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L.O's Re

53 B.L.U.

Oct. 1944 - F

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L.O.'s Reports

53 B.L.U.

768
823

Oct. 1944 - Feb. 1945

Subject: Training Programmes -
Engr Bn Combat Group FOLGORE.

53 B.L.U.
Ref. RE/83
19 Feb 45

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (LMA)
for S.O.R.E.

Copy S.O.R.E. 10 Corps
GSO II 53 B.L.U.

Herewith as Appx 'A', Training Programme for week 18 - 24 Feb,
in respect of Engineer Bn Combat Group FOLGORE.

[Signature]
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

823

Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
ref /63 of 19 Feb 45

1st Artieri Company - TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 18 - 25 Feb 45

Day	Time	Detail	Type of Instruction
Sunday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Mines and Minefields
Monday	0800 - 1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of various types of wire obstacles
	0800 - 1200	3 Pl	Road clearance
	2000 - 2400	Whole Coy	Night exercise - laying minefields - battalion positions
Tuesday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Weapon Training - Battle Training
	1300 - 1600	1 & 2 Pls	Road clearance
	1300 - 1600	3 Pl	Construction of various types of wire obstacles
Wednesday	0800 - 1200	1 & 2 Pls	Road clearance - demonstration by Br Pl
	0800 - 1200	3 Pl	Gapping minefield
	1300 - 1600	Whole Coy	Battalion defensive position
Thursday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Jeep tracks
	1300 - 1600	1 & 2 Pls	Compressor
	1300 - 1600	3 Pl	Laying minefields
	2000 - 2400	Dtrs	Night convoy run
Friday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Weapon Training
	1300 - 1600		Battle Training
Saturday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Battalion positions
	1300 - 1600	1 & 2 Pls	Wire obstacles
	1300 - 1600	3 Pl	Mine laying
NOTE: TWTs and Recce exercises are being held in Bridging, Layout of Jeep Tracks, etc for officers and senior WCOs. No definite dates have been fixed for these so far.			
2nd Artieri Company - TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 18 - 25 Feb 45			
Sunday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Weapon Training - Battle Training
Monday	0800 - 1200	2 Pl	Construction of various types of wire obstacles
	0800 - 1200	3 Pl	Construction of defensive positions
	0800 - 1200	1 Pl	Mines and Demolitions
	1300 - 1600	Whole Coy	Defensive Works
Tuesday	0800 - 1200	3 Pl	Compressor
	0800 - 1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of various types of wire obstacles
	1300 - 1600	Whole Coy	Battalion defensive positions
Wednesday	0800 - 1200	Whole Coy	Jeep Tracks
	1300 - 1600	"	Road clearance - Laying and gapping minefields
Thursday	0800 - 1200	1 & 2 Pls	Road clearance - demonstration by Br Pl
	0800 - 1200	3 Pl	Minefield gapping
	1300 - 1600	Whole Coy	Battalion defensive positions
Friday	0800 - 1200	1 Pl	Construction of various types of wire obstacles
	0800 - 1200	2 Pl	Road clearance

Wednesday 0800 - 1200 1 & 2 Pls Road clearance - demonstration by Br Pl
 0800 - 1200 3 Pl Gapping minefield
 1300 - 1600 Whole Coy Battalion defensive position

Thursday 0800 - 1200 Whole Coy Jeep tracks
 1300 - 1600 1 & 2 Pls Compressor
 1300 - 1600 3 Pl Laying minefields
 2000 - 2400 Dtrs Night convoy run

Friday 0800 - 1200 Whole Coy Weapon Training
 1300 - 1600 Battle Training

Saturday 0800 - 1200 Whole Coy Battalion positions
 1300 - 1600 1 & 2 Pls Wire obstacles
 1300 - 1600 3 Pl Mine laying

NOTE: TWTs and Recce exercises are being held in Bridging, Layout of Jeep Tracks, etc for officers and senior INCOs. No definite dates have been fixed for these so far.

2nd Artieri Company - TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 18 - 25 Feb 45

Sunday 0800 - 1200 Whole Coy Weapon Training - Battle Training

Monday 0800 - 1200 2 Pl Construction of various types of wire obstacles
 0800 - 1200 3 Pl Construction of defensive positions
 0800 - 1200 1 Pl Mines and Demolitions
 1300 - 1600 Whole Coy Defensive Works

Tuesday 0800 - 1200 3 Pl Compressor
 0800 - 1200 1 & 2 Pls Construction of various types of wire obstacles
 1300 - 1600 Whole Coy Battalion defensive positions

Wednesday 0800 - 1200 Whole Coy Jeep Tracks
 1300 - 1600 " Road clearance - Laying and gapping minefields

Thursday 0800 - 1200 1 & 2 Pls Road clearance - demonstration by Br Pl
 0800 - 1200 3 Pl Minefield gapping
 1300 - 1600 Whole Coy Battalion defensive positions

Friday 0800 - 1200 1 Pl Construction of various types of wire obstacles
 0800 - 1200 2 Pl Road clearance
 0800 - 1200 3 Pl Compressor
 2000 - 2400 Whole Coy Night exercise in laying and gapping minefields
 2000 - 2400 Drivers Night Convoy Run

Saturday 0800 - 1200 3 Pl Road clearance - demonstration by Br Pl
 0800 - 1200 1 & 2 Pls Minefield gapping
 1300 - 1600 Whole Coy Weapon and Battle Training

Subject: Training Program -
Eng Bn Combat Group FOLGORE

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMLA) *By*
for S.O.R.E.

S.O.R.E. 10 Corps
GSO II 53 B.L.U.

53 B.L.U.
12 Feb 45

Ref RE/60

Herewith as Appx 'A' Training Programme for week 11 - 17 Feb, in
respect of Engineer Bn Combat Group FOLGORE.

J.R. Nymt
Capt RE
S.O.R.E.

821

Approx 'A' to 53 BLJ letter
I. RE/60 of 11 Feb 45

184 Fd Coy - TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 11 - 17 Feb 45.

Day	Time	Detail	Type of Training
Sunday	0800-1200	Whole Coy	Mines and minefields.
Monday	0800-1200	1 Pl	Use of Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Mines and demolitions.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Weapon training - Grenades, PIAT & Bren.
Tuesday	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Mines and demolitions.
	2000-2400	Whole Coy	Night exercise. Laying and gapping minefields.
Wednesday	0800-1200	3 Pl	Use of Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Mines and demolitions.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Weapon & Battle training, construction of defensive posns.
Thursday	0800-1600	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	3 Pl	Mine warfare.
Friday	0800-1600	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	1 Pl	Mine warfare.
Saturday	0800-1600	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of Compressor.
	1300-1600	2 Pl	Mine warfare.

10 Fd Coy - TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 11 - 17 Feb 45.

Sunday	0800-1200	Whole Coy	Mines and minefields.
Monday	0800-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	1300-1600	3 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	3 Pl	Mine warfare.
Tuesday	0800-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	1300-1600	1 Pl	Use of compressor.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Mine warfare.
Wednesday	0800-1600	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	2 Pl	Mine warfare.
Thursday	0800-1200	1 Pl	Use of the Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Mines demolitions.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Weapon training - Grenades, PIAT & Bren.
Friday	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of the Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Wiring.

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0800-1200	1 Pl	Wiring.	
0800-1200	2 Pl	Mines and demolitions.	
1300-1600	Whole Coy	Weapon & Battle training, construction of defensive posns.	
Thursday	0800-1600	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	3 Pl	Mine warfare.
Friday	0800-1600	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	1 Pl	Mine warfare.
Saturday	0800-1600	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of Compressor.
	1300-1600	2 Pl	Mine warfare.
10 Pd Coy - TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 11 - 17 Feb 45.			
Sunday	0800-1200	Whole Coy	Mines and minefields.
Monday	0800-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	1300-1600	3 Pl	Use of compressor.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Mine warfare.
Tuesday	0800-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey. Demonstration of DD construction by Br Pl.
	1300-1600	1 Pl	Use of compressor.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Mine warfare.
Wednesday	0800-1600	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DD Bailey.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of compressor.
	1300-1600	2 Pl	Mine warfare.
Thursday	0800-1200	1 Pl	Use of the Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Mines demolitions.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Weapon training - Grenades, PIAT & Bren.
Friday	0800-1200	2 Pl	Use of the Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Mines and demolitions.
	2000-2400	Whole Coy	Night exercises. Laying and gapping minefields.
	2000-2400	Drivers	Night convoy run.
Saturday	0800-1200	3 Pl	Use of the Bulldozer.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Wiring.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Mines and demolitions.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Weapon & Battle trg - Construction of defensive positions.

Note - Both programmes may be altered slightly during the week. It is proposed to hold a road clearing exercise after the Br Pl have blown up and mined a section of unused road.

Subject: Training Programmes

To:- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMLA)
for SORE

Copy: SORE, 10 Corps
53 B.L.U.

Herewith as Appx 'A' Training Programme in respect of Engineers Bn, Combat Group FOLCORE, for period 5 - 11 Feb 45.

53 B.L.U.
Ref RE/46
4 Feb 45

Agmt.
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

819

Box 11 to 53 B.L.U. letter
... 23/46 of 4 Feb 45.

184 Field Coy Training Programme for period 5 - 11 Feb 45.

Day	Hour	Unit	Type of Training
Monday	0800-1100	1 & 2 Pls	Laying minefields - demonstration by sec of Br Pl.
	1100-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	3 Pl	Water points - demonstration by Br Pl.
	1100-1200	3 Pl	Minefield gapping.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Cross country march and battle training.
Tuesday	0800-1100	1 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields - demonstration by sec of Br Pl.
	1100-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	2 Pl	Water point - demonstration by Br Pl.
	1100-1200	2 Pl	Minefield gapping.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Construction of defensive positions.
Wednesday	0800-1100	2 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields - demonstration by sec of Br Pl.
	1100-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	1 Pl	Water point - demonstration by Br Pl.
	1100-1200	1 Pl	Minefield gapping.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Laying and gapping minefields.
Thursday	0800-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey - Demonstration by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of Bailey construction by Br Pl.
Friday	0800-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' Bailey (TS) - Demonstration by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of laying minefields by Br Pl.
Saturday	0800-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey - Demonstration by Br Pl.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Water point. Demonstration by sec of Br Pl.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of minefield gapping by Br Pl.

10 Field Coy Training Programme for period 5 - 11 Feb 45.

Monday	0800-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Cross country march and battle training.
Tuesday	0800-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Laying and lifting minefields.
Wednesday	0800-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Defensive Works.
Thursday	0800-1100	1 & 2 Pls	Laying minefields.
	1100-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Weapon Training.
	0800-1100	3 Pl	Water point.
	1100-1200	3 Pl	Gapping minefield.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Bailey construction.
Friday	0800-1100	1 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields.
	1100-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	2 Pl	Water point.
	1100-1200	2 Pl	Gapping minefield.
Saturday	0800-1100	2 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields.
	1100-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.

