

ACC

10000/120/2997

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JAN. - A

10000/120/2997

Progress Reports

56 B.L.U.

1226

1251

JAN. - APR. - 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: 104 Engineer Battalion, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 5th April 45

56 BLJ
 6 E

8 April 45

GSO I, 56 BLJ
 MMIA (for SO. R.E.)

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

(a) Companies are now fairly well equipped with Special Equipment and vehicles. Equipment and vehicles have been allocated to Platoons. Training has consisted chiefly of use of technical equipment, practice loading of vehicles and training of personnel in small convoy runs. Drivers to fill W.E.'s have now been initially trained at the Battalion Driving School and their further training is now the responsibility of O's C Companies. The Battalion Driving School will close down on 7 April 45.

2. DRIVING and MAINTENANCE of VEHICLES

(a) V.Q.R. state is 10%. The newly equipped L.B.D. is due to join the Battalion now, and it is hoped that this will improve the V.Q.R. state. The chief difficulty is lack of M.F. fitters with experience of Allied vehicles.

3. PERSONNEL - OFFICERS

(a) The C.O. of the Battalion is still sick, and O.C. 3 Field Park Company is not considered to be entirely satisfactory. It is therefore still desirable that the two Engineer Captains requested in 56 BLJ letter AG4 of 14 March 45 to MMIA be posted to the Group.

4. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

NIL

5. HUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

Satisfactory.

6. COURSES RUNNING

NIL

7. STATE OF TRADESMEN and SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

8. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

(a) There is NO Interpreter at Battalion HQ.

1251

Adm. 11/100
 (100)

2. DRIVING and MAINTENANCE of VEHICLES

(a) V.O.R. state is 10%. The newly equipped L.B.D. is due to join the Battalion now, and it is hoped that this will improve the V.O.R. state. The chief difficulty is lack of M.T. fitters with experience of Allied vehicles.

3. PERSONNEL - OFFICERS

(a) The C.O. of the Battalion is still sick, and O.C. 3 Field Park Company is not considered to be entirely satisfactory. It is therefore still desirable that the two Engineer Captains requested in 56 BLU letter AG4 of 14 March 45 to MMIA be posted to the Group.

4. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

NIL

5. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

Satisfactory.

6. COURSES RUNNING

NIL

7. STATE of TRADESMEN and SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

8. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

(a) There is NO Interpreter at Battalion HQ.

1251

(b) Deficiencies of Tradesmen, particularly MT fitters and Tradesmen for Workshops Platoon of 3 Field Park Company.

9. BALANCE of TRAINING to be COMPLETED

General Military Training	45%
Sapper Training	40%
Maintenance and Operation of vehicles and Field Maint.	55%

10. READINESS for OPERATIONAL ROLE

A start has been made with Platoon schemes. More of these will be necessary before the Battalion can be considered ready for taking up an Operational Role, (together with Group exercises involving the whole of the Battalion).

In The Field
FHG/cwf

Capt.
SO. R.E.

Adm. 11/11/45
(100)

Appendix 'A' to 101 Engineer Bn Report to 5th APRIL 45

TYPE OF TRADES IN OR SPECIALISTS	4 Field Company						75 Field Company					
	Field	Boy	W.E.	No	Required	Under Training	Field	Boy	W.E.	No	Required	Under Training
BLACKSMITHS	5	5	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
BATIC MAKERS	16	14	-	-	-	-	15	1	-	-	-	-
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	24	22	2	-	2	2	17	7	-	-	-	-
COOKS	4	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
DRUMMAJORS	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS (I/c and Fitters)	7	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
PAINTERS	12	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5	3	1	1	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
WATER PUMPERS	12	12	-	-	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	-
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
STONE CUTTERS	4	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
WELDERS	4	4	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
DRIVERS I/c	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
DRIVERS I/c	26	26	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-
DRIVER MECHANICS	5	5	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-

Commiss Report to 5th APRIL 45

1250

4 Field Company					79 Field Company					TOTAL	
										OFFICIALS	
										For Field Coy	
										Against	
										Total	

Appendix 'A' to 104 Engineer En Progress Report to 5th April 45

TYPES OF TRADES MEN OR SPECIALISTS	Field Park Company				Deficiencies	
	No	No	No	No	requiring; under	against
	W.O.	W.O.	W.O.	W.O.	Training	W.O.
BLACKSMITHS	2	2	-	-	-	-
BRICKLAYERS	1	1	-	-	-	-
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	5	5	-	-	-	-
CLERKS	4	4	-	-	-	-
COACHMEN	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	3	3	-	-	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS (I/O and FUEL)	3	3	-	-	-	-
FINERS	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	3	3	-	-	-	-
MOTOR CYCLISTS	6	6	-	-	-	-
WATER BURNER	1	1	-	-	-	-
ENGINEERS and FITTERS	2	-	-	-	-	2
SPARE PARTS	-	-	-	-	-	-
VARIABLE TECHNIQUES	3	2	-	-	-	1
WARRIOR	-	-	-	-	-	-
DRIVERS, MOUNTAINS	4	1	-	-	-	3
DRIVERS I/O	31	31	-	-	-	-
ENGINEERS I/O	2	2	-	-	-	-
WINTERS	4	1	-	-	-	3
SERIES	2	2	-	-	-	-
SHOOTING MOUNTAINS	1	-	-	-	-	1
SURVIVORS ENGINEERING	1	1	-	-	-	-
WARRIORS	1	1	-	-	-	-
WARRIORS AGENTS	1	1	-	-	-	-
WARRIORS MOUNTAINS	1	-	-	-	-	1

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: 104 Engineer Battalion, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 21 March 45.

56 BLU
6 E

2/ March 45

GSO I, 56 BLU
MIA (for SO. R.E.)

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

With the arrival of substantial quantities of technical equipment and vehicles, emphasis during the past two weeks has been on organisation of Companies, and training of drivers.

(a) Sapper Training.

