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Reports

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Jan. - Oct. 1945

44A

from M of W
to MMIA

Translation

0803 / BS

5 OCT.45

Subject: Reports

As agreed , herewith copy of the summary of the reports on the morale of the troops for the month of August 45.

Ferrara.

C/

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from: M of W
to: MEMIA

Translation

ref. 05466/BS

4/10/45

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS ON THE MORALE OF THE TROOPS FOR THE MONTH
OF AUGUST 1945

NOTES OF THE OFFICE

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS OF HQS

MORALE :

Generally the reports confirm the information given in the month of July 45. There is a general ill feeling and discontentedness and the bitter and persisting military propaganda, made by a certain branch of the press, continues to lower the morale of the troops.

Anyhow we notice a slight improvement due chiefly to the discharge from the army of senior classes.

EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THE REPORTS :

-Bari Terr.Hq. : "The morale is considerably improving with the elimination of the causes of ill feeling such as: delayed leave and discharge from the army, lack of clothing and footwear or any other wish or necessity that has not been satisfied."

-Legnano Combat Group : The only facts which have contributed to relax the moral tension are the posting to other units of volunteers recruited with proclamation n.8 (these troops were undisciplined and troublesome) and the discharge from the army of senior classes. Reinforcements taken from patriots and volunteers, belonging generally to younger classes, have soon got used to their new life, and are satisfied with their situation to be with the combat groups and can

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seven in the month of July 45. There is a general ill feeling and downheartedness and the bitter and persisting military propaganda, made by a certain branch of the Press, continues to lower the morale of the troops.

Anyhow we notice a slight improvement due chiefly to the discharge from the army of senior classes.

EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THE REPORTS :

-Pari Terr. Hq. : " The morale is considerably improving with the elimination of the causes of ill feeling such as: delayed leave and discharge from the army, lack of clothing and footwear or any other wish or necessity that has not been satisfied."

-Legnano Combat Group : The only facts which have contributed to relax the moral tension are the posting to other units of volunteers recruited with proclamation n. 8 (these troops were undisciplined and troublesome) and the discharge from the army of senior classes. Reinforcements taken from patriots and volunteers, belonging generally to younger classes, have soon got used to their new life, and are satisfied with their ~~working~~ to be with the combat Groups and can be relied upon in view of their moral and physical qualities. On the contrary, the reinforcements from Cesano Centre are inferior such inferior in quality. Most of these reinforcements cannot be accepted. If this is to continue it would be better to do without these reinforcements no matter if the units will be under strength.

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-Piceno Div.HQ. : Disbanded, recovered, ~~AWL~~ military personnel continue to report to the Div. These personnel ~~are~~ come from the various regions of Italy. During the month of August 9068 men reported and 7000 left. The continuous coming and going of ~~the~~ men has changed the characteristic of the training camp which has functioned as transit camp carrying out the duties of Districts and Depots."

-209 Div.HQ. : Civilians can be heard speaking to soldiers as follows: "Why are you still in the Army? Why do you not go home? If many of you will desert, nobody will be able to punish you. You are not volunteers and therefore you are not bound to remain in the army. Don't you see that all the other fellows of your age are already at home?" All the information received by HQs confirm that this propaganda is being carried out. Commanding officers and smaller HQs cannot take action against this form of propaganda.

-Calabria Div.Hq : inform us that: "an intensive propaganda is made by the following parties; Sardinian Action, communist socialist and by the Partisans Organisation, against the employment of Sardinian military personnel on the mainland for public safety services. According to a/HQ this propaganda creates a very delicate situation in the units.

-Rome Terr.HQ. : inform us that the morale of officers and NCOs is "More and more disturbed by serious troubles due to the living difficulties and uncertainty of the future. Moreover, most of the officers have no ~~more~~ financial resource other than their wages and therefore it is difficult for them to meet family expenses. Consequently they feel humiliated, isolated, compelled to sell household goods."

-Udine Terr.HQ. : informs us that: soldiers of the senior classes are embittered and disillusioned because after many years spent ~~to~~ serve their Country, they feel forgotten by the Nation while the work of the partisans is praised and given the utmost importance. Radio propaganda and the press have already started backing the Army. This should be carried on.

-Folgore combat Group HQ : While the work of the Partisans is continually and highly praised, very little and almost nothing is said about what has been done during the War of Liberation by the CIL and later on by the Combat Groups. This is deeply felt by our soldiers who are far from being pleased and at times are humiliated by this propaganda."

55 at 31!
I speak about it in
with in
in
what

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I great activity!
Swiss is working
in hands
of the
Army

-Legnano Combat Group Hq : We are still waiting for the measures which should put on the same level the soldiers discharged from the army and the partisans. Everybody speaks of the partisans and of partisan formations, but nothing is said by the people to exhalt the combattant of the war of liberation. The soldier is called "mercenary" and POW of the Allies and ~~imputed~~ ^{imputed} of cowardice for not having been able to ~~withstand~~ the sufferings of imprisonment and for having preferred (in order to be free, no matter how) the sacrifices of a war to the suffering of a concentration camp."

Conferences

Other HQs insist particularly on the same matter.

NOTES OF SOME HQS :

- Some HQs point out the most serious billeting situation. Officers and NCOs cannot join their families (as consented by recent arrangements) because they are faced by the problem of billets which in most cases cannot be solved.
This inconvenience is very serious and could be avoided by putting at the disposal of married officers and NCOs in the various towns some of the buildings which were previously occupied by HQs, Districts etc.

- Mantova Combat Group HQ : writes us:

" According to the "Corriere d'Informazione" dated Sept.3rd, an Italian officer (we do not know on whose authority) would have stated to a foreign correspondent that the M of W are already examining the plan of discharging from the army about 7000 officers including 1000 MCOs by the end of this year. Apart from the consideration that this statement can be more or less true, and ~~the~~ ~~reduction~~ ~~of~~ ~~strength~~ ~~and~~ ~~senior~~ ~~officers~~ ~~who~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~discharged~~ ~~after~~ ~~many~~ ~~years~~ ~~of~~ ~~honourable~~ ~~service~~ consider their future with a great uneasiness. Therefore it would be better to inform these officers of the measures that are being planned or taken concerning the status of regular army officers, and the moral and economical advantages to ensue.

PROPOSALS AND REQUESTS OF UNITS UNDER COMMAND

The proposals and requests are the same as quoted in the previous reports.

Hqs agree in pointing out the ~~transport~~ ~~difficulty~~ difficulty from and to Sardinia. This originates serious worries on Sept.27th an concerning both the discipline and work of the units, who request that this problem should be solved as soon as possible.

- the allowance for the improvement of the

This seems to be a good proposal- it remains to be seen if there are premises available for this purpose.

It would be advisable to give these information as soon as possible.

SMRE has already taken action by laying out special transport (i.e. on Sept.27th an 28th, 1000 men have been transported with a ~~cruiser~~ ~~5532~~

with letter 12101173

occupied by HQs, Districts etc.

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- the allowance for the improvement of the soldier's mess is not adequate to the actual market prices. (this allowance is of 5 lire) net requested the Minister of the Treasury to increase this allowance to 15 lire.

Writing a letter and knowing it at that is not much good. We have what Cabinet are doing. But the appropriate opinion and men don't.

AMS
19/9

- Insufficient tobacco ration

We tried to obtain an increase in the tobacco ration with no result.

- Soap ration not sufficient to meet the normal requirements

We are aware of this fact.

Id. Id.

- Insufficient issue of clothing and barracks material and inadequate billeting

Ferrara

C/u

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TRANSLATE PLEASE *admemorandum*

Roma 5 OTT 1945 *94*



Ministero della Guerra
UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL
SOLDATO ALLE ARMI

LAND FORCES SUB COM=
MIGGION A.G. (M.L.I.A.)
ROMA

Dimensione 08503/
Prot. N. 08503/ *Allegati 1*
B.S.

Respostato al f. del
Dir. *100* *N°*

OGGETTO Sintesi

WELFARE

F.

Come da accordi, si trasmette copia sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa relativa al mese di agosto 1945.

IL COLONNELLO
(A. Ferrara)

Aguiara

TRAM.	0900
Date	8/9
1530	
910	

CA/er

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato alle Armi

n° 08466 / E.S. di prot.

P.M.3800

H/10/1945

AL MINISTRO DELLA GUERRA S E D E
AL SOTTOSEGRETARIO MILITARE ALLA GUERRA S E D E
AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE R.ESERCITO S E D E

Sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa
mese di agosto 1945

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi

Osservazioni dell'ufficio

MORALE:

dal complesso delle relazioni viene riconfermato, di massima, quanto segnalato nel mese di luglio u.s.: morale e scorcamento generali, e care e persistente propaganda antimitarista, fatta anche da certa stampa, continuano a riflettersi dannosamente sul morale della truppa.

Comunque viene segnalato un leggero miglioramento dovuto specialmente all'inizio dei congedamenti delle classi più anziane.

Alcuni stralci di relazioni:

- Comando Militare Territoriale di Bari: "il morale migliora sensibilmente a misura che vengono eliminati le cause di malcontento per mancato invio in congedo, per licenza ritardata, per deficien-

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AL SOTTOSEGRETARIO MILITARE ALLA GUERRA S E D E
AL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO S E D E

Sintesi della relazione sul morale della truppa
mese di agosto 1945

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Osservazioni dell'ufficio	<p>Sintesi relazione dei Comandi</p> <p>MORALE:</p> <p>dal complesso delle relazioni viere riconfermato, di massima, quanto segnalato nel mese di luglio u.s.: malessere e scoramento generali, care e persistente propaganda antimilitarista, fatta anche da certa stampa, continuano a riflettersi dannosamente sul morale della truppa.</p> <p>Comunque viene segnalato un leggero miglioramento dovuto specialmente all'inizio dei congedamenti delle classi più anziane.</p> <p><u>Alcuni stralci di relazioni:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Comando Militare Territoriale di Bari:</u> "il morale migliora sensibilmente a misura che vengono eliminati le cause di malcontento per mancato invio in congedo, per licenza ritardata, per deficienza di vestiario e calzature o per qualche altra necessità o aspirazione non appagata." - <u>Comando Gruppo Combattimento "Le-gnano":</u> "unici fatti che hanno contribuito a segnare un principi
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Sintesi relazioni dei Comandi

Osservazioni dell'ufficio

pio di distensione degli anni sono l'allontanamento dei volontari del bando n°8, tutti elementi irrequieti e turbolenti, e il congedamento delle classi anziane. I complementi ingaggiati tra patrioti e volontari, appartenenti in prevalenza a classi giovani, si sono rapidamente assuefatti alla nuova vita, hanno dimostrato di gradire l'assegnazione ai gruppi di combattimento e danno affidamento per qualità morali, intellettuali e fisiche. Sono, invece, assai scadenti - sotto tutti i punti di vista - i contingenti che provengono dal Centro di Cesano. Il più delle volte si è costretti a procedere ad un forte scarto. Qualora dovesse continuare questo stato di cose sarebbe più conveniente rinunciare all'immissione di questi elementi, anche se si dovesse rimanere sottorganico."

- Comando Divisione "Piceno": "continuano ad affluire provenienti dalle varie regioni d'Italia militari sbandati, rastrellati, renitenti, ritardatari, ecc.- Nel mese di agosto sono giunti 9.068 uomini e partiti 7.000. Il continuo e caotico afflusso e riflusso di uomini ha caratterizzato l'attività dei reggimenti in questi ultimi mesi sino a trasformare la fisionomia del centro di addestramento in un campo di raccolta e smistamento con funzioni analoghe

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 mento in un campo di raccolta e
 smistamento con funzioni analoghe
 a quelle che, in altri tempi, espli-
 cavano si Distretti ed i Depositi."
- Comando 209^a Divisione: "nei contatti
 fra civili e soldati, da parte dei
 primi si fanno discorsi del genere:

Sintesi relazione dei Comandi

Osservazioni dell'ufficio

"Ma perchè state ancora sotto le armi e non ve andate a casa? Se sarete in molti a disertare nessuno vi potrà punire. Non siete mica volontari voi per rimanere alle armi. Non vedete che tutti i vostri compagni della stessa età ed anche più giovani sono a casa?"

Le segnalazioni che giungono ai Comandi di Corpo sono concordi nell'affermare l'esistenza di una propaganda del genere. Il fenomeno perciò esiste. Non sono certamente gli ufficiali dei reparti ed i Comandi periferici che possono porre rimedio ad un fatto del genere."

- Viene segnalato dal Comando Divisione S.I. "Calabria" una intensa propaganda, condotta dai partiti; sardo di azione, comunista, socialista e dalla federazione dei partigiani, contro l'impiego, nel contingente, dei militari sardi per il servizio di ordine pubblico. Tale propaganda, secondo il Comando suaccennato, sembra crei una situazione quanto mai delicata nei reparti."

- Il Comando Militare Territoriale di Roma fa presente come lo spirito degli ufficiali e dei sottufficiali sia "sempre più perturbato dalle gravi preoccupazioni per le difficoltà della vita e per l'incertezza del domani e come, la massa non avendo altra risorsa che lo stipendio, difficilmente riesce a far quadrare il bilancio domestico alla fine del mese. Perciò rinunzia, umilissimi, isola-

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- Il Comando Militare Territoriale di Udine segnala "l'amarezza e la disillusione".

Sintesi relazione dei Comandi

sionesei soldati enziani che, dopo tanti anni di guerra e di sacrificio, pur sempre sopportati per la Patria, si ritengono di essere abbandonati dalla Nazione nel mentre si tende a valorizzare continuamente l'opera svolta dai partigiani."