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Day	Time	Whole Coy	Construction of defensive positions.
Wednesday	0800-1100	2 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields - demonstration by sec of Br Fl.
	1100-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	1 Pl	Water point - demonstration by Br Fl.
	1100-1200	1 Pl	Minefield gapping.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Laying and gapping minefields.
Thursday	0800-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey - Demonstration by Br Fl.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
Friday	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of Bailey construction by Br Fl.
	0800-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' Bailey (TS) - Demonstration by Br Fl.
Saturday	0800-1200	2 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of laying minefields by Br Fl.
	0800-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey - Demonstration by Br Fl.
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Water point. Demonstration by sec of Br Fl.
Saturday	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of minefield gapping by Br Fl.

10 Field Coy Training Programme for period 5 - 11 Feb 45.

Day	Time	Whole Coy	Construction of 80' TS Bailey.
Monday	0800-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey.
	0800-1200	3 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Cross country march and battle training.
Tuesday	0800-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey.
	0800-1200	2 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Laying and lifting minefields.
Wednesday	0800-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' TS Bailey
	0800-1200	1 Pl	Battalion defensive position.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Defensive Works.
Thursday	0800-1100	1 & 2 Pls	Laying minefields.
	1100-1200	1 & 2 Pls	Weapon Training.
	0800-1100	3 Pl	Water point.
	1100-1200	3 Pl	Gapping minefield.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Bailey construction.
Friday	0800-1100	1 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields.
	1100-1200	1 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	2 Pl	Water point.
	1100-1200	2 Pl	Gapping minefield.
Saturday	0800-1100	2 & 3 Pls	Laying minefields.
	1100-1200	2 & 3 Pls	Weapon training.
	0800-1100	1 Pl	Water point.
	1100-1200	1 Pl	Gapping minefield.
	1300-1600	Whole Coy	Demonstration of minefield gapping by Br Fl.

1870

SORE
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)
Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 21 Jan 45
UNIT 184 Fd Coy

1. EQUIPMENT.	
(a) Training.	Sufficient.
(b) G. 1098	Not yet complete.
(c) Transport.	Not yet complete.
2. TRAINING.	
(a) Bridging.	Standard still not high enough in this company. This is not due to lack of technical skill on the part of the men, but lack of drive by the officers.
(b) Mine Warfare.	Satisfactory. Large scale night exercises have not yet been carried out however. This will be done at new location.
(c) Water Supply.	
(d) Roads and Diversions.	
(e) Weapon Training.	Satisfactory.
(f) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill	Satisfactory.
(g) Trade Training.	

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REMARKS The General is taking action about this company and it should be to report results in about a fortnight's time, after the move has been completed.

(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Not yet complete.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Not yet complete.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Standard still not high enough in this company. This is not due to lack of technical skill on the part of the men, but lack of drive by the officers.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory. Large scale night exercises have not yet been carried out however. This will be done at new location.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	Satisfactory.
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS The General is taking action about this company and it should be ^{possible} to report results in about a fortnight's time, after the move has been completed.

W. H. H. H.
Capt. RE
SOBE
53 HU

SORE

Land Forces Sub Comm A. C. (MIA)

Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 21 Jan 45

UNIT 10 Fd Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Not yet complete.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Not yet complete.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Standard in this company is extremely high and the officers get the men working very well.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory, though large scale night exercises have not been carried out.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	Some training has been had this week in repairing a road that had collapsed owing to bad drainage. This type of work, however, is very slow without the help of a dozer.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	Satisfactory.
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

316

REMARKS The new company commander has not had very much time to settle down yet but he seems to be satisfactory. 2/Lt. FITZALLIS who has been on a bridging course at Capua has helped the company considerably to reach

(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Not yet complete.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Not yet complete.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u> (a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Standard in this company is extremely high and the officers get the men working very well.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory, though large scale night exercises have not been carried out.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	Some training has been had this week in repairing a road that had collapsed owing to bad drainage. This type of work, however, is very slow without the help of a dozer.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	Satisfactory.
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

316

REMARKS The new company commander has not had very much time to settle down yet but he seems to be satisfactory. 2/Lt. FITZALLIS who has been on a bridging course at Capua has helped the company considerably to reach the high standard of bridging they have attained.

Myra

Capt. RE
SOME
53 BLU

Subject: Training Programmes.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.(MMIA) for SORE

Copy - 53 B.L.U.

RE 53 B.L.U.

Ref. RE/41

15 Jan 45. *RJR*

Herewith as Appx 'A', Training Programme in respect of Engineers Bn,
Combat Group FOLGORE, for week 15 - 23 Jan 45.

MB
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

815

App. A' to RE 53 BLU letter
Ref. RE/41 of 15 Jan 45.

10 Fd Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 15 - 23 Jan 45.

Day	Detail	Type of Training
Monday	1 & 2 Pls	Construction of 80' DS Bailey.
	3 Pl	Weapon training - rifle, firing.
	2 & 3 Pls	Delaunching Bailey.
Tuesday	1 Pl	Weapon training - rifle, firing.
	1 & 3 Pls	Construction and delaunching of 50' TS Bailey.
	2 Pl	Weapon training - rifle, firing.
Wednesday	3 Pl	Training with new equipment. Compressor, practical.
	1 & 2 Pls	Bailey night exercise. TS construction and delaunching.
	Whole Coy	Construction and delaunching of 80' TS Bailey.
Thursday	1 & 3 Pls	Laying A/Tk minefield. British and Italian methods.
	2 Pl	Compressor, practical.
	2 Pl	Picking up minefield laid by other pls in morning.
Friday	1 & 3 Pls	Demolitions - practical, mines & grenades.
	Whole Coy	Weapon training - all weapons. Range firing.
Saturday	Whole Coy	Laying minefields. Gapping with detector and prodders.
	Whole Coy	General revision of all work done during week.

184 Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 15 - 23 Jan 45.

Monday	1 & 2 Pls	Laying A/Tk minefield. British and Italian methods.
	3 Pl	Weapon training. Picking up minefield laid in morning.
	1 & 2 Pls	Weapon training, firing.
Tuesday	1 Pl	Laying minefields.
	2 Pl	Compressor, practical.
	3 Pl	Demolitions - grenades.
Wednesday	2 Pl	Picking up minefields.
	3 Pl	Compressor - practical.
	1 Pl	Demolitions - grenades.
Wednesday	Whole Coy	Laying and taking up minefields with detectors and prodders.
Thursday	Whole Coy	Construction and delaunching of 80' TS Bailey.
Friday	Whole Coy	Construction and delaunching of 40' TD Bailey.
Saturday	1 & 3 Pls	Rapid construction and delaunching of 40' TS Bailey.
	2 Pl	Demolitions - practical.
	1 & 2 Pls	Bailey night exercise - 80' TS.
Sunday	Whole Coy	General revision of all work done during week.
2 Fd Fk Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 15 - 23 Jan 45.		
Monday	Whole Coy	Instruction on new equipment.
Tuesday	Whole Coy	Lecture on formation and scope of a Fd Fk Coy. Revision on mines. Minefields and methods of marking.
Wednesday	Drivers	Fire precautions. Tasks 14 & 15.
	Specialists	British mines. Carriage of Bailey bridge.
	Whole Coy	Weapon training. Firing.
Thursday	Drivers	Care and maintenance of vehicles. Revision on task system.
	Specialists	Care of tyres.
	Whole Coy	Road blocks and craters - practical. Weapon training. Firing.

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1 & 2 Pls Bailey night exercise. TS construction and delauching.

Wednesday	Whole Coy	Construction and delauching of 80' TS Bailey.
Thursday	1 & 3 Pls	Laying A/Tk minefield. British and Italian methods.
	2 Pl	Compressor, practical.
	2 Pl	Picking up minefield laid by other pls in morning.
	1 & 3 Pls	Demolitions - practical, mines & grenades.
Friday	Whole Coy	Weapon training - all weapons. Range firing.
Saturday	Whole Coy	Laying minefields. Gapping with detector and prodders.
Sunday	Whole Coy	General revision of all work done during week.

184 Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 15 - 23 Jan 45.

Monday	1 & 2 Pls	Laying A/Tk minefield. British and Italian methods.
	3 Pl	Weapon training. Picking up minefield laid in morning.
	1 & 2 Pls	Weapon training, firing.
Tuesday	1 Pl	Laying minefields.
	2 Pl	Compressor, practical.
	3 Pl	Demolitions - grenades.
	2 Pl	Picking up minefields.
	3 Pl	Compressor - practical.
	1 Pl	Demolitions - grenades.
Wednesday	Whole Coy	Laying and taking up minefields with detectors and prodders.
Thursday	Whole Coy	Construction and delauching of 80' TS Bailey.
Friday	Whole Coy	Construction and delauching of 40' DD Bailey.
Saturday	1 & 3 Pls	Rapid construction and delauching of 40' TS Bailey.
	2 Pl	Demolitions - practical.
	1 & 2 Pls	Bailey night exercise - 80' TS.
Sunday	Whole Coy	General revision of all work done during week.

2 Fd Pk Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 15 - 23 Jan 45.

Monday	Whole Coy	Instruction on new equipment.
Tuesday	Whole Coy	Lecture on formation and scope of a Fd Pk Coy.
		Revision on mines. Minefields and methods of marking.
Wednesday	Drivers	Fire precautions. Tasks 14 & 15.
	Specialists	British mines. Carriage of Bailey bridge.
	Whole Coy	Weapon training. Firing.
Thursday	Drivers	Care and maintenance of vehicles. Revision on task system.
		Care of tyres.
	Specialists	Road blocks and craters - practical.
	Whole Coy	Weapon training. Firing.
Friday	Whole Coy	Instruction on new equipment.
Saturday	Whole Coy	Demolitions. Constitution and organisation of small dumps.
		Weapon training.
Sunday	Whole Coy	Revision on training done during week.

814

SORE
Land Forces Sub Com A. C. (MIA)
Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 13 Jan 45

UNIT 2 Pk Coy

<u>1. EQUIPMENT.</u>	<u>Sufficient.</u>
<u>(a) Training.</u>	
<u>(b) G. 1098</u>	Only a little more has arrived since last report. Bailey bridge now released but not yet collected.
<u>(c) Transport.</u>	No more has arrived.
<u>2. TRAINING.</u>	
<u>(a) Bridging.</u>	---
<u>(b) Mine Warfare.</u>	A little more mine warfare training has been carried out.
<u>(c) Water Supply.</u>	More instruction in pumps has been given.
<u>(d) Roads and Diversions.</u>	
<u>(e) Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory
<u>(f) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	813
<u>(g) Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS The O.C. is at the moment in hospital but should return in about 10 days.