Training in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks has continued. Difficulty is still experienced in persuading Officers that once their units have learned to do a particular type of work, they must continue training in the same subject until the maximum efficiency has been attained.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING and GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING.

Firing of all weapons has continued, each Company being allotted the Open Range for 2 days per week. The standard of Care of Arms is improving.

(c) DRIVING and MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES.

The Battalion Driving School is functioning satisfactory.

There are now 9 vehicles allotted for training and the Driver situation is in hand. By 31 March sufficient drivers will be trained to fill establishment. Training will continue, to prepare as many spare drivers as possible.

2. PERSONNEL.

OFFICERS

See 56 BLU letter AG4 of 14 March 45.

The O.C. 3 Field Park Company has effected an improvement in his unit, but the standard is not yet satisfactory.

3. DEVIATIONS FROM TRAINING :- NIL

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

There has not been satisfactory in the case of 79 Field

Training in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks has continued. Difficulty is still experienced in persuading Officers that once their units have learned to do a particular type of work, they must continue training in the same subject until the maximum efficiency has been attained.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING and GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING.

Firing of all weapons has continued, each Company being allotted the Open Range for 2 days per week. The standard of Care of Arms is improving.

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The Battalion Driving School is functioning satisfactory.

There are now 9 vehicles allotted for training and the Driver situation is in hand. By 31 March sufficient drivers will be trained to fill establishment. Training will continue, to prepare as many spare drivers as possible.

2. PERSONNEL.

OFFICERS

See 56 BLU letter AQ4 of 14 Mar ch 45.

The O.C. 3 Field Park Company has effected an improvement in his unit, but the standard is not yet satisfactory.

3. DEVIATIONS FROM TRAINING :- NIL

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

This has not been satisfactory in the case of 79 Field Company, but is being rectified by the new O.C.

5. COURSES RUNNING

Two courses are being held for Infantry Pioneer Assault Sections at the Engineer Training Ground, in Assault Demolitions, and Mine Warfare.

DET is being asked to run a short course in Maintenance and Repair of Mine Detectors for unit Electricians to include personnel from Infantry Battalions. 278

6. STATE of TRADESMEN and SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- (a) Lack of interpreters. SO. R.E., CREMONA Group considers at least one Interpreter is required for each Company and Battalion H, Q. At present there is NO Interpreter with the Engineer Battalion.
- (b) Deficiencies of Tradesmen, particularly Fitters and Driver Mechanics, and Tradesmen for Workshop Platoon of 3 Field Park Company.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging
 Mine Warfare
 Fieldworks
 Demolitions
 Weapon Training
 Road and Track Construction
 Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
 Water Supply
 Fieldcraft and Battle Drill
 Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant
 Store Keeping,

35%
 40%
 25%
 30%
 35%
 25%
 50%
 100%
 70%
 80%
 45%

In The Field
 FHC/owf

[Signature]
 Capt.
 SO. R.E.

40%
25%
30%
35%
25%
50%
100%
70%
80%
45%

Fieldworks
Demolitions
Weapon Training
Road and Track Construction
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
Water Supply
Fieldcraft and Battle Drill
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant
Store Keeping,


SO. R.E.
Capt.

In The Field
FHG/cwf

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Appendix 'A' to HQ Engineer BN Progress Report to 21 March 45

TYPE OF TRADES OR SPECIALISTS	4 Field Company						78 Field Company					
	Field		No		No		Field		No		No	
	Co	Plt	Trained	Requiring	Under	Deficiency	Co	Plt	Trained	Requiring	Under	Deficiency
				Training	Training					Training	Training	
BLACKSMITHS	5	5	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
BRICKLAYERS	16	11	-	-	-	5	15	1	-	-	-	-
CARPENTER and JOINERS	24	22	2	-	-	2	13	4	-	-	-	-
CULRICKS	4	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
HAUGHTS ON	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4	3	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS (i/c and PUMPS)	7	6	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-
WELDERS	12	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5	3	1	1	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
MOTOR CYCLISTS	12	10	2	2	-	2	10	2	-	-	-	-
WATER DISTYEN	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	4	3	1	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-
SHOE MAKERS	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
WATERMEN	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
DRIVERS i/c	26	17	9	9	-	9	17	9	-	-	-	-
DRIVER MECHANICS	5	4	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-

ess Report to 21 March 45

1246

4 Field Company				79 Field Company				TOTAL EFFICIENCIES for Field Coy's against S.M.
Trained	Requiring Training	Under Training	Efficient Against S.M.	Trained	Requiring Training	Under Training	Efficient Against S.M.	
5	-	-	-	3	2	1	2	2
11	-	-	5	15	1	1	1	6
22	2	-	2	13	4	2	11	13
4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
3	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	3
6	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	1
12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-
3	1	1	2	4	-	-	1	3
10	2	2	2	10	2	2	2	4
-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
3	1	-	1	3	1	-	1	2
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	3	4	-	1	1
4	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
17	9	9	9	17	9	9	9	18
4	-	-	1	1	4	4	4	5

[illegible]

Subject: 10th Engineer Battalion, Combat Group "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 6 March 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

56 BLU
6 E

7 March 45.

GSO I

S.O.R.E. MATL.

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

Training has continued according to programmes. The change of Training area has proved an advantage, giving personnel more interest. With all personnel under cover, a higher standard of economy and administration can be expected and is being obtained in the case of 4 Field Company, but 79 Field Company and 1 Field Park Company still have a great deal of leeway to make up. These two Companies require good O's, C's, which are at present lacking.

(a) SAPPER TRAINING

This has continued in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks. For the first time, detailed programmes were made out by Company O's, C's, from which it was evident that they had not followed their Companies Training to date. It is hoped this will improve, as Officers are now being appointed in Companies to deal with administration, thus freeing the Company Commanders of this work.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Firing on open range continues. Firing with P.I.A.T. has commenced. Care of Arms in all units except 4 Field Company is still poor, but the Battalion Commander is following this up.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

The Battalion Driving School is now functioning. A short course for Instructors has been completed, and the first batch of drivers are now being trained. Owing to the shortage of vehicles for this purpose, only 40 drivers and 20 motorcyclists can be trained at one time. This is insufficient, as this school has also to cater for the Signal Company, and will be increased as more vehicles become available.