- Comando Gruppo Combattimento "Folgore": "Le continue esaltazioni delle geste compiute dai partigiani contrapposte al silenzio quasi assoluto su quanto hanno fatto nella guerra di liberazione dapprima la formazione del CIL e, successivamente, i Gruppi di Combattimento, incidono, in forma negativa, sullo spirito dei nostri soldati, i quali si sentono depressi e a volte umiliati."

- Comando Gruppo Combattimento "Legnano": sono sempre vivamente attesi i provvedimenti che dovrebbero adeguare il trattamento dei militari congedati a quello dei patrioti. Tutti parlano dei patrioti, delle organizzazioni partigiane, ma nulla affiora dalle labbra del popolo che valga ad esaltare la figura del combattente della guerra di liberazione. Anzi lo si chiama addirittura "mercenario" e ritenendolo quasi prigioniero di guerra degli alleati lo si accusa di vigliaccheria per non avere saputo resistere alle sofferenze di una prigionia e per aver preferi-

Osservazioni dell'ufficio

questione nota.-

La propaganda a mezzo stampa e radio ha già incominciato a fare qualche cosa per valorizzare l'esercito. Occorrerà continuare.-

come sopra

come sopra

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Altri Comandi insistono particolarmente sullo stesso argomento.-

to a fare qualche cosa per valorizzare l'esercito. Occorrerà continuare.-

come sopra

come sopra

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Sintesi relazione dei Comandi

Osservazioni dell'ufficio

OSSERVAZIONI
PARTICOLARI
DI ALCUNI
COMANDI

: - Alcuni Comandi fanno presente la gravissima situazione degli alloggi. Ufficiali e sottufficiali non possono ritirarsi alle loro famiglie, com'è stato consentito dalle recenti disposizioni, perchè si trovano di fronte al problema quasi sempre insolubile dell'alloggio. -
L'inconveniente è gravissimo, potrebbe essere parte ovviato mettendo a disposizione degli ufficiali e sottufficiali ammortati, nelle varie città, qualcuno degli edifici già sede di Comandi, Distretti ecc.

La proposta sembra buona - occorre vedere se vi siano edifici disponibili a questo scopo. -

- Il Comando Gruppo Combattimento "Mantova" scrive: "secondo il "Corriere d'Informazione" del 3 settembre un ufficiale italiano, non si sa da chi autorizzato, avrebbe dichiarato ad un corrispondente straniero che il Ministero ha già messo allo studio il progetto di esonerare dal servizio entro la fine dell'anno circa 7.000 ufficiali ivi compresi 1.000 medici militari. A parte l'attendibilità o meno di tale indizione e la urgente necessità di tutti riconosciuta di addivinare alla ricazione in parola, la massa degli ufficiali superiori - che sarà colpita dopo molti anni di onorato servizio - guarda al futuro in un grave stato morale di disagio. Sarebbe pertanto necessario rendere edotti gli ufficiali stessi dei provvedimenti in istudio o in corso, interessati lo stato degli ufficiali in s.p.s. e quelli morali, economici e di carriera."

Un orientamento sia pure generico, al riguardo, appena possibile, sarebbe opportuno. -

La proposta sembra buona - occorre vedere se vi siano edifici disponibili a questo scopo.-

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... e sottufficiali non possono unirsi alle loro famiglie, com'è stato consentito dalle recenti disposizioni, perché si trovano di fronte al problema quasi sempre insolubile dell'alloggio.-

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PROPOSTE E
RICHIESTE
DEI COMANDI

DIPENDENTI : - sono quelle fatte nelle precedenti relazioni. In particolare: i comandi sono concordati nel fare ri

Sintesi relazione dei Comandi

Osservazioni dell'ufficio

levare come la persistente difficoltà dei trasporti da e per la Sardegna dia luogo a gravi preoccupazioni sia per la disciplina che per il rendimento dei reparti e insistono affinché tale problema venga affrontato e risolto possibilmente con la massima sollecitudine.-

- quota miglioramento rancio non adeguata ai prezzi odierni dei mercati (lire 5 giornaliere)

- insufficiente razione di tabacchi.-

- razione di sapone inadeguata al fabbisogno normale.-

- insufficiente distribuzione di vestiario e di casermaggio e l'inadeguato accasamento.-

della questione si è già interessata e si interessa lo S.M.R.E. che ha provveduto anche ad allestire trasporti straordinari (ad esempio in data 27 e 28 settembre sono stati trasportati 1.000 uomini con un incrociatore).

con foglio n°121011/3 sezione I°Ufficio del 7 c.m.di codesto Gabinetto si è fatto presente al Ministro del Tesoro la necessità di aumentare la quota miglioramento rancio a 15 giornaliere.-

si è cercato di ottenere un aumento della razione di tabacchi ma senza risultato.-

questione nota.-

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IL COLONNELLO
(Arago Ferrara)

Antonio Ferrara

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- insufficiente distribuzione di vestiario e di casermaggio e l'inadeguato accasermamento.-

stire trasporti straordinari (ad esempio in data 27 e 28 settembre sono stati trasportati 1.000 uomini con un incrociato re).-

con foglio n°121011/3 sezione I°Ufficio del 7 c.m.di codesto Gabi-netto si è fatto presente al Ministro del Tesoro la necessità di aumentare la quota miglioramento rancio a £ 15 giornaliere.-

si è cercato di ottenere un aumento della razione di tabacchi ma senza risultato.-

questione nota.-

questione nota.-

IL COLONNELLO
(Arturo Errara)

Arturo Errara

5524

40A

REPORT ON THE PRESENT POSITION OF C.A.F.

In a letter from Welfare to the Commissariato dated 27 July, (signed JACINI) reference is made to the difficulties of securing Treasury Approval to the scheme. It stresses that the operation of Canteens is merely one section of the work which is visualized for the C.A.F., and states that it should be self-supporting, like similar Allied institutions. It goes on to suggest that this might be achieved by allocating a portion (say 20-25% net) of the profit from canteens to the C.A.F. through the Ufficio Benessere.

PROPOSALS

On 14 August Brig. Tamassia submitted a report to the Gabinetto in which are recapitulated the difficulties which are being experienced. It sets out the details of the present assignments, explains what work has been done, and lists the more urgent needs of the ladies themselves, such as more clothing etc.

Brig. Tamassia then outlines his proposals for the future C.A.F. He indicates the nature of the work it would do, and this covers all those fields of welfare work where women can be employed, from baking buns to giving singing lessons.

He proposes a Permanent Establishment as follows:-

H.Q. M. of W.		3
11 Terr. Hqs.	X4	44
7 Div. "	X4	28
5 C.G. "	X4	20
3 Int. Sec. Div Hqs.	X4	12
1 Special Hq.	X4	4
2 Training Camps (CESANO & ORVIETO)	X4	8
		<hr/>
		119
		====

He goes on to say that if and when necessary, (e.g. at manoeuvres) auxiliaries can be recruited on the spot for the emergency.

After that comes a rather loose picture of the birth of a sort of Italian ATS from CAF should mobilisation be necessary and the usefulness of the C.A.F. must not only be viewed in the light of today (peacetime) but also in that of tomorrow (wartime).

C O S T

5523

He estimates the cost of the full establishment at L. 69,000 MONTHLY, which he rightly claims is not

experienced. It sets out the details of the work, explains what work has been done, and lists the more urgent needs of the ladies themselves, such as more clothing etc.

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After that comes a rather loose picture of the birth of a sort of Italian APS from GAP should mobilisation be necessary and the usefulness of the C.A.F. must not only be viewed in the light of today (peacetime) but also in that of tomorrow (wartime)5.

Q O S T 5523

He estimates the cost of the full establishment at L.369,000 MONTHLY, which he rightly claims is not expensive for what it will be. He refers in this connection to the letter quoted in the first paragraph.

S A F A M I.

In a letter to the Gabinetto dated 12 Aug '45. Brig. Tamassia states that it is not possible to proceed with the absorption of this body into C.A.F. until its position of the latter organization is regularized.

39A

REPORTS ON THE MOBILE CANTEENS AND THE C.A.F.
=====

Reports have been received from four formations with which Canteens are serving - 209, 212, 227 and 228 Adm. Divs. The essential points are set out below.

C.A.F.

All are in favour of this body, and two reports stress the psychological importance of employing girls. 209 Div. asks for 8 girls for its static clubs, and it is clear that the full implementation of this service (v. proposals) will be a highly popular measure.

There has been one slight difficulty, due to "incompatibility of temperament", but this is purely an internal matter.

Canteens.

All formations are anxious to have at least one more vehicle.

The supply of rations is small, but the necessity is understood, and no complaints are made, although none have neglected to draw attention to this fact.

The chief demand is for supplies of "toilet articles and other small store items for resale. This is considered to be a prime function of the mobile canteen, which is true; everything possible is being done to cover this by the Ufficio Benessere, Ministry of War.

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38A
er seq. A.

REPORT ON WELFARE TOUR
=====

A. MILAN TERRITORIAL HEADQUARTERS.

Personnel.

The officer trained in Welfare for this HQ has been sent "in congedo": his place has been taken by Major I.D. de Beisio, a Regular officer. He seems to have a very firm grasp of the situation, understands what he should do, and has the support of his G.O.C. (General Marras)

Major de Beisio's time is fully occupied with Welfare, and he is assisted by two civilian clerks.

Clubs, Canteens etc.

A bar and rest room is open at the Central Station. A club is being prepared in the city, premises having already been secured, and a rest camp is projected at the lakes. Securing suitable premises for the latter is difficult in view of Allied requirements, but the Carabinieri are assisting in this.

Funds.

The progress of all work is hampered by shortage of funds: what there are appear to have been wisely employed.

Discharged Soldiers.

This problem is keenly felt, and some attempt has been made to meet it. General Marras has personally asked for a grant of 15,000 for each discharged soldier: Major de Beisio runs a small employment agency, and takes whatever steps he can to assist these men to get work and accommodation etc.

General.

The co-ordinating function of the Ufficio Benessere at the War Ministry is felt and appreciated, and it is clearly understood that the service of all Italian troops and there is no "unit only" complex.

B.F. Rank.
Letter sent
War plus
on

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----- /B.

B.F. Parke.
Letter we
sent to War
Office
on

REPORT ON WELFARE TOUR (continued)

B. "LA PATRIA" - MILAN

Personnel.

The Editorial Staff consists of 4: the Military Editor, and three civilians. It was claimed that the whole paper is written by these people, and that there is no outside work at all. This was a matter of some pride, and attention was drawn to a series of cartoons of the Rome Editorial Staff, numbering about twelve. I pointed out two or three different names to articles in one Milan edition, and was told that they were all the same man.

Tell me more

Syndication.

Articles were received from Rome, and printed; it was darkly hinted that these were written by Col. Maraldi's friends. Communication with Rome was necessarily limited to one telephone call a day, which ~~does~~^{did} not appear to worry them in the least.

Show Guy [Bismarck]

Pictures.

Instructions had been received from Rome to restrict the number of photographs and drawings: this is contrary to the Milan Editorial's conception of the requirements of a soldier's paper, and they said that the order was given because the Vatican thought the edition immoral.

They asked if more photographs could be made available as they had used all they had. I agreed to take this matter up.

yes - Do all men can men mind about the Pope

General.

The Editorial Staff at Milan are somewhat independent, and are inclined to regard Rome control as unnecessary and aimed at lowering their edition to the dull level of Florence.

They asked that I should represent their views in the appropriate quarter.

Show [Bismarck]

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-----/C.

Memorandum

Shaw

Shaw

yes - Do all men
can men mind
about the Pope

Memorandum

Shaw

REPORT ON WELFARE TOUR (continued)

=====

C. FOLGORE COMBAT GROUP.

Personnel.

The Officer trained in Welfare duties, Lt. Cianci, has been discharged. His duties has been taken by a Captain, also due for release, assisted by a 2/Lt.

Clubs, Canteens etc.

There is attached one Mobile Canteen, provided by 8th Army, staffed by two ladies of the 8th Army Group. This is quite a good canteen, and they manage to obtain fairly good stocks of toilet requisites, stationery, etc., from Milan; these are priced quite reasonably. They have, however, great difficulty in rationing it, and while they appreciate that the allocation is necessarily small, they stated that the last allotment comprised four items only of the six authorized. I agreed to take this up with L.O. 1 District.

In Bressanone is established a rest room, but the need is not greatly felt, as the division is deployed and local inhabitants are very helpful.

Cinema Shows.

They have a mobile projector, but have recently experienced difficulty in procuring films: this is probably due to the recent change over from P.W.E. to U.S.I.S., and I shall enquire of the latter service as to the present position.

General.

The division want games and sports equipment of all kinds. I explained the position and they realize the difficulties.

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Cinema Shows.

They have a mobile projector, but have recently experienced difficulty in procuring films; this is probably due to the recent change over from F.T.B. to U.S.I.S., and I shall enquire of the latter service as to the present position.

General.

The division want games and sports equipment of all kinds. I explained the position and they realize the difficulties.

5519

-----/D.

9 10 1st Div have an I.T.I. Photo Camera
in use of other movies ? none.

REPORT ON WHIFAKE TOUR (continued)

=====

D. VENICE.

Personnel.

228 Div. HQ is at Padua, but Col. Rossi - Passavanti has prudently taken up his quarters at the Officers Hotel in Venice. In this hotel is a Captain as military manager, and two 2/Lt's as military managers of the OR's clubs.

Officers Hotel.