<u>1. EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Only a little more has arrived since last report. Bailey bridge now released but not yet collected.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No more has arrived.
<u>2. TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	---
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	A little more mine warfare training has been carried out.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	More instruction in pumps has been given.
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	913
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS The O.C. is at the moment in hospital but should return in about 10 days.

Myer
Capt. RE
SORE
53 ELJ

SORE
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (M.L.A.)
Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 13 Jan 45

UNIT 10 Fd Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Only a few more items received.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No more received since last report.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Only a small amount was carried out owing to bad weather. However, the standard in this unit is very high, far above that of the other company.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	Considerable amount of training done in use of compressor.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	812
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS A new O.C. has now arrived for this company. His name is Lt. TOTARO ALMEDEO. There has not been time yet to see what his form is. Although this company's personnel are not parachutists, their organisation of work is much better than the other company and the men work harder in training.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Only a few more items received.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No more received since last report.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Only a small amount was carried out owing to bad weather. However, the standard in this unit is very high, far above that of the other company.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	--
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	Considerable amount of training done in use of compressor.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	812
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS A new O.C. has now arrived for this company. His name is Lt. TOTARO AMEDEO. There has not been time yet to see what his form is. Although this company's personnel are not parachutists, their organisation of work is much better than the other company and the men work harder in training.

[Signature]
Capt. RE
SORE
53 ELU

NOTE

Land Forces Sub Comm A. C. (MILIA)

Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 13 Jan 45
UNIT 184 Fd Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Only a few more items received.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No more received since last report.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Training has not been very satisfactory this week. The company does not appear to be putting its utmost into the job.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Training was hampered by bad weather at the beginning of the week.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	A considerable amount of training has been carried out in the use of the compressor.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	---

811

REMARKS

The coy commander is still not satisfactory. He tries to get the coy off training at the slightest excuse and is never on the job himself. I had a talk with Major Mosca about this, some weeks ago and he said that he would gradually get CENTONZI to take a more active part in the training in

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Sufficient.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Only a few more items received.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No more received since last report.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Training has not been very satisfactory this week. The company does not appear to be putting its utmost into the job.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Training was hampered by bad weather at the beginning of the week.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	A considerable amount of training has been carried out in the use of the compressor.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	---

311

REMARKS

The coy commander is still not satisfactory. He tries to get the coy off training at the slightest excuse and is never on the job himself. I had a talk with Major Mosca about this, some weeks ago and he said that he would gradually get CENTONZI to take a more active part in the training in place of the officers who had been on courses. This has not been done however and I have put in a report to the CI of the B.L.U. about it. He is taking action with the Group HQ.

Myth
Capt. RE
SORE
53 RLJ

Subject: Training Programmes.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (LMLA)
for SCIB

53 B.L.U.
Ref. RE/37
8 Jan 45

Copy 53 B.L.U.

Herewith, as Appx 'A', training programme in respect of Engineers
Bn, Combat Group 'Folgore' for week 8 - 14 Jan 45.

W. J. J. J.
Capt. RE
SCIB
53 BLU

810

2 Pz Pz Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 8 - 14 Jan 45

Day.	Detail.	Type of Training.
Monday	Drivers Sappers Whole Coy	Fire precautions. Frost precautions. Tasks 14 & 15. British mines. Bailey bridge parts and loading. Weapon training - Bren.
Tuesday	Drivers Sappers Whole Coy	Vehicle maintenance, revision on Task System. Care of tyres. Road cratering with camouflet charges. Practical. General revision on arms.
Wednesday	Whole Coy	Explanation of and training with new equipment.
Thursday	Whole Coy	Explanation of and training with new equipment.
Friday	Whole Coy	Organisation and purpose of a Pz Pz Coy. Revision on mines and methods of making minefields and gaps.
Saturday	Whole Coy	Explosives. Layout and organisation of a small explosives dump. Weapon training.
Sunday	Whole Coy	Revision on training done during week.

184 Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 8 - 14 Jan 45.

Monday	1 & 2 Pls 3 Pl	Laying minefields. Use of new equipment. Mines and demolitions - practical. Bedlives, Bangalore etc. Firing charges electrically. Use of mine detector.
Tuesday	3 Pl 1 & 2 Pls	Laying minefields. Use of new equipment. Mines and demolitions - practical. Laying minefields.
Wednesday	Whole Coy	Laying minefields - Italian and British methods. Laying minefields with detector and prodder.
Thursday	1 & 2 Pls 3 Pl 1 Pl 2 & 3 Pls	Construction of 80' DS Bailey in quick time. Weapon training. Deaunching Bailey. Construction of 80' DS Bailey at night.
Friday	1 & 3 Pls 2 Pl 1,2 & 3 Pls	Deaunching Bailey. Weapon training. TS construction.
Saturday	2 & 3 Pls 1 Pl	Deaunching TS Bailey. Weapon training.
Sunday	1,2 & 3 Pls Whole Coy	Construction of 80' TS Bailey at night. Revision on Bailey and weapon training.

809

10 Pz Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 8 - 14 Jan 45.

Monday	1 & 2 Pls 3 Pl	Launching 80' DS Bailey. Deaunching. Construction of Bailey piers.
Tuesday	1 & 2 Pls 3 Pl 1 & 3 Pls 2 Pl	Construction of 80' TS Bailey in slow time. Demolition training - practical. Deaunching Bailey. Demolition training - practical.
Wednesday	1 & 2 Pls	Launching 80' DS Bailey. Deaunching.

Thursday Whole Coy Explanation of and training with new equipment.
 Friday Whole Coy Organisation and purpose of a Pk Pl Coy. Revision on mines and methods of making minefields and gaps.
 Saturday Whole Coy Explosives. Layout and organisation of a small explosives dump. Weapon training.
 Sunday Whole Coy Revision on training done during week.

104 Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 8 - 14 Jan 45.

Monday 1 & 2 Pls Laying minefields. Use of new equipment.
 3 Pl Mines and demolitions - practical. Beelives, Bangalore etc.
 Firing charges electrically. Use of mine detector.

Tuesday 3 Pl Laying minefields. Use of new equipment.
 1 & 2 Pls Mines and demolitions - practical. Gapping minefields.

Wednesday Whole Coy Laying minefields - Italian and British methods. Gapping minefields with detector and prodder.

Thursday 1 & 2 Pls Construction of 80' DS Bailey in quick time.

3 Pl Weapon training.

1 Pl Delaunching Bailey.

2 & 3 Pls Construction of 80' DS Bailey at night.

Friday 1 & 3 Pls Delaunching Bailey.

2 Pl Weapon training.

1, 2 & 3 Pls TS construction.

Saturday 2 & 3 Pls Delaunching TS Bailey.

1 Pl Weapon training.

1, 2 & 3 Pls Construction of 80' TS Bailey at night.

Sunday Whole Coy Revision on Bailey and weapon training.

309

10 Pk Coy TRAINING PROGRAMME for week 8 - 14 Jan 45.

Monday 1 & 2 Pls Launching 80' DS Bailey. Delaunching.

3 Pl Construction of Bailey driers.

Tuesday 1 & 2 Pls Construction of 80' TS Bailey in slow time.

3 Pl Demolition training - practical.

1 & 3 Pls Delaunching Bailey.

2 Pl Demolition training - practical.

Wednesday 1 & 2 Pls Laying mixed A/Tk & AP minefields. Gapping with detectors.

3 Pl Rapid construction and delaunching of 50' SS Bailey. Rapid construction and delaunching of 40' DS Bailey. Construction of 80' TS

1 & 2 Pls Construction of 80' TS Bailey at night. Bailey at night.

Thursday Whole Coy Weapon training. Firing on range.

Friday 1 & 2 Pls Arms drill. Training with new equipment.

3 Pl Laying A/Tk & AP minefields. Gapping with and without detectors.

3 Pl Construction of TS Bailey at night.

Saturday 1 Pl Demolitions - practical.

2 & 3 Pls Training with new equipment.

Whole Coy Demolitions - practical.

Sunday Whole Coy Revision on work done during week.

NOTE

Lord Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)

Copy to 53 B.I.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 7 Jan 45

UNIT 2nd Pz Div Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	60% arrived.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	All m/cs and 30% vehicles arrived.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Sufficient has been carried out.
(c) <u>Water Crossing.</u>	Some instruction has been given in pumps though Petters have not yet arrived.
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Proceeding slowly. Coy has not yet been issued with G. 1098 weapons.
(f) <u>Aircraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

208

REMARKS

This coy is still considerably lacking in discipline. I have told Bn HQ who say that they will do something about it.

<u>1. EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	60% arrived.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	All m/cs and 30% vehicles arrived.
<u>2. TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	Sufficient has been carried out.
(c) <u>Motor Warfare.</u>	Some instruction has been given in pumps through Petters have not yet arrived.
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Proceeding slowly. Coy has not yet been issued with G. 1098 weapons.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

808

REMARKS This coy is still considerably lacking in discipline. I have told
Bn HQ who say that they will do something about it.

Grant
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLJ

1888

NOTE
 1st Force Sub Comd A.C. (MIA)

Coy to 53 B.L.V.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 7 Jan 45

UNIT 18th Pa Coy.

1. EQUIPMENT. (a) Training.	Sufficient for present needs.
(b) G. 1098.	65% special list complete.
(c) Transport.	80% complete.
2. TRAINING. (a) Bridging.	Proceeding satisfactorily. Extra instruction being given to officers in evenings.
(b) Mine Warfare.	All ranks now trained in types of mines etc. Organisation of work not good but improving.
(c) Water Supply.	
(4) Roads and Diversions.	
(c) Weapon Training.	Satisfactory.
(F) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill	
(G) Trace Training.	

REMARKS Training is now going fairly well and officers are improving. 807

Sufficient for present needs.

(a) <u>Drillings</u>	
(b) <u>E. 1028</u>	55% special list complete.
(c) <u>Transport</u>	80% complete.
2. <u>TRAINING</u>	Proceeding satisfactorily. Extra instruction being given to officers in evenings.
(a) <u>Drillings</u>	
(b) <u>Line Warfare</u>	All ranks now trained in types of mines etc. Organisation of work not good but improving.
(c) <u>Water Supply</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversionals</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training</u>	Satisfactory.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training</u>	

REMARKS Training is now going fairly well and officers are improving. 807

Apant
Capt. RE
SORE
53 HU

Subject: Training Programmes.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (MFA) for SORE

Copy 53 B.L.U.

