuate all amn from these dumps in a short time, thus alleviating the present heavy commitment of guards etc now borne by 5 Comiliter. A.M.G. are also keen to get rid of this material as soon as possible as they have neither the organisation nor the men to deal with this big problem.

P.W. ex-RUSSIA.

One thousand five hundred It. P.Ws from Russia arrived in Udine on the 28th. There was only one [redacted] officer amongst these men, some of whom were in a pitable condition. They had been travelling for two months and had existed on black bread and dried fruit. There was considerable stir in Udine yesterday as some of these men held political discussions in

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3383

Appendices follow separately

J H Brustler

Major,

G30 II.

Declassified E.O. 13065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

CONFIDENTIAL

5 [illegible]U. Mid-monthly Report - March.

5 British Liaison Unit
G.M.F.

19 Mar 46

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) RCMN.

Copy to: 13 Corps.

DET G 2
A
G

RAE

GALL-UP.

(1) The call-up in UDINE Terr Comd continues to go well a very high percentage reporting quietly to the District H.Qs. The recruits are of useful looking types too, well educated on the whole, and tough looking. We have visited Districts of Padua, Treviso, Sacile and Udine. The organisation for their reception at these Districts was a really good show with the one exception of Padua, where a major blob, practically no food, on the first day of their arrival has now been put right. The Commander of this District is to go in the near future.

CARS.

MORALE. Whilst excellent progress has been made

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

go well a very high percentage reporting quietly to the District H.Qs. The recruits are of useful looking types too, well educated on the whole, and tough looking. We have visited Districts of Padua, Treviso, Sacile and Udine. The organisation for their reception at these Districts was a really good show with the one exception of Padua, where a major blob, practically no food, on the first day of their arrival has now been put right. The Commander of this District is to go in the near future.

CARS.

MODENA. Whilst exelent progress has been made with the major repairs at the Duca d'Aosta barracks, these barracks are not ready, and it is unfortunate that there will have to be a good deal of improvisation over the next 5 weeks. I am satisfied that this is due to the extremely short time which was available for these repairs and not lack of go or interest on the part of Bologna Command or this Command. It is simply that there has not been enough time. Fortunately the Commander there Col Revigli is a 'live wire and an Alpini is quite equal to doing all that can be done

3383

I 9.458

SHEET 2.....

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

on the spot. The most pressing and serious problems at Modena are these in order of importance.

1.) Accomodation for officers. Approval at last arrived from Min of War for the repairs to one barrack there for as permanent officers mess and living quarters. This will cost 5 million lira. (I found this difficult to believe but as the minimum wage of the civilian worker there is 650 lira a day it is not surprising. It is comical indeed that the Commander there, a full Colonel of some 28 years service with a tremendous responsibility for both OARS gets under half this per day).

This building will not be ready for about 6 weeks. It is of the first importance therefore that temp accomodation is found in the meantime. As the recruits will be pretty tight there it is quite impossible to improvise more accomodation in the barracks itself. I have seen this ~~at present~~ myself, there are about 20 officers living in double tier bunks in two small rooms in the barracks like sardines. The rest are sleeping out in the town for which they have to pay 150 to 190 lira a day. A temporary mess has been found in the town but it cannot possibly mess the whole War Est of officers who are rapidly arriving.

[illegible] house or hotel must be requisitioned

Clary Signal 9/16 of 17 mar. refers.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 785020

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Adj Signal 9/16 of 17 mar. refers.

3381

Sheet 3/.....

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

(2). Housing for Dem PL. and Servizi Gov.

Some stables to be converted. This requires the simple placing of wooden flooring in those rooms. Authority to start this has been asked for in Feb but as still none has arrived. Please ask Min of War to sanction Genio Bologna Comd to start this at once, if necessary using a little of the 5 million sanctioned for the officers mess, which will take 6 weeks to make. This flooring on other hand, can be done in a few days.

No Action. Authority arrived this morning.

(3). Accomodation for the Guard.

I think this is only a question of reviewing once more the accomodation allotment again and I have told C.C. so. He wants a "Barrack" put up but Comd Genio Bologna Comd points out that a million lire is a little much for temp accomodation.

CAR SAGILE.

All that is important is finished. I witnessed the arrival of the first recruits and the organisation was well laid on.

At both CARS, a good deal more "bulshit" would be of value and the BIU has suggested some methods, i.e. larger and more notices, whitewash, etc to both Commandants. I've manage to "acquire" 15 large petrol drums for the entrance to Sagile, painted

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NRDC No. 785020

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2380

TRAINING PROGRAMME.

The surprisingly good one sent out by Min of War is however a little too ideal and sandgnic in my opinion. It does not allow sufficient time for the most necessary and frequent clothing, checks and inspections of arms etc. Moreover the hrs of work

Sheet 4/.....

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

are very long indeed this does not give instructors much time to "brush up" the properly instructions for the following day. I am discussing this with Gen. Armellini to get him to give a little more latitude to the Commandants on the spot than was given by Min of War.

DECENTRALISATION.

Brig Hope's letter on this has just arrived and I am very glad that Min of War will get out a directive. But meanwhile a start has been made here and Gen Armellini, himself, I must admit a superb and solitary example in the art of decentralisation, has now decided that heads of depts sign their own letters. A committee is now sitting to decide what is important enough to come to Chief of Staff for information and what not. At least this is a real step in the right direction.

BLU W.E.

The need for at least a third Officer in the BLU becomes greater daily now that the call-up has commenced.

ARMS FOR CARS.

I sincerly hope these will soon be forthcoming.

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ARMS FOR CARS.

I sincerly hope these will soon be forthcoming.

INTELLIGENCE.

Anti Army feeling in press etc is recently much less. Probably with the Council sitting on the Morgan Line question, and the very anti Tito feelings current, an Army in the long run may be an asset after all when the British have gone. I think that this is more the attitude now, amongst the former Anti-Army section of the public.

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Sheet 5/.....

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"A" POINTS.

WELFARE

The "MONACO" Hotel - Venice is now the War Ministry's "baby". 86 Area gave an extension on the Allied requisition till 23 March. After this date it will be derequisitioned and it is up to 5 Gemiliter and the War Ministry between them to re requisition. It is most essential that the War Ministry act with speed as the civilian manager intends to run the place for the public.

13 Corps have definitely taken a keen interest in the Welfare of the "Tolmezzo" Bn. In my AQ/51/33 of 11 March it will be seen that a sum from British Army Welfare funds will be spent on sports' kit etc and that a unit canteen will be set up, stocked through EFI.201 Sub Area have been made responsible for seeing that this is done. C.O. "Tolmezzo" is very pleased and says that his men will appreciate Corps interest in both their work and their welfare. It is a good move on the part of Corps.