An excellent hotel, run by its civilian staff and four soldiers including one manager. There is accommodation for 60 + officers, and the whole place is of very good standard. It is not peculiarly for 228 Div., but for the whole Army. Doubtless some wangling of rations is going on, but everyone seems quite happy.

ORs Clubs.

Another hotel, run by four soldiers and civilian staff. There are beds for 26 transit personnel, in double rooms: these are first class. There are the usual bar and lounge facilities, and a cinema showing four times a week. The restaurant serves meals to 200 + men per day.

There is another club at the Lido, which is similar to this one, with the exception of the cinema.

Women Volunteers.

Some of the 8th Army elements are employed in the OR's clubs, and are thought of well. My impression is that with the departure of 8th Army, the imminent discharge of Col. R.P., and the forthcoming absorption into C.A.F., that few, if any, of this group will continue to serve.

An excellent hotel, run by its civilian staff and four soldiers including one manager. There is accommodation for 60 + officers, and the whole place is of very good standard. It is not peculiarly for 218 Div., but for the whole Army. Doubtless some wangling of rations is going on, but everyone seems quite happy.

CRs Clubs.

Another hotel, run by four soldiers and civilian staff. There are beds for 26 transit personnel, in double rooms: these are first class. There are the usual bar and lounge facilities, and a cinema showing four times a week. The restaurant serves meals to 200 + men per day.

There is another club at the Lido, which is similar to this one, with the exception of the cinema.

Women Volunteers.

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5518

-----/E.

REPORT ON WELFARE TOUR (continued)

E. GENERAL POINTS.

1. Women Volunteers doing a very valuable service to the army. Everything possible must be done to grant them some form of charter and regularize their position.
2. Concern for the well being of demobilized persons is expressed everywhere by British and Italian officers.
3. It is very evident that the logical operative agency for Army Welfare is the Terr. HQ. British Welfare is handled largely on such a basis, and it is scarcely to be expected that a unit will work conscientiously any further than its own requirements.
If we are to have a limited number of Staff Officers Welfare, they will be far more effective at Static Hqs., where they can organize the resources of the locality to the advantage of all troops.
4. The Welfare Training Centre should now concentrate on the training of Regular Officers as they are posted in as a matter of first priority. I think that there should be a trained Regular Officer of field rank at every Terr. HQ. and at large depots.

GOC has already written War Office. Women should impress this on Terr HQ. G.F. will agree to take up a group. War Office has been told by the A.S. to make recommendations to Terr. HQ. I think we should see to it that we get him to put his views before the War Office. I agree.

W. M. I. A.
S/Capt.,
Welfare,
M.M.I.A.

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~~W. M. I. A.~~
S/Capt.,
Welfare,
M.M.I.A.

55-7

Aug'45.

Wrote up
War Admin
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Welfare 33A

Colonel W. BROWNING, DSO, MC,
Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R C M B

DO/2

20

June, '45.

Dear

General BROWNING has instructed me to write to you about the Reinforcement situation which is as follows.

We again find ourselves in a transition stage changing over from the War Time Army towards an Interim Army which will, in turn, form the basis of whatever Post War Army is decided on. We anticipate very drastic reductions in Service Units in the near future, both British and U.S., thus giving us a big reserve of available manpower. At the same time, we anticipate that the cut in War Establishment will release us of many commitments. We anticipate that this will give us more than enough reinforcements with which to keep units of the Italian Army up to strength when the time comes, allowing for demobilisation of the older men (IGI4 - IGI9 classes) progressively, during the next two or three months.

To avoid an excessive turnover and the political instability of a Call-Up in any part of Italy (North or South), we are trying to avoid a new in-take, except volunteers such as are already in hand, particularly as returning P.S.C.W. may soon be available. This may mean that from the next few weeks on, units may be, to some extent, understrength, but this will be watched and the deficiencies spread over the whole Army as is found advisable. If we do not cover this temporary shortage the alternative would be to take in new men, in view of political difficulties, or to defer demobilisation and face disciplinary trouble, and then very shortly find ourselves with a surplus to be got rid of, entailing a great deal of unnecessary equipment, training, rations and dissatisfaction.

In the circumstances therefore, it is obviously better to expect the temporary shortage, and I am sure that you will agree and will inform me if at any time you look like getting below the danger mark. The situation is well known at AFHQ where General Browning has discussed it on the highest level.

The question of the retention of handing in of heavy of the heavier equipment is also under discussion on a high level,

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The question of the retention of handing in of ⁵⁵⁹¹⁶ ~~55916~~ of the heavier equipment is also under discussion on a high level, and decision will be made as soon as we can.

There are a great many other changes contemplated, as is only to be expected at this time, and it is no use my expecting far-reaching decisions to be given hurriedly, particularly when so many interests are involved.

Yours,

MP

NO: 50, 51, 52, 53, 3DU.

56-RJU (ref. your L) dated 22 June) ST: 3DU.
WDP/ccc

Wolfero 32A

SUBJECT: June Monthly Report

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MIA)

INT/107

29 June 45

TO : (SEE DISTRIBUTION)

1. Will you please let me have a typewritten summary of the main events and activities of your branch during the month of June.
2. The summary should consist of about 10 - 12 paragraphs, giving policy changes, directives, results of any important conferences etc. set out in chronological order.
3. Branch reports are consolidated by G3 (Int) and the consolidated report is submitted to HQ AC, copies to A.F.H.Q., LONDON, and WASHINGTON.
4. Reports should reach G3 (Int) by 6 July 45.

M. Selby
Lt. Col. *Selby*
for G.S.

ACTION DISTRIBUTION

BRANCH

OPS AND SD
ENGR.
SICS
TRG
"A"
"Q" (incl Q2-G4)
"Q" (Mov)
S & T
MED
Wolfero ✓

Capt. Selby
Maj. Coppleston
Maj. Calvoley
Maj. Modlam
Col. Fidsloy
Col. Noakes
Capt. the Lord Westbury
Lt. Col. Inrosc
Capt. Cooper
Lt. Coppie ✓

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M. Solby
 Lt. Col. ~~Capt~~
 G.S.
 for

ACTION DISTRIBUTION

BRANCH

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SIGS	Maj. Calvoloy
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"A"	Col. Fidsloy
"Q" (incl Q2-G4)	Col. Noakos
"Q" (Mov)	Capt. the Lord Westbury
S & T	Lt. Col. Ironrose
MED	Capt. Cooper
Welfaro	Lt. Copplo

5515

8 ARMY LIAISON LOG No. 23

23 JUNE 1945

3/A W

Extract -(e) Welfare

- (1) Cantine in UDINE opens 24 June.
- (2) 228 Div will shortly transfer their FERRARA canteen to PADUA.
- (3) Col PASSAVANTI has been retired and Gen Tomaselli is putting up Major CAMAIORA to replace him. I am sorry that PASSAVANTI is to go but it is the best way out as people continue to refer to him in a covert fashion as "Fascist" and it may eventually tell on his efficiency.

5514

6 "INT. DISTR.:

Welfare
30P

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

375 /R1/PRB

Press Release - For Release 10 June 1945

Re-created out of the confusion and chaos of 18 months ago, a brand-new, efficient and compact Italian Army has arisen which has made invaluable contributions to the Allied war effort both in support of military lines of communications and in the final assault on the Nazi lines in Italy, the Land Forces Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission said today in a special report.

The sub-commission's report, which summed up the history of the Italian Army's re-organization under joint Italian and Allied leadership, paid tribute both to the tremendous saving in Allied manpower made by Italian service troops and to the valiant battle record of the four combat groups which participated in the fighting with the 8th Army in April.

The strength of the Italian Army was publicly revealed for the first time as consisting of more than 300,000 officers and men. Apart from Combat Groups, thousands of troops were used to guard important installations. The service troops numbered 175,000 and worked directly under Allied Commands. Port labor battalions have broken many records in the unloading of Allied ships. Road construction units have maintained vital communications under enemy fire to allow armored forces to advance without delay. Mine clearance companies have lifted nearly 600,000 mines.

The Land Forces Sub-Commission, which also has the title of Military Mission to the Italian Army, is headed by Major General 5513

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The Land Forces Sub-Commission, which also has the title of Military Mission to the Italian Army, is headed by Major General Langley Browning (B). It is the agency which from the beginning has been responsible, with the Italian Ministry of War, for re-organizing and re-disciplining the Italian Army. General Browning said in his report:

"Great credit must go to the officers of the Italian War Ministry and General Staff under the good leadership and untiring

5513

- 2 -

efforts of H.E. Count Casati - the War Minister. Many cross-currents have tended to hamper and even divert the re-creation of this truly national army. The task of the Minister of War has been a heavy one. Yet, with true patriotism, he has overcome all difficulties and has undoubtedly succeeded in restoring much of the prestige of the Italian Army in the eyes of the United Nations."

In the new Order of Battle of the Italian Army appear hundreds of Italian units, Combat Groups, Guard Battalions, Service Units, Territorial Headquarters. These units represent Italians from every walk of life, and every part of Italy - hardened soldiers repatriated from the Balkans, Patriots, Grenadiers, Bersaglieri, Alpine Troops, Parachutists, Assault troops - many of whom have seen fighting in the Balkans, in Africa, on the Garigliano, at Cassino, on the Gothic line and in the final assault, whilst others have seen serving the Allied Armies in the Ports, on the roads or with their males.

The birth of the new Italian Army goes back to September 8, 1943. A new Italian Army was essential to the smooth-running of, and assistance to, the Allied war effort and for the internal security of both the Allied Armies and the Civilian population.

Work of reconstruction was started at once. The Italian Ministry of War and General Staff sought out Generals and staff officers from all quarters in order to set up the vital administrative machinery necessary for the formation of an Army.

The first Italian formation chosen to fight with the Allies was concentrated in Apulia for re-organization and training.

Fitted throughout with Italian arms and equipment, this First Motorized Group became known the Corps Italiano di Liberazione (C.I.L.). Overcoming great difficulties owing to shortage of

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The first Italian formation chosen to fight with the Allies was concentrated in Apulia for re-organization and training. Fitted throughout with Italian Arms and equipment, this First Motorized Group became known the Corps Italiano di Liberazione (C.I.L.). Overcoming great difficulties owing to shortage of equipment and arms, the corps was ready for battle by December 1943, when it went into the line under command of the American 5th Army.

This C.I.L., made up of Infantry, Bersaglieri, Alpini, Parachutists and Artillery men, handicapped by poor equipment and lack

- 3 -

of modern arms, with very little transport, met the enemy for the first time at Monte Lungo, sustaining heavy casualties. In this action, the C.I.L. gave a good account of itself and won the praise of General Mark W. Clark, then commanding General, 5th Army, who said:

"This action shows the determination of Italian soldiers to liberate their country from German domination, a determination which may well serve as an example to the oppressed peoples of Europe."

After four months in the line, the C.I.L. passed to under command 8th Army and took part in the brilliant action which seized the height of Monte Marrone on March 31, 1944. After months of patrol work and holding, Pilostrano was captured by the "Nembo" parachutists, sustaining over 300 casualties. Many brilliant actions were to follow before the C.I.L. was pulled out of the line in August, 1944.

Behind the fighting line, the Italian Army was by no means inactive. A far greater number of Italian troops were working and co-operating for the Allied War effort. Labor battalions, road construction units, mine clearance units, signal and line telegraph companies, cooks operating companies had been formed and put to work on the maintenance and safe-guarding of the Allied lines of communications.

Italian mule pack transport companies were carrying supplies and ammunition right forward in the mountainous regions of the Apennines, where no vehicles could move. Much work had to be carried out under enemy shell fire and many casualties were sustained. Recognition and praise was freely given by Allied commanders employing these units.

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at the Ministry of War, hard work and loyal cooperation was being given by the Italian staffs. Difficulties of equipment, transportation and documentation were daily problems. Italian staff procedure had to be changed to conform with Allied procedure and directives. The Italian Territorial lay-out was put into effect as territory was handed over to Italian administration.

5572

- 4 -

Call-ups and recalls to the colors were re-started.

Allied equipment and material, however, were not available to maintain a large Italian fighting force, Allied commitments in Europe and in the Far East being very heavy.

Timely, in response to the strong desire of the Italian nation and the Army for a greater representation of Italian fighting troops in the line, and the successes of the C.I.L. combined with the work of the service units, brought about the decision of the Allies in July, 1944 to form six Italian combat groups to be employed in combat with the Allied Armies. British arms and equipment for these groups were made available and Italian and British staffs set to work.

The work of re-equipment, organization, training in British methods and clothing in khaki battle dress was initiated by a relatively small staff of British and Italian personnel. Units were formed, training pamphlets and manuals were translated into Italian, training schools were opened and bi-lingual Italian officers and non-commissioned officers were found, trained and instructed. The vast task entailed was carried out by hard work and loyal cooperation of the Italian staffs and British instructors.

Towards the end of 1944, five months after its formation, the first Italian combat group - the "Cremona" - went into the line under the command of the 8th Army, having been completely re-formed, re-equipped and trained in British arms and methods - an achievement of original character and considerable speed. Soon other combat groups were ready and by March 2, 1945, four groups were in the line and "CREMONA" had already achieved success in an attack south of Po di Trimeno when over 200 German prisoners

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During the last great assault of the Armies in Italy, the Italian Combat Groups - CREMONA, TRIULI, LEGHANO, and FOLGORE - all played their part. The "TRIULI" sustained 500 casualties in the attack on Bologna - units of the "LEGHANO" were amongst

- 5 -

the first to enter the city. The "CRONIA", for example, pursued the enemy across the R. SAUTERO, and won the praise of the Commander of the 5th British Corps who said:

"You and your Group have admirably carried out operations assigned to you and your officers and men have shown great courage and zeal during the recent fighting."

