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

10000/120/3477

mE/43

ACC

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

10000/120/3477

ME/43

Sitreps + Reports

Aug. 1946 - Jan. 1947

2082
2147
2nd Cover

(13)

TERMS OF PAYMENT AND PRICES - ARAR.

To : G.I.

27 August 1947

1. A meeting took place on 25 August '47 between Dr. DE MARCHE (President of ARAR) and Lt. Col. McLEAN, ADME.

2. The object of the meeting was to clarify the situation with which ADME has been confronted recently in endeavouring to persuade the various Directorates within the Ministry of Defence (Army) to purchase stocks of urgently needed technical spares ex ARAR, where prices had been considered excessive in comparison with funds available and for which immediate payment had been demanded.

3. Dr. DE MARCHE stated that at a recent meeting of C.I.R. (Comitato Interministeriale Ricostruzione)* a treasury grant for 1947/8 to the Ministry of Defence had been discussed, and it was decided that the grant would be utilised under two separate headings for the purpose of purchasing Army requirements from ARAR. This would automatically overcome difficulties which had arisen in the past when it was necessary for all purchases to be paid for on a cash basis.

a) One milliard lire would be allocated to Ministry of Defence requirements coming under the heading of stores essentially of a war like nature and of an urgent and immediate requirement.

b) One milliard would be allocated to cover such stores as were likely to be of interest to both the Ministry of Defence and the civilian market.

4. ARAR are at the moment endeavouring to reach an agreement with the War Ministry as to the division of stores under these two headings.

5. A further point of direct concern was discussed regarding ADME's recent recommendation to the War Ministry to obtain from ARAR the entire PONTECAGNANO Depot holding of Tank

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

1. A meeting took place on 25 August '47 between Dr. DE MARCHI (President of ARAR) and Lt. Col. McLEAN, ADME.

2. The object of the meeting was to clarify the situation with which ADME has been confronted recently in endeavouring to persuade the various Directorates within the Ministry of Defence (Army) to purchase stocks of urgently needed technical spares ex ARAR, where prices had been considered excessive in comparison with funds available and for which immediate payment had been demanded.

3. Dr. DE MARCHI stated that at a recent meeting of C.I.R. (Comitato Interministerinle Ricostruzione)+ a treasury grant for 1947/8 to the Ministry of Defence had been discussed, and it was decided that the grant would be utilised under two seperate headings for the purpose of purchasing Army requirements from ARAR. This would automatically overcome difficulties which had arisen in the past when it was necessary for all purchases to be paid for on a cash basis.

a) One milliard lire would be allocated to Ministry of Defence requirements coming under the heading of stores essentially of a war like nature and of an urgent and immediate requirement.

b) One milliard would be allocated to cover such stores as were likely to be of interest to both the Ministry of Defence and the civilian market.

4. ARAR are at the moment endeavouring to reach an agreement with the War Ministry as to the division of stores under these two headings.

5. A further point of direct concern was discussed regarding ADME's recent recommendation to the War Ministry to obtain from ARAR the entire PONTEDERA/NO Depot holding of Tank engines, the which amounts to :-

	Approx Quantity
Continental Radial 9 cyl.	60
" " 7 cyl.	60
Chrysler multibank	12

and for which ARAR had been reported as asking prices in excess of what could be reasonably afforded from available funds. Valuations were produced by Dr DE MARCHI for the types

+ See foot note.

2/.....

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

of engine in question which were considered to be very reasonable. A comparative estimate of which is as follows :-

Description.	RRM Est.	ARAR Est.
Continental 9 cyl.	300.000	300.000
" 7 "	250.000	300.000
Chrysler multibank	450.000	500.000

Further more Dr. DE MARCHE stated that ARAR are now in the process of reviewing these prices with the object of a further possible decrease or even meeting the War Ministry request to release them at scrap metal rates.

6. In conclusion, it is interesting to note that there is at last an endeavour to facilitate the purchase of future stores by a more convenient financial arrangement, a factor which has long been of considerable magnitude, and that stores, at least of a purely war like nature, ~~will~~ are likely to be available at more reasonable prices.

Churchman.
Lt.Col.

NOTE: "COMITATO INTERMINISTERIALE RICOSTRUZIONE" - A committee attached to the President of the Council of Ministers and is formed of the following members :-

Minister for the Treasury.
" of Transport.
" for Industry and Commerce.
President of ARAR.
High Commissioner of Health.

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

request to release them at [illegible]

6. In conclusion, it is interesting to note that there is at last an endeavour to facilitate the purchase of future stores by a more convenient financial arrangement, a factor which has long been of considerable magnitude, and that stores, at least of a purely war like nature, ~~will~~ are likely to be available at more reasonable prices.

Churchill.
A.V.Alex.

NOTE: "COMITATO INTERMINISTERIALE RIDOSTRUZIONE" - A committee attached to the President of the Council of Ministers and is formed of the following members :-

Minister for the Treasury.
" of Transport.
" for Industry and Commerce.
President of ARAR.
High Commissioner of Health.

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

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

FILE 130143 (12)

SEE HEF

FILE No ME/43/12/LF

'2' BUCK SLIP

DATE	SECTION OF SERVICE FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED
18.8.47.	R E M E	G I	Reference para 5 of 6 B L U report. 1. A complete inventary was taken of all equipment, both vehicle and wireless test, at the time of the hand over between Reps of 711 Telecom. W/shop and 6 BLU, a copy which is held in REME files this HQ. 2. REME GHQ has been approached with a view to providing a replacement for Cpl. MARSTON (Wireless Mech.) but state this is quite impossible - knowing the REME personnel position I regret this is true. 3. I have spoken to the M. of D. regarding the storing of the special Tools and have their assurance these will be delivered direct to SAN FELICE. 6 BLU are watching this point. Lt. Col. A.D.M.E.

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

(11)

FILE

FILE No ME/43/11/LF

REME BUCK SLIP

DATE	SECTION OF SERVICE FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED
16.8.47.	R E M E	'G'	Herewith for information minutes of meeting held at the HQ 6 Territorial Command on 13 Aug. '47.
	Copy to:	'Q'	For information.

Lt. Col,
A.D.M.E.

Minutes of a Meeting held at 6 Territorial Command, 13 Aug. '47.

1. In attendance.

Lt. Col. Cangini.	Vice-Cheif of Staff, 6 COMMILITER.
Lt.Col.McLean. M.B.E.	AFHQ., ILFB.
Maj. Fenn.	6 BLU.
Maj. Writer.	6 BLU.
Capt. Northey.	6 BLU.

2. Proposal.

The difficulties regarding the maintenance of a detachment of 12 BLU at BOLOGNA, on disbandment of 6 BLU, were explained by Lt.Co. McLean, and certain proposals were made whereby it would be possible to maintain such a Detachment with the aid of 6 COMILITER. Lt.Col. Cangini was unable to give immediate acceptance to the proposals, but promised to investigate the matter thoroughly and give all assistance in his power. He promised a firm decision after discussing the matter with the concerned Superior Authorities. Proposals made and suggestions regarding future maintenance are briefly outlined in ensuing paragraphs.

3. W.E. (12 BLU Detachment.)

(a) Personnel. Officers.....2
O.Rs.....5 (maximum).

(b) Vehicles. Light Cars.....2.
15cwt.G.S.....1.

4. Civilians required surplus to W.E. (to be supplied by 6 COMILITER)

Cooks.....1 (Officers' Mess).
Waiter General.....1 (" ")
Washerwoman.....1.(O.Rs.)
Drivers.....3.
Clerks (English speaking).....2. Total :- 8.

5. Accommodation.

It was pointed out that all existing accommodation was held under British requisition and would have to be returned on disbandment of 6 BLU. The following request was therefore made.

(a) Officers. A small villa or apartment. ~~furnished suitably~~ It was considered that the existing Officers' Mess was too large and uneconomical, particularly during the winter months when heating was impossible without very large expense.

(b) O.Rs. To be provided with suitable accommodation for sleeping and eating from available Italian Army barracks. Food to be cooked by I.A. cooks, but all meals to be served separately owing to different composition of rations.

No difficulties were envisaged with regard to furniture as availabilities would be made from that at present on charge to 6 BLU.

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

a firm decision after discussing [illegible]
Authorities. Proposals made and suggestions regarding future maintenance are briefly outlined in ensuing paragraphs.

3. W.E. (12 HLU Detachment.)

(a) Personnel. Officers.....2
O.Rs.....5 (maximum).

(b) Vehicles. Light Cars.....2.
15cwt.G.S.....1.

4. Civilians required surplus to W.E. (to be supplied by 6 COMLITER)

Cooks.....1 (Officers' Mess).
Waiter General.....1 (" ")
Washerwoman.....1.(O.Rs.)
Drivers.....3.
Clerks (English speaking).....2. Total :- 8.

5. Accommodation.

It was pointed out that all existing accommodation was held under British requisition and would have to be returned on disbandment of 6 HLU.
The following request was therefore made.

(a) Officers. A small villa or apartment. ~~furnished suitably~~ It was considered that the existing Officers' Mess was too large and uneconomical, particularly during the winter months when heating was impossible without very large expense.

(b) O.Rs. To be provided with suitable accommodation for sleeping and eating from available Italian Army barracks. Food to be cooked by I.A. cooks, but all meals to be served separately owing to different composition of rations.

No difficulties were envisaged with regard to furniture as availabilities would be made from that at present on charge to 6 HLU.
It was pointed out that should alternative accommodation have to be found for O.Rs, the civilian staff would have to be increased by at least two, i n order for efficient administration.

6. Rations.

As at present, i.e., Dry ration from British sources, fresh ration on repayment from It.Army sources. Dry rations to be drawn from 12 HLU, ROME.

7. P.O.L.

Subject to confirmation by AFHQ, ILFB., as at present from CIP (petrol only.)
Lubricants against mo nthly indent from 12 HLU, ROME.

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

8. Pay.

Imprest Account to be operated as at present, subject to agreement by Command Paymaster. Title of Imprest Holder to be redesignated "O.C. Detachment 12 BLU."

9. General.

Clothing, disinfectants, soap, etc., monthly from 12 BLU, ROME.