"Q" POINTS.

CLOTHING

[illegible] Clothing Depots are under the

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"G" POINTS.

CLOTHING

Now that the Sole Clothing Depots are under the complete control of 5 Comiliter, issue to both BR and ITI-ITI units are made with more speed and regularity. Hq 2 Forestry Gp's It. Incr. have been reclothed complete (these men were badly in need of new clothing as their work entails much rough labour and wear and tear on clothing), and the "Tolmezzo" muddle has been cleared up. We did try to set Kaki B.D. for the offrs of this unit, but Kaki stocks had run out.

Clothing for the new recruits which has been made locally under the supervision of the Commissariato,

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is of good quality and in good supply.

ACCOMODATION STORES.

5 Comiliter have really got down to the problem of finding double tier banks, beds and accn.,.stores generally for the GAR and for the Military Districts which during the call-up period, have to accomodate recruits in transit to the GARS. New double tier bunks have been made in good numbers sufficient to provide for recruits in transit through the Mil Districts and for the GAR's themselves . Improvisation has been adopted with success, especially in the Distretti Militari.

AMMUNITION DUMPS.

No further progress has been made on the handing over of all Amm dumps to AMG and for It. Army. Meanwhile intwo dumps, there are quantities of dangerous explosive which might blow up at any moment due to sudden weather changes and deterioration of the explosivechemicals. If these two dumps "go up" it is quite possible that this B.L.U. goes too ! 13 Corps have been asked to send German P.W. experts to make this amn safe .

C.R.M.

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C.E.M.

More releases have been made by 13 Corps to 5 Comiliter. Considerable trouble is caused through the Comiliter "not having the possibility" to collect the material from various dumps as promptly as they should. Prompt action has been urged both verbally and by letter. A release of many different items of acom stores from DADOS dump - MESTRE - provided the Comiliter with much valuable material which was used for the SACILE C.A.R.

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Sheet 7/.....

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·ACCOMODATION.

5 Comiliter want to close the "4 Novembre" hospital in Udine. This hospital has been practically empty for the passed three weeks owing to the fact that 75 % of the beds are reserved for Displaced persons, A.M.G. who it appears, have no sick to send. Maintenance expenses are very high. We have proposed that this hospital, which is required by Udine for Elementay Schools, be handed back to the civil authorities and that the Udine Military Hospital reserve 60 beds for A.M.G. (patients to be on civilian rations). A reply from A.M.G. is awaited.

P.O.L.

201 Sub Area are now issuing P.O.L. for the "TOLMEZZO" Bn to C.I.P. Udine. This arrangement is most satisfactory and means that vehicles coming in to draw make one short journey one a month. The Comiliter has now drawn their March P.O.L. allotment after much signalling and a good deal of "flapping" owing to the short supply in C.I.P. petrol dumps both here and at MESTRE.

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J H Johnston
Major,
G.S.O. II.

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0481

(1)

"Q" BUCK SLIP FILE No Q457

DATE	SECTION or SERVICE FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED
18 March 46	Q2	Q A/Q	Subj: (5)+(6). Re 17 Via Aquileia, Udine. Spoke Capt Brisely in Exec. Comm. – he states he was employed in Udine & knows the case. Agrees with Col. Bright and maintains Commissariato can move in to Gen. Armellini's spacious villa. Conversation unofficial and solely for information. Spoke Maj. Hurd-Smith, Deputy Chief Off Offa, who stated that Brig. Lush is the officer who could give instructions to Col Bright and is of the opinion that solution can only be found if Brig. Lush was presented the problem for arbitration.
19 Mar	AQ	Q	Noted. I await development from Udine whence I was told the sub area Comd had been asked to give a ruling – Cable 5 BLU & Colored situation – There are TWO sides to this situation & we must be reasonable. It will probably not be around till I get back.

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19 Mar	AQ	Q.	noted. I await development from Udine whence I was told this sub area Comd had been asked to give a ruling – Cable 5 BLU for latest situation – There are TWO sides to this situation & we must be reasonable. It will probably not be around till I get back. WP/AQ. 3375
20 Mar	Q	Q	Q. action RAC
21 Mar	Q	Q	Taken

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CONFIDENTIAL

(6)

End of month report - February.

5 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.
~~Feb~~
6 Mar 46

Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.,
(MMIA) ROME.

Copy to: 13 Corps.

GENERAL

(1) C.A.Rs. Progress with preparations and repairs at Secile is good. The same cannot be said of Modena. This is due to:

(a) Part of the barracks there are still occupied.

(b) The Minimum Expense policy.

Ref (b) above. This has now been waived and almost indeed reversed by General Armellini; it was essential to do this. Progress Proformas are attached. It is noted that this command is only to get I Demonstration Platoon for the two C.A.Rs. I have written to I BLU to boost the request of 5 Terr H. for two officers with the platoon (one at each C.A.R.) or failing this to get an exceptionally good NCO for Secile where there will now be only I Sec and skeleton pl H.

(2) Decentralisation of staff duties and responsibilities the old bugbear. The lack of decentralisation in the staff of 5 Terr H. is all too evident. Except for the Commissariate, every single letter of every single dept has to be read and signed by the Chief of Staff in quintuplicate and again by Deputy Chief of Staff. The accumulation of paper is prodigous. The result recently has become serious. As it is these two seniors are over worked and worried officers cannot give their undivided attention, thought and energy etc to the important things that really matter i.e. C.A.Rs. Policy and Morale etc. Recently much important matter concerning the C.A.R. has come in from the Ministry of War it does not always get from the Comiliter the attention it deserves. "Action" takes to long to materialise. It is not that these senior officers do

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G48E

(1) C.A.Rs. Progress with preparations and repairs at Sacile is good. The same cannot be said of Modena. This is due to:

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The Chiefs of Staff frequently carry a stack of files home where they work (i.e. read and sign) until midnight or even later. This is not surprising when for example the transfer of one officers mess Cook from 517 Gd Bn to 516 Gd Bn has to be signed and approved by the Chief of Staff personally in quadruplicate. I have seen General Zauli at length on this (Gen Armellini is in Rome). He agrees and will review the whole machinery with Gen Armellini when he returns. I have suggested that the process must be gradual. It can start with the heads of depts signing their own letters. They will bellyache to the Chief of Staff. I know, that they are too very busy.

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AP 428

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The Chief of Staff will again refuse to sign their departmental letters which are their responsibility after all and suggest to them that they delegate returns etc to their own idle but perfectly capable subordinates.