In addition to the praise given by the Commanding Generals of 15th Army Group and of the 5th and 8th Armies, the Supreme Allied Commander himself, Field Marshal Alexander, under whose over-all command the more than 300,000 Italian soldiers operated, has always been the first to appreciate the good work of the Italian Army, and has said so publicly on many occasions, the report concludes.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY FIELD PRESS CENSOR

Distribution B and C.

Allied Commander himself, Field Marshal Alexander, under whose over-all command the more than 300,000 Italian soldiers operated, has always been the first to appreciate the good work of the Italian Army, and has said so publicly on many occasions, the report concludes.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY FIELD PRESS CENSOR

Distribution B and C.

5511

Original C/31/10

27A

SECRET

SUBJECT: Liaison Log No. 20. Period 30 Apr - 6 May.

Liaison Officer,
Land Forces Sub Comm. AG.
(M.I.I.A.)
c/o Rear HQ Eighth Army.
M/112
8 May '45.

To: Land Forces Sub Comm. AG.
(M.I.I.A.) HOME.

Copy to:
IA IC. Rear 3 Corps.
IA IC. Rear 26 Div.

EXTRACTS.

7. RECEA.

- (a) Col RASCHETTI now lives with welfare, Rear Army and will so remain until Army crosses to AUSTRIA.
- (b) Reccea are now being made of an Office and ORS leave Hotel for Italian tps in VENICE.
- (c) The sudden news upset the distribution of IA PATROL but we have been in contact with A(Tubs) and the new delivery should be satisfactory.
- (d) (i) Tps may now go on leave as per as B. 10 and EAST of line FARA - LA STAZIA, both towns incl.
- (ii) Reccea parties from Gruppo and 278 Div of a limited size and number may now visit towns up to line VILLI - MADOVA - VIGNOLA - VERONA - VERONA - MILANO - TORINO - GENOVA, all towns incl, to enquire into safety and health of families.
I am happy about the ability of Gruppo to do this but feel that 278 Div will find it more difficult

(P.I.A.) ROLE.

Cover to:
LILA IO, Rear 5 Corps.
LILA IO, Rear 23 Bn.

EXTRACTS.

7. REMARKS.

- (a) Col LASCARINI now lives with his wife, Rear Army and will so remain until Army crosses to AUSTRIA.
- (b) Recce are now being used of an Ctr and CEs leave Hotel for Italian the in ITALY.
- (c) The sudden move upset the distribution of LILA IO but we have been in contact with A(Pubs) and the new delivery should be satisfactory.
- (d) (a) This may now be on leave as far as P. IO and EAST of line LILA IO - LILA IO, both towns incl.
- (ii) Recce varies from Gruppo and 222 Div of a limited size and number may now visit towns up to line VERICE - PADOVA - VICENZA - VERONA - PAVIA - MIANO - TORINO - MONZA, all towns incl, to enquire into safety and health of families.
I am happy about the ability of Gruppo to do this but feel that 222 Div will find it more difficult owing to limitations of apt. For CEs see 5510.
making use of the scheme; 222 Div must pose problems with the Gruppo.

B.G. CARLHART, MAJOR,
LILA IO, Rear Eighth Army.

26A

IST/227/25

SUBJECT:- General Report.

To:- HQ 5 District

Copies to :- HQ 54 Area.

M.M.I.A. ICID.

M.M.I.A., I.C., 54 Area.

504 Italian Base Reinforcements Depot, T. E. A. V. I.EXTRACTS.

- (1) WELFARE Is being continually improved and facilities now available are as follows:-
- (1) The sports ground under construction is nearing completion and when ready will comprise of 2 football pitches, 2 basket-ball pitches, bowls green and it is also hoped to construct a 440 yds. track.
 - (2) Arrangements made with the local cinema still stand and cinema shows free to the troops of this Depot are given weekly.
 - (3) A bathing beach, solely for the use of the Depot, has been requisitioned and diving boards and rafts are under construction.
 - (4) The concert party continue to give excellent performances and the local cinema is periodically used for this purpose.
 - (5) A Cinematograph for this Depot would be of immense benefit and attempts are being made to obtain one through M.M.I.A. and local channels.

EXTRACTS.

- (h) MILITARY Is being continually improved and facilities now available are as follows:-
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 - (4) The concert party continue to give excellent performances and the local cinema is periodically used for this purpose.
 - (5) A Cineastograph for this Depot would be of immense benefit and attempts are being made to obtain one through A.I.I.A. and local channels.
- Major, R.A.,
Commanding British Cadre,
CCA Italian Base Reinforcements Depot, FRANK.

30/4/45.

5509

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on 803 Italian
Base Rft Depot.

1 May '45.

Ref. 3/39/JF.

To:

HQ 3 District
Copy to:-
MIA Rome.

EXTRACTS

WELFARE.

There is a canteen operating in the camp and a building fitted for use as a cinema or concert hall. Attempts are being made to secure a projector for the cinema and also to obtain instruments so that live entertainment can be organised with local talent. The Welfare Officer of 227 Div is attempting to purchase a radio for the canteen. It is understood that 227 Div are willing to allocate 25,000 lire monthly to provide welfare at this camp and have also applied to Rome for an initial grant of 50,000 lire.

5508

CONFIDENTIAL 24A

SUBJECT: Liaison Log No. 19. Period 15-29 Apr '45.

Liaison Officer.
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(L.F.L.A.)
c/o Rear HQ. Eighth Army.
LT/112
30 Apr '45.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(L.F.L.A.) RCITE.

EXTRACTS

7. WELFARE.

Canteens at PESARO and RIVINI have been closed; staff and eqpt transferred to IMOLA and FERRARA, both of which are now open.

A Mobile Canteen, converted by ST Army, is in service with each Combat Group.

A Bathing Beach and Rest House for Italian troops is almost completed at CERVIA, and can now house up to 20 visitors.

IMOLA LC. Rear Eighth Army.

5506

CONFIDENTIAL.

21A
WSUBJECT/ - Liaison Log No.18 - Period 15 Mar - 14 Apr.

Liaison Officer
 Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
 (M.M.I.A.)
 o/o Rear HQ. Eighth Army.
 MM/112
 15 Apr '45.

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

EXTRACT.

S/ B.G. CAREW JONES, Major.
MIA. IO. Eighth Army.7. WELFARE.

Col. PASSAVANTI, now fully in the saddle as Co-ordinator of Italian Army Welfare, is in liaison with all Italian HQ in the Army Area.

Albergo Centrale, RAVENNA, is being made available by 5 Corps this week as officers club.

FIB are co-operating fully in provision of films, projector spares, etc. for cinemas both static and mobile, and in publicity campaign to further contributions of books from all outlying Communes.

Col. PASSAVANTI's mobile welfare circus now consists of two canteens (15-cwts on loan), one library, one cinema and one radio-graphophone van.

Eighth Army Italian WVS arrived in strength in CESENA on 14 Apr and in a few days will be distributed to their various Gruppi. At the moment there are nine women involved with a further four in British CCS and Gen Hosps to look after Italian patients. Your correspondent is hard pressed to make them understand that he is not here to act as a clearing house for all their petty misfortunes and difficulties.

The following words of Col. PASSAVANTI are typical of the present Welfare drive:-

"Having present in mind the rules (to foresee, to forestall and to provide) already issued and followed by GOC 226 Div. special attention will be payed to render Welfare Service more and more harmonious all Italian Formations with Eighth Army."

5507

Tel-Bari-11458.

Subject: - Welfare in 9 Territorial Region.

Liaison Officer,
Land Forces, Sub Comm.,
A.C.(MIA), c/o 54 Area.

Ref. LO/7/3/AQ.

April 45.

To: - 9 Territorial HQ.

Ref my conversation with Col. La Penna on 13 Apr. 45.

Cinemas

1 (a) SANTA LUCIA Cinema has been requisitioned by HQ. Adriatic Base, and I do not consider that further efforts to get it back or obtain concessions for Italian troops in it will be of any use.

(b) It is suggested that the civil authorities in Bari be approached to provide entertainment at special terms or special free shows for Italian soldiers in one or more of the four cinemas available to civilians.

(c) If you will be good enough to let me know what action you are taking in this connection, I will support it with the local Civil Affairs Representative.

Case Soldati

2 (a) Bari. I note that this establishment is now functioning and arranged to visit it with Col. La Penna at 1300hrs. on 19 April.

(b) TRAMI. You reported that this is also functioning, but is still awaiting some equipment.

(c) TARANTO & LECCE. You informed me that these establishments were expected to open on 30 Apr. 45 at CORSO UMBERTO No79 and PIAZZA RAMONDELLO ORSINI (PALAZZO SARTORUFO) respectively. A representative of this office will visit them on or shortly after these dates.

Italian Army Newspaper.

3. I am investigating the causes of the delay in the provision of printing facilities for "La Patria" by 5 British Military Printing Press (British) to the Italian Army Newspaper Sub-Unit.

Welfare 16
18/4

Min of War advised. see 12/2 by 10.11.45.

20

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Case Soldati

2 (a) Bari. I note that this establishment is now functioning and arranged to visit it with Col. La Penna at 1800hrs. on 19 April.

(b) TRANI. You reported that this is also functioning, but is still awaiting some equipment.

(c) TARANTO & LECCE. You informed me that these establishments were expected to open on 30 Apr. 45 at CORSO UMBERTO No79 and PIAZZA RAMONDELLO ORSINI (PALAZZO SARTORUFO) respectively. A representative of this office will visit them on or shortly after these dates.

Italian Army Newspaper.

3. I am investigating the causes of the delay in the provision of printing facilities for "La Patria" by 5 British Military Printing Press (British) to the Italian Army Newspaper Sub-Unit, BARI. Would you please arrange for a copy to be delivered at this office daily as soon as production begins.

CPH/AGN
5505 Maj.
Senior MILALO.
Eastern Italy.

Copy to:-

MMIA ✓
54 Area
MMIA ST LO 52 Area.


CPH/AGN

SUBJECT: Italian Army Welfare Interim Report No.4.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/W.
✓ Apr '45.

Army Welfare Services,
A.F.H.Q.

1. A request was received by telephone to submit by the 6th of each month a paragraph on Italian Welfare for inclusion in AFHQ Progress and information.
2. It is suggested that the desired extracts may be taken from the enclosed report.


Lt.Col.
A.D.A.W.S.
M.M.I.A.

5504

SUBJECT: Italian Army Welfare,
Interim Report No. 4.

RESTRICTED

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/W.

7 Apr '45.

Army Welfare Services, (2)
A.F.H.Q.

1. Reference WEL/P/27 of 19 Feb '45.
2. Organisation. The position of Welfare W/Es is now as follows:-
 - (i) Ministry of War. The W/E. within the Ministry of War ceiling has been agreed. This gives an adequate staff to the Director.
 - (ii) Adm. Divisions. An amendment to existing W/E is being put through to give welfare representation at these Hqs.
 - (iii) Combat Groups. Welfare is already included in these W/Es.
3. Training. The Italian Officers Welfare courses are going quite well. Two ten day courses have now been held and twelve officers of the third course for information is a copy of the programme to train welfare officers to fill vacancies on his establishment and also unit welfare officers.

4. Newspapers. Authority has been given for the publication of the third edition at Bari. The Rome and Florence editions are going well and appear to be well received. The handling of reports and pictures of the S.A.C.'s inspection at RTC. ICF. was good. The main difficulty is the quality of the newsprint.

5. Rest Camp. This camp is running well at a ceiling of 232, vacancies being allotted to operational units as follows:-

Each Combat Group	17.	85.
209, 210, 228, & 231		
Adm Div. each 16.		64.
SMRE Liaison Units.		5.
Garibaldi Div.		16.

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- (ii) Adm. Divisions. An amendment to existing W/E is being put through to give welfare representation at these HQs.
- (iii) Combat Groups. Welfare is already included in these W/Es.

3. Training. The Italian Officers Welfare courses are going quite well. Two ten day courses have now been held and twelve officers have attended. Attached for information is a copy of the programme of the third course commencing 3 Apr. The Italian director hopes to train welfare officers to fill vacancies on his establishment and also unit welfare officers.

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209, 210, 228, & 231		64.
Adm Div. each	16.	5.
SMRE Liaison Units.		16.
Garibaldi Div.		
		<hr/>
		170.
		48.
		14.
		<hr/>
		232.
		11

Navy.
Air Force.

5503

(2)

6. Postal Service.

- (i) The field service postcard scheme has been approved by AFHQ in principle and final proposals to cover censorship and other details have now been put forward.
- (ii) MMIA have put up a letter to AFHQ asking for investigation of the question of postal service with a view to reducing delay. The main difficulty appears to be the location of censorship officers.

7. Canteens.

- (i) Supplies. AFHQ. AG/400/005/GDB-0 of 12 Mar authorizes issue on repayment of a scale of canteen supplies within a ceiling of 10,000. Details of sub-allocation to Italian formations are being worked out.
- (ii) Mobile Canteens. Work is in progress in an Italian workshop on the three Br. and three US lorries allotted. Release is approved for Italian material for the 30 uniforms. The Ministry of War is preparing the list of the lady volunteers concerned.

8. Books and Magazines. A number of books have been collected and distributed to formations by Italian welfare, some 1,500, not a lot but more are coming in. An allotment of 1,200 magazines (Mondo Libero, Il Mese and Victory) was obtained from PWB which was handed over to Italian Welfare for distribution. An appeal for books, and other welfare stores, is being made in the Italian press.