Herewith, as Appx 'A', Training Programmes for week 2 - 6 Jan 45 in respect of Coys of the Eng's Bn, Combat Group 'Polgore'.

53 B.L.U. (RE)
Ref. RE/51
1 Jan 45

by R. J. A.
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

806

Amex '44' to 53 B.L.U. Letter
 2. 23/31 of 1 Jan 45.

10 RA Coy Training Programme for week 2 - 6 Jan 45

Day.	Detail.	Subject.
Tuesday	2 Pls. 1 Pl.	Bailey. Construction of 90' SS in quick time. (Bridge to be constructed and taken down as many times as possible during day. Laying minefield. Capping drill. Use of mine detector.
Wednesday	2 Pls 1 Pl.	Bailey. 80' DS. Launching and Delaunching. Laying A/Ta & A.P. minefield. Capping by detector & prodger methods.
Thursday	2 Pls 1 Pl	Weapon training (all types) and firing. Use of new tools and equipment. Use of the compressor and tools.
Friday	2 Pls 1 Pl	Weapon training. Firing Bren and PIAT. Use of new tools and equipment.
Saturday	1 Pl 1 Pl 1 Pl	Use of new tools and equipment compressor. Laying minefield. Capping drill. Use of detector. Weapon training. Rifle, Thompson & Bren.

2 RA Plk Coy Training Programme for week 2 - 6 Jan 45.

Tuesday	Drivers Specialists Reminder	Driving practice. Tasks 1 & 2. Weapon training. Pumps and charging sets. Explosives and methods of ignition. Weapon training.
Wednesday	Drivers Specialists Reminder	Driving practice. Tasks 3 & 4. Map reading. Weapon training. Pumps. Maintenance of batteries. Explosives and methods of ignition. Weapon training. Firing.
Thursday	Drivers Specialists Reminder	Driving practice. Map reading. Tasks 5, 6 & 7. Pumps. Charging sets. Mine warfare.
Friday	Drivers Specialists Reminder	Driving practice. Convoy discipline. Tasks 8, 9 & 10. British methods of measurements and instruments. Mine warfare.
Saturday	Drivers Specialists Reminder	Driving practice. Highway code. Tasks 11, 12 & 13. Methods of measurement. Maintenance of batteries. Mine warfare.

184 Coy Training Programme for week 2 - 6 Jan 45.

Tuesday	2 Pls 1 Pl	Weapon training (all weapons). Firing with Rifle & Thompson. Use of new tools and equipment. Compressor and tools.
Wednesday	2Pls	Weapon training. Firing with Bren and PIAT. Use of new tools and equipment. Compressor and tools.

805

Thursday 2 Pls Weapon training (all types) and firing.
1 Pl Use of new tools and equipment. Use of the compressor and tools.

Friday 2 Pls Weapon training. Firing Bren and PIAT.
1 Pl Use of new tools and equipment.

Saturday 1 Pl Use of new tools and equipment; compressor.
1 Pl Laying minefield. Geyting drill. Use of detector.
1 Pl Weapon training. Rifle, Thompson & Bren.

2nd Pl Coy Training Programme for week 2 - 6 Jan 45.

Tuesday Drivers Driving practice. Tasks 1 & 2. Weapon training.
Specialists Pumps and charging sets.
Remainder Explosives and methods of ignition. Weapon training.

Wednesday Drivers Driving practice. Tasks 3 & 4. Map reading. Weapon training.
Specialists Pumps. Maintenance of batteries.
Remainder Explosives and methods of ignition. Weapon training. Firing.

Thursday Drivers Driving practice. Map reading. Tasks 5, 6 & 7.
Specialists Pumps. Charging sets.
Remainder Mine warfare.

Friday Drivers Driving practice. Convoy discipline. Tasks 8, 9 & 10.
Specialists British methods of measurements and instruments.
Remainder Mine warfare.

Saturday Drivers Driving practice. Highway code. Tasks 11, 12 & 13.
Specialists Methods of measurement. Maintenance of batteries.
Remainder Mine warfare.

184 Coy Training Programme for week 2 - 6 Jan 45.

205

Tuesday 2 Pls Weapon training (all weapons). Firing with Rifle & Thompson.
1 Pl Use of new tools and equipment. Compressor and tools.

Wednesday 2 Pls Weapon training. Firing with Bren and PIAT.
Use of new tools and equipment. Compressor and tools.

Thursday 1 Pl Use of new tools and equipment. Compressor and tools.
1 Pl Mine warfare. Laying and lifting minefields. Use of detector.
1 Pl Weapon training. Rifle, Thompson and Bren. Night exercise. -
Construction and delaunching of 80' DS Bailey.

Friday 2 Pls Bailey DS construction.
1 Pl Mine warfare. Laying and lifting minefield. Use of detector.
1 Pl Night exercise. Construction and delaunching of 80' DS Bailey.

Saturday 2 Pls Bailey DS construction.
1 Pl Mine warfare. Laying and lifting minefield. Use of detector.
1 Pl Night exercise. Construction and delaunching of 80' DS Bailey.

SOLD

Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (MILIA)

Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 31 Dec 44.

UNIT 184 Pz Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u> (a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient for needs. Bailey equipment now all available for training.
(b) <u>G.1098</u>	Arriving daily. Standard of storekeeping not high but improving under instruction.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	4 x 4 3 tonners have now arrived.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u> (a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Standard of knowledge of officers not high enough. This is now being improved by evening T.M's.
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory.
(c) <u>Water supply.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	---
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Training being intensified.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	---

Remarks

Coy is one subaltern short. Provision of officer reinforcements appears difficult.

204

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient for needs. Valley equipment now all available for training.
(b) <u>G. 1098.</u>	Arriving daily. Standard of storekeeping not high but improving under instruction.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	4 x 4 3 tonners have now arrived.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Standard of knowledge of officers not high enough. This is now being improved by evening TMs.
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	---
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Training being intensified.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	---

Remarks

Coy is one subaltern short. Provision of officer reinforcements appears difficult.

204

ymf
Capt. RE
SOKE
53 HUJ

SORE

Land Forces Sub Comm A. C. (MILIA)

Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING

31 Dec 44

UNIT 10 Field Coy.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Standard of storekeeping higher than 184 Coy.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Same as 184. Maintenance satisfactory.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Coy slightly behind 184 Coy in state of training but organisation of work is better.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	---
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	---

REMARKS

Coy has still not got new O.C. Major Mosca is trying all channels but with no results so far.

203

<u>(a) Training.</u>	Sufficient.
<u>(b) G. 1098</u>	Standard of storekeeping higher than 184 Coy.
<u>(c) Transport.</u>	Same as 184. Maintenance satisfactory.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u> <u>(a) Bridging.</u>	Coy slightly behind 184 Coy in state of training but organisation of work is better.
<u>(b) Line Warfare.</u>	Satisfactory.
<u>(c) Water Supply.</u>	---
<u>(d) Roads and Diversions.</u>	---
<u>(e) Weapon Training.</u>	Satisfactory
<u>(f) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
<u>(g) Trade Training.</u>	---

203

REMARKS Coy has still not got new O.C. Major Kosca is trying all channels but with no results so far.

1/11/52

Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

SORT

Head Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)

Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING

31 Dec 44

UNIT 2 IN Fk Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Coy has not got own weapons yet for training. As these have to be borrowed from other coys the situation is unsatisfactory.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G.1098</u>	Arriving daily.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No transport has arrived so far.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	---
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Not much more instruction should be required. Coy should now be able to deal with any mines encountered.
(c) <u>Water Spout.</u>	---
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	---
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Proceeding satisfactorily in spite of weapon situation.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	---
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	Specialist training is now commencing on new equipment.

REMARKS

Coy commander has gone to hospital with hernia but is expected back fit for duty in about 3 weeks. 2 i/c is quite capable of carrying on by himself.

802

(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>C. 1098</u>	Arriving daily.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No transport has arrived so far.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Not much more instruction should be required. Coy should now be able to deal with any mines encountered.
(c) <u>Water Sign.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Proceeding satisfactorily in spite of weapon situation.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	Specialist training is now commencing on new equipment.

REMARKS Coy commander has gone to hospital with hernia but is expected back fit for duty in about 3 weeks. 2 i/c is quite capable of carrying on by himself.

802

Applegate
Capt. RE
SOME
53 BLU

Appx 'A' to 53 B.L.U.(R.E.) letter
Ref. RF '10 of 26 Dec 44.

184 Coy Training Programme for week 26 - 30 Dec 44.

Day.	Type of Instruction.
Tuesday.	Weapon training. Rifle - maintenance and cleaning. T.M.C. - maintenance and cleaning.
Wednesday.	Weapon training. Bren - maintenance and cleaning. PIAT - maintenance and cleaning.
Thursday.	1 Pl. Taking down Bailey pier already built. Maintenance of Bailey equipment and tidying up site. 2 & 3 Pls. Revision on explosives, mines and booby-traps.
Friday.	2 & 3 Pls. Bailey - rapid SS construction. 1 Pl. Revision on explosives, mines and booby-traps.
Saturday.	Weapon training. General revision. Foot drill with arms. Theoretical and practical instruction on methods of firing.

10 Coy Training Programme for week 26 - 30 Dec 44.

Day.	Type of Instruction.
Tuesday.	Weapon training. Maintenance and cleaning of Rifle and T.M.C.
Wednesday.	Weapon training. Maintenance and cleaning of Bren and PIAT.
Thursday.	Mines and demolitions. Practical.
Friday.	Mines and demolitions. Practical.
Saturday.	Weapon training. General revision. Foot drill with arms. Theoretical and practical instruction on methods of firing.

SCU

2 Fd Bk Coy Training Programme for week 26 - 30 Dec 44.

Tuesday.	Bailey loading. Drill.
Wednesday.	Weapon training. Rifle and T.M.C. - maintenance and cleaning.
Thursday.	Weapon training - Bren. Revision on rifle. Foot drill with arms.
Friday.	Mines and demolitions.
Saturday.	Mines and demolitions.

Subject: Training Programmes.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (LFA) fro SORE

Copy to 53 BLU

Herewith, as Appx 'A', Training Programmes for week 26 - 30 Dec 44 in respect of Coys of the Engrs Bn, Combat Group 'Vulgar'.

53 B.L.U.
Ref. RE/30
26 Dec 44

29/32/4

[Signature]
Capt. R.E.
SORE
53 BLU

801

(a) <u>Training</u>	Training transport has been short and arrangements have been made for a supply of old vehicles from a bond.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Is now arriving daily. About 25% collected already.
(c) <u>Transport</u>	No G-1098 transport has arrived yet.
2. <u>TRAINING</u>	-
(a) <u>Bridging</u>	-
(b) <u>Mine Warfare</u>	A certain amount of transport has been arrived and considerably more practice again however.
(c) <u>Water Supply</u>	-
(d) <u>Roads and Diveradons</u>	-
(e) <u>Weapon Training</u>	Training on rifle proving satisfactory. Brown and P. 1st start the one however.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	-
(g) <u>Troop Training</u>	-

799

REMARKS The arrival of the G-1098 equipment has generally improved the morale and discipline of the company. About 15 days more intensive driver training is necessary before the drivers can be considered proficient.