It will help please if MMIA will once more put this matter to the Ministry of War and get them to send out a directive to commands. For tacts sake do not mention this command specially please. The via Aquileia is still in occupation by 5 Parr Command but the Commissariato will have to move to many small seperate buildings soon unless A.G. can or has been persuaded to alter Col Bright's decision. Please inform the BLU earliest possible of any information on this. General Armellini departed again to Rome on the 21 st Feb leaving the Command in the very able hands of General Zauli. He returns on the 6 Mar.

PROGRESS PROFORMAS.

The proformas were only obtained after much gingering, when it did emerge it was such a wet and inaccurate one that we had to push for another one.

This has just been received and in order to avoid further delay I am sending it un-translated. To translate this here would take about three days with one old civilian poring over a dictionary.

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A POINTS.

The Fascist offrs in the Trieste Mil District will be arrested to monday (4 Mar 46) and will be handed over by the Venezia Giulia police to 5 Comiliter by 1800 hrs 4 Mar 46.

AQ POINTS.

C.E.M. (AMN)

The latest directive on C.E.M. (Amn) transferring the responsibility of dumps to A.M.G. for disposal, guarding etc.has caused some considerable stir in A.M.G. Udine. The directive lays a considerable burden of responsibility on A.M.G. who cannot carry out the clauses to the full because of lack of guards, CCRR etc. At an A.M.G. conference on Mon 25 Feb attended by Gen: PASCALE Arty Comd 5 Comiliter and Maj SELBY the Public Safety Officer pointed out that, in order to fulfill his commitments one of two things would have to be done with Corps approval i.e. Either have more It: tps in the area to guard dumps (opposed by 5 B.L.U.) or have sufficient sworn guards to take over the security from Allied troops at present guarding these dumps. In both cases the Arty Directorate 5 Comiliter would be fully responsible for employing the approved civilians firms who would dispose of the Amn.This later proposal has been agreed to by Generals PASCALE who is only to anxious to take over these responsibilities. There are so many people involved in dumps in Udine province that security at the moment is practically nil and one fears more explosions are likely to occur. A firm policy and the word "go" is ~~available~~ awaited from Corps. The clearance of two dumps- LA COMINA and CARPENEDO is keeping the Ufficio Servizi and AQ 5 B.L.U. very busy at the moment.
The CARPENEDO area is required by 88 U.S. Div by 6 Mar and 600 tons of amn are now being cleared with the help of 86 Area who are providing lorries and fatigue men. There is a lot of tying up to be done by the B.L.U. as 13 Corps are pressing for speedy action.

CLOTHING.

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CLOTHING.

The DGLO depot is now controlled for all purposes by 5 Comiliter. This is most satisfactory in view of the fact that 718 Raggruppamento was inclined to grab all the best clothing for their units and there have been several muddled transactions. It is hoped that in future the issue of clothing will be made more wisely and economically through 5 Comiliter.

VEHICLES.

13 Corps (CEM) have asked for complete lists of all vehs handed back to 5 Comiliter. It appears that no trace can be found of several vehs which 13 Corps say were handed over to the Ital Army. The Ufficio Servizi are now searching through their files for all receipts, copies of which will be sent to Corps.

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ACCOMODATION STORES.

Stores for the C.A.R. are practically complete with the exception of beds. There are about 400 beds in the Ord: Depot-86 Area. We have asked Corps for a release. It is hoped that they will be available to 5 Comiliter for Sacile by 10 mar.

WELFARE.

The It: Welfare Hotel Monaco in Venice has been derequisitioned by 13 Corps. 5 Comiliter, who were given two months extension, had asked for a furthur months "grace" in order to be given time to re requisition through the Ministero. This has not been allowed by 13 Corps who say that Venice is now It: Territory & they cannot requisition for the It: Army any longer. We have tried hard to get Corps to make an exception, but this time the answer is, quite rightly-"no". The Welfare Colonel 5 Comiliter has been told to take speedy action or he may find that civilian manager will claim the Hotel for his use.

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Major,
GSO II.

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CONFIDENTIAL

(5)

Subject:- Mid - Monthly report.- February 46.

5 British Liaison Unit
G.H.Q.

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (4)
(M.M.L.C.)
G H Q

19 Feb 46.

Copy to:- G/Ops Main 15 Corps

5 B.L.U. (CHINA) - MID-MONTHLY REPORT. FEBRUARY 46.

GENERAL.

Progress in getting ready the 2nd Barracks at [illegible] is good. If the repairs continue at the present rate, the Barracks will be ready and in really good condition by approx March 8th. The Commander and a fair proportion of his staff are installed there. What is really needed now is the syllabus from the Ministry of War the order that it may be worked out in detail good time. The range area, due to the flat very cultivated country in the immediate vicinity of the Barracks, is approx 25 miles away. Good training country is hard to find. However, there is an excellent piece of ground for minor training North of [illegible]. It will be necessary to lay on bus from 5 Territorial H. towards the end of each course, however, in order to use this ground.

The loss of Li Tin Anqilin which at present houses the Communistic, to A.E.S. for the Communist party is a bad blow to 5 Territorial H. The morale effect of losing it however has not caused very considerably proportions. The subject has assumed an exaggerated importance in the H. The General shows tears of blood daily on the subject. This would not matter except that it is sending the whole of his staff to that tears of blood too. The senior members of the staff think and wonder on nothing else. Faces are very long here.

I've seen Col Bright twice again on the subject. Also the sub-area Cmdr. Col Bright is adamant.

Brigadier Cope knows the facts of the case as a result of his visit which was much appreciated by the Territorial H.

In order to help, here are the facts of the case from both sides. If a way out can still be found, it will back this H. more than anything we've done or rather, failed to do, so far. The staff are much

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which is going to prove very good. If the repairs continue at the present rate, the barracks will be ready and in really good condition by approx March 6th. The commander and a fair proportion of his staff are installed there. What is really needed now is the syllabus from the ministry of war into order that it may be worked out in detail good time. The range area, due to the fact very cultivated country in the immediate vicinity of the barracks, is approx 5? miles away. Good training country is hard to find. However, there is an excellent piece of ground for minor training North of [illegible]. It will be mandatory to lay on bus from S Territorial H. towards the end of each course, however, in order to use this ground.

The loss of 17 vis Aquilis which at present houses the Commandant, be A.M.G. for the Germanies very is a bad blow to S Territorial H. The mere-le effects of losing it however has now caused very considerably proportions. The subject has assumed very exaggerated importance in the H. The General shows more of blood daily on the subject. This would not matter except that it is wasting the whole of his staff to shed tears of blood too. The senior members of the staff think and confer on nothing else. Tears are very long here.

I've seen Col Bright twice again on the subject. Also the sub-area Quad. Col Bright is adamant.