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

Rene 10

SAN FELICE and FORLI Vehicle

Perks

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF

JULY, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

Q 131/LF
GOC
Rene

1. SITUATION.

Make & Type	SAN FELICE Cl. 1	SAN FELICE Cl. 2	SAN FELICE Cl. 3	FORLI Cl. 1	FORLI Cl. 2	FORLI Cl. 3	GRAND TOTAL	REMARKS
Sherman 1B/105.....	11						11	
" 1/75.....	6						6	Incl. 1 ex LEGHORN
" IB/17 pdr.....	3						3	
" II/75.....	7						7	Incl. 3 ex LEGHORN
" III/75.....	12	5					17	
" III/Dozer.....	1						1	
" V/75.....	95	2					97	
" VC/17 pdr.....	25						25	
S.P. M7/105.....	11	23	43				77	1 to BRACCIANO
" " M10/3".....	1	23					24	1 to BRACCIANO
Staghound I/37.....	24	30	50				104	+ 8 CENTRAL SCHOOLS
" II/3" How.....	11	1	5				17	
" AA.....	2	1	1				4	
Greyhound/37.....	19	8	1	17		20	65	

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

1. SITUATION.

Make & Type	SAN FELICE Cl. 1	SAN FELICE Cl. 2	SAN FELICE Cl. 3	FORLI Cl. 1	FORLI Cl. 2	FORLI Cl. 3	GRAND TOTAL	REMARKS
Sherman 1B/105.....	11						11	
" 1/75.....	6						6	Incl. 1 ex LEGHORN
" IC/17 pdr.....	3						3	
" II/75.....	7						7	Incl. 3 ex LEGHORN
" III/75.....	12	5					17	
" III/Dozer.....	1						1	
" V/75.....	95	2					97	
" VC/17 pdr.....	25						25	
S.P. M7/105.....	11	23	43				77	1 to BRACCIANO
" " M10/3".....	1	23					24	1 to BRACCIANO
Staghound I/37.....	24	30	50				104	+ 8 CENTRAL SCHOOLS
" II/3" How.....	11	1	5				17	
" AA.....	2	1	1				4	
Greyhound/37.....	19	8	1	17		20	65	
S.C.Ford MK II.....	8	4	2	5	5		24	
" " MK III.....		2					2	
" Humber MK I.....		1					1	
" " MK II.....		2					2	
Stuart Recce.....				3	6	25x	34	x2 4th Cl.
Sherman IV.....	13						13	ex LEGHORN

Rept. 5.8.47

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

2. STRENGTH

(a) British

(i) Officers . . . . . 1 Capt. HELM

(ii) O.Rs . . . . . 1 Cpl. Tele-Mech.

(b) Italian

No change.

3. ACCOUNTING

Nothing to report.

4. MAINTENANCE

During the current month, time has been largely spent in the improving and re-construction of the proposed base workshop site at SAN FELICE. All available military labour has been employed in clearing bomb damaged buildings and the general area.
None the less, a limited maintenance squad has been working on A.F.Vs., finding out "Teething troubles" for the maintenance programme, and an average of 4 A.F.Vs weekly, have been serviced in detail, and re-painted.

5. EQUIPMENT.

On the 23 Jul. '47, one Leyland Retriever Machinery Lorry, Type Z, was collected from 711 Telecom W/Shops, R.E.M.E., and has now been installed at SAN FELICE. Cpl. MARSTON, (wireless mech., R.E.M.E.), is at present checking the serviceability of the equipment, and training a senior ITALIAN N.C.O. in its use. It is not the intention to hand over this vehicle to the ITALIAN Army, until such time as it is considered that the valuable equipment can be used and maintained by them without causing damage but such equipment will be at its disposal. In this connection, Cpl. MARSTON will be proceeding on Class "A" Release 11 Aug. '47, and as it is doubtful whether the ITALIAN N.C.O's training will be completed by that date, it would be appreciated if steps could be taken for a suitable replacement (tradesman).

G.H.Q. state absolutely no chance of a replacement.

VI COMPLEX states that ALL special tools released from POMEZIA CAMPANO, are to be stored at O.A.R.E., under [illegible]

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

3. ACCOUNTING

Nothing to report.

4. MAINTENANCE

During the current month, time has been largely spent in the improving and re-construction of the proposed base workshop site at SAN FELICE. All available military labour has been employed in clearing bomb damaged buildings and the general area.
None the less, a limited maintenance squad has been working on A.F.Vs., finding out "Teething troubles" for the maintenance programme, and an average of 4 A.F.Vs weekly, have been serviced in detail, and re-painted.

5. EQUIPMENT.

On the 23 Jul. '47, one Leyland Retriever Machinery Lorry, Type Z, was collected from 711 Telecom W/Shops, R.E.M.E., and has now been installed at SAN FELICE. Cpl. MARSTON, (wireless mech., R.E.M.E.), is at present checking the serviceability of the equipment, and training a senior ITALIAN N.C.O. in its use. It is not the intention to hand over this vehicle to the ITALIAN Army, until such time as it is considered that the valuable equipment can be used and maintained by them without causing damage but such equipment will be at its disposal. In this connection, Cpl. MARSTON will be proceeding on Class "A" Release 11 Aug.'47, and as it is doubtful whether the ITALIAN N.C.O's training will be completed by that date, it would be appreciated if steps could be taken for a suitable replacement (tradesman).

GHQ stated absolutely no chance of a replacement.

VI COMMITTER states that ALL special tools released from POMEZIA/MANO, are to be stored at O.A.R.E., under orders given by the Ministry of War. As these tools would be of the utmost use to the A.F.V. W/shop, SAN FELICE, and VI COMMITTER states he is unable to query this decision, it would be appreciated if you would advise the Ministry of War, that it is considered they should be placed at the disposal of W/shop, SAN FELICE, forthwith. Sufficient storage room is available for tools not required to be used at this present time.

ORA have been instd. to deliver all Sp. tools to S. Felice - stated in 4D.

.....3/....

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

6. GENERAL

A number of applicable instructional diagrams and literature, have been received from A.F.V. Publications Section, R.A.C. School, BOVINGTON, and these have been handed to VI COMILITER. The nomenclature (in Italian), of parts has been super-imposed on the diagrams and action is being taken to translate the instructional literature.

Ministry of War requested VI COMILITER to offer his views as to the establishment of a Base Workshop for repairs of A.F.V.s, at BOLOGNA. VI COMILITER reply, (translation), is attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

Two S.P. guns (M7 and M10, were despatched by rail to BRACCIANO, 20 Jul. '47.

B. L. O'Brien.
Major DAA & QMG
6 BDU

Distribution:-

AFHQ (3 copies)
File

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

Ministry of War requested [illegible]
his views as to the establishment of a base workshop
for repairs of A.F.V.s, at BOLOGNA. VI COMILITER reply,
(translation), is attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

Two S.P. guns (M7 and M10, were despatched by rail
to BRACCIANO, 20 Jul.'47.

D. A. O'Brien
Major DAA & QMG
6 BLU

Distribution:-

AFHQ (3 copies)
File

WHW/la

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

Appendix "A" to 6 B.L.U. PROGRESS REPORT for the month of JULY, on SAN FELICE and FORLI A.F.V. Parks.

From: Territorial Command - B O L O G N A

To: The Ministry of War - R O M E

N.02/3419 21.7.47

Subject: W/SHOP FOR MAJOR REPAIRS OF COMBAT VEHICLES.

Reference to attached letter N.52714 dated 24.6.47 of the General Inspectorate of Motorisation.

The necessity for a W/shop for the major repairs of combat vehs.- tanks, light and heavy armoured cars, armoured lorries, carriers - is evident.

The repair of the three major components would be carried out in this w/shop, e.g. repairs on the hull and engine; repairs on the armament and other accessories; repairs on internal and external lines of communication, telephone, radio. -

In this manner the production would be on a standard basis and would create specialised personnel.

Having agreed upon this it is necessary now to examine which site in Bologna Territorial Command Area, is suitable for the purpose, bearing in mind that the A.F.V. Park is in Bologna and the following points:-

(a) Location;

(b) W/shop personnel;

(c) W/shop facilities;

Which of options to be adopted

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

Reference to attached letter N.52714 dated 24.6.47 of the General Inspectorate of Motorisation.

The necessity for a W/shop for the major repairs of combat vehs.- tanks, light and heavy armoured cars, armoured lorries, carriers - is evident.

Policy of repairs to be adopted

The repair of the three major components would be carried out in this w/shop, e.g. repairs on the hull and engine; repairs on the armament and other accessories; repairs on internal and external lines of communication, telephone, radio. -

In this manner the production would be on a standard basis and would create specialised personnel.

Having agreed upon this it is necessary now to examine which site in Bologna Territorial Command Area, is suitable for the purpose, bearing in mind that the A.F.V. Park is in Bologna and the following points:-

(a) Location;

(b) W/shop personnel;

(c) W/shop facilities;

(d) Installations;

(e) Time necessary to transform the premises into a W/shop.

The Artillery installations existing in this Territory that can be taken into consideration, are the Arsenal in PIACENZA and the ex-Pirotecnico in BOLOGNA.

....2/...

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

Piacenza & Pirotecnico not considered suitable

The Arsenal in Piacenza has undoubtedly the necessary lay-out, except for the engine overhaul.

It has, though, a large staff, a small part of which is highly specialised in artillery repairs, and the remainder is not sufficiently skilled to be quickly trained into another branch of repairs.

It is also far away from BOLOGNA, and it would take considerable time and money to move to PIACENZA the equipment to be repaired.

The ex-Pirotecnico has the advantage of being in a suitable location; it has not a good staff trained on mechanical repairs, it lacks personnel trained on engine repairs, it has a good set up for light mechanical repairs, but lacks machinery for heavy mechanical repairs and for engine repairs and hull repairs. The installation is also not suitable for the proposed repairs.

It is also impossible to better the installation as the 3rd Artillery Barracks is still being used by the Allies who will not release it in the near future.

By combining the 2 installations, we perceive that:-

- The ex-Pirotecnico has the advantage of a favourable location and of a good staff for mechanical repairs. It lacks a part of the necessary machinery and of the necessary installation.
- The Arsenal in Piacenza is not favourably located and the staff is not as suitable as that in the Pirotecnico;

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

take considerable time and money to move to PIACENZA the equipment to be repaired.