2. PERSONNEL

OFFICERS

O.C. 79 Field Company has proved unsuitable, after nearly a month Commanding the Company. A replacement has been asked for through Italian Channels. The Officer who has to have taken Command 3 Field Park Company has now been transferred to the Signal Company as the Signal Company C.C. was unsuitable. A replacement has also been asked for through Italian

up. These two Companies require good O.V.C., which are at present lacking.

(a) SAPPER TRAINING

This has continued in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks. For the first time, detailed programmes were made out by Company O.V.C. from which it was evident that they had not followed their Companies training to date. It is hoped this will improve, as Officers are now being appointed in Companies to deal with administration, thus freeing the Company Commanders of this work.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING and GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Firing on open range continues. Firing with P.L.A.T. has commenced. Care of Arms in all units except 4 Field Company is still poor, but the Battalion Commander is following this up.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

The Battalion Driving School is now functioning. A short course for Instructors has been completed, and the first batch of drivers are now being trained. Owing to the shortage of vehicles for this purpose, only 40 drivers and 20 motorcyclists can be trained at one time. This is insufficient, as this school has also to cater for the Signal Company, and will be increased as more vehicles become available.

2. PERSONNEL

OFFICERS

O.C. 79 Field Company has proved unsuitable, after nearly a month Commanding the Company. A replacement has been asked for through Italian Channels. The Officer who was to have taken Command 3 Field Park Company has now been transferred to the Signal Company as the Signal Company O.C. was unsuitable. A replacement has also been asked for through Italian Channels. The position regarding Officers to Command these two Companies is therefore still most unsatisfactory and until suitable Officers are forthcoming neither Company will be satisfactory.

2/.....sheet

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3. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

N I L

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

Satisfactory

5. COURSES RUNNING

Nil in addition to training within Battalions.

6. STATE OF TRADESMEN and SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The most serious difficulty is O's.C. for 79 Field Company and 3 Field Pack Company, see para 2 above. Other difficulties are as stated in my last report.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING to be COMPLETED.

- Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging
- Mine Warfare
- Fieldwork
- Demolitions
- Weapon Training
- Road and Truck Construction
- Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
- Water Supply
- Fieldcraft and Battledress
- Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant
- Store Keeping

45%
45%
50%
35%
45%
35%
85%
100%
80%
90%
60%

In The Field
FAR/cwf

[Signature]
Capt.
S.O.R.E.
flt Col.
OS.

The most serious difficulty is O.M.C. for 79 Field Company and 3 Field Park Company, see para 2 above. Other difficulties are as stated in my last report.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED.

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging
 Mine Warfare
 Fieldworks
 Demolitions
 Weapon Training
 Road and Track Construction
 Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
 Water Supply
 Fieldcraft and Battledress
 Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant
 Store Keeping

45%
 45%
 50%
 55%
 45%
 55%
 85%
 100%
 80%
 90%
 60%

In The Field
 FHG/cwf

[Signature] Capt.
 L.P.R.E.
 Lt Col.
 G.S.

1243

Appendix 'A' to HQ Company Report to 6th March 45

TYPE OF TRADES IN OF SPECIALISTS	1 Field Coy			79 Field Coy		
	No			No		
	Trained	Requiring	Deficiencies	Trained	Requiring	Deficiencies
		Training	Training		Training	Training
BLACKSMITHS	5	5	-	3	2	1
WHEELWRIGHTS	16	11	-	15	1	-
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	24	22	-	2	13	4
CLERKS	4	4	-	4	-	-
MECHANICS	1	1	-	1	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4	3	1	1	2	-
ENGINE FITTERS (E/c and P.W.S.)	7	5	-	2	7	-
SEWERS	12	12	-	-	12	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5	2	1	1	4	-
MOTOR CYCLISTS	12	10	2	2	3	4
WATER BOMBSMEN	1	-	1	1	1	-
REPAIRERS and MAINTENANCE	4	3	1	1	3	-
ROAD PAVERS	1	1	-	-	1	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	3	-	1	3	1
WATERSMEN	4	4	-	-	3	-
DRIVERS E/c	26	6	19	10	20	12
TRUCK MECHANICS	5	4	-	-	1	2

Progress Report to 6th March 45

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4 Field Company						79 Field Company						TOTAL	
												REQUIREMENTS	
												FOR FIELD DAYS	
												AGAINST	
												W.L.	

Subject: 10th Engineer Bn, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 21 Feb 45.

56 HJU
6 E
22 Feb 45

GSO I

S.O.R.E. M.M.I.A.

1. Progress of Training

Training has continued according to programmes, a short interruption being caused by the move of units to the new locations. This move provided valuable training experience, particularly for 3 Field Park Coy, (loading and moving of Engineer Stores especially Bailey Bridge Sets) providing that the various mistakes made have been noted and are not repeated in the future.

(a) Sapper Training

Progress is fair. The most serious fault lies in the woeful lack of organisation on the part of platoon Officers and N.C.Os. The men are keen and providing they are in the picture they will work satisfactorily.

(1) Elementary Bailey Bridging.

50% of personnel have now completed the second Bailey training programme. The move of the Bailey Set to the new site was carried out in the form of a simple bridging exercise, the bridging platoon of the 3 Field Park Coy doing the loading and transporting in their own vehicles and a platoon of 79 Field Company erecting a 80' D.S. Class 40 bridge over the river at the new training site. The Field Park Coy worked well and efficiently, but the platoon engaged on construction was hopeless and gave an exhibition of how NOT to build a Bailey bridge making every conceivable mistake. There was little evidence of any forethought or planning and complete lack of organisation of work on the site.

(ii) Mine Warfare.

50% of personnel have completed the second programme. Again lack of organisation and planning reduces the effectiveness of this training and every advantage is not being derived from a considerable amount of training stores available.