Brigadier Hope knows the whole of the case as a result of his visit which was much appreciated by the Territorial H.

In order to help, here are the facts of the case from both sides. If a way out can still be found, it will be just this H. more than anything we've done or rather, tried to do, so far. The staff are much preoccupied in working out ways and means of fixing the very important commandants into very scattered offices. Even if they succeed, it cannot work as efficiently as it does at present.

Gen Aquilinis arguments are these:-

(a) Loss of prestige to himself. The civilians, some of them do not love Gen Aquilini, will say that the allies have turned the General out of his palace. Gossy, Gossy.

(b) The principle of the thing. Here he has a clear case. The Army are being turned out of a building in favour of a civilian political party - and the Communist Party at that.

(a)

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(c) Col Bright has offered to requisition a villa for him. Why then, cannot he requisition a house for the Commissario instead ? or since he must have 17 Via Aquilia, requisition another house for the Commissario ?

(d) A large civilian house in Piazza XX Settembre has been rented by the Army for the last 18 years. At the end of hostilities, the Partisans moved in on 2 floors of it and once it they "R.S." Gen Armellini ordered them out. They wouldn't go. He then told them that they must pay the rent for their 2 floors. They do this. The remaining 3 floors are still occupied by Genio and Arty Bn, 5 Territorial Comd.

Why cannot Col Bright turn out the Partisan Bn. which is a dead organisation now in favour of the Army which is a new and growing organisation ?

Col Bright's arguments in answer to the above.

1.) It is true that many civilians are by no means in love with Gen Armellini. They regard him as one of the senior Generals of the ITY Army at the time of the major defeats. They also know him to be a political General. I am prepared to combat any of this talk and stress to the prefect and others that I. The A.M.G. Commissioner, regard General Armellini as a V.I.P. (I don't, but in order to help you I am prepared to pretend that I do).

2.) UDIS 2 bombed out as it is, is one of the most over-populated towns in Italy. If I really thought that the 5 Territorial Bn. was crowed to bursting for accomodation. I would not insist on having 17 Via Aquilia. But it is not. Gen Armellini, wife and child live in a vast palace that would house a rifle Coy - or the Commissario. If he is really the great man that he says he is, surely in order to help his staff, he can move into a smaller villa which he can choose. I will requisition it for him.

3.) The Communist Party are important here. It is my job to keep the peace in this difficult Area. Their presence above is most unsatisfactory.

4.) The Partisans are not a dead organisation. They are an quite an important political party. I cannot turn them out in favour of the Army.

5.) I do realise the importance of 5 Territorial Bn. and the new Army. It is because of that I am prepared to requisition a suitable house for the General. This inspite of the fact that it means turning civilians out, and is contrary to Allied policy which is to demilitarise whenever and wherever possible. It is because of this policy that in this Area one gets British quite senior officers living like sardines in small houses. If they can do it, so can General Armellini.

The above is the gist of both sides.

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2.) It is true that many civilians are by no means in love with Gen Arnellini. They regard him as one of the senior Generals of the ITI Army at the time of two major defeats. They also know him to be a political General. I am prepared to combat any of this talk and stress to the prefect and others that I. The A.M.G. Commissioner, regard General Arnellini as a V.I.P. (I don't, but in order to help you I am prepared to pretend that I do).

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The above is the gist of both sides.

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OTHER POINTS.

15 Corps are not now going to recommend the conversion of 517 Gd Bn (Tolmezzo Bn) to BRIT-ITI. The projected relief of 518 Gd Bn by L'AQUILA Bn. (instead of, as, formerly arranged the relief of 516 Gd Bn by L'AQUILA Bn.) This bin of our desires, whilst it will be a simpler home over than the original one is not good from this H.Q point of view.

513 Gd Bn is distinctly a better show than 516 Gd Bn. Accordingly Gen Arnellini wishes to keep 513 Gd Bn and lose 516 in place of AQUILA.

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Gen Grill, of Legnano Div, a very fine but distinctly "Vecchio Italiano" in these matters must have worked this. However, in view of his loving D'AVILA Dn. one can well appreciate his point of view too.

Where the Pin of Hay are naughty is this. They send this cross [redacted] to Gen Arnaldini worded thus. " In agreement with SHIA ..... D'AVILA Dn will now believe SIS and NOT SIS ed Dn ". I don't suppose its in agreement with SHIA at all ? They're merely sent a copy I suspect - to SHIA for information. Vecchio Italiano again. It is naughty as they obviously think that by using this "In agreement with SHIA" technique, they can silence Gen Arnaldini natural objections, and counter proposals.

MUSSOLINI.

The Prefect of UDINE has written an Army bashing article in the local press, as an answer to the anti-Army articles referred to in my last report. The MLO have thanked him privately.

"A" POINTS.

A.M.G. Trieste have promised to hand over the Fascist officers working in the ex Distretto Militare in the near future. The presence of these undesirable persons in Trieste has been the cause of some anxiety at 5 Comlitter. A.M.G. Trieste will be glad to see them go.

"C" POINTS.

La GORIZIA Ammunition Dump and AS Recovery Commission Depot are being cleared by 13 Corps. The Area is required by 7th CBR. Clearance work, undertaken by 5 Comlitter with Corps help (rail wagons, flats etc) includes the moving of very heavy bridging equipment, Genie-stores ammunition and small arms. 5 Comlitter will keep most of this material but the Allies may require the bridges and some rolling stock.

G.M.M.

More vehicles are being handed back to the Italians. They are chiefly heavy lorries.

[redacted]

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

[illegible]

The Prefect of Quito has written an very bumptious article in the local press, as an answer to the anti-Axis articles appeared to [illegible] my last report. The BLU have thanked him privately.

"A" POINTS.

A.M.G. Friends have promised to hand over the fascist officers working in the ex Electrotec Militare in the near future. The presence of these undesirable persons in Quito has been the cause of some anxiety at S Comiliter. A.M.G. Friends will be glad to see them go.

"C" POINTS.

La Chimba ammunition dump and EE Recovery Commission depot are being cleared by US Corps. The area is required by TH GHQ. Clearance work, undertaken by S Comiliter with Corps help (mail wagons, flats etc) includes the moving of very heavy bridging equipment. Semi-storage ammunition and small arms. S Comiliter will keep most of this material but the Allies may require the bridging bridges and some rolling stock.

C.I.M.

More vehicles are being handed back to the Italians. They are chiefly heavy locomotives.

[illegible]

S Comiliter have been given a copy of the latest directive on dumps which "passed the baby" to A.M.G. 3367
To have asked A.M.G. to let us know their policy based on these new instructions. S Comiliter are rather sorry to lose the control to A.M.G.

P.O.L.

