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Sept. 19

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MT. FOR GUARD BNS + REGIMENTAL HQ's

Sept. 1945

785020

Subject: Transport- Italian Guard Bns.

Tel: Rome 566212

R/13/18

8 Sep 45.

To: G-4 Mov & Tn. AFHQ.

1. Since Italian Guard Battalions were placed under comd of this HQ for Train Guard duties they have been very considerably handicapped by the lack of vehicles, insufficiency of POL and the unserviceability of their vehicles.

2. WE No. 9351 dated 15 Dec 44 authorizes 2 Automobili and 5 Autocarri only for each Bn.

3. Although HQ MMIA have done all they can to help with the issue of vehicles, the position can hardly be worse. The main troubles are as follows :-

- (a) Vehicles are not serviceable when issued. Two recently issued to 507 Bn from E.V.P. Naples broke down before reaching the unit, one at Pescara and one at Rome. When this happens the unit is required to have the vehicle towed back to the Repair unit and it can ill afford a vehicle to do this, even if they have one capable of so doing.
 - (b) No spare wheels are issued nor tools with which to maintain their vehicles.
 - (c) Units are largely themselves to blame for failing to indent for spares, tyres, etc., and for not forwarding with their indent for another vehicle the B.L.R certificate of the old vehicle.
 - (d) There is a considerable delay of weeks and months between the time an indent is submitted and the time a spare part or another vehicle is issued caused by the delay in correspondence within Italian Military circles.
I have at various times checked up with HQ MMIA the numbers of the vehicles alleged to be held by units according to the records previously held by MMIA (now held by the Italian Ministry of War). When checked with units numbers these differ considerably.
 - (e) POL seems to be issued on a general basis without any regard to the role of the unit or their monthly mileage.
4. As each Coy is detached from its Bn HQ they require at least two vehicles. One to draw rations etc., and one to convey guards to their respective stations. The present WE does not cater for this.
5. Some units are being helped out by HQ Areas in which they are situated but transport from this source cannot be guaranteed.
AFHQ Comd for instance supply a vehicle to 4 Coy 501 Bn. One 15 cwt truck held by 605 Regt RA is loaned to 525 Bn at Salerno.
This HQ has loaned 2 x 15 cwt trucks and one 3 ton lorry to 507 Bn otherwise this unit would not be able to function at all.
6. It is recommended that WD vehicles be issued to all Italian units under command on the following scale :-

Cars, 4 str, 4 x 2	1
Trucks, 15 cwt, 4 x 2 GS	10 (or 5 x 15 cwt trucks and 5 cars 4 x 2)

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Lorries, 3 ton	2

7. May this matter be treated as urgent, please?

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CMF.
WHFR/FEP.

Lt. Col.
Commanding HQ Train Guard Control.

Copy to: ADST. Land Forces Sub-Commission, AC.

21/12/50

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