(iii) Demolitions.

This subject is going well. Emphasis is being placed on the values and different uses of British service explosives, accessories, and instruments, Italian methods of carrying out of demolitions being retained to avoid confusion.

(v) Fieldworks and Roadworks.

The only problem is transport

Progress is fair. The most serious fault lies in the woeful lack of organisation on the part of platoon Officers and N.C.Os. The men are keen and providing they are in the picture they will work satisfactorily.

(i) Elementary Bailey Bridging.

50% of personnel have now completed the second Bailey training programme. The move of the Bailey Set to the new site was carried out in the form of a simple bridging exercise, the bridging platoon of the 3 Field Park Coy doing the loading and transporting in their own vehicles and a platoon of 79 Field Company erecting a 80' D.S. Class 40 bridge over the river at the new training site. The Field Park Coy worked well and efficiently, but the platoon engaged on construction was hopeless and gave an exhibition of how NOT to build a Bailey bridge making every conceivable mistake. There was little evidence of any forethought or planning and complete lack of organisation of work on the site.

(ii) Mine Warfare.

50% of personnel have completed the second programme. Again lack of organisation and planning reduces the effectiveness of this training and every advantage is not being derived from a considerable amount of training stores available.

(iii) Demolitions.

This subject is going well. Emphasis is being placed on the values and different uses of British service explosives, accessories, and instruments, Italian methods of carrying out demolitions being retained to avoid confusion.

(v) Fieldworks and Roadworks.

Progress is satisfactory, and the only problem is transport for material for roadworks. All personnel are familiar with use of Somerfield Track.

2/..... sheet

1240

- 2 -

B. Weapon Training and General Military Training

All personnel have fired their weapons on the open range. NO firing has yet been done with the P.I.A.T. This will commence shortly.

C. Driving and Maintenance of British Vehicles

Motorcyclists of the 3 Field Park Coy have been trained. NO driving and Maintenance instruction has yet been commenced due to non-availability of vehicles, the vehicles of the 3 Field Park Coy being engaged on works for the Group. A Bn driving School will commence to operate shortly.

2. Personnel.

All units now have O's. G. The newly arrived O.C. for the 3 Field Park Coy was intended for the Signals Coy, but as the position had already been filled, he was allotted to the Field Park Coy.

3. Deviations from Programme.

N I L

4. Numbers Attending Training

SATISFACTORY

5. Courses Running

NIL in addition to training within Battalion.

6. State of Tradesmen and Specialists.

See App 'A' attached

7. Difficulties Encountered

- (a) Lack of efficient interpreter at Bn H.Q.
- (b) Lack of transport and Special Equipment for training. The Engineer units are essentially mobile units and the scope of training is limited by lack of transport. A considerable amount of training cannot be commenced until Special Equipment is received.

8. Balance of Training to be Completed.

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging	55%
Mine Warfare	55%
Fieldworks	40%
Demolitions	40%
Weapon Training	50%
	45%

3. Deviations from Programme

N I L

4. Numbers Attending Training

SATISFACTORY

5. Courses Running

NIL in addition to training within Battalion,

6. State of Tradesmen and Specialists

See App 'A' attached

7. Difficulties Encountered

- (a) Lack of efficient interpreter at En K.Q.
- (b) Lack of transport and Special Equipment for training. The Engineer units are essentially mobile units and the scope of training is limited by lack of transport. A considerable amount of training cannot be commenced until Special Equipment is received.

8. Balance of Training to be Completed.

- Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging
- Mine Warfare
- Fieldworks
- Demolitions
- Weapon Training
- Road and Track Construction
- Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
- Water Supply
- Fieldcraft and Battle Drill
- Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.
- Store Keeping

55%
55%
40%
40%
50%
45%
95%
100%
185%
100%
60%

In The Field.
FEB/cwf

[Signature]
Capt.
S. J. J. J.

Appendix 'A' to 101 Engineer Bn. Progress Report to

TYPE OF TRADES IN OF SPECIALISTS	1. Field Company						79 Field Company					
	Field			No			No			No		
	Trained	Requiring	Under	Trained	Requiring	Under	Trained	Requiring	Under	Trained	Requiring	Under
	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training
BLACKSMITHS	5	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
BRICKLAYERS	16	8	4	2	8	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	24	18	4	4	6	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
CLERKS	4	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
COOKS	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS (2 1/2 units each)	4	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
FINERS	12	12	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5	1	2	1	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOTOR CYCLISTS	12	2	9	2	10	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
WATER BATTERY	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	4	2	2	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHOE MAKERS	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	2	1	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
WATERMEN	4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
DRIVERS 1/2	26	11	14	-	15	21	5	-	-	-	-	-
DRIVER MECHANICS	5	3	2	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

Report to

78 Field Company				79 Field Company				1238 DEFICIENCIES for Field Coy against W.B.
No Trained	No Requiring Training	No Under Training	Deficiencies against W.B.	No Trained	No Requiring Training	No Under Training	Deficiencies against W.B.	
5	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
16	8	4	2	16	-	-	-	8
24	18	4	4	14	-	-	10	16
4	4	-	-	3	-	-	1	1
1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
4	4	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
7	4	2	-	6	-	-	1	4
2	12	-	-	18	-	-	-	-
5	1	2	1	4	-	-	1	7
2	2	9	2	7	-	-	5	15
1	-	1	-	3	-	-	1	3
4	2	2	1	1	-	-	1	1
1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	2
4	2	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
4	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	2
6	11	14	-	21	5	-	5	20
5	3	2	-	4	-	-	1	3
			2					

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540
DATE: 21 Feb 45.