The ex-Pirotecnico has the advantage of being in a suitable location; it has not a good staff trained on mechanical repairs, it lacks personnel trained on engine repairs, it has a good set up for light mechanical repairs, but lacks machinery for heavy mechanical repairs and for engine repairs and hull repairs. The installation is also not suitable for the proposed repairs.

It is also impossible to better the installation as the 3rd Artillery Barracks is still being used by the Allies who will not release it in the near future.

By combining the 2 installations, we perceive that:-

- The ex-Pirotecnico has the advantage of a favourable location and of a good staff for mechanical repairs. It lacks a part of the necessary machinery and of the necessary installation.
- The Arsenal in Piacenza is not favourably located and the staff is not so suitable as that in the Pirotecnico; it has more machinery available and has a better installation.
- Both establishments lack almost totally personnel and machinery for engine repairs.

...3/...

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

- Both establishments would take a comparatively long time to be transferred for the purpose required.

The situation offered by the ex-Pirotecnico would be much better if it were possible to find in Bologna another military installation which could offer the necessary staff, machinery and accommodation. -

This installation exists and is the 6th Repair Unit. In this unit the ex-Pirotecnico would find the necessary skilled personnel in automobilistic repairs and a large part of the necessary machinery, and a suitable accommodation.

Also, as the two installations are near each other, it would save considerable time in the transforming of the W/shops.

If this solution were accepted, it would be necessary to find some other establishment to take care of the automobilistic repairs of 6 Territorial Command. As an interim solution until another w/shop could be set up, I think that the 15 Repair Unit in PIACENZA can take care of all the necessary work.

When this is accomplished, it would be necessary to set up an organisation for the repair of the lines of communication. This would not present great difficulties.

With regard to the Service Station to be set up at the V.P., I think it is useful to regard the similar set-up in the Allied Armies:-

Solution

Can be handled in 6 Repair Unit.

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

Solution

Unit. In this unit the ex-Pirotecnico would find the necessary skilled personnel in automobilistic repairs and a large part of the necessary machinery, and a suitable accommodation.

Also, as the two installations are near each other, it would save considerable time in the transforming of the W/shops.

If this solution were accepted, it would be necessary to find some other establishment to take care of the automobilistic repairs of 6 Territorial Command. As an interim solution until another w/shop could be set up, I think that the 15 Repair Unit in PIACENZA can take care of all the necessary work.

Can be handled in 6 Repair Unit

When this is accomplished, it would be necessary to set up an organisation for the repair of the lines of communication. This would not present great difficulties.

With regard to the Service Station to be set up at the V.P., I think it is useful to regard the similar set-up in the Allied Armies:-

- Mechanics - with ~~small~~ units; (within unit est.)
- 1st Line W/Shop - L.A.D.;
- 2nd " " - Brigade W/Shop;
- 3rd " " - A.A.W/shop.

3rd echelon work is to be done by 6 Rep Unit.

The V.P. W/Shop should be a 3rd line W/shop. No. Could do assembly change only for tank vehicles.

The duties would be:-

- Changing of components;
- Create specialised military personnel to be sent to Unit

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

W/shop and LABs as soon as they are organised. Naturally, the majority, if not all the personnel, should be military or militarised.

The ~~set-up~~ equipment for this W/shop would be given by the Americans three months after R Day with the distandment of the 86 Coy H.A.W. -

Only such as would be necessary to carry out maint. & servicing of minor P.R. works handed over to Rep.

Therefore, I propose to organise:-

- In BOLOGNA, a territorial installation for the major repairs of combat vehs. by uniting the ex-Pirotecnica and the 6th Repair Unit, and adding a radio laboratory.
- At the V.P., a Base W/shop with the equipment issued by the Americans with the 86 Coy H.A.W.

signed

General Commander

T.A.PIVANO

L&P/ls

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

Therefore, I propose to establish:

- In BOLOGNA, a territorial installation for the major repairs of combat vehs. by uniting the ex-Pirotecnico and the 6th Repair Unit, and adding a radio laboratory.
- At the V.P., a Base W/shop with the equipment issued by the Americans with the 86 Coy H.A.W.

signed

General Commander

T.A.PIVANO

IAP/la

Carried out by Armed Services of Army APO under Ferdinando B 6 Rep.

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

9

SAN FELICE VEHICLE PARK, BOLOGNA.

Progress Report for the month of

March, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

1. SITUATION.

The following ALLIED A.F.Vs were under the custody of the ITALIAN Army, as at 26 Mar. '47.

(a) SAN FELICE

Cars Light Armoured Greyhound	Cl. I	NIL
" " " "	Cl. II	NIL
" Med. " Staghound Mk I	Cl. I	32
" " " " "	Cl. II	30
" " " " "	Cl. III	50
" " " " Mk II	Cl. I	11
" " " " "	Cl. II	1
" " " " "	Cl. III	5
" Med. Staghound T 17 E2 A.A.	Cl. I	2
" " " " " " "	Cl. II	1
" " " " " " "	Cl. III	1
Sherman I	Cl. I	5
" IB	Cl. I	19
" IC	Cl. I	3
" II	Cl. I	4
" III	Cl. I	12
" III	Cl. II	5
" III Dozer	Cl. I	1
" V	Cl. I	95
" V	Cl. II	2
" VC	Cl. I	25
105 m.m. S.P. a/Tk M7 Mk I	Cl. I	11
" " " " " "	Cl. II	24
" " " " " "	Cl. III	43
3" S.P. Mtg M 10	Cl. I	4
" " " "	Cl. II	24

M8 6x6

T17E1. 446

M4. Lines

133

Total — 467

(b) FORLI

Car Scout Humber Mk I	Cl. II	1

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

1. SITUATION.

The following ALLIED A.F.Vs were under the custody of the ITALIAN Army, as at 26 Mar.'47.

(a) SAN FELICE

Cars Light Armoured Greyhound	Cl.I	NIL
" " " "	Cl.II	NIL
" Med. " Staghound Mk I	Cl.I	32
" " " " "	Cl.II	30
" " " " "	Cl.III	50
" " " " Mk II	Cl.I	11
" " " " "	Cl.II	1
" " " " "	Cl.III	5
" Med. Staghound T 17 M2 A.A.	Cl.I	2
" " " " " " "	Cl.II	1
" " " " " " "	Cl.III	1
Sherman I	Cl.I	5
" IB	Cl.I	19
" IC	Cl.I	3
" II	Cl.I	4
" III	Cl.I	12
" III	Cl.II	5
" III Dozer	Cl.I	1
" V	Cl.I	95
" V	Cl.II	2
" VC	Cl.I	25
105 m.m. S.P. a/tk M7 Mk I	Cl.I	11
" " " " " "	Cl.II	24
" " " " " "	Cl.III	43
3" S.P. Mtg M 10	Cl.I	1
" " " "	Cl.II	24

(b) FORLI

Car Scout Humber Mk I	Cl.II	1
" " " Mk II	Cl.II	2
" " Ford Mk II	Cl.I	13
" " " " "	Cl.II	9
" " " " "	Cl.III	2
" " " Mk III	Cl.II	2

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

Car Light Armd. Greyhound	Cl.I	30
" " " "	Cl.II	8
" " " "	Cl.III	21
Tank Light Stuart Recce	Cl.I	3
" " " "	Cl.II	6
" " " "	Cl.III	23
" " " "	Cl.IV	2

M3 - M3A1.

93.

(c) ON ISSUE

(i) Central Training School, ROME.

Car Light Armd Greyhound	Cl.I	6
" Med. Armd Staghound Mk I	Cl.I	8

2. STRENGTH (Personnel).

(a) British

(i) Officers. 1. (S/Capt. R.E.M.E.)

(ii) O.Rs. 2. (1 O.W.O. 1 Clerk).

(b) Italian

(i) Officers 5.

(ii) O.Rs. 66.

Weapon Maint.	9.	Clerks	3.
W/T "	8.	Telephone Op.	1.
Stores.	7.	D.Rs	2.
Cooks	2.	Orderlies	2.
Drivers	2.	Veh. Maint.	30.

3. ACCOUNTING

The method outlined in Appendix A to this HQ letter G/1/1/IF of 4 Mar.'47 has been adopted. Census Cards have been prepared in English and Italian (see attached copy) giving full particulars in relation to each vehicle. The collation of necessary data is a long and laborious task, severely hampered by lack of

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

(c) ON ISSUE

(i) Central Training School, ROME.

Car Light Armd Greyhound	Cl.I	6
" Med. Armd Staghound Mk I	Cl.I	8

2. STRENGTH (Personnel).

(a) British

(i) Officers. 1. (S/Capt. R.E.M.E.)

(ii) O.Rs. 2. (1 O.W.O. 1 Clerk).

(b) Italian

(i) Officers 5.

(ii) O.Rs. 66.

(Weapon Maint.	9.	Clerks	3.
(W/T "	8.	Telephone Op.	1.
(Stores.	7.	D.Rs	2.
(Cooks	2.	Orderlies	2.
(Drivers	2.	Veh. Maint.	30.

3. ACCOUNTING

The method outlined in Appendix A to this HQ letter Q/1/1/IF of 4 Mar.'47 has been adopted. Census Cards have been prepared in English and Italian (see attached copy) giving full particulars in relation to each vehicle. The collation of necessary data is a long and laborious task, severely hampered by lack of personnel. Vehicles have been checked for deficiencies of fitted equipment, and a list of such deficiencies is being prepared. It is proposed to hand a copy of this list to O.C., 12 Veh Park, who has promised to issue against deficiencies, if items are available.

Blocks of EI Brit. Nos. have been allotted to vehicles. (See attached list).

.....3/....

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

A physical check during the current month has been completed, and there are no vehicle deficiencies.

4. MAINTENANCE.

An honest endeavour has been made to follow the method outlined in the above quoted Appendix A. Fulfilment of the task has not been possible for the following reasons:-

(i) Lack of sufficiently trained personnel;

12 V.P. promised to make up. (ii) Deficiency of vehicle batteries;

Parts (iii) Inadequate battery charging equipment. 300 watt (6)

Generally, the condition of vehicles is an improvement on their original state at reception.