9. Italian Combat Forces Reinforcement & Training Centre.

Cesano camp contains a large number of troops; and a considerable amount of welfare work has been done. Canteens are being set up, cinemas are in operation, a theatre has been made, there have been distributions of various amenities, and sports facilities are being improvised. During the last two weeks of Feb. and first two weeks of March 16 concerts or plays were given.

10. General. The Italian welfare service is undoubtedly making progress. The main difficulty is material. The price of welfare stores is enormous on the open market and prohibitive on the black market, even if it could be used.

Ray

Lt. Col.

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Reg
Lt. Col.
A.D.A.W.S.
M.M.I.A.

5502

Internal:- "A". Branch.

Subject: Progress report on Welfare.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.S.
(H.M.I.A.) HOME.

26 Mar '45.

"F" B.M.

1. Reference Conversation (DAGONS & ADAMS B.M.I.A.)
on 22 Mar.

2. Attached for your information is a copy of a
progress report on Welfare from the Director of Welfare,
together with reply.

It. Col.
A.D.A.S.S.
H.M.I.A.

JMOG/

Copy to: "A" Branch.

5501

SUBJECT: Cesano Training Camp.

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

16 Mar '45.

Ministry of War,
Ufficio di Benessere.

Copy to:- "F" BH.

1. Reference 02160/IS. of 22 Mar. and visit to RTU. ICF. on 22 Mar.

2. The contents of the report and the progress made are noted. Will you please arrange for a further report to be forwarded on at 20 April next.

3. Arising from the visit the following suggestions are made:-

(i) Theatre and Cinema Company.

Col. Zincoai should be instructed to make application to "F" BH. stating the requirements for benches for seating.

(ii) Civilian cinema, Bracciano.

The welfare officer, (Col. Zincoai) should be instructed to approach the civilian owner of the cinema with the purpose of arranging the admittance of soldiers to performances at times convenient to him. It is suggested that every endeavour should be made to arrange either:-

- (a) Special performances for soldiers or preferably
- (b) an allocation of free seats at each performance now given.

4. Can information be given as to the exact location

- Copy sent to 2 BIR.
1. Reference O2160/EA. of 22 Mar. and visit to RPO. ICP. on 22 Mar.
 2. The contents of the report and the progress made are noted. Will you please arrange for a further report to be forwarded on at 20 April next.
 3. Arising from the visit the following suggestions are made:-
 - (1) Theatre and Cinema Cosine,
Col. Zinconi should be instructed to make application to "F" BIR, stating the requirements for benches for seating.
 - (11) Civilian cinema, Bracciano,
The Welfare officer, (Col. Zinconi) should be instructed to approach the civilian owner of the cinema with the purpose of arranging the admittance of soldiers to performances at times convenient to his HQ. It is suggested that every endeavour should be made to arrange either:-
 - (a) Special performances for soldiers or preferably
 - (b) an allocation of free seats at each performance now given.
 4. Can information be given as to the exact location of the open air theatre?
 5. What arrangements have been made as regards finishing of the rest rooms mentioned in your report? **5500**

It. Col.
A. D. A. H. S.
L. H. I. A.

Internal :- "A" Branch

Ministry of War,
Directorate of Welfare.

22. March '45.

No. C2160/B.S. di prot.

To: Land Forces Sub Commission
(N.M.I.A.)

Subject: Cesano Training Camp.

*Good as far as it goes
ed in here another report
on 20 April WP*

Reference III/I of 8 March.

For your information the following report on the state of Welfare for units at Cesano is forwarded.

Open Air Theatre.

In anticipation of the good weather, experts have been put in charge of the preparation of plans for an open air theatre to have a capacity of 2,000.

Let me know where?

Theatres.

During the second two weeks of February and the first two weeks of March 16, instrumental and vocal concerts, or plays were given: there were about 400 spectators at each.

Cinemas.

2 cinemas are operating: one, in the theatre, has a capacity of 500, with seats for 400, and the other has a capacity of 400, with seats for 300. Shows are given every evening, films being provided by E.M.I.C. and P.V.B. A third cinema, which will accommodate about 500, is in course of preparation.

No.

Canteens.

Each battalion has a shop in operation for sale to the troops of dried fruit, wine, toilet articles, writing materials etc. Two large halls are being prepared as regimental canteens.

Rest Rooms.

The two regiments at Cesano will have a large hall each for a club. (V. Supra): these will have facilities for reading and writing, there will be a library, and games (draughts, dominoes, chess etc): there will also be a small bar.

Are these adequate furnished.

Newspapers and Magazines.

2,500 copies of "La Patria" are distributed daily,

as follows:-

1° Assembly and Allocation regt.

2° Regiment

550 Copies. 5499
550 "

In anticipation of the good weather, expects have been put in charge of the preparation of plans for an open air theatre to have a capacity of 2,000. *Let me know where?*

Theatres. During the second two weeks of February and the first two weeks of March 16, instrumental and vocal concerts, or plays were given: there were about 400 spectators at each. *Good.*

Cinemas. 2 cinemas are operating: one, in the theatre, has a capacity of 500, with seats for 400, and the other has a capacity of 400, with seats for 300. Shows are given every evening, films being provided by I.N.I.9. and P.W.E. A third cinema, which will accommodate about 500, is in course of preparation. *No.*

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Rest Rooms. The two regiments at Cesano will have a large hall each for a club. (V. Supra): these will have facilities for reading and writing, there will be a library, and games (draughts, dominoes, chess etc): there will also be a small bar. *Are these accessories furnished?*

Newspapers and Magazines. 2,500 copies of "La Patria" are distributed daily, as follows:-

1 st Assembly and Allocation regt.	550	Copies. 5499
2 nd Regiment.	550	" "
3 rd " (mixed)	500	" "
Training Camp.	100	" "
83 rd Field Hospital.	150	" "
Service Unit.	30	" "
HQ. Training Unit.	20	" "
CC.PH.	50	" "
31 st Field Bakery.		

2,500 Copies
=====

(2)

Newspapers and Magazines. (cont)

Each week 1,500 copies of "Italia" are distributed as follows:-
350-350-210-80-100-20-10-30.
The above papers are issued on the same afternoon as they arrive.

The following books and magazines have recently been sent to the Camp.

Library Books.....	100.
"Victory"	100.
"Mondo Libero"	425.
"Il Mese"	425.

Sports.

The camp has been given games of Bocce, 3 Footballs, Javelins, and springboards for long and high jumping.

Appeals have been made through the press to the public to send to Cesano other sports gear, which is not on the market, such as basket ball, volley ball, etc.

The following are in the course of planning and constructions:

- A football ground.
- A circular race track.
- A sprinting track (100 mts.)

An assault course has been completed, with ditches 2 x 21. mts, a fence, balance walks with jumps of 2mts, and a 3mt wall. There are also places for long and high jumps.

A reconnaissance has been carried out on I. Bracciano for a bathing beach and swimming school, for use during the coming summer.

/S G.O. TAMASSIA,
Gen of Bris.

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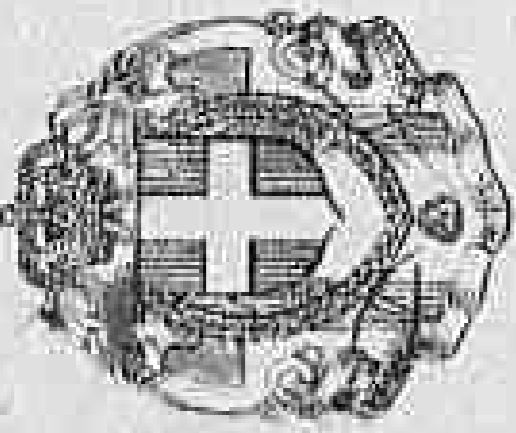
- A football ground.
- A circular race track.
- A sprinting track (100 mts.)

An assault course has been completed, with ditches 2 x 2 1/2 mts, a fence, balance walks with jumps of 2 mts, and a 3mt wall. There are also places for long and high jumps.

A reconnaissance has been carried out on L. Iracciano for a bathing beach and swimming school, for use during the coming summer.

/S G.O. TAMASSIA,
Gen of Brig.

5498



N. 122

Ministero della Guerra

UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL SOLDATO

n. 02160/BS. di prot.

Roma, li 22 marzo 1945

Oggetto: Centro Addestramento di Cesano

Cesano
A. D. A. W. S. c/o

Welfanc
2213

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION (M.H.I.A.)

ROMA

Riferimento nota Wel/x dell'8 marzo.-

Per conoscenza si comunica lo stato di avanzamento del servizio Benessere a favore delle Unità ospitate nella località in oggetto :

Teatro all'aperto:

In previsione della buona stagione è stato affidato a persona esperta l'incarico di progettare l'impianto di un teatro in località all'aperto capace di offrire spettacoli a duemila spettatori per volta.

Spettacoli - Fra la seconda quindicina di febbraio e la prima quindicina di marzo sono stati dati a Cesano 16 trattamenti tra concerti vocali ed instrumentali, 2 spettacoli di prosa ed arte varia - spettatori circa 400 per volta.-

Cinema

- In atto due sale : quella del teatro della capacità di circa 500 posti dei quali 400 a sedere - l'altra della capacità di 400 posti, 300 a sedere. Le proiezioni vengono eseguite tutte le sere - ed i films sono forniti dall'E.N.I.C. e dal F.W.D. - Altra sala cinematografica

54103

10000/100. di 2000

Oggetto: Centro Addestramento di Cesano

Cesano Training Centre
A. D. A. W. S. o/o

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION (M.M.I.A.)

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Spettacoli - Tra la seconda quindicina di febbraio e la prima quindicina di marzo sono stati dati a Cesano 16 trattamenti tra concerti vocali ed strumentali, 2 spettacoli di prosa ed arte varia - spettatori circa 400 per volta.-

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./.

Welfaric
22/3

Cantine --, Presso ogni comando di Btg. é in esercizio uno spazio per la vendita ai militari di frutta secca-vino-articoli di toletta -articoli di scrittura etc.
Sono in via di adattamento due vasti locali per l'istituzione di cantine reggimentali.

Sale di ritrovo - Presso i due Regg.ti di Cesano sono stati riattati due grandi locali per essere adibiti a sale di ritrovo. Tali sale saranno dotate di materiale per lettura, scrittura, biblioteche, giochi vari (dama, domino, scacchi ecc.) e di un piccolo bar.--

Giornali e riviste - Giornalmente vengono distribuite 1500 copie del quotidiano la "Patria" e precisamente:

1° Regg. raccolta e smistamento completati	copie 550
2° " complementi	" 550
3° " complementi misto	" 550
Campo Addestramento attendato	" 500
23° ospedale da campo	" 100
Reparto servizi	" 150
" Comando Scuole	" 30
Serione G.C.R.R.	" 20
319° Squadra Fanettieri	" 50
	<u>totale copie 2500</u>

e settimanalmente 1500 copie del giornale "Italia" agli stessi reparti e nella misura di 350-350-350-210-80-100-20-10-30-.

Giornali suddetti vengono distribuiti nello stesso pomeriggio in cui pervengono al Centro.

Recentemente sono stati inviati a Cesano n°100 libri di amena lettura e 100 copie della rivista "Victory" - 425 del "Mondo libero" e 425 del "riese".--

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1° regg. raccolta e smistamento completi	copie	550
2° " complementi	"	550
3° " complementi misto	"	550
Campo Addestramento attendato	"	500
83° ospedale da campo	"	100
Reparto servizi	"	150
" Comando Scuole	"	30
Sezione C.C.R.R.	"	20
319^ Squadra Fanettieri	"	50
	<u>totale</u>	<u>copie 2500</u>

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4/4

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Sporta

- Il campo di Cesano è stato dotato di giochi di bocce, 3 palloni per foot-ball, giavellotti e pedane per gli esercizi di salte in lungo ed in lato.-
E' stato rivolto appello alla cittadinanza, tramite la stampa, per inviare a Cesano altro materiale sportivo (inesistente sul mercato) come palla-canestro, palla al volo etc.-
Sono in corso di impianto ed adattamento :

Un'area per il gioco del calcio (foot-ball) di una pista circolare per corse di stoffette, di un percorso rettilineo per i 100 metri. E' già stato stato costruito e funziona;

un percorso di guerra - con fosso di mt.2x2,50; una siepe, parallele di equilibrio ascendente con salto dall'alto di circa mt.2 - un muro dell'altezza di mt.3 - una staccionata per il salto in alto - un fosso per il salto in lungo.-

Sono state inoltre effettuate riconoscizioni sul lago di Bracciano per la scelta di una località dove impiantare i bagni ed una scuola di nuoto durante la prossima stagione estiva.-

IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA
(R. G. TAVASSIA)



Sono in corso di impianto ed adattamento :

Un'area per il gioco del calcio (foot-ball) di una pista circolare per corse di staffette, di un percorso rettilineo per i 100 metri. E' già stato stato costruito e funziona;

un percorso di guerra - con fosso di mt. 2x2,50; una siepe, parallele di equilibrio ascendente con salto dell'alto di circa mt. 2 -- un muro dell'altezza di mt. 3 -- una staccionata per il salto in alto -- un fosso per il salto in lungo.--

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IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA
(G.C. Tamasso)



5496

Ministry of War
Directorate of Welfare.

No. 02660 B.S. di prot.

P.M. 3800.

17 March, 1945.

Promemoria for H.E. The Minister.

1.) During the period 7 to 14 March I visited HQs and troops of the Combat Group^s and of 209, 210, 231 and 228 Divisions, with the object of seeing for myself how much has been done for the welfare of the soldier, to find out what the troops want, and finally, to discover their attitude to the general welfare programme.