ITEMS	QUANTITY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS
1. PAPER	2	2	2	
2. PAPER	1	1	1	
3. PAPER	5	5	5	
4. PAPER	4	4	4	
5. PAPER	3	3	3	
6. PAPER	3	3	3	
7. PAPER	3	3	3	
8. PAPER	3	3	3	
9. PAPER	6	2	4	
10. PAPER	1	1	1	
11. PAPER	2	2	2	
12. PAPER	3	3	3	
13. PAPER	4	4	4	
14. PAPER	3	3	3	
15. PAPER	3	3	3	
16. PAPER	3	3	3	
17. PAPER	3	3	3	
18. PAPER	3	3	3	
19. PAPER	3	3	3	
20. PAPER	3	3	3	
21. PAPER	3	3	3	
22. PAPER	3	3	3	
23. PAPER	3	3	3	
24. PAPER	3	3	3	
25. PAPER	3	3	3	
26. PAPER	3	3	3	
27. PAPER	3	3	3	
28. PAPER	3	3	3	
29. PAPER	3	3	3	
30. PAPER	3	3	3	
31. PAPER	3	3	3	
32. PAPER	3	3	3	
33. PAPER	3	3	3	
34. PAPER	3	3	3	
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36. PAPER	3	3	3	
37. PAPER	3	3	3	
38. PAPER	3	3	3	
39. PAPER	3	3	3	
40. PAPER	3	3	3	
41. PAPER	3	3	3	
42. PAPER	3	3	3	
43. PAPER	3	3	3	
44. PAPER	3	3	3	
45. PAPER	3	3	3	
46. PAPER	3	3	3	
47. PAPER	3	3	3	
48. PAPER	3	3	3	
49. PAPER	3	3	3	
50. PAPER	3	3	3	
51. PAPER	3	3	3	
52. PAPER	3	3	3	
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58. PAPER	3	3	3	
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74. PAPER	3	3	3	
75. PAPER	3	3	3	
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77. PAPER	3	3	3	
78. PAPER	3	3	3	
79. PAPER	3	3	3	
80. PAPER	3	3	3	
81. PAPER	3	3	3	
82. PAPER	3	3	3	
83. PAPER	3	3	3	
84. PAPER	3	3	3	
85. PAPER	3	3	3	
86. PAPER	3	3	3	
87. PAPER	3	3	3	
88. PAPER	3	3	3	
89. PAPER	3	3	3	
90. PAPER	3	3	3	
91. PAPER	3	3	3	
92. PAPER	3	3	3	
93. PAPER	3	3	3	
94. PAPER	3	3	3	
95. PAPER	3	3	3	
96. PAPER	3	3	3	
97. PAPER	3	3	3	
98. PAPER	3	3	3	
99. PAPER	3	3	3	
100. PAPER	3	3	3	

1237

Subject: 10th Engineer Bn, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 6 Feb 45.

56 BLU.
6 R
7 Feb 45.

G.S.O.I., 56 BLU.

S.O.R.E., M.M.I.A.

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

Pair progress has been made since 24 Jan 45, although snow and rain have caused frequent minor interruptions.

(a) SAPPER TRAINING

All personnel excluding a few newly arrived reinforcements have now done a weeks course in elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, and a start has been made with a more advanced programme including methods of launching on restricted sites, construction of piers etc. Training in Fieldworks, Mine Warfare and Demolitions continues, the last named now including use of British Electrical methods of firing and testing circuits. Practical work on Track and Road construction has been limited by lack of transport.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING and GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Approximately 50% of personnel have now fired their weapons on 30x and 20x ranges. Progress in general military training is slow.

(c) DRIVING and MAINTENANCE of BRITISH VEHICLES.

Not yet commenced. The Group driving school is due to be attached to Engineer Bn in approx a weeks time, and driving instructions will also commence under Bn arrangements in the near future. As vehicles are now being released for 3 Field Park Coy, it is most urgent that the Group Driving School be attached as soon as possible, and that at least one of the Bn L.A.D's commence to function.

2. PERSONNEL

The most serious deficiency is two Captains to command 79 Field Coy and 3 Field Park Coy. The O.C. for the former is expected to report for duty on 11 Feb 45; nothing definite is known of the date of arrival of the latter. This is most urgent, as the standard of 3 Field Park Coy is very poor and it is felt that the arrival of a new and efficient O.C. will do much to improve the general efficiency of the unit.

3. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

All personnel including a few newly arrived reinforcements have now done a weeks course in elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, and a start has been made with a more advanced programme including methods of launching on restricted sites, construction of piers etc. Training in Fieldworks, Mine Warfare and Demolitions continues, the last named now including use of British Electrical methods of firing and testing circuits. Practical work on Track and Road construction has been limited by lack of transport.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Approximately 50% of personnel have now fired their weapons on 30x and 200x ranges. Progress in general military training is slow.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF BRITISH VEHICLES

Not yet commenced. The Group driving school is due to be attached to Engineer Bn in approx a weeks time, and driving instructions will also commence under Bn arrangements in the near future. As vehicles are now being released for 3 Field Park Coy, it is most urgent that the Group Driving School be attached as soon as possible, and that at least one of the Bn L.A.D's commence to function.

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The most serious deficiency is two Captains to command 79 Field Coy and 3 Field Park Coy. The O.C. for the former is expected to report for duty on 11 Feb 45; nothing definite is known of the date of arrival of the latter. This is most urgent, as the standard of 3 Field Park Coy is very poor and it is felt that the arrival of a new and efficient O.C. will do much to improve the general efficiency of the unit.

3. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

Inadequate weather conditions necessitated certain minor alterations in training programme. Broadly, however, training has been carried out according to programme laid down.

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

This is satisfactory. Frequent checks are made to ensure that maximum numbers possible attend training.

2/.....sheet.

- 2 -

5. COURSES RUNNING

NTA, in addition to Battalion training. In reply to a request for courses in Mine Warfare and Dry Bailey for Officers and M.C.O's, Engineer Section AFHQ have stated the E.T.A. cannot arrange a course in Mine Warfare but that it may be possible to arrange a course in Dry Bailey in the future.