It should be noted that a large number of weapon pieces are highly corroded, and much time and labour is being expended in their cleaning and preserving.

now being put in c.o.p.

O.C. 12 Veh. Park has promised to make good deficiencies in batteries.

Deficient armaments have now been issued.

5. INSPECTIONS.

Insufficient technical personnel has led to the cancellation of initial inspections. This is not considered serious, as all vehicles were classified at issue.

6. EQUIPMENT.

As already indicated, kits for vehicles are being delivered in bulk. A single storey building, roughly 100 x 15 x 10 metres, adjacent to the vehicle park, has been made available for storage. This building has a concrete floor and is in good condition. Racking has been promised from TURIN Arsenal. - Arrived.

Bin Cards have been printed (see copy attached), and will be taken into use when vouchers have been delivered and checked.

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

(i) Lack of sufficiently trained personnel;

(ii) Deficiency of vehicle batteries;

(iii) Inadequate battery charging equipment.

Generally, the condition of vehicles is an improvement on their original state at reception.

It should be noted that a large number of weapon pieces are highly corroded, and much time and labour is being expended in their cleaning and preserving.

O.C. 12 Veh. Park has promised to make good deficiencies in batteries.

Deficient armaments have now been issued.

5. INSPECTIONS.

Insufficient technical personnel has led to the cancellation of initial inspections. This is not considered serious, as all vehicles were classified at issue.

6. EQUIPMENT.

As already indicated, kits for vehicles are being delivered in bulk. A single storey building, roughly 100 x 15 x 10 metres, adjacent to the vehicle park, has been made available for storage. This building has a concrete floor and is in good condition. Racking has been promised from TURIN Arsenal. - Arrived.

Bin Cards have been printed (see copy attached), and will be taken into use when vouchers have been delivered and checked.

Kit lists for each type of vehicle have been obtained from 12 Veh. Park, but need translating into ITALIAN. It is apparent that vehicles will not be completed to A, B and C lists.

....4/....

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

The sorting, identification, racking and bring ing on charge of equipment, will take considerable time (even if a trained and competent staff were available) and it is obvious that it cannot be completed in the estimated time available. Final delivery of stores has not yet been made.

Major ALTERIO, C.C. Veh. Park, accompanied by O.W.O. this unit, inspected the kit store at 12 Veh. Park, FORLI, in order to give a representative of the ITALIAN Army, an appreciation of the BRITISH method of store keeping.

Catalogues, Spare Parts Lists, Identification Lists and Maintenance Manuals, have been requested from 500 A.O.D. All will need translating into ITALIAN, be fore they can be of use.

7. GENERAL.

Now that the inclement weather has passed, one is better able to appreciate the improvements that have been made at SAN FELICE. Roofing of the vehicle sheds is completed, and the park is well laid out and administered, with the exception of lack of fire fight ing equipment of the BRITISH foam type.

The Officer Commanding, Major ALTERIO, is a capable and enthusiastic officer, who has had previous experience of this type of work (with the BRITISH Armoured Re-inforcement Group), during the ITALIAN Campaign. He has sound ideas, but is hopelessly hampered by lack of personnel and equipment. This is dealt with in the subsequent paragraph. Given the required assist ance, I have no doubt he will produce the desired re- sult.

8. CONCLUSION.

If the ITALIAN Government is to obtain the maximum benefit from the equipments placed at their disposal, it is of primary importance that the competent ITALIAN Military Authority appreciate the vital necessi ty of providing the following:-

(i) Workshops for all classes of repair work, including Base overhauls;

(ii) An adequate [illegible]

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

ITALIAN Army, an appreciation of the BRITISH method of store keeping.

Catalogues, Spare Parts Lists, Identification Lists and Maintenance Manuals, have been requested from 500 A.O.D. All will need translating into ITALIAN, before they can be of use.

7. GENERAL.

Now that the inclement weather has passed, one is better able to appreciate the improvements that have been made at SAN FELICE. Roofing of the vehicle sheds is completed, and the park is well laid out and administered, with the exception of lack of fire fighting equipment of the BRITISH foam type.

The Officer Commanding, Major ALTERIO, is a capable and enthusiastic officer, who has had previous experience of this type of work (with the BRITISH Armoured Re-inforcement Group), during the ITALIAN Campaign. He has sound ideas, but is hopelessly hampered by lack of personnel and equipment. This is dealt with in the subsequent paragraph. Given the required assistance, I have no doubt he will produce the desired result.

8. CONCLUSION.

If the ITALIAN Government is to obtain the maximum benefit from the equipments placed at their disposal, it is of primary importance that the competent ITALIAN Military Authority appreciate the vital necessity of providing the following:-

(i) Workshops for all classes of repair work, including Base overhauls;

(ii) An adequate scaling of spare parts;

(iii) Suitably trained technical personnel, including fitters, armament, W/T and storekeeping personnel;

.....5/....

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

(iv) Specialised equipment for recovery and transportation of A.F.Vs;

(v) The training of A.F.V crews;

(vi) Translations of applicable hand-books etc.

Immediate requirements at SAN FELICE are:-

(i) An increase of working parties by at least 200%;

(ii) Provision of trained personnel in storekeeping and accounting - a minimum of 1 Officer, 1 W.O. and 6 Rank & File;

(iii) A mobile workshop, with requisite personnel, similar to a Type C BRITISH L.A.D.

HQ should be informed

It is suggested that trained store-keepers could be provided from Divisional Ordnance Field Parks, and radio mechanics and armament artificers from Divisions. Specialised mechanics and electricians should be made available from the Army in part, the remainder being civilians. Attachment of these personnel to a BRITISH A.F.V. Workshops for a period of 2 months, is desirable.

Failure to organise on these lines, will inevitably lead to rapid deterioration in the efficiency of the equipments, and nullify all benefits which should accrue from the issues made.

D. A. Brien.

Major DAA & QMG
6 BLU

Distribution:-

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

ing and accounting - a minimum of 1 Officer, 1 W.O. and 6 Rank & File;

(iii) A mobile workshop, with requisite personnel, similar to a Type C BRITISH L.A.D.

HQ should carry personnel

It is suggested that trained store-keepers could be provided from Divisional Ordnance Field Parks, and radio mechanics and armament artificers from Divisions. Specialised mechanics and electricians should be made available from the Army in part, the remainder being civilians. Attachment of these personnel to a BRITISH A.F.V. Workshops for a period of 2 months, is desirable.

Failure to organise on these lines, will inevitably lead to rapid deterioration in the efficiency of the equipments, and nullify all benefits which should accrue from the issues made.

D. O'Brien.

Major RAA & QMG
6 BLU

Distribution:-

A.F.H.Q., I.M.A.S., L.F.S.S., (6 copies)

Internal:-
S/Capt. R.E.M.E.
O.W.O.
File

WHW/ls

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

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

Date	Italian rep:	British rep:	Notes

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

Nomenclature
Nomenclatura

EI - BR - N.

W. D. N.°
Targa N.°

Tires N.°
Gomme N.°

Chassis N.°
Telaio N.°

Armament type
Tipo armamento

Engine N.°
Motore N.°

Engine type
Tipo motore

Radio type e N.°
Radio tipo e N.°

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

Organico	Denominazione del materiale	N. ..... del catalogo

Data del buono	Numero del buono	Carico	Scarico	Rimanenza	Note

RECEIVED 5 JUN 1947

8

SAN FELICE and FORLI Vehicle

Parks

Progress Report for the month of

JUNE, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

1. SITUATION.

Make & Type	SAN FELICE Cl. 1	SAN FELICE Cl. 2	SAN FELICE Cl. 3	FORLI Cl. 1	FORLI Cl. 2	FORLI Cl. 3	GRAND TOTAL	REMARKS
Sherman 1B/105.....	11						11	
" 1/75.....	6						6	Incl.1 ex LEGHORN
" IC/17 pdr.....	3						3	
" II/75.....	7						7	Incl.3 ex LEGHORN
" III/75.....	12	5					17	
" III/Dozer.....	1						1	
" V/75.....	95	2					97	
" VC/17 pdr.....	25						25	
S.P. M7/105.....	11	24	43				78	
" " M10/3".....	1	24					25	
Staghound I/37.....	24	30	50				104	+ 8 CENTRAL SCHOOLS
" II/3" How.....	11	1	5				17	
" AA.....	2	1	1				4	
Greyhound/37.....	21	6	1	15	2	20	65	
S.C.Ford MK II.....	4	-	1	9	9	1	24	

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

Make & Type	SAN FELICE Cl. 1	SAN FELICE Cl. 2	SAN FELICE Cl. 3	FORLI Cl. 1	FORLI Cl. 2	FORLI Cl. 3	GRAND TOTAL	REMARKS
Sherman 1B/105.....	11						11	
" 1/75.....	6						6	Incl.1 ex LEGHORN
" IC/17 pdr.....	3						3	
" II/75.....	7						7	Incl.3 ex LEGHORN
" III/75.....	12	5					17	
" III/Dozer.....	1						1	
" V/75.....	95	2					97	
" VC/17 pdr.....	25						25	
S.P. M7/105.....	11	24	43				78	
" " M10/3".....	1	24					25	
Staghound I/37.....	24	30	50				104	+ 8 CENTRAL SCHOOLS
" II/3" How.....	11	1	5				17	
" AA.....	2	1	1				4	
Greyhound/37.....	21	6	1	15	2	20	65	
S.C.Ford MK II.....	4	-	1	9	9	1	24	
" " MK III.....					2		2	
" Humber MK I.....		1					1	
" " MK II.....		2					2	
Stuart Recce.....				3	6	25x	34	x2 4th Cl.
Sherman IV	13						13	ex LEGHORN
~~Carrier Track S.C.....~~	~~2~~						~~2~~	
~~Half Track 15 cwt~~				~~40~~	~~35~~		~~75~~	

Q 137/LF
AQMG

ADMIN HQ Col McLEAN

Rept. 9.7.47.

.....2/.....