General impression : good.

I observed that the further north I went the more healthy was the morale of the troops: there was better discipline, a better understanding of the necessity of our struggle, fuller recognition of the principles of ranks and obedience, and a greater respect for superior officers of whatever rank: all these were outwardly shown by more personal cleanliness and neatness of uniforms. Relationship with the civil population seemed to me to be most cordial, both amongst the troops, and at the several HQs.

Relationship (of the Italian army) with the British and American HQs and troops was of the best: in the more advanced HQs there is an even greater comprehension of our needs and desires, and above all, a more lively conception of the necessity of considering the Italian army on terms of equality with the fighting troops of other nations, as a duty and as a right: it is realized that the different treatment meted out to Italian units, which militates so seriously against their morale, must be eliminated.

In speaking with British and American officers of HQs 5 and 8 Army I laid great stress on this point, and begged them to represent these matters to their superiors, and more particularly to the Allied Authority in Rome: it is to be noted that their convictions in this respect have been demonstrated in a practical manner by the concession to our troops of quite considerable amounts of materials and facilities for Welfare. (Comforts, rations for canteens, rest camps etc.)

2. Particular questions relative to the welfare service.

(a) Liaison personnel with Anglo-American HQs. ~~with~~
M.M.I.A. At a meeting in Rome on 3 Feb, proposed to me the abolition of the posts of liaison officers with 5 and 8 Armies and ~~59~~ Army Group.
In spite of this the HQs of 5 and 8 Armies have told me that they feel the necessity of such appointments continuing:-
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at 5th Army they told me that the officer for this job should be useful Maj. Grego who is already carrying it out (his work will also be useful to the HQs Delegation T, 210 and 231 Divisions):- 8th Army on the other hand has certain doubts as to the capabilities of Lt. Col di Blasi, who has put himself in a bad position by his tactless treatment of the Italian commanders under 8th Army (Cremona and Friuli Combat Groups, and 228 Division): he has further been represented to me "as an idle prattler". Perhaps all this has arisen from the lack of clarity of purpose with which the service was initiated in December 1944, and from the lack of a directive on the functions of the liaison officers, of whose existence the various Italian HQs, were not informed.

(2)

Now the situation is more clear: but for all that, if MMIA agree to the requests of HQ's 5 and 8 Army for retaining liaison officers, I think it would be as well to change di Blasi. If MMIA agree the request of the Armies, I will discuss this matter with them.

b) Various Welfare Activities:

1 The HQs of all large formations have given a great impetus to Welfare, in various ways, according to the circumstances: Divisional HQs have instituted clubs, transit camp, convalescent camps, canteens, and entertainments: Combat Groups have set up unit and mobile canteens, distributed various comforts and toilet articles, and organized theatrical shows and films.

210, and 228 Division, and "Cremano" CG have done particularly well.

c) Local Assistance:

Local Associations have been asked to help by the Division, 210 and 228 especially, with excellent results. Groups of lady volunteers have been set up and give their service free: they help in clubs and rest camps, and carry out work of material and moral value. (relation between soldiers and their families, enquiries for news, small repairs to clothes) The spontaneous help of religious bodies has been received, who have put buildings and their fixtures at their disposal, and also from private individuals who have offered furnished premises.

Particular attention should be paid to a scheme of HQ 8 Army who intend to set up a special Women's Corps, with duties laid down and suitable economic treatment: there would be only small numbers, permanently assigned to the large formations (Divisions & Groups) for organizing welfare establishments in the different locations in which the units might be stationed. HQ 8 Army intend to establish such a group on the lines of that promoted by Countess Leonardi, but its work would be general organization of various welfare services instead of the management of mobile canteens. The HQ has drawn up a directive similar to that proposed for the C.A.F., but the indemnity (4,500 lire per month) which they propose allowing is much greater than we had envisaged.

HQ 8 Army have said that this organization should be a branch of our Women's Welfare Corps which is being set up: I said that the proposed indemnity was too high, but the DA & QMG 8 Army (Brig. Steiner) said that if a lower amount was substituted, we could be certain of getting the most suitable personnel, and he told me that if we were unable to pay the amount he was prepared to make up the difference.

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I consider that we must agree to the constitution of this new branch of CAF but I cannot see the justice of different economic conditions, even in the form of a grant from the British HQ.

d) The More Important Projects.

Transit and Staging Camps in 228, 210 and 231 Divs.

Staging Camps operate for all troops of the Divisions and Groups who need a few days rest. I visited that of 228 Div. at Villa Verrucchio, shortly to be opened - it answers the purpose well.

Rest Camp at Castelfranco (231 Div)

(3)

Staging Camps for Officers and N.C.O.'s. The best are at Florence (210 Div) and Forli (228 Div).

e) The Major Difficulties.

- Slow Postal Service.
 - Irregular distribution and poor quality of cigarettes.
 - Poor quality of wine.
 - Lack of articles of equipment not included in British Scales:
(e.g. handkerchiefs)
 - Impossibility of obtaining direct by Division and Groups of toilet articles, equipment, haberdashery, etc. necessary for the soldiers. Such items must be procured from rear areas, and purchases in liberated territory should be properly organized.
- The Director General of the Commissariat could arrange for this with the organization which is already set up. There would be no expense involved as the materials purchased would be allocated on repayment to the large formations for direct sale through canteens. In this way the soldier would be in a position to obtain necessary articles at a reasonable price:

- Shortage of Soap - The monthly allowance should be increased, and in addition, a part of the soap specially manufactured in this country should be put on sale in the Canteens, to augment the Soldier's ration.

/S G.C. TAMASSIA ,
Gen. of Brig.

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/S G.C. TAMASSIA ,
Gen. of Brig.

5493

TA/6u

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
UFFICIO BENESSERE DEL SOLDATO

N° 02060 /B.S. di prot.

P.M. 3800, 11 17 Marzo 1945

PROMEMORIA PER S.E. IL MINISTRO

I)- Mi sono recato, dal 7 al 14 marzo, presso i Comandi e le truppe dei Gruppi di Combattimento e delle Divisioni logistiche 209, 210, 231 e 228 allo scopo di rendermi conto di quanto hanno fatto per il benessere del soldato; sentire i loro bisogni e chiarire, eventualmente, concetti espressi nel programma generale.

Impressione generale: buona.

Via via che nella mia visita procedevo verso in nord mi è parso rilevare un ambiente morale più sano; meglio curata la disciplina meglio comprese le necessità della nostra lotta, riconosciute e compreso il principio della gradazione gerarchica e della subordinazione; maggior fiducia verso i comandanti di ogni grado; sentimenti tutti che si manifestano anche esteriormente in una maggior cura della persona e dell'uniforme. Le relazioni con la popolazione civile mi sono sembrate orientate a cordialità sia nell'elemento truppa, sia nei comandi.

Ottimo le relazioni con i Comandi e le truppe inglesi e americane: nei comandi più avanzati di tali unità appare una sempre maggior comprensione dei nostri bisogni e desideri e soprattutto più vivo il concetto che le nostre truppe debbano essere considerate alla pari con le unità combattenti di altre nazioni, nei doveri e

nei diritti, e che perciò debbano essere eliminate quelle differenze di trattamento che incidono gravemente nel morale alle unità italiane. Parlando con ufficiali inglesi e americani dei Comandi della V e VIII Armata ho insistito su tale concetto e li ho pregati di manifestare ai loro comandi superiori e soprattutto agli organi alleati romani questa loro opinione, che praticamente si è tradotta in concessione ai nostri comandi di materiali e mezzi di assistenza (generi di conforto e razioni speciali viveri per le case del soldato, i posti transito etc.) in misura assai ampia.

2)- Questioni particolari relative al servizio del benessere.

a) Personale di collegamento con i comandi anglo-americani.

Inn una riunione del 3 febbraio scorso a Roma gli organi della C.A.(M.M.I.A.) mi avevano preposto la abolizione degli ufficiali di collegamento per il servizio benessere presso i Comandi V e VIII Armata e 15 Gruppo Armate.

Ora i Comandi della V e VIII Armata mi hanno invece dichiarato che sentono la necessità che tale organo sia conservato - ma mentre la V Armata mi ha fatto comprendere di gradire che l'ufficiale per tale compito sia lo stesso Magg. Greco già incaricato di simile compito (e la sua funzione è apparsa utile anche ai Comandi Delegazione "F" e Divisioni 210 e 231), la VIII Armata invece ha qualche dubbio sulla capacità del Ten.Col. DI BLASI, il quale d'altra parte si è messo in urto per il suo poco tatto con tutti i comandi italiani che dipendono dall'VIII Armata (Gruppi Cremona, Friuli, Divisione 228...) e mi è stato dipinto come un emiccherone inconcludente. Forse tutto ciò è dipeso dal modo non chiaro come era stato inizialmente impiantato il servizio (dicembre 1944) e dalla mancanza di direttive per l'azione degli ufficiali di collegamento, della cui

esistenza i comandi italiani non erano stati informati. Ora la situazione è meglio chiarita; ma con tutto ciò, anche se la C.A. (M.M.I.A.) accoglierà la richiesta dei Comandi V e VIII Armata di conservare l'ufficiale di collegamento per il benessere, crede che sarebbe bene costituire il De Blasi. Farò in proposito proposte a parte, dopo chiarito con la C.A.(M.M.I.A.) se intendono accogliere o meno i desideri delle due armate.

b) Attività varie per il benessere.

Tutti i comandi di grandi unità, in modo diverso a seconda della situazione, hanno dato grande impulso alle attività assistenziali; i comandi di Divisioni logistiche con la istituzione di case del soldato, di posti transito per ufficiali e soldati, di convalescenziari, di spacci fissi e con la organizzazione di spettacoli di arte varia; i comandi di Gruppo di Combattimento essenzialmente con la istituzione di spacci di reparto e di spacci mobili, con distribuzioni di generi vari di conforto e di oggetti indispensabili per toilette e con l'organizzazione di spettacoli di arte varia e cinematografici.

In modo particolare si sono distinti per iniziative la 228 e la 210 Divisione e il Gruppo Cremona.

c) Concorso di Enti e Associazioni locali.

Tale concorso è stato attivamente sollecitato dalle Divisioni interessate e specie dalla 210 e 228 con ottimi risultati. Si sono costituiti gruppi femminili volontari che prestano opera gratuita di assistenza nelle case dei soldati e nei posti ristorazione dove svolgono assistenza morale e materiale (relazioni fra i soldati e le loro famiglie, ricerca notizie, piccole prestazioni per riparazioni og-

getti corredo...} si è avuto il concorso spontaneo di istituti religiosi che hanno messo a disposizione locali e loro arredo e di privati che hanno offerto locali arredati.

Un particolare cenno debbe fare su una iniziativa del Comando VIII Armata che intende costituire uno speciale corpo femminile, con obblighi particolari di servizio e adeguato trattamento economico, di poche persone, permanentemente assegnate alle grandi unità (Divisioni e Gruppi) per l'organizzazione locale della assistenza alle diverse zone nelle quali successivamente le unità si sposteranno. Il Comando di Armata intende cioè costituire un gruppo analogo a quello promosso (per intenderci meglio) dalla Contessa Leonardi: soltanto che invece della questione di cantine mobili dovrebbe occuparsi della organizzazione generale del servizio di enti e associazioni varie locali. Il Comando VIII Armata ha concretato un statuto analogo a quello proposto per il C.A.F., soltanto che le indennità che intende concedere sono molto superiori a quelle da noi previste: 4500 lire mensili.

Secondo l'Armata tale organizzazione dovrebbe poi essere un ramo del Corpo Assistenza Femminile da noi in via di organizzazione: ho opposto che l'indennità proposta è troppo elevata, ma l'indendente della VIII Armata (Gen. Steiner) ha risposto che con un assegno minore non si troverebbero certo elementi adatti e mi ha dichiarato che qualora noi non potessimo concedere tale assegno egli è disposto a rimettere la differenza.

Ritengo che si debba accogliere l'iniziativa di costituire questo nuovo ramo del C.A.F., ma non trovo giusto che si debba essere una differenza di trattamento economico sia pure sotto forma di integrazione da parte del comando inglese.

d) Iniziative di maggior importanza.

- Posti di transito e sosta delle Divisioni 228, 210, 231. Hanno funzione di Comando Tappa per tutti i militari delle Divisioni e dei Gruppi che operano nel territorio di giurisdizione delle Divisioni stesse. Questa loro funzione dovrebbe essere estesa anche ai militari di altre unità di transito per motivi vari nella zona.
- convalescenziari- per raccogliere militari delle Divisioni e Gruppi che hanno bisogno di pochissimi giorni di riposo. Ho visitato quello della 228 Divisione a Villa Verucchio, di prossima apertura: risponde bene alla necessità.
- campi di riposo di Castelfranco (231 Divisione)-
- posti sosta per ufficiali e sottufficiali. Ottime le organizzazioni di Firenze (210 Div.) e Forlì (228 Divisione).

e) Inconvenienti di maggiori rilievo:

- servizio postale lento.
- distribuzioni irregolari di sigarette - loro qualità scadente.
- distribuzione di vino di qualità non molto buona.
- mancanza di generi di corredo non compresi nella dotazione di vestiario inglese: fazzoletti.
- impossibilità e difficoltà di acquisto diretto da parte delle Divisioni e Gruppi di oggetti di toilette, corredo, mercerie etc. necessari ai soldati. Necessità di provvedere con invii da terzo e quindi di organizzare l'insetta nel territorio liberato. Converrebbe ⁵⁴²⁸Vi provvedesse con l'organizzazione già esistente la Direzione Generale di Commissariato. Non ⁵⁴²⁸Vi sarebbe aggravio di spese perchè i materiali così acquistati dovrebbero essere ceduti a pagamento alle G.U. per la vendita

diretta attraverso gli spacci. In tal modo il soldato avrebbe a disposizione i generi occorrenti a prezzi onesti.