For 517 GS Bn (Polonese) still awaiting final ruling. Reserves of P.O.L. are being built up by the Tank Bn.

[illegible] AND [illegible].

The collecting of S.D. for G&R recruits from sixth received is going well. No problems.

J.H. Johnstone Maj.
G II. S A.M.G.

785020

Beginning of

5 B.L.U. ~~Mid~~-Monthly Report - February.

(4)

5 British Liaison Unit
C.M.F.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E

Feb 46.

Distn
G(2)
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GEN.

CAR Accomodation.

The projected plan for putting 2 Bns of the CAR at PORDENONE is off.
13 Corps letter of 29 Jan reads as follows:-

HQ 13 Corps 5731/G of 29 Jan.

5 B.L.U.

Reference conversation JOHNSTONE-SOUTAR.

1. The possibility of making accn in PORDENONE available to the Italian Army has been fully considered. It is regretted that the GERMAN hospital cannot be moved at present. The CONEGLIANO hospital is too small to accomodate the 400 GERMAN patients, and the VISCO BARRACKS would have to be completely equipped and repaired before being suitable as a hospital.

2. The patients of the GERMAN hospital are all awaiting repatriation and will be removed as accn in GERMANY becomes available. In a few months therefore the hospital should be cleared.

3. It has been agreed by Rear 13 Corps that the accn in question (CASERMA VITTORIO EMANUELE-PORDENONE) be earmarked for the ITALIAN Govt when the GERMANS have all gone, subject of course, to the restrictions given in this HQ signal G 337 of 20 dec, copy of which is enclosed for 5 BLU.

2366

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

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3366

Signed.

SOUTAR for B.G.S.

SACILE and MODENA must ~~rather~~ after all, be the solution.

Call up. UDINE Provinces.

One of the worst troubles re the above, is now solved. 5 Terr: HQ. has found accomodation for the 200 men expected daily in the early stages of the call up. Before they are sent on to the CAR. This building is now being prepared. It is in UDINE which is excellent.

11.2.46
Rec

To sheet 2...../

Q 458

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SHEET TWO

Intelligence.

Recently has been a fair amount of Anti-Army articles in the local Press.

Officers, are not particularly depressed by these articles but are, rather, indignant, about them. They resent the articles because (a) they consider themselves in the Army as an instrument of the Government and not a Royalist Army. This Government is composed of all parties including the left, from whom most of the venom comes. They cannot understand therefore why this Government allows such stuff to be published about the Army, which ~~is~~ is an important instrument of this Government. The Terr HQ. itself are a little worried by it, but for one reason only. This is that it may have an adverse effect on the call-up in this Area and cause trouble.

Other "G" points.

G 13 Corps is considering recommending the conversion of 517 Gd Bn to BRIT-ITI category. This ITI-ITI Bn is fully employed by them and under their direct operational Command. The suggestion was put to Corps by 718 Raggruppamento, the BRIT-ITI HQ. which administers 517 Gd Bn.

I have told Corps that, whilst 517 Gd Bn would undoubtedly benefit from such a change, it is completely contrary to Allied policy which is exactly the opposite, ie. to reduce BRIT-ITI Units more and more. I've also pointed the administrative difficulties involved in such a change at this stage.

If however Corps do decide to recommend this change, they will do it through this BLU to you and thence to GHQ. I've told G/SD Corps that I consider it most unlikely that GHQ will sanction such a change.

A/G Points.

A Deficiencies in all ranks.

Clerks one (private)

Motor/Cyclist one.

Pte SHEARING, recommended for upgrading to Corporal Clerk, is on LIAP - due to return in 5 weeks time.

Discipline. On the whole poor. This is due chiefly to the

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If however Corps do decide to recommend this change, they will do it through this BLU to you and thence to GHQ. I've told G/SD Corps that I consider it most unlikely that GHQ will sanction such a change.

A/Q Points.

A Deficiencies in all ranks.

Clerks one (private)

Motor/Cyclist one.

Pte SHEARING, recommended for upgrading to Corporal Clerk, is on LIAP - due to return in 3 weeks time.

Discipline. On the whole poor. This is due chiefly to the poor standard of Junior Officers as a whole in 5 Terr Cond.

Leave problems. NIL

Pay problems. It appears that families of serving soldiers resident in the Provinces of TRIESTE and GORIZIA have not received allowances for several months. This is having an adverse effect on the morale of the soldiers concerned. A letter has been sent to A.M.G.'s concerned urging them to investigate and take necessary action. Apparently the local civilian organisations in these districts, being politically against the Army, have refused to adheer to the existing laws governing the payment of allowances to

To sheet 3...../

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families of soldiers. Further details later.

Morale. ~~[illegible]~~ Moderate.

"Q" points.

Domestic. Transport N.T.R.

Accomodation. B.L.U. Officers mess in a small flat in Via Pordenone 1. O.R.'s accomodated in the ENSA mess and very comfortable.

Italian Transport.

Position satisfactory and standard of maintenance of vehicles in No. 5 Transport Company fairly high.
SAGILE I.V.P. (see my AQ/47 of 2 Feb).

Clothing and Equipment.

Enquiry into the winter clothing muddle for 517 Gd Bn still going on. It appears that the last consignment received by 218 Regt from the War Ministry was not released to 517.
The generous issue of winter clothing for 517 made by War Ministry at Naples has been collected. Position is now satisfactory.

G.E.M.

13 Corps are now releasing a considerable quantity of G.E.M. The Rear Corps G.E.M. Officers are most co-operative and the release and handover of materials - equipment etc. is proceeding smoothly. Much of this equipment will be used for fitting out the G.A.R. and the Territorial Depots both at MESTRE and UDINE, are now almost full to capacity. Storage space is the main problem in this Area.

Accomodation.

We are having considerable difficulty with A.M.G. and, to a small extent, with 201 Sub Area, in retaining what little accomodation is at present hel by the Italian Army in UDINE. Two premises now occupied by the Commissariato and Officers of the Territoriale are requised by A.M.G. for civilian and political organisations.

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vehicles in No. [illegible] (see my [illegible]
SAGILE I.V.P.

Clothing and Equipment.

Enquiry into the winter clothing muddle for 517 Gd Bn still going on. It appears that the last consignment received by 21S Regt from the War Ministry was not released to 517.

The generous issue of winter clothing for 517 made by War Ministry at Naples has been collected. Position is now satisfactory.

C.E.M.

13 Corps are now releasing a considerable quantity of C.E.M. The Rear Corps C.E.M. Officers are most co-operative and the release and handover of materials - equipment etc. is proceeding smoothly. Much of this equipment will be used for fitting out the C.A.R. and the Territorial Depots both at MESTRE and UDINE, are now almost full to capacity. Storage space is the main problem in this area.