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

Make & Type	SAN FELICE Cl. 1	SAN FELICE Cl. 2	SAN FELICE Cl. 3	FORLI Cl. 1	FORLI Cl. 2	FORLI Cl. 3	GRAND TOTAL	REMARKS
Carrier Univ. MKI/STI.....				164	419		583	
" " MKI/L.....				5	1		6	
" " MKII/STI.....				83	14		97	
" MMG n1 MKI.....				35	2		37	
" " n3 "				1			1	
" 3"M.n1 "				1	24		25	
" 3"M.n1 MKII.....					20		20	
" 3"M. UC2.....				62			62	
" T.Towing n1.....				65	4		69	
" " n2.....				83	225		308	
" T.S. & C.				10	7		17	

2. STRENGTH.

(a) British

(i) Officers . . . . . 1 Capt. R.E.M.E.

(ii) O.Rs . . . . . 1 S/Sgt. Arm.Artificer
1 Cpl. Tele/Mech.

(b) Italian

	SAN FELICE	FORLI
(i) Officers	4	1
(ii) N.C.Os	16	2
(iii) O.Rs	47	6

165 O.Rs are attached at BOLOGNA for various duties, including Genio work.

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

" " n3 "		1		
" 3"M.n1 "		1	24	25
" 3"M.n1 MKII.....			20	20
" 3"M. UC2.....		62		62
" T.Towing n1.....		65	4	69
" " n2.....		83	225	308
" T.S. & C.		10	7	17

2. STRENGTH.

(a) British

(i) Officers . . . . . 1 Capt. R.E.M.E.

(ii) O.Rs . . . . . 1 S/Sgt. Arm.Artificer
1 Cpl. Tele/Mech.

(b) Italian

	SAN FELICE	FORLI
(i) Officers	4	1
(ii) N.C.Os	16	2
(iii) O.Rs	47	6

165 O.Rs are attached at BOLOGNA for various duties, including Genio work.

3. ACCOUNTING.

Nothing to report.

4. MAINTENANCE.

Routine servicing has been carried out to many of the vehicles during the month. Battery charging and repair has made considerable progress. Servicing of weapon pieces has also proceeded as normal.

Investigation of Sherman Tanks has been completed with a view to laying down the correct order of inspection and maintenance.

...3/.....

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

It is the intention to inspect and maintain every vehicle held, and for defects to be noted. It is estimated that by the time this function has been completed, the workshops at SAN FELICE will be sufficiently well organised, (subject to equipment being available), to execute the necessary repairs, and to upgrade all vehicles to a higher classification.

On 30 Jun.'47, General ROSTAGNO, Director of Artillery, VI COMILITER, and Col. BALANZINO, Ministry of War, visited the proposed workshop site at SAN FELICE. Several items were discussed, and general policy was agreed by those concerned. General ROSTAGNO expressed a wish that the ex PIROTECNICO be utilised as an auxiliary workshop, subject to accommodation being available. (See this H.Q. letter Q/6/1/IF of 2 Jul.'47).

5. EQUIPMENT.

Counting and checking proceeds, and the storing is generally satisfactory.

In order to check all W/T sets on charge, two sets of valves have been obtained from local military sources, and each set is in course of inspection. Small repairs within the scope of available equipment (i.e. hand tools), are carried out immediately, and large repairs noted for future action.

6. GENERAL.

A large quantity of Romney and Nissen huts have been taken over from the ex SMP Camp at MIRAMARE, and are in course of dismantling for conveyance to SAN FELICE.

Further fire extinguishers (in accordance with a request made by this HQ), have been obtained, and an agreement reached with the local Fire Brigade, in case of fire.

Railway transportation for S.P. mountings for ERACCIANO, has now been requested, and these vehicles should be delivered during the current month.

A large number of demilitarised vehicles ex A.R.A.R. Park, FORLI, have been earmarked for the ITALIAN Army. A decision as to acceptance, is awaited from the Ministry of War.

General progress during the month has been highly satisfactory.

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

letter Q/6/1/IF of 2 Jul.'47).

5. EQUIPMENT.

Counting and checking proceeds, and the storing is generally satisfactory.

In order to check all W/T sets on charge, two sets of valves have been obtained from local military sources, and each set is in course of inspection. Small repairs within the scope of available equipment (i.e. hand tools), are carried out immediately, and large repairs noted for future action.

6. GENERAL.

A large quantity of Romney and Nissen huts have been taken over from the ex SEP Camp at MIRAMARE, and are in course of dismantling for conveyance to SAN FELICE.

Further fire extinguishers (in accordance with a request made by this HQ), have been obtained, and an agreement reached with the local Fire Brigade, in case of fire.

Railway transportation for S.P. mountings for BRACCIANO, has now been requested, and these vehicles should be delivered during the current month.

A large number of demilitarised vehicles ex A.R.A.R. Park, FORLI, have been earmarked for the ITALIAN Army. A decision as to acceptance, is awaited from the Ministry of War.

General progress during the month has been highly satisfactory.

D. A. Brill
Major DAA & QMG
6 BLU

Distribution:-

AFHQ, ILFB (3 copies)
File

WHW/ls

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

7

NOTES

ON LIAISON VISIT TO NO.4 ORDNANCE BASE DEPOT, U.S.A.A.

23 May, 1947.

1. DAA & QMG this Headquarters, visited No.4 Ordnance Base Depot, U.S.A.A., LEGHORN, 23 May '47, with the intention of discussing, and agreeing if possible, a Base Depot Scaling required to cover all types of maintenance and repair, in relation to ALLIED tank holdings of the ITALIAN Army.

Capt. Grayed.

2. Colonel ROGERS represented U.S.A.A. (Telephone No. FREEDOM 390, ext. 8 or 30).

3. Opportunity also arose, to discuss the availability of special tools and equipment, required for all types of echelon repair of AMERICAN tanks.

4. Colonel ROGERS offered the following information.

(i) The majority of spare parts for tanks had already been returned to U.S.A., and the backloading programme was still in progress.

(ii) The position was the same with regard to 105m.m. S.P. A/Tk. M7 and 3" S.P. Mtg M10, their weapon pieces and the weapon pieces of A.F.Vs.

5. It was obvious that a scaling policy in detail, could not be agreed, as insufficient spares were available.

6. After a general discussion, DAA & QMG stated that, subject to agreement by Headquarters, I.L.F.B., acceptance of all available spares, without prejudice, would be made, provided overloading of any one item was avoided.

7. A similar position existed with regard to special tools, and Col. ROGERS stated that:-

(i) Very few special tank tools were held by the Depot.

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

a Base Depot Scaling required to cover all types of maintenance and repair, in relation to ALLIED tank holdings of the ITALIAN Army.

Capt - Noted

2. Colonel ECCLES represented U.S.A.A. (Telephone No. FREEDOM 390, ext. 8 or 30).

3. Opportunity also arose, to discuss the availability of special tools and equipment, required for all types of echelon repair of AMERICAN tanks.

4. Colonel ECCLES offered the following information.

(i) The majority of spare parts for tanks had already been returned to U.S.A., and the backloading programme was still in progress.

(ii) The position was the same with regard to 105m.m. S.P. A/Tk. M7 and 3" S.P. Mtg M10, their weapon pieces and the weapon pieces of A.F.Vs.

5. It was obvious that a scaling policy in detail, could not be agreed, as insufficient spares were available.

6. After a general discussion, DMA & QMG stated that, subject to agreement by Headquarters, L.L.F.R., acceptance of all available spares, without prejudice, would be made, provided overloading of any one item was avoided.

7. A similar position existed with regard to special tools, and Col. ECCLES stated that:-

(i) Very few special tank tools were held by the Depot.

(ii) No special tank tools were held by 86 Command, H.A.W. Company.

(iii) A fairly large number of general purpose tools were held, which may or may not be of use to the ITALIAN Army.

File

.....2/....

Reg F. 30.6.44

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

8. It was therefore agreed that, subject to approval of Headquarters, I.L.F.R., the following policy should be accepted with regard to special and G.P. tools.

(i) The ITALIAN Army would accept all special tools, without reservation.

(ii) G.P. tools would be accepted after pre-view and agreement by the concerned representatives.

Every assistance was promised by the U.S.A.A. authority, and materials would be for view as required.

9. Col. ROGERS also stated that there were certain small items of machinery, e.g. compressors, lathes etc., which should prove of considerable value to the ITALIAN Army. It was agreed that these items should be viewed by an ITALIAN Army technician, who was authorised to accept on their behalf.

10. Finally, Col. ROGERS explained the need for a quick decision to be made regarding all materials under discussion. He said he was unable to freeze items "ad lib", without due authority, and until such time as that authority was to hand, he would have to proceed with his normal backloading policy.

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

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

Subject: VISIT TO LEGHORN 16-18 JUNE.

R.E.M.E. Branch
6 British Liaison Unit,
6/EME/13
19th June 1947

To: A.D.M.E.
A.F.H.Q.
I.L.F.B.

RECEIVED 665 27 JUN 1947

With Major Alterio a visit was made to ORD Sect. U.S.A.A. during the period 16-18 June. The purpose of this visit was to inspect what stores are available for transfer to the Italian Army and to assist in the selection of materials etc.

No answer had been received from Washington regarding the transfer of "controlled" items up to p.m. 17th.

The A.F.V. spares for transfer were seen and it is estimated will take 10 x 10 ton railway wagons. All spares are boxed and packing slips are nailed outside and a duplicate copy inside.

A 2/Lt. Di Cio has been left at Leghorn to liaise with the ORD Sect., supervise the loading of wagons and sign for stores as issued. It is considered that a more senior officer should have been appointed to sign all receipts.

Efforts are being made to send the initial 17 A.F.V's off this week, but difficulty is being experienced in finding sufficient war flats. The boxed spares will be shifted as and when wagons are available.

It was stressed by Col. Eccles that all this material remains the property of the U.S. Government

...2/....

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

and that all materials must be considered frozen until the financial agreements between the two governments have been completed. In connection with this freezing, the Italian War Ministry suggestion that materials should be distributed to appropriate depots all over Italy is not considered feasible by U.S.A.A., Leghorn, for the following reasons.

(a) Condition of issue at this stage is that all materials remain under supervision of an Allied officer of M.M.I.A.

(b) Extra work entailed in dispatching separate trains to different destinations.

(c) Some materials will have to be called in from 88 Div., and as Bologna is a central point it will help them to check the handing in of materials much easier.