- mancanza di sapone - Aumentare la dotazione mensile e contemporaneamente mettere in vendita direttamente, attraverso gli spacci, partite appositamente prodotte in paese per integrare la dotazione dei soldati (proposte a parte).-

IL GENERALE DI BRIGATA
(G.C. TAMASSIA)

Luigi Pavesi

5407

British Movement (Lab Branch) 10th
Rear HQ Fifth Army
CMF

Phone No: Lightning Bear 159

61/LAB

15 Feb 45.

My dear Colonel,

I enclose with this the two copies of the Welfare Bulletin issued by O.C. 2 Pioneer Group.

This will give you and anyone else to whom you may care to show them, some idea of what we on the British side are attempting to do for our BR-ITIS. Other Groups which come under my administration are working on similar lines.

I still feel that it is most important that Welfare for BR-ITIS should be encouraged and stepped up as much and as quickly as possible. The most important things in my personal opinion are to get the men some real equivalent of the British soldiers' MAFI ration - more comforts - more games - to provide comfortable canteens and institutes wherever there are men to use them - and not only to give them entertainment, but by providing instruments and facilities to encourage them to run their own shows.

Our BR-ITIS in Fifth Army are now putting up such a good show that I am sure that anything that you can do, or induce the higher authorities on the Italian side to do, will not only be received with gratitude, but will meet with enthusiastic support from those of us who have to deal with the Italian soldier. I believe that Field Marshal ALEXANDER is fully alive to the necessity of encouraging Welfare for BR-ITIS and has given the whole matter his personal interest, approval and support.

It was very nice of you to call in yesterday, on your way to Rome and I was glad to have a chat with you. We both think along the same lines on these matters and I am sure that given co-operation throughout in the long run we shall definitely be able to establish a far higher standard of Welfare for BR-ITIS.

Yours sincerely
Lawrence

For our BR-ITIS. Other Groups whom come
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Yours sincerely
Lawrence

5486

Lt.-Col. ALESSANDRO MERCI - ARNOLDI
Chief Italian Army Welfare Officer,
c/o Army Welfare Services Training Centre,
c/o Rome Area Allied Command,

103
E.C. 2 GROUP PIONEER CORPS.

WELFARE BULLETIN

Issue No. 2.

3rd Feb 45.

GENERAL.

Apart from moving Coys and those actually in the line progress in welfare matters has been well sustained.

Libraries are springing up in several Coys and a general "book drive" is taking place in Florence and Prato, the results of which should be making themselves felt very shortly.

Civilian entertainments have been procured by some Units and it is thought that this type of entertainment might be more fully exploited.

Dances have been run here and there and in one case by a very forward Coy. The possibility of running such a function should not be lost sight of. In Prato of course, this is at present not possible owing to restriction on civilian fraternisation imposed by medical authorities.

A very important feature that MUST be introduced by all Companies has been reported by some few. That is, discussion groups and war situation talks on the basis of an A.B.C. hour.

For those Coys who have gramophones (and it is hoped that more may be available soon) MAFTI have had on sale some excellent records of both light and heavy music.

A special commendation for initiative goes to S/ser Bonini of 101 I.P.Coy who hires a donkey and cart to deliver daily a hot mid-day meal to men of his Company. This example might be followed by other Units as it is greatly appreciated by the men.

Special attention is drawn to the method of transmitting messages to occupied Italy via the Information Office of the Holy See (Vatican). The instructions have been issued separately.

An Italian Bar is opening today in Caffe Itala 5 Via Garibaldi, PRATO. This bar will provide wines and cakes at reasonable prices and also offers a billiard table and writing room.

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING.

The following ideas are drawn from Coy reports and are thought to be worthy of consideration by all Companies.

(a) Outdoor sports events such as cross-country runs, have been held with considerable success.

(b) Craphe is popular and can be purchased.

(c) Chestnut flour is also

5485

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- (a) Outdoor sports events such as cross-country runs, have been held with considerable success. 5485
- (b) Craphe is popular and can be purchased.
- (c) Chestnut flour is also very popular and makes good cakes.
- (d) One Company had the good idea of buying wooden soles for boots. These are a good substitute for crindery.
- (e) Deck tennis/proving extremely popular in one Company and the kit can be easily improvised.
- (f) Fowls and Jacks are being made by 120 Coy and other Coys interested should apply to Capt Nicholls.

/To Sheet 2. F.T.O.

H.C. 2 GROUP PIONEER CORPS.

WELFARE BULLETIN.

ISSUE No 1.

15 JANUARY 45

1. GENERAL REMARKS.

Welfare reports received (and not all have been received) show that considerable progress has been made in practically all Coys. The reaction of the troops has been extremely encouraging and well warrants continued and increased efforts required of all Officers and senior N.C.Os.

Some reports are much too extensive and verbose and L.Os will please keep them to a minimum. As from report to be rendered on Saturday 13th January 45 it will only be necessary to submit reports fortnightly.

One Coy reported that a lottery for money prizes had been run. This is not considered desirable; in future lotteries may only be run for prizes in kind.

Musical instruments are extremely difficult to obtain and any Coy discovering an odd instrument should immediately report its whereabouts (if not interested in its acquisition themselves) in order that it may be obtained by a Coy that can use it.

It is hoped to find it possible to form a Group Band which can be used for the entertainment of all Coys.

2. IDEAS WORTH CONSIDERING.

Any very good ideas were forthcoming and the best of these are quoted below as being worthy of adoption by other Companies:

Boxing gloves have been made by a Coy tailor from blanket material obtained locally. (L.O. 120 Coy will give details).

Prizes have been given for the best guard of the month.

Arts and Crafts competitions for which prizes have been given. (Men interested in carving can be provided with a certain amount of PERSPRY (aeroplane glass) which makes excellent material for this type of work).

Bowls, draughts and net-ball posts have been made by Coys themselves. (N.B. services might help with bowls if it is not found possible to cope with the volume of them in Coys).

A certain amount of useful stationery (playing cards, games etc) has been bought in Florence.

A rifle practice competition is being arranged by one company. (This is

5483

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A certain amount of useful stationary (playing cards, games etc) has been bought in Florence.

A rifle practice competition is being arranged by one company. (This is good and other companies should follow suit - improvised ranges can be used). This R.O. will always be contacted before any firing takes place.

Chestnut flour has been obtained to make a few cakes for a centeen. This commodity is dear and scarce but the scheme is a good one if it is possible.

One Coy has been fortunate enough to obtain the services of a local civilian concert party.

Three Coys have formed choirs and it is hoped to find one or all good enough to give concerts to other Companies.

P.T.O.

5483

REPORT

ITALIAN WELFARE - 59 AREA

Welfare
59 Area
WEL/18/2
10 Mar 45

Commander, 59 Area.

Copy to: ADAMS, HQ, 2 District.
ADAMS, c/o Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C. (MIA) Rome.

Sir,

I have the honour to make the following Progress Report on the progress of Italian Welfare in this Area.

1. LEGANO GROUP

The sum of £70 allocated by HQ No. 1 District for expenditure for general Welfare purposes for the Legano Group was expended by myself in the purchase of the following items for welfare which were passed over to 52 HLI for distribution.

- 50 Packs Italian playing cards
- 50 Tomatoes
- 1 Mandolin
- 50 Draughts
- 24 Pocket Chess
- 5 Footballs
- 5 Dominoes

A small quantity of Italian books and novels from my "Civilians for the Troops Collection" at Welfare Centre was also handed over for the military hospital.

2. ITALIAN BATTALIONS (502, 503 and 519 Security Div)

(a) General

A Committee of Italian civilians formed in Sien (with a view to assisting) the Welfare of the Italian soldier has done useful work, and in this connection I have been associated with Col Croce of the Italian Army who has been delegated by the Committee to make purchases from their funds and the necessary liaison with the British authorities.

(b) Rest Rooms

A small Rest Centre where the Italian troops can gather for reading and writing has been arranged in each of the Entalio localities. There are no canteens. Facilities to date, but in the instance of 519 Div, a small quantity of cakes is devoted voluntary by the female element of the surrounding Italian civilian women.

Sir,

I have the honour to make the following progress Report on the progress of Italian Welfare in this Area.

1. LEGATO GROUP

The sum of £70 allocated by HQ No. 1 District for expenditure for general welfare purposes for the Legato Group was expended by myself in the purchase of the following items for Welfare which were passed over to 52 HLI for distribution.

30 Packs Italian playing cards
 50 Books
 1 Mandolin
 50 Draughts
 24 Pocket Chess
 5 Footballs
 5 Dominoes

A small quantity of Italian books and novels from my "Civilians for the Troops Collection" at Welfare Centre was also handed over for the military hospital.

2. ITALIAN BATTALIONS (502, 503 and 519 Security Bns)

(a) General

A Committee of Italian civilians formed in Siena (with a view to assisting the Welfare of the Italian soldier has done useful work, and in this connection I have been associated with Col Grece of the Italian Army who has been delegated by the Committee to make purchases from their funds and the necessary liaison with the British authorities.

(b) Rest Rooms

A small Rest Centre where the Italian troops can gather for reading and writing has been arranged in each of the Battalion localities. There are no canteens ⁴⁸² facilities to date, but in the instance of 519 Bn, a small quantity of cakes is donated voluntarily by the female element of the surrounding Italian civilian population who visit on Sundays at 1400 hrs to hand their gifts in person to the soldiers.

(c) Amenities

Each of these Battalions has to date received a small quantity of Welfare items purchased from the funds of this Committee and in this connection the Area was able to assist by the loan on several occasions of a requisitioned cinema for the purposes of matinee Italian film showings to the public to augment these funds. The items which to date have been distributed direct to the Battalions by the Committee include small quantities of Cards, Writing paper, Newspapers and Books, Wine and Cigarettes. Distribution of the latter item being 3 per head.

Difficulties are experienced in purchasing by this Committee and I have been able to assist here by securing 115 Draught sets complete and 75 Lotto sets from

Italian sources which have been made available to the Committee at cost price on the undertaking that they were distributed without charge equally among the Partisans.

(d) Entertainment

I have arranged for free cinema entertainment at the Italian Supermarkets in Siena for both the Legation Group and Italian Battalions. In the latter instance, 519 Bn are best able to avail themselves of these facilities by reason of their location and batches of 1,000 free passes are made available to the Officer Commanding as and when required. In the case of 502 and 503 Bns the Area Commander has directed that parties be permitted to visit the Cinemas when trucks are collecting rations.

(e) Future Policy

I have to-day been informed by ADAMS HQ, 2 District that a Major CRESSI will be reporting as Italian Welfare Officer to the Legation Group at the conclusion of a Welfare Course in Rome and that an Italian Staff Captain Welfare is expected to report to HQ Italian Bns within the next few days. I will make a point of contacting these Officers at the earliest opportunity with a view to co-ordinating Italian Welfare to the best advantage in this Area.

No. This
will be
verified by
the other
units
W.P.
Hain
Major,
D.I.D., I.W.S.

(e) Private Reply
I have to-day been informed by MAJOR HO, 2 District that a Major CRASSI will be reporting an Italian Welfare Officer to the Legation Group at the conclusion of a Welfare Course in Rome and that an Italian Staff Captain Welfare is expected to report to HQ Italian Ins within the next few days. I will make a point of contacting these Officers at the earliest opportunity with a view to co-ordinating Italian Welfare to the best advantage in this area.

No. This
make with the
headquarters
the
Major,
D.A.D.I., F.S.
P
H. J. [Signature]

5401

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

Subject: Monthly Progress and
Information Report.

YSL/4071/W1.

TO: Italian Welfare,
c/o LF Sub-Commission A.C.
M.M.I.A. (Rome)

Tele: Baseball 133.

8 /Mar/45.

Reference telephone conversation Lt. Col. McCann - J. Comd.
Beck of March 7, 45.

May a short report of events in your Section please be forwarded
to reach this H.Q. by the 6th day of each month, for inclusion in
the Monthly Progress and Information Report.

It is confirmed that your name has been added to the Distribution
List.

ME/MR

J. Beck
J. Comd.
Staff Captain.
Brigadier.
(for)
Director of Army Welfare Services.

SUBJECT: Welfare - RTC ICF.

7^A W
Land Forces Sub Comd. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
A/27.
26 Feb'45.

Ministry of War
Ufficio Benessere del Soldato.

Copy to :- BIU RTC ICF. (your 9/1/1 of 23 Feb refers).
" " A.D.A.W.S. MMIA.

1. Attached are extracts from a letter reporting on Welfare needs for the Reinforcement Training Depot.
2. It is suggested that you do your utmost to meet the requirements of this depot training, as it does, the reinforcements for the fighting troops in the Combat Groups.
3. Please notify this HQ of the amounts of Welfare stores supplied against these requirements.
4. It is considered that your planning should be on the basis of a strength figure of 12,000 with a monthly turnover of 2,000.
5. The above will mean that the entitlement to "La Patria" and "Italia" will be 1,500 copies.

W. FIDSLEY, Colonel.
for MAJOR GENERAL,
M.M.I.A.

5480

7/3

WELFARE - RTC ICF

1. The position in regard to the issue of Welfare goods to the RTC ICF remains unsatisfactory. It is most essential that O i/c Welfare at the RTC be given every help in obtaining material for the furtherance of Welfare amenities at this Centre.