6. STATE OF TRANSMITTERS AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- (a) Lack of an efficient interpreter at Battalion HQ.
- (b) Organization by platoon Officers and M.C.O's is poor, e.g. they will not split their classes into small groups to work under junior E.C.O's, and the instructor decides too easily that things are hopeless or impossible.
- (c) Lack of Equipment for Tradesmen.
- (d) M.C.O's below the rank of Sergeant appear to take practically no responsibility of any kind. This has a bad effect on organization of training, and works, and on discipline.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging	65%
Mine Warfare	65%
Fieldworks	50%
Demolitions	50%
Weapon Training	65%
Road and Track Construction	55%
Store Keeping	70%
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Aircraft and Battle drill	95%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.	100%

Heater

- (b) Organization by platoon officers and N.C.O.'s is poor, e.g., they will not split their classes into small groups to work under junior N.C.O.'s, and the instructor decides too easily that things are hopeless or impossible.
- (c) Lack of Equipment for Tradesmen.
- (d) N.C.O.'s below the rank of Sergeant appear to take practically no responsibility of any kind. This has a bad effect on organization of training, and works, and on discipline.

C. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED.

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging	65%
Mine Warfare	65%
Fieldworks	50%
Demolitions	50%
Weapon Training	65%
Road and Track Construction	55%
Store Keeping	70%
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Aircraft and Battle Drill	95%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.	100%

In The Field.
FHC/cac.

[Signature]
S.O.R.E.
Capt.

1225

Appendix 'A' to 104 Engineer Bn Progress Report to 6 Feb 45a

TYPE OF TRADESMEN OR SPECIALISTS	Field	4. Field Company				79 Field Company		
	Coy	No	No	No	Deficiencies	No	No	
	W.E.	Trained	requiring	under	against	Trained	requiring	
			Training	Training	W.E.		Training	
BLACKSMITHS	5	5	-	-	-	3	-	
BRICKLAYERS	16	16	-	-	-	9	7	
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	24	20	4	4	4	12	-	
CLERKS	4	4	-	-	-	3	-	
DRAUGHTSMEN	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	
ELECTRICIANS	4	4	-	-	-	2	-	
ENGINE FITTERS(1/c and PUMPS)	7	4	2	-	3	4	-	
MINERS	12	12	-	-	-	12	-	
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5	3	2	4	2	3	-	
MOTOR CYCLISTS	12	6	6	-	6	5	-	
WATER BUTINEN	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	4	3	1	-	1	2	2	
SHOE MAKERS	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	3	1	-	1	2	2	
WATERMEN	4	4	-	-	-	4	-	
DRIVERS 1/c	26	20	6	-	6	10	5	
ENGINE MECHANICS	5	4	1	-	1	4	-	

Report to 6 Feb 45.

4. Field Company				79 Field Company				Total	
No	No	No	Deficiencies	No	No	No	Deficiencies	for Field Coys	
Trained	requiring	under	against	Trained	requiring	under	against	against	
	Training	Training	W.R.		Training	Training	W.R.	W.R.	
5	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	2	2
16	-	-	-	9	7	2	7	7	7
20	4	4	4	12	-	-	12	12	16
4	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1
4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
4	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	6
4	2	-	3	4	-	-	3	3	-
12	2	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	4
3	2	4	2	3	-	-	2	2	13
6	6	-	6	5	-	-	7	7	1
1	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	3
3	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	3
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	2	-
4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	22
20	6	-	6	10	5	-	16	16	2
4	1	-	4	4	-	-	1	1	-

Appendix 'A' to 104 Engineer Bn Progress Report to 6 Feb 43

TYPE OF TRADESMEN OR SPECIALISTS	Field :		Park :		Company :		3 FD PK COY.		Deficiencies	
	No	Trained	No	requiring	No	under	Training	against		
	W.E.							W.E.		
BLACKSMITHS	2	2							-	
BRICKLAYERS	1	1							-	
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	4	4							-	
CLEANS	4	4							-	
DRAUGHTSMEN	1	1							-	
ELECTRICIANS	3	2							1	
ENGINE FITTERS(1/0 and PUMPS)	3	1							2	
FINERS									-	
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	2	2							4	
MOTOR CYCLISTS	6	2							4	
WATER BUTTIN	1								2	
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	2								-	
SHOE MAKERS									-	
VEHICLE MECHANICS	3	2							1	
WATERSMEN									-	
DRIVER MECHANICS	4	2							2	
DRIVERS 1/0	38	5							33	
ENGINE HAND 1/0	2	1							1	
FITTERS	2	1							1	
SAWIERS	2	2							-	
SHEDSMEN, WORKERS	1								-	
SURVEYORS --- ENGINEERING	1	1							-	
TUNERS	1	1							-	
WELDERS ACETYLENE	1	1							-	
WELDERS ELECTRIC	1								1	

PAINTERS and DECORATORS	1
MOTOR CYCLISTS	1
WATER BOTTLING	1
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	1
SEAM MAKERS	1
VEHICLE MECHANICS	1
WATERMEN	1
DELIVER MECHANICS	1
DRIVERS $1/0$	1
ENGINE HAND $1/0$	1
FITTERS	1
SAWIERS	1
STRUCTURAL WORKERS	1
STEWARDS and ENGINEERING	1
TURNERS	1
WELDERS ACETYLENE	1
WELDERS ELECTRIC	1

1233

Subject: - 104 Engineer Bn, Combat Group, "MANTOVA",
Progress Report to 21 Jan 45

56 BLU
6 E

22 Jan 45

To: GSO I, 56 BLU

Copy to: SO RE

MEIA

1. GENERAL PROGRESS OF TRAINING

Progress of training since 7 Jan 45 has been retarded by adverse weather conditions and it has only been possible to do one normal weeks training during this period.

(a) SAPPER TRAINING

This consisted of Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Field works, Demolitions, Road and Track Construction and proceeded as far as weather conditions permitted. Training in the last named has not been very effective owing to lack of transport for materials, and little practical work has been carried out.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Preliminary instruction has commenced in Rifle and Bayonet, Bren, T.S.M.C., and PIAT. Some general military training including Physical training and route marching has also been carried out.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF BRITISH VEHICLES

No training can be carried out until the Engineer Bn receives some British Vehicles or the Group Driving School is attached to the Battalion.