(d) Should this issue of materials be cancelled for any reason, it will be easier to collect from one central point.

Should the War Ministry not agree to all materials being sent to a central store at Bologna, the matter would be taken up by ORD through G4, and, pending an agreement, only materials for Bologna would be released.

They were discussed & accepted

Col. Eccles required an answer re the 105 m.m. M3 Howitzers which are available for collection. Apparently these pieces were not discussed at the conference, and as approx. 40 are available, enquiries were made. By noon Tues. answers to accept had been received from War Ministry & A.D.M.E.,(M.M.I.A) I.L.F.B.

Contact was also made with Col. DORNEY who is Ammunition Officer and he requires an officer who is an ammunition examiner and 6 men from the Italian Army to start taking over the dump. Approx. 15,000 tons of ammunition are involved, but the dump will remain at Leghorn at this stage. The Italian Gds with the American Army will continue guarding this dump.

Major Alterio was shown the 86 W/Shops, and agreed that the equipment there would be suitable for the A.F.V. W/Shops.

Alterio

Capt. R.E.M.E.
6 BLU

Copy: GSO II

REN/is

Rmd

RECEIVED 16 JUN 1947 356

5

Subject: Report on visit to LEGHORN.

R.E.M.E. Branch,
6 British Liaison Unit,
6/EME/13
13 June 1947

To: A.D.M.E.
I.L.F.B.

A visit was made to the American Ordnance Depot at Leghorn on 6th and 7th June '47.

Capt. Myers, U.S. Army, was contacted, and he gave me a list of ALL spares available in this theatre from U.S. sources. These spares are not frozen and issues are still being made on demand. Copy of this list is enclosed. Quantities as shown were correct on 3 June, and if the Italian Army require these items they must arrange purchase very quickly.

No Special Tools are available at Ord. Dump, Leghorn. The tools required are known as "Tool Sets Armoured Force", and I was informed that the last two sets had been shipped to Greece a few weeks ago. Should it not be possible to obtain the quantities of special tools required, it is suggested that perhaps the drawings could be obtained from the U.S.A. and manufactured in Italy - providing no patent rights are infringed. If manufacture locally is necessary, the drawings would be better than the tools.

The quantities of gun tubes available at Leghorn are as follows.

76 m.m. M1A1 & M1A2 34

105 m.m. M3 ..... 2 *

75 m.m..... 8

105 m.m. M2A1..... 2 *

105 m.m. M4..... 5

105 m.m. M4 (c/w mount)..... 10

* signifies NOT A.F.V. pieces. not the cyl.

A visit was made to the 86 American W/Shops and CAPT. URSURY, the O.C., was contacted. He was very helpful and gave me every assistance possible. The W/Shops at present is engaged on a "B" Vehicle o/haul programme. The R.E.M.E. equivalent of this W/Shop would be a heavy

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

me a list of ALL spares available in this theatre from U.S. sources. These spares are not frozen and issues are still being made on demand. Copy of this list is enclosed. Quantities as shown were correct on 3 June, and if the Italian Army require these items they must arrange purchase very quickly.

No Special Tools are available at Ord. Dump, Leghorn. The tools required are known as "Tool Sets Armoured Force", and I was informed that the last two sets had been shipped to Greece a few weeks ago. Should it not be possible to obtain the quantities of special tools required, it is suggested that perhaps the drawings could be obtained from the U.S.A. and manufactured in Italy - providing no patent rights are infringed. If manufacture locally is necessary, the drawings would be better than the tools.

The quantities of gun tubes available at Leghorn are as follows.

76 m.m. M1A1 & M1A2 34

105 m.m. M3 ..... 2 *

75 m.m..... 8

105 m.m. M2A1..... 2 *

105 m.m. M4..... 5

105 m.m. M4 (c/w mount)..... 10

* signifies NOT A.F.V. pieces. not in cyl

A visit was made to the 86 American W/Shops and CAPT. URSURY, the O.C., was contacted. He was very helpful and gave me every assistance possible. The W/Shops at present is engaged on a "B" Vehicle o/haul programme. The R.E.M.E. equivalent of this W/Shop would be a heavy L of C. It employs about 400 civilians, and in the main is carrying out only replacement of assemblies. However, the machinery available is, almost without exception, really new, and it is considered that it would be of the greatest

....2/....

Draft 19.6.43

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

help to San Felice.

Herewith is a rough list of the main items of equipment in the W/Shop. This list is not accurate as it was made whilst walking around and only includes the more attractive major items. The W/Shop as a whole appears to be well stocked with normal hand tools.

2 Heavy duty gantries on bogies

6 Petrol W/Sh runabouts

Approx. 200 overhead lifting tackle

6 Hobart electric welding plants

8 Gas welding plants

9 Light lathes

1 Shaper 30" stroke

1 Vertical miller

1 Vertical plane

3 Grinders

2 Shapers 14" stroke

1 Bandsaw

2 Machine saws

4 Vertical drills

Approx.50 Vices 4"

1 Heavy duty lathe

3 Engine test beds (Home made)

3 Boring bars

3 Black & Dickers

1 Light press

2 Water brake engine test beds (Universal)

1 DI 3000 Caterpillar [illegible]

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

Approx. 200 overhead lifting tackle

6 Hobart electric welding plants

8 Gas welding plants

9 Light lathes

1 Shaper 30" stroke

1 Vertical miller

1 Vertical plane

3 Grinders

2 Shapers 14" stroke

1 Bandsaw

2 Machine saws

4 Vertical drills

Approx. 50 Vices 4"

1 Heavy duty lathe

3 Engine test beds (Home made)

3 Boring bars

3 Black & Dickers

1 Light press

2 Water brake engine test beds (Universal)

1 DI 3000 Caterpillar air compressor 5 yds long

Hand drills

Oil baths

Benches & cupboards

.....3/.....

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

Racking

Bins

Hydraulic jacks

etc.

Cpl. Marston (Tele. Mech.) joined this unit for duty on 9th June '47. He is working at San Felice on the checking and small repairs to the wireless sets stored there at present. He reports that all sets lack valves. Could anything be done to expedite an issue of, say, 12 complete sets so that he can test all equipment properly after inspection?

S/Sgt. Chantler on leave to Sicily from 6th June '47 to 16th June 47.

This was 1950.

Col. Conquin has obtained the requisite number of sets.

Capt.

R.E.M.E.

Copy to: GSO II, 6 BLU

REN/ls

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

the checking and small repairs to the wireless sets stored there at present. He reports that all sets lack valves. Could anything be done to expedite an issue of, say, 12 complete sets so that he can test all equipment properly after inspection?

S/Sgt. Chantler on leave to Sicily from 6th June '47 to 16th June 47.

This are 19 sets.

Col. Conquin has obtained the requisite number of sets

Capt.

R.E.M.E.

Copy to: GSO II, 6 BLU

REN/ls

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

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

COPY

4

TRANSLATION

From M. of D. Ref : G/697/Serv

To : INAS Date: 4/3/47

Subject: Armoured vehicles.

Ref your letter SD/109/4/LF dated 28/2/47.

The movement of the armoured-cars from the Bologna Armoured Vehicle Park to the Armoured Car School was carried out due to a misunderstanding by this M.M., who, at first, thought that the armoured cars were excluded from the restrictions imposed on the vehicles in question.

This office realized the error, after having carried out the movement.

Whilst giving assurance that the regulations contained in letter SD/109 dated 17/2/47 will be observed, we would point out that the armoured cars transferred to the Armoured Car School are the following:

3 Medium Staghound armoured cars.
6 Light Greyhound armoured cars.

Up to the 28/2/47 only 6 Greyhound armoured cars of the original 28 have been handed over to the Bologna Armoured Vehicle Park.

The 6 Greyhounds armoured cars transferred to the Armoured Car School will be returned to the Bologna Armoured Vehicle Park as they are to be considered in excess to the requirements of the School.

sgd. MELONI
Col.

UR

Distribution: SD/109/4/LF
SD/109/LF
"G"
ORD
REME

Recd
12/3/47
CB

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

Rene

SUBJECT:- Report 1 Feb - 28 Feb 47.

5 British Liaison Unit
Tele: UDINE 1657
5/EME/13

7 Mar.47

ADME
LFSS

G I
5 B.L.U.

RECEIVED 10 MAR 1947 (DATE) 367

Herewith progress report for Feb.

Contact has been made with Director of Repairs 5 Territorial Command and the location of the "MANTOVA" Div. W/sh in the near future is discussed.

He suggested the Caserma "PIAVE" in UDINE which was Centro Automobilistico before the war and is in a good state of repair. A visit has been made and it is considered that this will make an excellent W/sh. It covers an area of approx 22500 sq meters and it is considered that possibly OFP may be accomodated in this barracks.

The S.C.Otd. will be visiting this Caserma with me to discuss the possibility and a further report will be submitted.

Capt.
E.M.E.

Fd
/pdd

File
Diary.

2

Reference : A 109/4/LF of 28 Feb 47.

REPORT ON INSPECTION OF ARMOURED CARS AT

ARMOURED CAR SCHOOL TOP DI QUINTO ON

MONDAY 3rd MAR 1947.

1. Numbers received from BOLOGNA.

FORD M 8 (Greyhound) Light Armoured - No 6
T. 17. E.I. (Staghound) Medium Armoured - No 8

2. GREYHOUNDS.

Nos. 268996
268681
269008
268833
268974
269095

CONDITION

Body work - good
Tyres - good
Engines - good
Wireless - all without wireless equipment
Gun Sights - 5 deficient
Tools & Equipment - Approx 50% deficient.

3. STAGHOUNDS

Nos. 225492
116341
214153
214116
214125
225461
275533
225336

CONDITION

Body work - good (Mudguards bad)
Tyres - average
Engines - In working order but worn
1 engine with cylinder cracked
4 gaskets burnt out
Steering - 1 car out of order
Wireless - all valves missing in wireless sets
25 burnt out in others

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

2. CHARIOTEERS.

Nos. 268996
263681
259008
268853
268974
263035

CONDITION

Body work	-	good
Tyres	-	good
Engines	-	good
Wireless	-	all without wireless equipment
Gun Sights	-	5 deficient
Tools & Equipment	-	Approx 30% deficient.