W. H. H. H.

Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

10000
 10000 Forces Sub Comm A. C. (MIA)
 Copy to 53 B.I.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 24 Dec

UNIT 107320 Coy.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Training has been carried out in SS construction. This went well with fairly good organization.
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	Training has been mainly practical and has been carried out satisfactorily.
(c) <u>Water Warfare.</u>	—
(d) <u>Boats and Diversions.</u>	—
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	—
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	—

998

REMARKS Coy commander has still not arrived.

<u>(a) Training</u>	
<u>(b) G. 1098</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
<u>(c) Transport.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
2. <u>TRAINING</u> <u>(a) Bridging.</u>	Training has been carried out in SS construction. This went well with fairly good organization.
<u>(b) Mine Warfare.</u>	Training has been mainly practical and has been carried out satisfactorily.
<u>(c) Water Supply.</u>	—
<u>(d) Roads and Communications.</u>	—
<u>(e) Weapon Training.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
<u>(f) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	—
<u>(g) Trade Training.</u>	—

498

REMARKS Coy commander has still not arrived.

W. H. H. H.
Capt. RE
SCORE
53 HLJ

1011
 1st Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)
 Copy to 53 B.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 24 Dec '44
 UNIT 184 Field Coy

1. EQUIPMENT.	Amount sufficient. Building bridge still erected at PORTIE but is being taken up on 27 Dec.
(a) Training.	
(b) C. 1098	Is now arriving daily. About 15-20% already arrived.
(c) Transport.	No more has been allotted since last report.
2. TRAINING.	Training has been mainly in construction of Bailey piers. There has not been sufficient equipment for bridging.
(a) Bridging.	Training has been carried out satisfactorily.
(b) Mine Warfare.	
(c) Water Supply.	—
(d) Roads and Diversion.	A discussion at CORDO has been repaired.
(e) Weapon Training.	This is being intensified. Gren, Pist, Pistol remain to be done thoroughly.
(f) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill	—
(g) Trade Training.	—
	798

REMARKS The AC. of this company does not seem to be altogether satisfactory. However I consider he should be given a further chance for a month or so because he may improve under

<u>1. EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Constant replacement. Reaching out at PONTI but is being taken up on 27 Dec.
(b) <u>C.1098.</u>	So now arriving daily. About 15-20% clearing arrived.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	No more has been allotted since last report.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Drilling.</u>	Training has been mainly in construction of Bailey pier. There has not been sufficient equipment for drilling.
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	Training has been carried out satisfactorily.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	—
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	A diversion at CARRITO has been repaired.
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	This is being intensified. Gren, Pist, Pistol remain to be done thoroughly.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	—
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	—

798

REMARKS The ac. of this company does not seem to be altogether satisfactory. However I consider he should be given a further chance for a month or so because he may improve under the guidance of Major MOSCA.

Applicant.

Capt. RE

SCORE

53 BLU

Subject: General Progress.

To :- SORE
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (ISMA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref. RE/GP/5
18 Dec. 41.

Since the arrival of Major MOSCA the general situation has improved considerably. An adjutant has been appointed, driver reinforcements have been received, and a new O.C. is expected for 10 Coy at any time. He is very easy to work with and willing to use British ideas in the training and running of the companies.

Hitherto there has been a tendency among the Coy commanders to spend too much time in their offices and leave all the training to one of the subalterns. However Major MOSCA has agreed that this is wrong and has taken steps to ensure that almost all the office work and administration will be done by the 2nd's in command.

Although the situation up to now has been rather unsatisfactory owing to frequent moves and uncertainty about appointments etc, it is felt that a marked improvement will be shown in the near future.

Agreement
Capt. R.E.
SORE
53 BLU

796

104. 1st Coy Training Programme. for week 18 - 23 Dec.

Day	Subject.
Monday	Types of explosives. Characteristics and methods of ignition.
Tuesday	Italian, German and Allied igniters. Use with different types of mine.
Wednesday	Use of the Bangalore torpedo. Borehole charges. Explosives & methods of ignition.
Thursday	Bailey 90' SS. Launching & delaunching this as many times as possible during day.
Friday	As for Thursday. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs on organisation of work for DS construction.
Saturday	DS construction in quick time. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs, on the carriage of the bridge.

10 1st Coy Training Programme
for week 18 - 23 Dec.

Day	Subject.
Monday	Bailey. SS construction in slow time. Launching & delaunching as many times as possible during day.
Tuesday	As for Monday. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs on DS construction.
Wednesday	SS construction in quick time. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs on carriage of the bridge.
Thursday	Types of explosives. Characteristics and methods of ignition.
Friday	Italian, German & Allied igniters, use with various types of mine.
Saturday	Use of the Bangalore torpedo, Borehole charges. Demolitions - general.

2 1st Pk Coy Training Programme
for week 18 - 23 Dec.

Monday	Arms drill & drill. Bailey bridge - theoretical.
Tuesday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training - rifle. Weapon training - TMC.
Wednesday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training - Bren. Drill. Weapon training. Revision & questions.
Thursday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training. Aiming. Cleaning. Drill. Weapon training - individual firing.
Friday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training - continuation of individual firing. Drill.

DS construction.

Saturday DS construction in quick time. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs, on the carriage of the bridge.

10 Pk Coy Training Programme for week 18 - 23 Dec.

Day	Subject.
Monday	Bailey. SS construction in slow time. Launching & delaunching as many times as possible during day.
Tuesday	As for Monday. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs on DS construction.
Wednesday	SS construction in quick time. 15 min lecture to officers & NCOs on carriage of the bridge.
Thursday	Types of explosives. Characteristics and methods of ignition.
Friday	Italian, German & Allied igniters, use with various types of mine.
Saturday	Use of the Bangalore torpedo, Borehole charges. Demolitions - general.

795

2 Pk Pk Coy Training Programme for week 18 - 23 Dec.

Monday	Arms drill & drill. Bailey bridge - theoretical.
Tuesday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training - rifle. Weapon training - TMC.
Wednesday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training - Bren. Drill. Weapon training. Revision & questions.
Thursday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training. Aiming. Cleaning. Drill. Weapon training - individual firing.
Friday	P.T. & drill. Weapon training - continuation of individual firing. Drill.
Saturday	P.T. & drill. Mines & booby-traps. Make and mend.

Approved by Lt Col.

SORE

Land Forces Sub Comm A. Co (MILA)Copy to 53 B.L.U.ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING17 Dec 44UNIT 2 Pd Pk Coy

<u>1. EQUIPMENT.</u>	Sufficient training equipment has been lent by other Coys.
<u>(a) Training.</u>	
<u>(b) G. 1098</u>	Is now arriving in small batches. About 20% received.
<u>(c) Transport.</u>	None received so far.
<u>2. TRAINING.</u>	
<u>(a) Bridging.</u>	Some theoretical Bailey has been done to give the Coy an idea of it. The sappers of the bridging platoon have now returned from 184 Coy.
<u>(b) Mine Warfare.</u>	A certain amount has been done,
<u>(c) Water Supply.</u>	-----
<u>(d) Roads and Diversions.</u>	-----
<u>(e) Weapon Training.</u>	The Italian methods of training have been unsatisfactory, so have laid down that this must proceed on British lines.
<u>(f) Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	-----
<u>(g) Trade Training.</u>	-----

794

REMARKS My COYS has been with this Coy continually, superintending the receipt and accounting of stores. My Sgt has been superintending the training and has given help in knots and lashings etc. The company seems to be pulling together better now.

(a) <u>Training.</u>	Is now arriving in small batches. About 20% received.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	None received so far.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	Some theoretical Bailey has been done to give the Coy an idea of it. The sappers of the bridging platoon have now returned from 184 Coy.
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	A certain amount has been done,
(c) <u>Motor supply.</u>	-----
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	-----
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	The Italian methods of training have been unsatisfactory, so have laid down that this must proceed on British lines.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	794
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	-----

REMARKS My COMS has been with this Coy continually, superintending the receipt and accounting of stores. My Sgt has been superintending the training and has given help in knots and lashings etc. The company seems to be pulling together better now.

Apparent
Capt. RE
SOME
53 BUJ

SORE

Land Forces Sub Comm A. C. (MILA)

Copy to 53 B. L. U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING

17 Dec 44

UNIT 10 Fd Coy.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	-----
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Coy has now drawing instruments and compressor tools.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Coy now has 1 new Jeep.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	-----
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Training has been carried out satisfactorily.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	-----
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	-----
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	-----
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	-----
	793

REMARKS Both coys have now moved back to CERRETO.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	-----
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Coy has now drawing instruments and compressor tools.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Coy now has 1 new Jeep.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	-----
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	Training has been carried out satisfactorily.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	-----
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	-----
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Same as 184 Coy.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill.</u>	-----
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	-----
	793

REMARKS Both coys have now moved back to CERRETO.

Apparent
Capt. R.
SOME
53 BLJ

FORM
 Local Services Sub Com A. C. (MILA)

Copy to 53 B. L. U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING

17 Dec 44

UNIT 184 Td Coy.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Bailey bridge still erected at PONTE but should be released by 20 Dec, as civilian bridge is finished but concrete not yet hard enough for use.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Now arriving. Drawing instruments and compressor tools have arrived.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Coy has now 1 new Jeep and 1 new water truck.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	Training held up by use of Bailey at PONTE and bad weather but a certain amount has been carried out.
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Training fairly well but a good deal more instruction still required.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	792
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS It has been found impossible to make the Coy work in the rain as they have only one suit of clothing. Unfortunately this situation will not improve when the new battle dress arrives, as the old clothing must then be handed in, and the problem is not likely to be solved until a general issue of denims is possible.

(a) <u>Training.</u>	by 10 Dec, yet hard enough for use.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	Now arriving. Drawing instruments and compressor tools have arrived.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	Coy has now 1 new Jeep and 1 new water truck.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u> (a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Training held up by use of Bailey at POME and bad weather but a certain amount has been carried out.
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	-----
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	-----
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	-----
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Training fairly well but a good deal more instruction still required.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	792
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	-----

REMARKS It has been found impossible to make the Coy work in the rain as they have only one suit of clothing. Unfortunately this situation will not improve when the new battle dress arrives, as the old clothing must then be handed in, and the problem is not likely to be solved until a general issue of denims is possible.