PERSONNEL

Major. FENCHELIO, the new C.O. for the Battalion has now taken up his duties. First impressions are favourable, but he appears to be primarily a Signals Officer in which capacity he has worked for a considerable period. Capt. MARRONE, previously acting Bn C.O., is now filling the position of Field Engineer on the Bn HQ staff. A regular Captain should

(a) SNAPPER TRAINING

This consisted of Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Field works, Demolitions, Road and Track Construction and proceeded as far as weather conditions permitted. Training in the last named has not been very effective owing to lack of transport for materials, and little practical work has been carried out.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Preliminary instruction has commenced in Rifle and Bayonet, Bren, T. S. M. G., and PIAT. Some general military training including Physical training and route marching has also been carried out.

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No training can be carried out until the Engineer Bn receives some British Vehicles or the Group Driving School is attached to the Battalion.

PERSONNEL

Major, FENGCHUO, the new C.O. for the Battalion has now taken up his duties. First impressions are favourable, but he appears to be primarily a Signals Officer in which capacity he has worked for a considerable period. Capt. MAXRONE, previously acting Bn C.O., is now filling the position of Field Engineer on the Bn HQ staff. A regular Captain should report for duty as O.C. 79 Field Coy within 14 days, but no new O.C. have been forthcoming as yet to command 4 Field Coy and 3 Field Park Coy. Two Capt. to fill these positions are urgently required, particularly in the latter Unit where Officer standard is extremely poor.

1232

2/.....sheet.

- 2 -

DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAM

Frequent changes and cancellations have had to be made due to snow and heavy rain and the troops lack adequate clothing and accommodation. As a result one week training time has been lost.

MEMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

6 Officers and 85 G.P.s. attended Upper Training and 8 Officers and 137 G.P.s. , Weapon training etc.

COURSES RUN

N I L

STATE OF TRAINEES AND SEMINARISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The same difficulties are still being experienced as detailed in previous reports.

BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Bailey Bridging	80%
Mine Warfare	75%
Fieldworks	65%
Demolitions	65%
Weapon Training	90%
Road and Track Construction	65%
Stonemasonry	85%
Driving and Maintenance of British Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Fieldcraft and Battle Drill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.	100%

In the Field.
RHS/cmf

[Signature]
Capt.
SO HQ

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The same difficulties are still being experienced as detailed in previous reports.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING to be COMPLETED

Elementary Bailey Bridging	80%
Mine Warfare	75%
Fieldworks	65%
Demolitions	65%
Weapon Training	20%
Wood and Track Construction	65%
Stumpcutting	55%
Driving and Maintenance of British Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Fieldcraft and Battle Drill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.	100%

In the Field.
HHL/ord

[Signature]
Capt.
SD RE

APPENDIX 'A' to ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT to 21 Jan 45

Type of TRADESMEN or SPECIALISTS	Field Coy W.E.	4 Field Coy				79 Field	
		No Trained	No require Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	No Trained	No re Tr
Blacksmiths	5	5	-	-	-	2	3
Bricklayers	16	9	7	-	7	9	4
Carpenter and Joiners	24	8	9	2	16	6	3
Clerks	4	4	-	-	-	4	-
Wrightsmen	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Electricians	4	3	-	-	1	3	1
Engine Fitters(i/o and Pumps)	7	1	3	-	6	2	-
Miners	12	12	-	-	-	12	-
Painters and Decorators	5	1	4	1	4	2	-
Motor Cyclists	12	3	3	-	9	3	-
Water Dntymen	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Plumbers and Pipefitters	4	2	2	-	2	2	2
Shoe Makers	1	1	-	-	-	1	2
Vehicle Mechanics	4	1	2	-	3	1	2
Watemen	4	4	-	-	-	3	1
Driver Mechanics	5	2	3	-	3	1	2
Drivers i/o	26	10	16	-	16	10	1

135

67

49

3

68

64

119

APPENDIX 'A' to ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT to 21 Jan 45

Field Coy W.E.	4 Field Coy				79 Field Coy				Total Deficiency for Fd Coys against W.E.
	No Trained	No require Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	No Trained	No require Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	
5	5	-	-	-	2	3	1	3	3
16	9	7	-	7	9	4	-	7	14
24	8	9	2	16	6	3	2	18	34
4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
4	3	-	-	1	3	1	-	4	2
7	1	3	-	6	2	-	-	5	11
12	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-
5	1	4	1	4	2	-	-	3	7
12	3	3	-	9	3	-	-	7	16
1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
4	2	2	-	2	2	2	-	2	4
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
4	1	2	-	3	1	2	-	3	6
4	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1
5	2	3	-	3	1	2	-	4	7
26	10	16	-	16	10	1	-	15	31

35

67

49

3

68

64

18

3

119

85

APPENDIX 'A' to ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT to 21 Jan

sheet.....2/

Types of Tradesmen and Specialists	Field Park Coy W. R.	3 Field Park Company			Deficiencies against W. R.
		No Trained	No Require Training	No under Training	
Blacksmiths	2	2	-	-	-
Bricklayers	4	4	-	-	-
Carpenters and Joiners	4	4	-	-	-
Clerks	4	4	-	-	-
Draughtsmen	4	4	-	-	-
Electricians	3	4	1	-	2
Engine Fitters(i/c and Pumps)	3	4	-	-	2
Miners	1	-	-	-	-
Painters and Decorators	2	2	-	-	-
Motor Cyclists	6	2	3	-	4
Water Dutymen	4	-	1	-	-
Plumbers and Pipefitters	2	-	-	-	2
Shoemakers	1	-	-	-	-
Vehicle Mechanics	3	2	1	-	1
Waxmen	1	-	-	-	-
Drivers i/c	33	5	28	-	33
Driver Mechanics	4	2	-	-	2
Engine hand i/c	2	4	-	-	1
Fitters	2	4	-	-	1
Sawyers	2	2	-	-	-
Sheetmetal Workers	1	-	-	-	1
Surveyor Engineering	1	-	1	-	1
Turners	1	4	-	-	-
Welders acetylene	4	-	-	-	4
Welders Electric	1	-	-	-	1

Subject:- Engineer Bn "MANTOVA" Combat Group.
Progress Report to 7 Jan 45.