3. STAGHOUNDS

Nos. 229492
116341
214153
214116
214125
229461
275533
225336

CONDITION

Body work	-	good (Mudguards bad)
Tyres	-	average
Engines	-	In working order but worn 1 engine with cylinder cracked 4 gaskets burnt out
Steering	-	1 car out of order
Wireless	-	all valves missing in wireless sets 25 head sets missing 7 protective grills for sets missing 2 voltemeters out of order.

Q Dist:
Sigs
ORD
REME ✓
Q.37

43
10/3

Rept
10/3/47
CB

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

Subject:- Rome 4 Territorial Command Workshops.

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
B o l z a n o
Ref.: 4/ME/24-58

21 December 1946.

To:- ADME, HQ. M.M.I.A.,
R o m e

FOLIO (OLD FILE).

1. Reference my 4/ME/24-55 dated 16 December 46.
It is believed that the 21 Recovery Commission Workshop mentioned in the above letter has not received a visit from A.D.M.E. or his staff due ~~ot~~ to its inaccessibility for visiting officers. The enclosed photographs of the W/S taken on 14 December 46 are forwarded with the intention that, if ADME Rome cannot be brought to the Workshop, the Workshop will be brought to him.

2. It should be noted that these photos were taken only an hour or so after the suggestion was made and apart from sweeping with a broom, no other preparations were made. The photos are true reproductions of the normal state of the W/S and not as is often the case the result of a week's preparation.

Encl.:- 13 photographs.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

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

mentioned in the above letter has not received a visit from A.D.M.E. or his staff due ~~at~~ to its inaccessibility for visiting officers. The enclosed photographs of the W/S taken on 14 December 46 are forwarded with the intention that, if ADME Rome cannot be brought to the Workshop, the Workshop will be brought to him.

2. It should be noted that these photos were taken only an hour or so after the suggestion was made and apart from sweeping with a broom, no other preparations were made. The photos are true reproductions of the normal state of the W/S and not as is often the case the result of a week's preparation.

Encl.:- 13 photographs.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

Regt.
7/2/47.

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

SUBJECT : Notes on Conference at Ministry of War, 27 Jan 47.

REF E

12 B. L. U.
C. M. F.

(Tel : ROME 489081 Ext : 545)

A. 39.

31 January 1947.

166

31 JAN 1947

To : O.C.
12 B. L. U.

INTENTION.

The conference was the principal one of two held during the month of JANUARY'47 to decide new methods of training of Gunfitters and Armourers selected from short-service intakes of the Italian Army.

INFORMATION

1. The conference was between Col. AVALLONE, representing the Director of Artillery, (under whose direction the Artillery Repair Trg Centre, now known as S.M.O.A., will fall on its transfer from CIVITAVECCHIA to TERNI) and D.A.D.M.E. 12 B.L.U.; interpreter, Capt CINQUETTI M.M.I.A.

2. It was agreed that the existing syllabi should be scrapped entirely, and new ones made throughout.

3. Broadly speaking, the future policy to be adopted is as follows :

(a) For ARMOURERS

(i) A Course of Instruction in General Workshop Practice in the trade of FITTER, General, for a period of 6 weeks.
This to be known as the "Selection Course", and to take place at the Small Arms Factory at TERNI.

(ii) A further course of Instruction in certain other Workshop Practices applicable to the trade of ARMOURER, (including some knowledge of woodworking, simple forging and heat-treatment of tools and small parts) for a period of 4 weeks. This to follow immediately after the Selection Course.

2147

(iii) A Course of Instruction in certain specified weapons; their construction, action and repair, including a firing course on the test ranges, for a period of 8 weeks.

Students who successfully pass the entire Course will be graded as CADET-ARMOURERS, and will be eligible for posting to service units to gain further experience by performing the duties of ARMOURER. These CADETS may be graded ARMOURER by the chief TECHNICAL reps. of their Formations after a probationary period of approx 2 months.

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

month of JANUARY '47 to create new [illegible]
Armourers selected from short-service intakes of the Italian Army.

INFORMATION

1. The conference was between Col. AVALLONE, representing the Director of Artillery, (under whose direction the Artillery Repair Trg Centre, now known as S.M.O.A., will fall on its transfer from CIVITAVECCHIA to TERNI) and D.A.D.M.E. 12 B.L.U.; interpreter, Capt CINQUETTI B.A.I.

2. It was agreed that the existing syllabi should be scrapped entirely, and new ones made throughout.

3. Broadly speaking, the future policy to be adopted is as follows :

(a) For ARMOURERS

(i) A Course of Instruction in General Workshop Practice in the trade of FITTER, General, for a period of 6 weeks.
This to be known as the "Selection Course", and to take place at the Small Arms Factory at TERNI.

(ii) A further course of Instruction in certain other Workshop Practices applicable to the trade of ARMOURER, (including some knowledge of woodworking, simple forging and heat-treatment of tools and small parts) for a period of 4 weeks. This to follow immediately after the Selection Course.

2147

(iii) A Course of Instruction in certain specified weapons; their construction, action and repair, including a firing course on the test ranges, for a period of 8 weeks.

Students who successfully pass the entire Course will be graded as CADET-ARMOURERS, and will be eligible for posting to service units to gain further experience by performing the duties of ARMOURER. These CADETS may be graded ARMOURER by the chief TECHNICAL reps. of their Formations after a probationary period of approx 2 months.

NOTE : It will be the prividledge of the SCHOOL to grade outstandingly good students as ARMOURER on termination of the Course, provided they are considered suitable.

(b) GUNFITTERS

(i) To join with the ARMOURER students for the SELECTION COURSE in General Workshop Practice for 6 weeks.

(ii) A Course on Artillery Equipments for a period of 8 weeks; this to be divided into :

(i) Ordnance
(ii) Carriages
(iii) Ord. Q.F. 40 mm L.....

and to take place at TERNI

C.E. Trans. 6 ME/21 Italy

Rest. 1/2/47

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

(iii) Practical experience in Repair of artillery equipments for a period of 4 weeks, in the Allied Gun Shop in PIACENZA Arsenal.

Students who successfully pass the entire course will be graded as CADET-GUNFITTERS, and the same condition for disposal and re-grading will apply as for ARMOURERS.

4. The Stato Maggiore is to be requested to issue firm instructions to Selection Boards of C.A.Rs. for greater care to be taken in selection of candidates for the new School of TERNI, as it is desired that the School shall maintain the high reputation held by the pre-war TERNI training establishment.

5. Details of the syllabi are in course of preparation by Col. AVALLONE, following a a mutually agreed system of training.

Major R.E.M.E.
D.A.D.M.E.

CRFS/gm.

Copy to : M.M.I.A.
A.D.M.E. M.M.I.A.
Col. PALMA S. of A.
D.A.D.M.E.
File.

2146

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

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

39

Subject:- Monthly Report.

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
B o l z a n o
Ref.: 4/ME/30

23 January 1947.

To:- A.D.M.E.,
HQ. M.M.I.A., R o m e

RECEIVED 28 JAN 1947
99

Herewith for information translated copy of the December monthly report of CME "Friuli" Infantry Division.

Enclos.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

2141

Reg.
29/1/46

Translation.

COMANDO DIVISIONE DI FANTERIA "FRIULI"
- M.T. Office -

MONTHLY REPORT HOW VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SERVICE IS GOING ON :-

MONTH OF D E C E M B E R 1946

(1) Ordinary Maintenance :-
Nothing particular to be reported. A partly impediment to the maintenance is the deficiency of machine equipments. - The position is still the same as reported in November 1946.

(2) Extraordinary Maintenance :-
is being practised monthly.

(3) Efficiency State of Vehicles :-
The crisis due to deficiency of tyres is still lasting (continuing), and the crisis cannot be considered overcome after the assignment recently received from Pontecagnano. There is a particular lack of tyres for cars and motor cycles, that is to say: a total of 300 tyres of sizes 3,25 x 10 - 5,00 x 15 - 5,50 x 15 - 6,00 x 16 - 165 x 400 -.

Regarding the technical side, a considerable number of vehicles is under repair in the Main Workshop of the Division; another lot of approx. 40 is in civilian workshops for repair and a further lot of 70 vehicles is under repair in the "Caproni" Workshops, Gardolo.

(4) Lorries' Equipment :-
I uphold what I reported on this subject in November. We are still waiting for the obtainment of the 100 sets of keys assigned by M.o.W., from the 3rd Magazzino Ricambi Auto, Piacenza.

(5) Regimental Workshops (L.A.D.'s) :-
The position is still the same as reported in November.

(6) Deficiency of Technical Personnel :-
There is still the deficiency of technical personnel in the Units and the deficiency of N.C.O.'s Chiefs of the W/S.

(7) Main Workshop of the Division :-
By the new arrangements made the deficiency of personnel became more obvious. As already reported in the last month, it will be necessary to increase the number of civilian workmen by at least 50. Concerning the output of this W/S it should be realized (taken into consideration) that, now in the depth of winter the difficulty of heating adequately the localities is particularly conspicuous and consequently the labourers have to work under difficult conditions and a high percentage of them became sick.

(8) Spares for Allied Vehicles :-
There are still the same difficulties as reported in last month. We cannot [illegible] by local purchases and the purchasing itself [illegible] it will prove

2144

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

(2) Extraordinary Maintenance :-
is being practised monthly.

(3) Efficiency State of Vehicles :-
The crisis due to deficiency of tyres is still lasting (continuing), and the crisis cannot be considered overcome after the assignment recently received from Pontecagnano. There is a particular lack of tyres for cars and motor cycles, that is to say: a total of 300 tyres of sizes 3,25 x 10 - 5,00 x 15 - 5,50 x 15 - 6,00 x 16 - 165 x 400 -.

Regarding the technical side, a considerable number of vehicles is under repair in the Main Workshop of the Division; another lot of approx. 40 is in civilian workshops for repair and a further lot of 70 vehicles is under repair in the "Caproni" Workshops, Gardolo.

(4) Lorries' Equipment :-
I uphold what I reported on this subject in November. We are still waiting for the obtainment of the 100 sets of keys assigned by M.o.W., from the 3rd Magazzino Ricambi Auto, Piacenza.