Accomodation.

We are having considerable difficulty with A.M.G. and, to a small extent, with 201 Sub Area, in retaining what little accomodation is at present hel by the Italian Army in UDINE. Two premises now occupied by the Commissariato and Officers of the Territoriale are requised by A.M.G. for civilian and political organisations.

During a visit to A.M.G. it was pointed out that the Army must be given first priority in view of the fact that the present accomodation held by the Army is the very minimum required and that no further units are moving in to UDINE.

The Engineer Branch, whose depot, consisting of two sheds at S.R0600, have been ordered by 201 Sub Area to move out. The sheds are required by the U.S. Army. This order came as a great blow to the Territoriale as they have no alternative accomodation in which to store this very bulky but valuable material. 201 Sub Area have promised to help and a solution is forthcoming. (See my 4/3/9 of 29 Jan).

P.O.L. Problems.

On 26 Jan 201 Sub Area signalled this HQ. to the effect that 517 Gd Bn would drew P.O.L. from C.I.P. w.e.f. 2 Feb. It was pointed out, both to the Sub Area and 13 Corps, that considerable difficulties would arise from this Corps

To sheet 4...../

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SHEET FOUR

order as 517 have British vehicles.
After much signalling and phoning 13 Corps wrote to G.H.Q. for a ruling. (See Rear Hq. 13 Corps letter 1001/6/Q of 8 Feb).

J.H. Johnstone
Major,
G II. 5 B.L.U.

Udine
HLJ/rv

3383

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S B.L.U. Mid-Monthly Report - January.

5 British Liaison Unit
C.M.F.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E

8 Jan 46.

3

G DIV
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G A R S

1). Since the last report, the search for further GAR accomodation has been the main preoccupation of this BLU. I will not stress any further the immense difficulties in this Area in this respect as they are now appreciated by MMIA.

During the last 10 days I've resorted to the "Pidcsley technique" of searching for accomodation not on the lists in a Jeep. The best so far:-

A A school at TREVISO.

B A small Bks. & temply villas and a large elem school at SPILIMBERGO.

C A factory at ARTEGNA.

Ref A. The work to complete this otherwise new building, is all [illegible] of fittings windows, cookhouses, latrines etc. cannot be done in time. Not is it really large enough (It is also on Route 13).

Ref B. The Bks are small and in bad condition. The school has recently taken on 480 children. (Schools are Priority 1A in AMG territory).

Ref C. The factory is large enough and well situated for Ranges. At present occupied by an ex-I Palestinian RASC tpt Coy. The repairs and alterations however cannot be done in time. I've twice recced this with ITI Reps to give an all out effort from them, but the alterations to be done are not dn. Also the expense would be very great. Incidentely the older officers of the RC are very sensitive on "Expense". They know that when the Allies move out, they will have the best barracks in Italy in this Command. Just where they want them eg. UDINE. They are therefore loath to incur [illegible]

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

During the last 10 days I've resorted to the "Pidesley technique" of searching for accomodation not on the lists in a Jeep. The best so far:-

A A school at TREVISO.

B A small Bks, & empty villas and a large elem school at SPILIMBERGO.

C A factory at ARTEGNA.

Ref A. The work to complete this otherwise new building, is all ~~essential~~ lacking of fittings windows, cookhouses, latrines etc. cannot be done in time. Not is it really large enough (It is also on Route 13).

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D I have one last card. A factory in ESTE. Yet to be recced (on Monday). If this fails. There is only one solution. It is that already ordered by Ministry of War. i.e. 1 Bn at SACILE and 2 Bns in AOSTA Bks at MODENA. Most unsatisfactory.

2). ACCOMODATION ALREADY HELD IN DANGER OF LOSING.

AMG UDINE are being tiresome. Some time ago Col. Pirie Comd 201 Sub Area derequisised a large house in UDINE. (17 Via Aquileia) for the express purpose of giving to the 5 Terr Comd HQ. HQ carried out extensive repairs and occupied it. The whole of the Communists housed there. Col. Pirie is now on LIAP. Col. Bright Prov Commissioner is demanding it. He must have it, he says, to house the HQ of the Communist Party in UDINE, at present housed in the CLN Building.

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This apparently does not work at all. I have been him at length on this. He intends to get it. There is no other place for the Commissario to go to. (Except possibly Gen Armellinis private residence which I admit "would hold a Rifle Company"). However the battle is still on.

3). A crisis over Coal in particular for the Military Hospital here has temporarily been averted. AMG have now given a permit to 5 Terr Bde to buy coal from OVARA mine.

4). COMMERCIO

Col. Douglas looks like being in 85 Gen Hospital for another 10 days. He will therefore be unable to attend the Conference.

Due to the reduction of this SIU to a B type of 2 Officers only, we are again living in the Albergo Italia to make room in our late mess for 12 Officers of an Artillery Bde. We hope to get another mess by the 25 at the latest, however.

5). AMMUNITION DUMPS

Recent explosions in dumps, some serious, have stirred all concerned to the realization that no clear directive has been issued in 13 Corps area defining in detail Allied and/or Italian responsibilities. Up till now some dumps have been guarded by Italian troops with Italian civilian employees of the Artillery Directorate assumedly responsible for the internal Security etc (Reg. Dumps in Venice Area) while most of the other larger dumps in 86 Area and 201 Sub Area are guarded by Allied Military whilst Italian civilians employed by the Italian Army work inside the dump. On a visit to Rear 13 Corps we were informed that all civilian personnel will have to be Vetted by Area or Sub Area, but that the external responsibility remains as it is until a final directive is issued by GHQ. This information has been passed to the 5 Terr Bde.

MORALE

Certain extreme political parties of the Left have started a vicious campaign in the Venice district inciting Italian soldiers to desert and calling on all likely recruits to refuse to present themselves when the call up starts. The time worn arguments of a Royalist Army and Treacherous General Staff are glossingly put out in the form of pamphlets and posters. It is to be presumed that this campaign may well catch on in other parts of the province, especially Udine, where there is much well hidden underground subversive activity. In this connection it is wise to anticipate trouble when the call up starts and be prepared to accept poor results.

3361

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

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3361

TRANSPORT

Derelict vehicles and engines continue to arrive by rail from Austria. These vehicles are, for the most part, only good for scrap and the amount of energy and precious petrol expended in moving them from the railears to the IVP at SAGILE is considered most expensive and of no profit.

ITALIAN OFFICERS VISITING BARRACKS.

The previous difficulties met with by Italian officers

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on official visits to Italian Army barracks occupied by the Allies have been overcome. The BZU has issued a pass which admits an Italian Officer to any Italian Army barracks for the purpose of inspection or assessing damage.