56 BLU
6 E
7 Jan 45

G S 81
56 BLU.

1. GENERAL PROGRESS.

The reorganisation of the Field Coys and the Pk Coy is progressing and is now dependant on the arrival of the tradesmen and specialists which are deficient. The arrival of the new Bn C.O. and of the new Os C for both Pk Coys and the Pk Pk Coy is still awaited (see 56 BLU letter to WHIA ref 4E of 30 Dec 44). This is a matter of vital importance.

Progress of training in elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Fieldworks, Demolitions, Road and Track Construction is "Fair". Training of Tradesmen and Specialists has been limited by lack of facilities, but a certain amount is being achieved with the equipment and material available. There will be greater scope as British special equipment commences to arrive.

(a) Drivers.

Training has not yet commenced but a school for driving instruction has been organised under the supervision of DADST 56 BLU and it is hoped to give existing drivers instruction in this school. This is urgent.

(b) Weapon Training.

NO weapon training has yet been carried out. It will be commenced shortly.

2. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME.

NIL

3. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING.

9 Offs and 179 O.R.'s of the Bn have now completed initial training in Elementary Dry Bailey bridging, Mine Warfare, Fieldworks, Demolitions, Road and Track construction.

4. COURSES RUNNING.

There are no courses running in addition to

importance.

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2. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME.

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4. COURSES RUNNING.

There are no courses running in addition to Bn training.

5. STATE OF TRADESMEN AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

1228

2/.....sheet

-2-

6. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED(a) Clothing.

To date the position regarding clothing has been poor and training suffers as a result, since most of the training consists of outdoor work which cannot be carried out in inclement weather. The provision of gloves, socks and groundsheets is considered essential.

(b) Transport

The scope of training will be enlarged when some transport is available for training purposes. At present all available transport is 'let' up in unit administration and works within the Group.

(c) Interpreters.

The Bn has no efficient interpreter at present, and this makes the work of attached British N.C.O.'s less effective.

(d) Technical Pamphlets.

The existing pamphlets in Italian on Mine Warfare and Bailey bridging are inaccurately translated. It is understood that new and more comprehensive translations are being prepared and it is requested that they be provided in the immediate future.

7. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Bailey bridging	85%
Mine Warfare	80%
Fieldworks	70%
Demolitions	70%
Weapon Training	100%
Road and Track Construction	70%
Storekeeping	90%
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Fieldcraft and Battledrill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant	100%

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Fieldcraft and Battledrill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant	100%

In the Field.
FEL/cmf.

Copy to:- SO RS MILA

John the Capt.
SO RS

122.

APPENDIX "A" to Engineer Bn "MANTOVA" Group Prozone

Type of Tradesmen or Specialists.	4 Field Company					W.E.
	W.E.	Number Trained	Number require Training	Number under Training	Deficiency compared with W.E.	
Blacksmiths	5	5	3	-	-	5
Bricklayers	16	9	5	2	7	16
Carpenters and Joiners	24	8	9	2	16	24
Electricians	4	3	-	-	1	4
Engine Fitters (i/o and pumps)	7	-	4	-	7	7
Engine Hand i/o	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miners	12	11	-	-	1	12
Painters and Decorators	5	1	4	1	4	5
Plumbers and Pipefitters	4	2	2	-	2	4
Sheet Metal Workers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle Mech	4	2	2	-	2	4
Watersmen	4	4	-	-	-	4
Welders Acetylene Electric	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drivers i/o	33	9	20	-	24	33
Motorcyclists	12	3	3	-	9	12
Driver Mech.	5	1	-	-	4	5

APPENDIX 'A' to Engineer Bn "MANOVA" Group Progress Report for Week ending 7 Jan 45

4 Field Company					79 Field Company					3 Field		
Number	Number	Number	Deficiency	W.E.	Number	Number	Number	Deficiency	W.E.	Number	Number	Number
Trained	require	under	compared		Trained	require	under	compared		Trained	require	under
Training	Training	Training	with W.E.		Training	Training	Training	with W.E.		Training	Training	Training
5	4	-	-	5	3	2	-	2	2	2	-	-
9	5	2	7	16	9	3	2	7	1	2	-	-
8	9	2	16	24	6	3	2	18	4	4	-	-
3	-	-	1	4	3	-	-	1	3	1	-	-
-	4	-	7	7	2	-	-	5	3	3	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
11	-	-	2	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	4	1	4	5	2	-	-	3	2	2	-	-
2	2	-	2	4	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
2	2	-	2	4	1	-	-	3	3	3	-	-
4	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
9	20	-	24	33	11	1	-	22	38	3	-	-
3	3	-	9	12	5	-	-	7	6	2	-	-
1	-	-	4	5	2	-	-	4	4	1	-	-

for Week ending 7 Jan 45

79 Field Company.					3 Field Park Company.					Total All Coys and RD Detach Coy	
W.E.	Number Trained	Number require Training	Number under Training	Deficiency compared with W.E.	W.E.	Number Trained	Number require Training	Number under Training	Deficiency compared with W.E.	Total Deficiencies compared with W.E.	
3	2	-	2	2	2	1	-	-	1	3	
9	3	2	7	1	1	1	-	-	-	14	
6	3	2	18	4	4	4	-	-	-	34	
3	-	-	1	3	1	1	1	-	2	4	
2	-	-	5	3	3	3	-	-	-	12	
-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	1	1	
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
2	-	-	3	2	2	2	-	-	-	7	
2	2	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	2	6	
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	
1	-	-	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	5	
1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	
1	1	-	22	38	3	32	-	-	35	81	
5	-	-	7	6	2	4	-	-	4	20	
1	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	-	3	11	

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