2. The Welfare goods so far issued are:-

- (a) Pacchi Dono - 1500 (1 more promised)
- (b) Footballs - 2
- (c) Cinema projector (35 mm) - 1
- (d) Italia - 500 Copies per week.
- (e) "Live" Entertainment - first shows 20 Feb '45. One performance every day evening from 1500 hrs to 1750 hrs at CESANO only.

3. It is requested that the Ministero della Guerra be approached and asked to make every effort to produce the following:-

- (a) Pacchi Dono
This would mean:- (one per new recruit entering RTC ICF.)
I An immediate issue of 10,500
II A monthly issue of 3,000 (starting 1 Mar.)

(b) Footballs
This would only give one each to the RTC ICF HQ, 3 Regt HQ's 9 Bns, C.I.R., 7 Schools, and four footballs as "reserve".
It is appreciated that footballs are in extremely short supply, but Football is a popular game in the Italian Army and it is requested that the most energetic steps be taken to produce footballs.

(c) Bocce
- 12 Sets.
There should be no difficulty in manufacturing Bocce Balls even if the most suitable wood is not available in occupied Italy - they could be made with a softer wood as a temporary measure.

- (d) Gym Sets.
- Parallel Bars - 9
 - Horizontal - 6
 - Vaulting Horses - 12
 - Spring Boards - 20

- (e) Tux - 0 - War Rones - 12
 - (f) Basket Ball balls - 12
- Basket Ball is second in popularity only to Football.

(g) Wireless. No wireless set has yet been received. It is suggested that at least 6 wireless sets be made available. This would only give one wireless set per

- HQ RTC.
- No 1 Regt.
- No 2 Regt.
- No 3 Regt. less 7 Bn (in separate Barracks).
- 7 Bn.
- D & M School/ Mechanics School.

- (a) Facchi Dono
 This would mean:- (one per new recruits entering RTC ICF.)
 I An immediate issue of 10,500
 II A monthly issue of 3,000 (starting 1 Mar.)
- (b) Footballs
 This would only give one each to the RTC ICF Hd. 3 Regt. HQ's 9 Bns, CC.RR. 7 Schools, and four footballs as "reserve". It is appreciated that footballs are in extremely short supply, but Football is a popular game in the Italian Army and it is requested that the most energetic steps be taken to produce footballs.
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|-----------------|------|
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 No 3 Regt. less 7 Bn (in separate Barracks).
 7 Bn.
 D & M School/ Mechanics School.
- It is again appreciated that wireless sets are scarce but they are available at a price (30-50,000 Lire) in Rome or alternately could they be requisitioned from houses in Rome have 2 or more which they cannot (or should not) use owing to the electricity rationing.
- (h) Cinema. One projector (35 mm) is in operation at No 1 Regt and films are changed every week. It is requested that two more projectors (35 mm) are made available immediately. This would enable No. 2 Regt to have a cinema and the theatre to be adapted for use as a cinema. There is no problem in obtaining films for entertainment.

5479

(2)

(j) Canteens. are being organised on the basis of at least one per Regt. It is requested that an issue against payment of extra:-

- I Flour
- II Margarine
- III Dried Fruit
- IV Sugar
- V Coffee

be made for making cakes and hot drinks. Other goods are obtainable from local purchase. It is requested that Toilet Articles such as:-

- Toilet Soap
- Shaving Soap
- Tooth Paste etc. etc.

either be made available from NAAMI stocks or that the Ministero della Guerra be asked to make contracts for the supply of these goods at a reasonable price.

(k) Newspapers.

I Italia. May the allotment to the RTC be increased to 2,000 per week?

II Patria. It is requested that 2,000 copies per day be allotted to this Centre.

(l) Books and Periodicals. Libraries are needed badly - they should be at least on Bn level. Every effort is being made to obtain books - but results are so far disappointing.

(m) Italian Red Cross. Ref WIL letter 10/11 of 15 Dec '44. May the Ministero della Guerra be asked to have a detachment of the Italian Red Cross permanently established that RW to help and advise Italian troops as laid down in your letter?

SUBJECT: Italian Welfare.

J. J. ...
4A
A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/F/4.
17 Jan. 45.

Spec Sec. M.M.I.A.

1. Ref. conversation Col. Spec Sec.- ADAWS.
2. Herewith copies of notes on Italian Welfare.

W
Lt.Col.
A.D.A.W.S.

5477

W

23.
Notes on the present position of Italian welfare
in relation to operational troops.

1. There exists at the Ministry of War, working under the control of the director of Welfare Brig. Gen. Tamassia, a section of the directorate which deals with all welfare matters affecting operational troops, controlled by the Stato Maggiore. The head of this section is Col. Micaletti.

2: Personnel

(i) Welfare W/E for combat groups has been approved by W.E.C. giving to each an officer, a clerk, a driver and a car. In this connection one of the officers at present on a course (finishing 2 Feb) at the Br. Army Welfare training centre is earmarked for posting to Combat Group "Friuli".

(ii) Proposals giving welfare W/E to Adm. Div HQs and Territorial HQ's use now under consideration.

3.

(i) Army Daily Newspaper Final plans, agreed by the War Ministry, are at the moment with AFHQ. If approved the daily paper "La Patria" can go to press at once. It will have a circulation of 60,000 and will be printed at Florence, Rome and Bari. If approved in time Italian welfare hope that the publication date will be 1 Feb.

(ii) Weekly Newspaper The weekly newspaper "Italia", already in production under the control of the War Ministry for the army, has a circulation figure of 60,000. It will continue to be published together with "La Patria" and under the same control.

4.

Canteens. Work is at present in progress in connection with the production of a scale of rations to be proposed for canteens with operational units. Authorization would be at the discretion of Corps and District Commanders, on a strength basis: the type visualized is somewhat on the lines of those operating in British Units under GRC 717/44 modified to meet the different circumstances. The Italian Welfare Service has been asked to state what types of commodities they can obtain from local resources.

5:

Rest Camp. Premises have been set aside in Reno for a Rest Centre, accommodating initially 200, and later 500. It will be opened as soon as authority is granted for drawing rations for the men; this matter has been referred to AFHQ for the necessary authorization, and it is hoped that it will be shortly forthcoming. It is intended **5476** the Centre will be used for those men whose horses are in that part of Italy which is still in

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6. Communications. A scheme has been worked out, and awaits authorization, whereby all Italian troops can communicate by means of a special service postcard with their families in the most recently liberated areas, where normal civil postal facilities have not been resumed. The necessary enquiries for delivery and completion, and the return of the card to the Italian Military Post Office for delivery to the enquirer, will be carried out by the Carabinieri.

7. Radio Communications with Occ. Italy.

Military personnel can send, radio messages to occupied Italy through the Vatican Radio Station; request are put up through C.O's to the Directorate of Italian Army Welfare.

8. General.

In addition to the above, ^{steps} ~~steps~~ are being taken in connection with the organization of entertainments for the troops, ~~with~~ live and film, and also of the various Women's Voluntary Bodies. Authority has been obtained for the provision of cars for the use of Welfare Service Officer attached to formations, and it is hoped to obtain more as appointments are made.

14A
9
SUBJECT: Italian Army Welfare Interim Report No. 2.

A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEL/P/14.
16 Jan. 45.

Army Welfare Services,
A.P.H.Q. C.M.F.

Copy to: A/Q, M.M.I.A.

1. Ref. WEL/P/5 of 15 Jan.
2. To avoid delay it is proposed, with your agreement, to forward to you interim reports on Italian Welfare covering individual subjects rather than waiting until concrete proposals have been produced by Italian Welfare for the whole service.
3. The following notes cover certain points raised in my previous report :-
 - (i) Training. Two officers, Majors, have been selected; and are attending the present course at Br. ANTC. It is proposed that one of these on completion of the course, be posted as Welfare officer, to the "Friuli" Combat Group, now in a forward area.
 - (ii) Newspaper. Rulings are awaited on the plan submitted under ref. WEL/N/3 of 18 Jan. The weekly newspaper "Italia", which is also controlled by the proposed C.C. for "la Patria" has a circulation of 50,000 and is printed in Rome. Arrangements have now been made for 500 copies of "Italia" to be issued weekly to the Combat Group Reinforcement Training Depot at Cesano. Sunny
 - (iii) Rest Camps. A decision is awaited on the proposal for the issue of rations submitted to you under ref. WEL/R of 17 Jan.
 - (iv) Visits. Gen. Temassia has now visited the Alexander Club and the Y.M.C.A. Centenary Club in Rome, in order to see further aspects of the working of British Welfare.
 - (v) Postal Service.

5474

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3. The following notes cover certain points raised in my previous report :-

(1) Training. Two officers, majors, have been selected; and are attending the present course at Br. AWTC. It is proposed that one of these on completion of the course, be posted as Welfare officer, to the "Friuli" Combat Group, now in a forward area.

(ii) Newspaper. Rulings are awaited on the plan submitted under ref. WEL/N/3 of 18 Jan. The weekly newspaper "Italia", which is also controlled by the proposed C.C. for "La Patria" has a circulation of 60,000 and is printed in Rome. Arrangements have now been made for 500 copies of "Italia" to be issued weekly to the Combat Group Reinforcement Training Depot at Cesano.

(iii) Rest Camps. A decision is awaited on the proposal for the issue of rations submitted to you under ref. WEL/H of 17 Jan.

(iv) Visits. Gen. Tamassia has now visited the Alexander Club and the Y.M.C.A. Centenary Club in Rome, in order to see further aspects of the working of British Welfare. 5474

(v) Postal Service.

Italian Welfare has proposed the institution of a postal service, by means of a proforma postcard, in forward areas not yet served by civilian postal service. This is under consideration at this HQ

It. Col.

A.D.A.W.S.

W

SECRETLiaison Log No.15. 1 - 21 Feb'45.Rear HQ. 8th Army.Para. 11.WELFARE.

Gen TOMASELLI will shortly open a Canteen in RAVENNA alongside one for CREMONA I.C.G. The present situation in RAVENNA is not good and at present no house large enough for a communal canteen is available.

An Italian civilian car has been converted into a Public address truck for both wireless and gramophone programmes. This tours the units of 228 Div in rotation.

Col.ROSSI-PASSAVANTI posted by Ministry of War as Welfare Officer in January, although untrained on our lines, is extraordinarily productive and an excellent organiser.

It.Col.DI BLASI is still with CREMONA Gp. where he recently caused a stir by communicating direct to GOC 5 Corps that he was unable to accommodate a canteen for the Gruppo. This resulted in Corps HQ canteen being evacuated at 24 hrs notice to make room. It.Col.DI BLASI is not popular. Gen.TOMASELLI will not allow him near any of his establishment, chiefly, I think, because of his own organisation having been set up before DI BLASI's arrival and of his reluctance to see PASSAVANTI's ambitious schemes for the future being perhaps sabotaged by a newcomer. I intend to keep DI BLASI with CREMONA and let him control the mobiles from there when they arrive.

PWE still continue to provide films for Cinema shows in CESTNA and FORLI which are a successful addition to entertainment facilities.

An energetic band of women, wearing 228 Div flash as a brooch and under the direction of Gen Tomaselli, have been recruited in CESTNA to give local help in entertaining Italian troops and organising Welfare activities such as Concerts, as well as normal routine in the Canteens.

5473

B.G. CAREW-HUNT. Major.
R.M.I.A. Rear 8th Army.

*Strike Gen Passavanti
5 Mar He will discuss
DI Blasi with Gen Tomaselli
during his forthcoming visit
last night 7-15 Mar
S/M*

Extracts from report on welfare from G.O.C. 2nd Div.

22 Feb 45

WV
LA

Morale Welfare

- ① 5% leave has been allowed by G Army & has been successful.
- ② Field service postcard a scheme for this has been put forward to M of W.
- ③ Weekly Newspaper 'Le Peuple' In spite of difficulties circulation has reached 6000. Distributed to units & to Club Groups.
- ④ Comics Albums. PWS G Army issue a number of which are distributed to units.
- ⑤ Broadcasting G Army station gives ten times a day
- ⑥ News A mobile loudspeaker is used to give news to units.
- ⑦ Information Office at Div HQ for information of families - families in enemy occupied Italy & prisoners of war.
- ⑧ There is a demand military canteen.

Material Welfare

- ① Two mobile canteens. Supplies on repayment from Allies, & also those locally purchased.
- ② Static Canteens at Rimini, Cesena, Forlì, & Faenza. Supplies on repayment from Allies.
- ③ Welfare Canteens incl. rest rooms, writing rooms, radio etc

5472

over

no preparation at Ravenna + Pesaro.

- ④ Scuola Circolare Femmine Assolte Milan ~~Italy~~ Italian
Voluntary service by ladies for morale welfare, teaching foreign languages, education, typing + shorthand, worked in rest rooms.
- ⑤ Dr. Conscientious Objectors In preparation at Rimini (Rimini)
- ⑥ Money grants have been made to needy soldiers + needy families of soldiers.
- ⑦ Packies Dons have been distributed.
- ⑧ Portable stage available.
- ⑨ Cinema shows at Leri, Pesaro, Rimini + Cesena.
- ⑩ Live Entertainment by local artistes at Leri, Rimini, Cesena, Forlì + Faenza.
Military concert parties are being organised.
- ⑪ Sports. Teams have been organised + encouraged.

OBJECT To educate the soldier to have a high morale, to be proud to fight beside the Allies, + for his return to civil life

2 Mar.

1 2 4 3

E