J.H. Johnstone

Major,
G II. 5 B.L.U.

Udine

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G(2)
A
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SUBJECT:- Fortnightly Report No.2

5 British Liaison Unit
CMF
8 Jan 46

2

Land Forces Sub Comm AC
(AMIA)

G/103/13

Ref our attached letter G/103/10 of 6 Jan 46.

Italian Staff Lists and Location Statements are omitted from this report, but will be forwarded as soon as received from HQ 5 Terr Comd.

3359

Major.
G.S.O.II.

/AR

P. 458

SUBJECT:- Fortnightly Progress Report No.2.

5 British Liaison Unit
CMF
6 Jan 46

Land Forces Sub Comm AC
(MMIA)

G/103/10

Reference your SD/113 of 27 Dec 45, herewith progress report in respect of this BLU.

1. GENERAL
(a) Domestic (BLU)

Officers: (i) GI (Lt Col JSH Douglas) returned to UDINE from LIAF on 2 Jan 1945.

(ii) Capt WPJ Smith (RAOC) Ord Officer - A posting order from GHQ has been received, posting this officer to No.1. Armd Group Kitting & Stores Coy. (GI has already written to you on this). In view of fact that we are almost certain to lose Capt PH Nelson (REME), this depletes our team considerably.

The following personnel will move to BOLZANO:-

G.S.O.I. - Lieut Col J.S.H. Douglas
Capt REME - Capt P.H.Nelson. (?)

Other Ranks:

Clerks RASC - Sgt Naden
Pte Jenkins (on return from LIAF)

Clerks (Services)-
S.O.I.(RAOC) - S/Cdr Lyon.
L/Cpl (RAOC) - Cpl Cairns.
L/Cpl (REME) - L/Cpl Love (?)

Admin Staff

Ration NCO - Cpl Butcher
Dvr/mech - Cpl Hawkins
Batman/Dvr - L/Cpl Vickers
Cook (ACC) - Pellini (civilian in lieu)

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

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Admin Staff

Ration NCO - Cpl Butcher
Dvr/mech - Cpl Hewkins
Batman/Dvr - L/Cpl Vickers
Cook (AOC) - Bellini (civilian in lieu)

Attached

Interpreter - Sgt Morrissey

From the above it will be seen the following deficiencies arise:-

Cpl (Clerk)(RASC)	1
L/Cpl(")(")	1
Duty NCO (Sgt)	1

3350

These deficiencies will be made all the more serious by the fact that out of the personnel available to go to BOLZANO now the following are in A/S Gp 26:-

Sgt Naden.
Cpl Butcher.
Cpl Cairns
Cpl Hewkins.

Whilst L/Cpl Love is in A/S Gp 27.

To sheet 2...../

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

Therefore within 2 or 3 weeks of setting up in BOLZANO the new 4 HLU will be seriously short of personnel (due to present deficiencies and releases).

~~Urgency~~

Replacements must therefore be posted as soon as possible please, in order to "take over" and thus avoid a sticky period.

General.

Since the last report, the situation here has improved a little. Although SACILE is on Route 13, 13 Corps have sanctioned the barracks at SACILE for T.T.V. These barracks however have certain snags, pointed out in my last report and Signal [illegible]/53 of 3 Jan.

Now, due to the delay in (a) finding them and (b) getting them sanctioned, the time left for the extensive repairs to be done is extremely short. Moreover, SACILE is in AMG territory and the bombed out civilians living there have got to be moved. 1750 is the absolute maximum that can be housed, leaving but little room for stores, lecture rooms etc., which are essential to a TTC. I will keep you informed of progress in the preparation of these barracks, and of any particularly great difficulties encountered.

The next most important point is this. Whether or not the call up will be implemented in UDINE province itself? This province is still under AMG. It is also an operational area.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NRDC No. 785020

General.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NHDC No. 785020

Sheet Three.

UDINE Province Call Up?

I strongly recommend that there be no call up in UDINE Province itself.

REASONS.

(1) Since the province is still an AMG one, the Italians have no powers here. For example, in the event of there being many "absentees" from the call up in UDINE Province, a probability, resort cannot be made to the Carabinieri to go and collect them, as in other provinces of Italy, without Allied help.

(11) Although there is a Military District HQ of 5 Terr. Comd. in UDINE, there is no accommodation in UDINE itself to house the men whilst sorting, documentation, inoculations etc., are taking place. Nor is there the slightest chance of getting any in UDINE itself. - See previous reports.

Even if there was accommodation in UDINE, 13 Corps are emphatic that there must be no further Italian troops on Route 13. See GHQ Signal FX 57746 of 3 Jan.

(In this connection G1 and myself have recce'd a large house in PRADAMANO, approx 6 miles SE of UDINE and off Route 13, as a possible alternative, if 13 Corps consented to it. This is not a feasible proposition however, and accordingly has not been proceeded with.)

(111) In view of the extremely limited capacity of SACILE barracks, the only empty barracks found and sanctioned, any reduction in the intake, by not including UDINE Province, in the call up, will considerably ease the TTC accommodation problem.

(1V) Unless there is a change of policy, this area is unsuitable for a call up, in that it is very much an operational area.

(V) Part of UDINE Province is in ZONE A, with all its political and military complications. Any Italian action in ZONE A has to be sanctioned by about 5 different Allied departments. It is doubtful if they would always sanction it, anyway.

(V1) Prior to G1's departure on recce to BOLZANO, he expressed himself strongly in agreement with this recommendation i.e. That there be no call up in the province of UDINE itself.

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

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(111) In view of the extremely limited capacity of SACILE barracks, the only empty barracks found and sanctioned, any reduction in the intake, by not including UDINE Province, in the call up, will considerably ease the TTC accommodation problem.

(1V) Unless there is a change of policy, this area is unsuitable for a call up, in that it is very much an operational area.

(V) Part of UDINE Province is in ZONE A, with all its political and military complications. Any Italian action in ZONE A has to be sanctioned by about 5 different Allied departments. It is doubtful if they would always sanction it, anyway.

(V1) Prior to G1's departure on recce to BOLZANO, he expressed himself strongly in agreement with this recomendation i.e. That there be no call up in the province of UDINE itself.

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POINTS A/Q.

WOOD. The most urgent problem in 5 Terr HQ is wood fuel. A battle has been going on between the E.L.U. and the A.M.G. and the local forestry people over the question of the release of wood. A.M.G. have to provide for all the needs of 13 Corps and the civilian population. They did refuse to help the Italian Armysaying it was none of their business. The Terr HQ are not allowed to get wood themselves. Permits are issued by A.M.G. Following a strong letter to A.M.G. on this subject an area of forest will be allotted to the Italian Army. This will solve the immediate problem. Detailed arrangements for cutting and transport are being made the Terr HQ and A.M.G.