My Report

Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

Subject: Weekly Progress Reports.

To :- SORE
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref. RE/15
11 Dec. 44

Herewith progress reports for week ending 10 Dec. 44.

Re *[Signature]*
16/12
Capt. R.E.
SORE
53 BLU

791

60000
 1st Air Force Sub Comd A. C. (MILA)

Copy to 33 P. H. U.

UNIT 2 P. H. U. 10 Dec. 44

UNIT 2 P. H. U.

1. <u>REQUIREMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098.</u>	Is now arriving slowly.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	May get an allotment from the 9 - 15 cwt.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Bridging platoon (less drivers) attached to 184. Coy.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Has been carried out but hampered by the fact that the Coy is using a small amount of borrowed rifles, they have not yet received their own
(f) <u>Paratroop & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

790

Remarks - In spite of the training programme it appears to be difficult to make this coy into a cohesive whole. As the men are merely a collection from various reinforcement depots there has been a lack of coy spirit. This however should improve when the G. 1098 equipment arrives.

(a) Training.	
(b) G.1096.	Is now arriving slowly.
(c) Transport.	May get an allotment from the 9 - 15 cwt.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u> (a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Bridging platoon (less drivers) attached to 184 Coy.
(b) <u>Line</u> <u>Parade.</u>	
(c) <u>Water</u> <u>Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and</u> <u>Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon</u> <u>Training.</u>	Has been carried out but hampered by the fact that the Coy is using a small amount of borrowed rifles, they have not yet received their own
(f) <u>Fieldcraft &</u> <u>Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Troop</u> <u>Training.</u>	796

REMARKS - In spite of the training programme it appears to be difficult to make this coy into a cohesive whole. As the men are merely a collection from various reinforcement depots there has been a lack of coy spirit. This however should improve when the G.1096 equipment arrives.

Coy Strength - 6 Officers
105 OEs.

Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

1919

2000
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C. (MIA)

Copy to 53 B.L.U.

MAILBOX PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 10 Dec. 44

UNIT 134 FA Coy.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Bailey equipment being sorted out with 54 RLI and 221.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Rifles only received so far.
(b) <u>Q. 1002</u>	
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	9 new 15 cwt trucks were received 9 Dec. by 2nd. They have not yet been allotted but each coy should receive two.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	Programme was interrupted because of move and because bridge had to be erected at POKIE. It is hoped to release equipment soon to allow programme to be completed.
(a) <u>Bridge.</u>	
(b) <u>Line Warfare.</u>	
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Small amount carried out.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS - The general decided to move the two FA Coys out of CERNANO, in spite of the fact that other units of the division were left there, because of the s. 789 epidemic. 134 coy moved to a site 2 km outside and have been living in tents under extremely bad conditions. In consequence morale has suffered and training has been interrupted. The weather is very bad and there is a lack of drying facilities. However since

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u> (a) <u>Training.</u> Bailey equipment being sorted out with 54 BLU and DML.	
(b) <u>G.I.S.</u>	Rifles only received so far.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	9 new 15 cwt trucks were received 9 Dec. by 2nd. They have not yet been allotted but each coy should receive two.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u> (a) <u>Bridging.</u>	Programme was interrupted because of move and because bridge had to be erected at BUIHE. It is hoped to release equipment soon to allow programme to be completed.
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	
(c) <u>Water Breaks.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Erections.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Small amount carried out.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

REMARKS - The General decided to move the two 1st Coys out of GEMUNO, in spite of the fact that other units of the Division were left there, because of the small epidemic. 1st Coy moved to a site 2 km outside and have been living in tents under extremely bad conditions. In consequence morale has suffered and training has been almost impossible in wet weather owing to lack of drying facilities. However since there have been no more cases of smallpox it is hoped to move them back within the next few days.

Coy Strength - 4 Officers
210 GIs.

Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

NOTE

1st Air Force Sub Comd A.C. (MIA)

Coy to 53 D.L.U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 10 Dec. 44

UNIT 10 Ed Coy

1. EQUIPMENT.	Sufficient.
(a) <u>Arms</u> .	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u> .	Only rifles received so far.
(c) <u>Transport</u> .	Same as 184
2. TRAINING.	
(a) <u>Bridging</u> .	
(b) <u>Line Warfare</u> .	It was almost impossible to carry out the programme satisfactorily as the lines museums etc are in Germany and in the new location there is no covered accommodation for training.
(c) <u>Water Supply</u> .	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions</u> .	
(e) <u>Weapon Training</u> .	Only small amount carried out.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u> .	
(g) <u>Trade Training</u> .	

REMARKS - This coy's new location is as bad as that of the other coy and the same remarks apply.

Coy Strength - 5 Officers
202 ORs.

788

Reinforcements have not been

(a) <u>Training</u>	Only rifles received so far.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	
(c) <u>Transport</u>	Same as 104.
(d) <u>Training</u>	
(e) <u>Training</u>	
(f) <u>Line Warfare</u>	It was almost impossible to carry out the programme satisfactorily as the lines/mine etc are in cutting and in the new location there is no covered accommodation for training.
(g) <u>Water Supply</u>	
(h) <u>Roads and Diversions</u>	
(i) <u>Weapon Training</u>	Only small amount carried out.
(j) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(k) <u>Trade Training</u>	

Remarks - This coy's new location is as bad as that of the other coy and the same remarks apply.

Coy Strength - 5 Officers
201 GIs.

Some GIs were transferred from 104 coy to 10 coy. Reinforcements have not been forthcoming so far.

788

Amant
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

18. 1st Coy Training Programme for week 11 - 17 Dec 44.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Type of training.</u>
Monday	Construction of DS in slow mine. WCOs on layout of rollers for construction.
Tuesday	Continuation of DS construction. Start IS construction.
Wednesday	IS construction and launching.
Thursday	80 ft DS rapid construction. WCOs recon scheme.
Friday	Launching DS and clearing up site.
Saturday	80 ft IS bridge. Short talk by officers to Pls on loads and times of erection of various bridges.

10 1st Coy Training Programme for week 11 - 17 Dec 44.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Type of training.</u>
Monday	Types of explosives, characteristics and initiation.
Tuesday	German, Italian and Allied ignitors, uses with different types of mines.
Wednesday	Use of Bangalore torpedoes, borehole charges, types of explosives, characteristics and methods of initiation.
Thursday	Explosives practical. German and Allied mines practical.
Friday	General revision of mines, ignitors and booby traps, ritual.
Saturday	Methods of laying and marking out minefields. Minefield gawing.

2nd Pl Coy Training Programme for week 11 - 17 Dec 44.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Type of training.</u>
Monday	Bailey bridge (theoretical) capabilities, loading etc.
Tuesday	PT and drill. Weapon training, rifle and MGO.
Wednesday	PT and drill. Weapon training, rifle. General revision.
Thursday	PT and drill. Weapon training, care of arms. Individual firing.
Friday	PT and drill. Weapon training, continuation of individual firing.
Saturday	PT and drill. Mines and booby traps.
	Afternoon sports.
	Driver training to be carried out all week.

10 Pz Coy Training Programme for week 11 - 17 Dec 44.

Day Type of training.

Monday Types of explosives, characteristics and initiation.
 Tuesday German, Italian and Allied igniters, uses with different types of mines.
 Wednesday Use of Bangalore torpedoes, borehole charges, types of explosives, characteristics and methods of initiation.
 Thursday Explosives practical. German and Allied mines practical.
 Friday General revision of mines, igniters and booby traps, minefield.
 Saturday Methods of laying and marking out minefields. Minefield gaming.

2 Pz Pz Coy Training Programme for week 11 - 17 Dec 44.

Day Type of training.

Monday Bailey bridge (theoretical) capabilities, loading etc.
 Tuesday PT and drill. Weapon training, rifle and MG.
 Wednesday PT and drill. Weapon training, rifle. General revision.
 Thursday PT and drill. Weapon training, care of arms. Individual firing.
 Friday PT and drill. Weapon training, continuation of individual firing.
 Saturday PT and drill. Mines and booby traps
 Afternoon sports.

Driver training to be carried out all week.

Subject: Salter Bridge Incident.

53 B.C.U.
Ref. #45
9 Dec. 44

To: 1- DDC AFHQ, GSW

CCS Land Forces Sub Comm A.O. (AFIA) —
53 B.C.U.

1. Ref this HQ letter ref #44 dated 4 Dec. 44.
2. Please amend para 1 line 5 to read extended not auxiliary.

[Signature]
Capt. R. H.
BOSCH
53 B.C.U.

786

NOTE

Lead Forces Sub Comm A. C. (MILA)

Copy to 53 B. L. U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING

5 Dec. 44

UNIT

10 Fd Coy

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	
(a) <u>Training.</u>	Sufficient at present.
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	None received so far.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	The training 3 tonner issued has been 4/s most of the week so very little driver training has been done.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	The mine warfare programme as forwarded was carried out but not with the whole coy as some were engaged in fitting out the new billets at Cerreto.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Weapon training in Rifle, Bren and T.M.C. has been carried out for at least an hour each day.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

785

REMARKS

This coy has also been ordered to move 1 Km outside Cerreto for 10 days. All training stores etc. are being left in Cerreto. The coy is still short of an O.C. but as Major MOSCA has not yet arrived the question will have to wait. Some officers are unsuitable and require changing, application has been made for replacements.

1926

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Sufficient at present.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	None received so far.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	The training 3 tonner issued has been w/s most of the week so very little driver training has been done.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	The mine warfare programme as forwarded was carried out but not with the whole coy as some were engaged in fitting out the new billets at Cerreto.
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Weapon training in Rifle, Bren and T.M.C. has been carried out for at least an hour each day.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	

785

REMARKS

This coy has also been ordered to move 1 Km outside Cerreto for 10 days. All training stores etc. are being left in Cerreto. The coy is still short of an O.C. but as Major MOSCA has not yet arrived the question will have to wait. Some officers are unsuitable and require changing, application has been made for replacements.

Coy strength - 7 Officers
201 ORs.

Margaret
Capt. RU
SORE
53 BLU

NOTE

Land Forces Sub Comd A. Co. (AGILA)

Copy to 53 B. L. U.

ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING

3 Dec. 44

UNIT 2 Rd Plt Coy.