BARRACKS It is quite clear that there is no further accommodation for Italian troops in 13 Corps area. The usual ding dong "battle for barracks" goes on , requests are made to 201 Sub Area, 13 Corps or 86 Area, but the reply is either"NO" or "earmarked for British troops". Our request for 2 small barracks in Udine to accommodate call-up personnel in transit was refused (see our AQ/53/22 of 27 Dec45). Accommodation for 5 Pack Transport Coy could not be found outside 13 Corps area. An empty barracks although in bad condition was found at MESTRE (see our signal AQ/53/ of 2 Jan 46) 86 Area replied that barracks are earmarked "for other purposes".

AMMUNITION The Italian Escort Guard for returned ammunition from B.T.A. carried out their task without a hitch. We were were obliged to provide transport for guard to B.T.A. HQ as R.T.O. and Mov. Udine refused to transport Italians on trains. Our 3 ton lorry crashed on the return journey.

On 29 Dec G.O.C. 13 Corps met Gen Armellini at a party given by Commander, 201 Sub Area. Gen Harding asked Gen Armellini if he (or the Italian Army) would take on the responsibility of the many ammunition dumps in this area. Gen Armellini said it could be done on certain conditions. 5 Terr HQ

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HQ and A.M.G.

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CLOTHING The question of the release of winter clothing to 517 Gd Bn has been finally solved following MMIA authority to 718 Admin Regt for necessary release.

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This question had been shelved by previous MMIA representatives in Udine for over a month during which time men shivered in the mountain cold.

VEHICLES Derelict vehicles continue to arrive by rail from B.T.A. Many of these vehicles are only good for scrap and the problem of parking space is becoming acute

OTHER POINTS On 29 Dec, Col Pirie Commander, 201 Sub Area gave a large cocktail party at his HQ, to which he invited Gen Armellini, the Chief of Staff and several Senior Officers of 5 Territorial Command.

There, Gen Armellini met the Corps Commander, the Corps Commander also very kindly talked in turn to all the other Italian Officers present. This party, which was a very good one, was immensely appreciated by Territorial HQ as can be imagined. Moreover they were able to meet and mix with many other allied officers which is very much to the good.

Due to the split of the B.L.U., present Officers Mess and ORs billets have to be vacated this week in order to house a larger incoming unit. Our new locations are not yet known. This B.L.U. will keep and use the same offices in 5 Terr. HQ Main building, Via Savorgnana, UDINE. Telephone No is now UDINE MILITARY 1762.

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COPY TO:- 13 CORPS

M. Johnstone

Major,
GSO II.

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

(1)

Subject: Fortnightly Report No 1.

5 British Liaison Unit,
GMF.
19 Dec 45.

G/103/6

Land Forces Sub Comm AC,
(MMIA), ROME. (3 copies).

copy to: HQ, 13 Corps.

1. Since my last report, barracks for TTC were found at MERLUSCO and FRIMBE, occupied by elements of FRIULI Group. (This HQ letter G/116/2 dated 8 Dec 45 refers). These barracks are in 13 Corps area who point out that they are to be occupied in the near future by Poles - this being a GHQ decision. The Poles are to take over the dumps at present guarded by FRIULI Group.

2. HQ 5 Territorial Comd were informed on Thursday 13 Dec, that the ITI barracks at SACILE were now unoccupied. Col PIDSLEY arrived the following day and took this matter up with 13 Corps together with a list of other barracks at present occupied by Allied troops: the barracks at SACILE were considered suitable and I have inspected them. They are Caserma di Sacile and Caserma Slatopar, immediately adjacent.

Advantages.

(a) SACILE is only 1½ hours by road from HQ 5 Terr Comd UDINE, from an Admin point of view.

(b) It is approx 40 miles West of UDINE, and roughly 65 miles from the nearest point on the MORGAN Line. This is an important factor in it's favour: the further West the TTC is situated from the 'delicate' MORGAN Line - UDINE Area, the better.

(c) There is a fair amount of unrest and undesirable propaganda in this area, and I feel that raw conscripted young soldiers would be fair game and not unreceptive to all types of communist and other subversive propaganda. SACILE, being further West, is I think, comparitively clear of this sort of thing.

Disadvantages.

(a) A good deal of repair work to the barracks is necessary due to bomb damage, and especially to windows.

(b) The largest block is at present occupied by approx 25 families of very poor civilians who have been bombed out. Due to shortage of accommodation and the time of the year, it will be difficult to move them elsewhere. AMG will probably raise objections to this.

(c) SACILE is on Route 13 which is operationally and admin very important to 13 Corps.

(d) When fully repaired, the barracks will not hold more than 2,300 men. I understand from Col PIDSLEY, however, that the initial call-up will not produce much more than 2,000 in this area.

3353

3. I am now awaiting 13 Corps decision as to whether they will sanction [illegible] you by signal when received.

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3353

3. I am now awaiting 13 Corps decision as to whether they will sanction TTC at SACILE, and will inform you by signal when received.

4. I have received copies of signals from 3 MRU regarding barracks at MANTOVA for possible TTC 5 Terr Comd; I know nothing about this nor does HQ 5 Terr Comd. I think it may have been started by General ARNOLDI who is in ROME.

5. 5 Territorial Command, whilst being keen and co-operative, are a little apt to regard the MRU as the solution to their every minute problem. When it is made clear that we are not, the unfortunate Chief of Staff is their next target. Indeed, instead of having little to do as it should be, he is usually still working at 9 pm in the evening, the subordinates having finished work at 1400 hrs. We will endeavour to break this lack of decentralisation but it will take some time.

Col PIDSLEY's visit was very much appreciated by HQ 5 Terr Comd.

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6. Position of HQ.

(a) Major F.R.SELBY, DAA&QMG, arrived 10 Dec.
(b) Lieut-Col J.S.M.DOUGLAS will not now be returning from LIAP until after Christmas, probably 29 Dec.
(c) The moves ordered in your signalGD/3093 of 13 Dec, will commence after Christmas.
(d) In view of future moves, the three offices at HQ 5 Terr Coud have been retained: location - 28 Via Savorgnana, UDINE: Telephone Civil 269 (Ext 02) or Mil 1768.
(e) Officers Mess: wef 19 Dec: 8, Via Sandle, UDINE.
(f) OR's billet: wef 19 Dec: 3, Valle P Umberto, UDINE.
(g) REME Increment remains at BERGAMO - c/o 421 PS Section.

J.H. Johnstone

Major,
GSOII.

DLJ/MC

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