1. <u>EQUIPMENT.</u>	Sufficient available.
(a) <u>Training.</u>	
(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	None received so far.
(c) <u>Transport.</u>	One 3 tonner has been allotted for driving instructions which has been proving satisfactory.
2. <u>TRAINING.</u>	The bridging pl (less drivers has been attached to 184 Coy for Bailey training.
(a) <u>Bridging.</u>	
(b) <u>Mine Warfare.</u>	
(c) <u>Water Supply.</u>	
(d) <u>Roads and Diversions.</u>	
(e) <u>Weapon Training.</u>	Has proceeded satisfactorily according to programme.
(f) <u>Fieldcraft & Battle Drill</u>	
(g) <u>Trade Training.</u>	No opportunity so far.
	784

REMARKS Equipment for this unit is expected in the very near future and it is probable that the training programme will be interrupted because of this. The reinforcement problem for all coys is being solved slowly, some of the arrivals have been, and have had to be returned.

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(b) <u>G. 1098</u>	None received so far.
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2. <u>TRAINING.</u> (a) <u>Bridging.</u>	The bridging pl (less drivers has been attached to 184 Coy for Bailey training.
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REMARKS Equipment for this unit is expected in the very near future and it is probable that the training programme will be interrupted because of this. The reinforcement problem for all coys is being solved slowly, some of the arrivals have been, and have had to be returned.

Coy strength - 6 Officers
118 OEs.

Approved
Capt. RE
SORE
53 BLU

4 Dec. Coy day off, MARIPOSA SANTA BARBARA.

5 Dec. Bailey DS construction slow time.

6 Dec. Detachment DS bridge. Introduction to DS construction.

7 Dec. DS construction - launching and delaunching.

8 Dec. 80 ft DS in quick time, MARIPOSA 1000s volume.

9 Dec. Detachment 80 ft DS. Clearing up site.

10 Pl Coy Training Program.

4 Dec. Coy day off, MARIPOSA SANTA BARBARA.

5 Dec. Revision of all types of igniters, used with various types of mines.

6 Dec. Use of Bangalore Torpedes, ~~detonator~~ ^{detonator} charges - types of explosives used and methods of initiation.7 Dec. Explosives) Practical.
Mines all types }

8 Dec. General revision, mines, igniters, bobby traps of every type.

9 Dec. Methods of setting minefields, theoretical and practical.

2 Pl Pl Coy Training Program.

783

4 Dec. Coy day off, MARIPOSA SANTA BARBARA.

5 Dec. Pl, close order drill - weapon training (rifle) - Army regulations (lecture) weapon training (RTO).

6 Dec. Pl, close order drill - weapon training - rifle aiming - Army regulations (lecture) - weapon training (revision and questions).

7 Dec. Pl, close order drill - weapon training (cleaning and care of arms) - Army regulations (lecture) - weapon training (individual firing).

8 Dec. Pl, close order drill - weapon training (continuation of individual firing) - Army regulations (lecture) - weapon training (more individual firing).

9 Dec. Pl, close order drill - lecture on line warfare in general - games.

10 PM Coy Training Program.

- 4 Dec. Coy day off, RESERVE SQUAD BARBERS.
- 5 Dec. Revision of all types of igniters, used with various types of mines.
- 6 Dec. Use of Bangalore Torpedoes, ~~explosive~~ ^{separate} charges - types of explosives used and methods of initiation.
- 7 Dec. Explosives) Practical.
Mines all types)
- 8 Dec. General revision, mines, igniters, booty traps of every type.
- 9 Dec. Methods of making minefields, theoretical and practical.

783

2 PM PM Coy Training Program.

- 4 Dec. Coy day off, RESERVE SQUAD BARBERS.
- 5 Dec. PT, close order drill - weapon training (rifle) - Army regulations (lecture) weapon training (TMT).
- 6 Dec. PT, close order drill - weapon training - rifle aiming - Army regulations (lecture) - weapon training (revision and questions).
- 7 Dec. PT, close order drill - weapon training (cleaning and care of arms) - Army regulations (lecture) - weapon training (individual firing).
- 8 Dec. PT, close order drill - weapon training (continuation of individual firing) - Army regulations (lecture) - weapon training (more individual firing).
- 9 Dec. PT, close order drill - lecture on mine warfare in general - games.

Subject: Bailey Bridge Equipment.

53 B.L.U.

To :- DMT AFHQ CMB

Ref. RF/4

SORE Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (ISIA)

4 Dec. 42.

53 BLU

54 BLU

The following training equipment has now been drawn by this unit :-

Panel Units	9
Decking Units	4
Ramp Units	2
Auxiliary	1
Erection Gear Units	1

and various stores drawn from E.S.B.D. CANCELLO (Voucher E/808) to make up deficiencies incurred by the CREMONA Group.

The set is intended to make up 80' T.D. bridge. However, allowing for 60' OS launching nose, certain items are short owing to the loading tables for the various units; and because all the items on Voucher E/808 were drawn by this unit, certain items are surplus. The attached appendix will show where these surpluses and deficiencies are. The difficulty is particularly acute in the case of Transoms. Only 24 transoms are contained in the loads listed above whereas 33 are required for the 80' T.D. bridge without taking the launching nose into account.

It is proposed to hand over some of the surplus items to 54 B.L.U. and make up where possible the deficiencies from them.

This will ease the situation to a certain extent but as will be seen from the attached list, in order to be able to build an 80' T.D. bridge the extra transoms etc are essential.

R. E. R.

Capt. R.E.
SORE

53 BLU

782

Part	No. according to loads	No. surplus and deficient	Min. No. for 80% D and 60% AS	Surplus & Deficient according to loads	Surplus & Deficient according to No. held
Base Plates	4	-	4	-	-
Bearings	8	2	8	-	2
Belts, bracing	360	75	243	112	37
Belts, chord	108	-	96	12	60
Belts, ribband	103	43	80	23	5
Braces, sway	23	-	22	2	4
Chaises	184	18	156	23	46
Clamps, transom	100	7	144	44	51
Frames, bracing	54	13	34	20	33
Panel	108	43	108	-	43
Pins, panel	234	96	228	6	102
Posts, end male	6	1	6	-	1
Posts, end, female	6	-	6	-	-
Rakers	24	-	30	6	7
Ribbands	26	4	24	4	8
Split pine	216	216	228	12	228
Stringers, button	16	-	16	-	-
Stringers, plain	24	-	24	-	-
Tieplates	36	2	32	4	6
Transoms	24	4	39	15	19
Bars, carrying	84	35	84	-	35
Jacks, chord, complete	8	-	8	-	8
Jacks, lifting, complete	10	1	10	-	1
Pedestals, ramp	8	-	8	-	-
Pins, end, post	2	2	4	2	1
Levers, panel	8	-	8	-	-
Links, launching, nose	8	-	8	-	-
Ramps, button	8	1	8	-	1
Ramps, plain	8	-	12	-	-
Rollers, plain	12	-	12	-	-
Rollers, rocking	12	-	12	-	-
Shoes, jack	8	-	12	-	-
Spanners, 1 1/2" SET	20	-	20	-	-
Spanners, 1 1/2" SIF	36	-	36	-	-
Spanners, 1 1/2" cranked	36	-	36	-	-
Spanners, 1 1/2" ratchet	16	-	16	-	-
Pins, sway brace, spare	6	-	6	-	-
Templates, plain, roller	8	6	8	-	6
Templates, rocking, roller	8	1	8	-	1
Timber, 9" x 3" by 6ft	24	24	24	-	24
Timber, 9" x 1" by 6ft	12	12	12	-	12
Guns, grease	2	-	2	-	-
Lashings, 2" x 6ftms	22	3	22	-	7813
Hammers, Hide faced	20	-	20	-	-
Hammers, sledge	12	-	12	-	-
Nails, spike 8"	20	-	20	-	-
Wedges, hardwood, pairs	4	-	8	4	4
Steelplugs	1	-	1	-	-
Hide faces (spare)	20	-	20	-	1
Hammers, shaft (spare)	4	-	4	-	1

Subject :- Weekly Progress Report.

53 B.L.U.
Ref. CH/23
27 Nov. 44.

To :- SORE,
Land Forces Sub Comd A.C.
(LMA)

Copy to :- 53 B.L.U.

1. Equipment.

Bailey set is now complete except for transom clamps of which some are missing. These will be obtained.

2. Training.

Training has now commenced in earnest. 184 Coy is doing Bailey bridging and 10 Coy mines according to the programmes already forwarded. 2nd Fk Coy programme is attached. Driver training has not yet started as only vehicle has so far been allotted to the Engineer Bn for this, and it is at present being used by the Signal Coy.

W. H. H. H. H.
Captain RE,
SORE,
53 BLU.

780

Training Programme for Field Park Coy.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Subject.</u>
Monday	0800 - 0850	Whole Coy	P.T. and drill
27 Nov 44.	0900 - 1050	"	Weapon training - rifle
	1400 - 1450	"	Drill
	1500 - 1650	"	Weapon training - Thompson Machine Carbine
Tuesday	0800 - 0850	"	P.T. and Drill
28 Nov. 44.	0900 - 1050	"	Weapon training - aiming drill
	1400 - 1450	"	Drill
	1500 - 1650	"	Weapon training revision
Wednesday	0800 - 0850	"	P.T. and drill
29 Nov 44.	0900 - 1050	"	Weapon training - care of arms
	1400 - 1450	"	Drill
	1500 - 1650	"	Weapon training - rifle - range practice
Thursday	0800 - 0850	"	P.T. and drill
30 Nov 44.	0900 - 1050	"	Weapon training - rifle - continuation of individual firing
	1400 - 1450	"	Drill
	1500 - 1650	"	Weapon training - rifle - continuation of individual firing
Friday	0800 - 0850	"	P.T. and drill
1 Dec 44.	0900 - 1050	"	Lectures on mine warfare and Allied mines and booby traps
	1400 - 1450	"	Drill
	1500 - 1650	"	Lectures on German mines and booby traps
Saturday	0800 - 0850	"	P.T. and drill
2 Dec 44.	0900 - 1050	"	Lectures on explosives and demolitions
	1400 - 1450	"	Recreational training

Subject : Weekly Progress Report.

53 B.L.U.

To :- S.O.R.E.,
Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

Ref. RE/1

12 Nov. 44

1. Arms and ammunition sufficient for training have now been received by 184 and 10 coys. The PG Pk Coy have not yet received any.
2. Part of the Bailey has arrived and it is hoped to have the balance collected by the evening of Monday 13 Nov. Delay has been due to nonavailability of transport.
3. Training for week 13 - 18 Nov. 44.

184 Coy.	Bailey as per programme already forwarded.
10 Coy	As per attached programme.
2 PG Pk Coy	As per attached programme.
4. I have managed to obtain quite a comprehensive selection of mines from the R.M.F.D. and C.M.F.C. I hope to obtain some more from GATTA in the next day or so.
5. In view of the bad L of C in this area and the urgent necessity of collecting clothing etc. Lt. Col. Brooks has decided that the Bailey equipment must be used to bridge the gap at PORTI on the TELESE - BENEVENTO road. 70' SS will be required for this which will leave just enough to get on with a certain amount of training. A R.C. bridge is being erected by civilians on the same site which they state will be completed in 20 days weather permitting, so it should be possible to release the Bailey then. It has been impossible so far to get materials for temporary timber bridges. 52 C.R.E. and the Chief Regional Engineer have been tried but they will not release materials for non-military roads.

Byington
Captain,
S.O.R.E.

778

2 FIVE SIX COMPANYTraining Programme for week 13 - 18 Nov. 44.

Monday	13 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	British and American Mines.
Tuesday	14 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	British and American Mines.
Wednesday	15 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	British and American Booby-trap Equipment.
Thursday	16 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	German Mines.
Friday	17 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	German Mines.
Saturday	18 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	Hollow Charges.

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10 COMPANYTraining Programme for week 13 - 18 Nov. 44.

Monday	13 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	British and American booby-traps.
Tuesday	14 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	British and American new charges and Bangalore Torpedoes.
Wednesday	15 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	Beehives etc. (Practical).
Thursday	16 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	Booby-traps. (Practical).
Friday	17 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	Demolition. (General).
Saturday	18 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs.	Weapon Training.
		1400 - 1630 hrs.	Laying Minefields. (Practical).

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Thursday 16 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	German Mines.
Friday 17 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	German Mines.
Saturday 18 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	Hollow Charges.
-----00023000-----		
<u>10 COMPANY.</u>		
<u>Training Programme for week 13 - 19 Nov. 44.</u>		
Monday 13 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	British and American booby-traps.
Tuesday 14 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	British and American new charges and Bangalore Corrodors.
Wednesday 15 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	Beehives etc. (Practical).
Thursday 16 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	Booby-traps. (Practical).
Friday 17 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	Damblition. (General).
Saturday 18 Nov. 44.	0800 - 1230 hrs	Weapon Training.
	1400 - 1630 hrs	Laying Minefields. (Practical).

778

Subject :- Weekly Progress Report.

53 B.L.U.

To :- S.O.R.E.
M.M.I.A.

Ref. CH/10

4 Nov. 1941.

1. REINFORCEMENTS.

On two occasions transport has been sent to the depot to collect reinforcements but none were forthcoming as the depot had received an order from the Ministry of War cancelling the release. However a letter was received from the Ministry of War yesterday ordering the Group to send an officer to the depot to make arrangements for the collection of the reinforcements. This officer has not yet returned but it is expected that the reinforcements will be available within the next few days.

2. TRAINING STORES.

So far no Bailey equipment has been collected owing to shortage of transport which in the last few days has all been used to collect clothing etc. However enough should be available to collect all the equipment by 9 Nov. in which case Bailey training will start on 10 Nov.

I have managed to obtain some German mines and igniters from the CMTC and hope to make up the balance from the REED.

3. TRAINING.

The cadre course in British mines and explosives has been held and the period of instruction for OPs has been extended two days to allow further instruction. The main obstacles to training at the moment are as follows :- Firstly the men have no waterproof clothing or a change of clothing to enable instruction to carry on in the rain. There is no accommodation for indoor instruction and the amount of rain recently has made continuous training extremely difficult.

Secondly owing to the bad weather and the poor state of roads and bridges in this area the sappers are constantly being called out on urgent maintenance jobs. It has been found impracticable to employ the Field Park Coy on all these jobs as they have no transport or tools. At the moment if the Group is to be efficiently maintained in this area it will be necessary to build three new timber trestle bridges, one thirty feet, one fifty feet, one ninety feet, ^{and} improve a railway bridge for wheeled transport. 64 Garrison will not release the materials for these and so tomorrow I am going to try and get it from the AOC Bridging Officer at CASERTA. If, however, this material is not made immediately available continuous maintenance and improvisation without proper equipment will be necessary throughout the winter which will make uninterrupted training extremely difficult.

[Signature]
Captain,
S.O.R.E.

776

14

Major Philip:
SORE
MIA.

Dear Major,

I am very sorry that I was not here when you arrived, but did not know when you were coming. There appears to be some holdup in the delivery of mail from you to me as Davies said that he heard from you that you were coming, four days in advance, while I received no message at all.

It was essential that I went personally as it was necessary to contact various British units. As soon as the instructors arrive however, they will be very useful for jobs like that, as at present there is no one in the B.L.U. who can be spared to help me.

Sorry to have caused you so much inconvenience.

Yours Sincerely

Charles G. Houghton

775

Subject; Weekly Progress Report.

To ; SORE
MOLIA

M.M.A.	RE
FILE REF	1
Date Recd	2/11/44

53 B.L.U.

Ref. CH/7

28 Oct. 44.

1. British training mines and explosives have now been drawn, and accessories (i.e. detectors, exploders etc.) are being drawn in the next few days.

2. Reinforcements have not yet been drawn. An officer with transport was sent to the depot, but was told that the men were not available until 30 Oct. They are being collected then.

3. The Fd. Pk. Coy. arrived on 25 Oct.

Strength :- 5 Officers
15 W.Os.
105 O.Rs.

They have no vehicles or equipment.

O.C. is Lieut. SABATINI GEORGIO

They will at present do the same training as the other corps. COYS.

4. Training.

Starting 30 Oct. a three day cadre course for Officers and N.C.Os. on British mines and explosives is being held. In the three days following they will train their own platoons.

The Bailey equipment should be here by 6 Nov. and a 10 day course is being started on 7 Nov. for 184 Coy. The programme has already been forwarded to you.

Three N.C.Os. from each Fd. Coy. and four from the Fd. Pk. will attend a 15 day cadre course in weapon training, starting 31 Oct. It is being run by instructors from the engineers for other arms, as they are the only people in the group who have done a weapon training course.

5. Up to date the coys. have been engaged in repairing damaged bridges in the area, which has been quite good training in improvised bridging.

6. Training Stores

The only holdup at the moment is German mines. DMT say that it is practically impossible to obtain them so am trying the various training establishment in the neighbourhood.

Capt. R.E.

SORE.

774

Subject : Weekly Report.

53 B.L.U.
CH/2
14 Oct. 44.

SCITE
MMIA

.....

1. No training has been undertaken yet, as sappers have been working on new div. area and are now in process of moving themselves to Castelvedere area.
2. Have received allotment of vacancies for Weapon Trng. and Field units courses.
3. Have asked C.O. BLU to see the General about appointing a commander for the sappers.
4. No more reinforcements have arrived as yet.

R. E.
Capt. R. E.

7732

Subject ; Interim Report.

53 B.L.U.
CH/3
16 Oct. 44

SOME
M.M.I.A.
.....

1. Training in mine warfare commenced today, programme following.
Understand that there are some mine detectors available at SAN GEORGIO
so will collect them.
2. Bailey training programme is attached.
It is proposed to put each company through this short course and if
the equipment is still available after that, a more advanced programme
will be carried out.


Capt. R.E.

772

BAILEY TRAINING.

- D1. Unloading equipment.
Short explanation of parts.
Preparation of site.

15 min. Lecture to Officers and N.C.Os. on layout of site.
- D2. Construction of 90' SS. (This to be launched and delunched as many times as possible as possible during day. Slow time.
- D3. Construction of 90' SS. ----- do -----

15 min Lecture to Officers and N.C.Os. on DS construction.
- D4. Construction of 90' SS. Quick time.

15 min. Lecture to Officers and N.C.Os. on capabilities.
- D5. Construction of 50' DS. Slow time.

Short. Lecture to Officers and N.C.Os. on recce.
- D6. Construction of 80' DS. Quick time.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ Officers and N.C.Os. on recce scheme.
- D7. Construction of 80' DS. Quick time.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ Officers and N.C.Os. on recce scheme.
- D8. Introduction to TS, construction

Officers give *his* short talk on bridge and capabilities stressing times of construction.
- D9. T.S. construction

Short lecture to Officers and N.C.Os. on *Dstony* construction.
- D10. DD construction.

MAJ PHILLIPS

Ser. 5.

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File 2017

Subject: FOLKLORE Yearly Meeting Progress Report.

1. **Boat "D"** has not been formed and I am the only member. In consequence my operations have been somewhat hampered. I have contacted "B" BLV however and obtained a fish and am now staying with the Foros group engineers.
2. See App A for list of officers.
3. At the moment the div. engineers are commanded by Capt FABRIZIO but it is not quite clear yet whether he is going to be promoted or not.
4. I have not seen the companies yet but am going round tomorrow to have a look and meet all the officers. The companies are only 50% strong.
5. I have seen Maj. Yates at D.M.T. regarding the release of training equipment. No equipment has been released yet as they are still waiting for the Chief Engineer's division. However Davis and I have contacted the C.I. Mine Warfare at the S.M.E. and he has agreed to let Davis have some mines which I will be able to use. I have also arranged to take parties round the mine warfare museum when I visit.
6. Transport The companies each have 5-8000 Stephens tons.
7. Equipment They have a few tools of their own but not enough to do any training with.

2. See App A for list of officers.

2. See App. H for ...
At the moment the div. engineers are commanded by
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has agreed to let Davis have some mines which I
will be able to use. I have also arranged to take
pictures around the mine warfare museum when I visit.

6. Freight The companies each have 5-80¢ per ton
mile. 770

7. Equants They have a few tools of their own but not enough to do any thing with.

7. State of Training

- a) Turner. Both companies have had plenty of experience in marelifting. One company has been lifting mines in Sicily, the other has done so in recent operations.
- b) Bridging. None of the companies have done any bridging but are very keen to get on with it. I found a good site in the SAN POTITO area but as the division is moving shortly to the TELERRE area it will be necessary to find another one there.
- c) Grade Training. I will send a report on this as soon as possible.
- d) Weapon Training. 2nd STAFF of this division is at present acting as a weapon training instructor at a course run for "B" BLV at the R.E.T.D. I will arrange for a similar course for this group as soon as the present course finishes.
- Conclusion Capt. FORTAZIO is keen to start training as soon as possible so I will lay on what I can in spite of the lack of equipment. Bridging seems to be the most urgent, and if even half the equipment asked for is released, it will help considerably.
- I will send the first training programme as soon as possible.

By Wdgmt
CAPT. RE

30 Sep 44.

SORE "D" BLV FORBOWS ST.

768

RE

APPENDIX A

154 INDIATORI COY

LINE	CENTENILE
2/LT	ARTINI
2/LT	TRAINA
2/LT	SPANO
2/LT	MARIANI

10 ARTIERI COY.

CAPT	SCARZO
2/LT	BAGNA
2/LT	HONORAT
2/LT	CECCON
2/LT	PITZALIS

HQ.

CAPT	FABRIZIO	
CAPT	ZANINI	(SIGS)