(5) Regimental Workshops (L.A.D.'s) :-
The position is still the same as reported in November.

(6) Deficiency of Technical Personnel :-
There is still the deficiency of technical personnel in the Units and the deficiency of N.C.O.'s Chiefs of the W/S.

(7) Main Workshop of the Division :-
By the new arrangements made the deficiency of personnel became more obvious. As already reported in the last month, it will be necessary to increase the number of civilian workmen by at least 50. Concerning the output of this W/S it should be realized (taken into consideration) that, now in the depth of winter the difficulty of heating adequately the localities is particularly conspicuous and consequently the labourers have to work under difficult conditions and a high percentage of them became sick.

2144

(8) Spares for Allied Vehicles :-
There are still the same difficulties as reported in last month. We cannot get all spare parts required by local purchases and the purchasing itself became more difficult by the instability of the market. So it will prove more and more necessary to apply to Pontecagnano Camp for the assignment of spares.

(9) Driver Discipline :-
Please see statements in previous reports.

Levico, 15 January 1947

THE CHIEF OF THE M.T. OFFICE
(sgd) Major B.Leone

Seen :-
THE GENERAL COMMANDING
(sgd) Tullio Bernardi

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

Subject:- 4 Territorial Command Workshops.

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
B o l z a n o
Ref.: 4/ME/24-55

16 December 1946.

To:- O.C. 4 B.L.U.

Copy to:- ADME, HQ. M.M.I.A., Rome.

1. On 12 December 46 a visit with Lt.Colonel Baccari was made to 16 Repair Unit at Verona.

2. This Workshop which moved over 5 weeks ago to its new location, was found to be still in a chaotic state. There was no evidence of any worthwhile organization and although the site is good, it still requires a great deal of Genio work on electric light plant, building of walls, making and fitting of windows etc. Prior to the move of this W/S the previous O.C. (a new O.C. had taken over two days prior to my visit) and the previous Director of Repairs were frequently asked to render to this office a statement of the Genio work required and action taken, so that further action could be taken in accordance with ADME letter ME/43/63 dated 28 June 1946. This statement however was never produced.

3. The new O.C. is now forwarding a plan layout of his W/S plus all Genio work required for each section, for approval and action by the Director of Repairs. Nevertheless it will be some time before this W/S will be a going concern.

4. The following day, the W/S of the 21 Recovery Commission (Vicenza) was visited with Lt.Col. Baccari. This W/S is at present a detachment of the 16 Repair Unit and has been under orders to disband. This order has been temporarily suspended for an indefinite period, which, it is felt, is most unsatisfactory for all concerned, although the O.C. W/S still continues to show great enthusiasm. The W/S is undoubtedly the best of the three in the Territorial Command, its layout including stores, vehicle repair bay, machine shop, engine test bed bay etc. being excellent.

5. The discipline is also very good and the O.C. appears very willing to adopt British methods.

6. In view of the excellent state of this W/S (its output being practically the same as the 4 Repair Unit, Merano, which has twice as many personnel) and the difficulty of building up a really good Italian Workshop, it is suggested that every possible step be taken to retain this W/S, possibly as a 3rd class W/S independent of the 16 Repair Unit within the W.E. of the Territorial Command or surplus to W.E., if the alteration of the W.E. is not possible. Should it not be possible to retain an extra W/S, it is then suggested that it be renamed the 16 Repair Unit and the Workshop at Verona which is [illegible] be disbanded in its place.

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

2. This workshop which moved over 3 weeks ago to its new location, was found to be still in a chaotic state. There was no evidence of any worthwhile organization and although the site is good, it still requires a great deal of Genio work on electric light plant, building of walls, making and fitting of windows etc. Prior to the move of this W/S the previous O.C. (a new O.C. had taken over two days prior to my visit) and the previous Director of Repairs were frequently asked to render to this office a statement of the Genio work required and action taken, so that further action could be taken in accordance with ADRE letter ME/43/63 dated 28 June 1946. This statement however was never produced.

3. The new O.C. is now forwarding a plan layout of his W/S plus all Genio work required for each section, for approval and action by the Director of Repairs. Nevertheless it will be some time before this W/S will be a going concern.

4. The following day, the W/S of the 21 Recovery Commission (Vicenza) was visited with Lt.Col. Baccari. This W/S is at present a detachment of the 16 Repair Unit and has been under orders to disband. This order has been temporarily suspended for an indefinite period, which, it is felt, is most unsatisfactory for all concerned, although the O.C. W/S still continues to show great enthusiasm. The W/S is undoubtedly the best of the three in the Territorial Command, its layout including stores, vehicle repair bay, machine shop, engine test bed bay etc. being excellent.

5. The discipline is also very good and the O.C. appears very willing to adopt British methods.

6. In view of the excellent state of this W/S (its output being practically the same as the 4 Repair Unit, Merano, which has twice as many personnel) and the difficulty of building up a reliable and Italian Workshop, it is suggested that every possible step be taken to retain this W/S, possibly as a 3rd class W/S independent of the 16 Repair Unit within the W.E. of the Territorial Command or surplus to W.E., if the alteration of the W.E. is not possible. Should it not be possible to retain an extra W/S, it is then suggested that it be renamed the 16 Repair Unit and the Workshop at Verona which is not functioning be disbanded in its place.

7. Again if the two suggestions above are not possible, it is hoped that its disbandment will be postponed for a definite period (6 months?) until the 16 Repair Unit has become an efficient Unit.

8. The Director of Repairs Lt.Col. Baccari is fully in agreement with the above suggestions.

p.t.o.

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

9. It has since been learnt that the workers are so keen that they wish to buy the W/S site and machinery if its disbanded.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

Traduzione :-

Oggetto: Officine del IV Comando Militare Territoriale.

1. In data 12 Dicembre 46 e' stato visitato il 16° Reparto Riparazioni Auto a Verona, insieme al Ten.Colonnello Baccari.

2. Si trovava quell'Officina ancora in uno stato di gran disordine, sebbene si fosse trasferita nella nuova sede gia' da 5 settimane. Non si vedeva traccia di una qualsiasi organizzazione e quantunque il locale e' buono, occorrera' ancora una gran mole di lavori del Genio all'impianto elettrico, costruendo muri, costruendo ed aggiustando le finestre ecc. Prima del trasferimento di qusta Officina il Comandante precedente (un nuovo Comandante aveva assunto due giorni prima della mia visita) come anche il precedente Direttore Riparazioni Automobilistiche del 4 Comiliter, sono stati pregati spesse volte di compilare per questo ufficio una situazione dei lavori del Genio richiesti e delle misure prese, onde metterci in grado di procedere a disposizioni ulteriori conforme il foglio ME/43/63 del 28 giugno 46 dell'ADME. Pero' quella relazione non e' mai pervenuta.

3. Il nuovo Comandante sta ora redigendo una situazione della sua Officina, nella quale saranno anche compresi tutti i lavori del Genio occorrenti ad ogni sezione, per l'approvazione e le disposizioni relative da parte del Direttore Riparazioni Automobilistiche. Cio' nonostante passera' ancora qualche tempo finche' quella Officina sara' in pieno funzionamento.

4. Il giorno dopo, insieme al Ten.Colonnello Baccari, ho fatto una visita all'Officina 21 Commissione Ricupero, Vicenza. Detta Officina attualmente e' un reparto staccato del 16° Reparto Riparazioni ed aveva gia' ricevuto l'ordine di scioglimento. Pero' quest'ordine e' stato sospeso temporaneamente per un periodo indefinito, cosa questa poco soddisfacente per tutti gli interessati; ad onta di cio' il Comandante prosegue con gran entusiasmo. Non c'e' dubbio che questa Officina sia la migliore di tutte e tre le officine del Comando Militare Territoriale, essendo eccellente la sua sistemazione comprese i depositi, la sua sezione per la ripara-

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

Oggetto: Officine del IV Comando Militare Territoriale.

1. In data 12 Dicembre 46 e' stato visitato il 16° Reparto Riparazioni Auto a Verona, insieme al Ten.Colonnello Baccari.

2. Si trovava quell'Officina ancora in uno stato di gran disordine, sebbene si fosse trasferita nella nuova sede gia' da 5 settimane. Non si vedeva traccia di una qualsiasi organizzazione e quantunque il locale e' buono, occorrera' ancora una gran mole di lavori del Genio all'impianto elettrico, costruendo muri, costruendo ed aggiustando le finestre ecc. Prima del trasferimento di qusta Officina il Comandante precedente (un nuovo Comandante aveva assunto due giorni prima della mia visita) come anche il precedente Direttore Riparazioni Automobilistiche del 4 Comiliter, sono stati pregati spesse volte di compilare per questo ufficio una situazione dei lavori del Genio richiesti e delle misure prese, onde metterci in grado di procedere a disposizioni ulteriori conforme il foglio ME/43/63 del 28 giugno 46 dell'AMME. Pero' quella relazione non e' mai pervenuta.

3. Il nuovo Comandante sta ora redigendo una situazione della sua Officina, nella quale saranno anche compresi tutti i lavori del Genio occorrenti ad ogni sezione, per l'approvazione e le disposizioni relative da parte del Direttore Riparazioni Automobilistiche. Cio' nonostante passera' ancora qualche tempo finche' quella Officina sara' in pieno funzionamento.

4. Il giorno dopo, insieme al Ten.Colonnello Baccari, ho fatto una visita all'Officina 21 Commissione Ricupero, Vicenza. Detta Officina attualmente e' un reparto staccato del 16° Reparto Riparazioni ed aveva gia' ricevuto l'ordine di scioglimento. Pero' quest'ordine e' stato sospeso temporaneamente per un periodo indefinito, cosa questa poco soddisfacente per tutti gli interessati; ed onta di cio' il Comandante prosegue con gran entusiasmo. Non c'e' dubbio che questa Officina sia la migliore di tutte e tre le officine del Comando Militare Territoriale, essendo eccellente la sua sistemazione compreso i depositi, la sua sezione per la riparazione degli automezzi, la sua sezione officina meccanica, la sua sezione di prova dei motori sul banco.

5. Anche la disciplina e' ottima e sembra che il Comandante sia volenteroso di adottare il sistema britannico.

6. In riguardo all'ottimo stato di quella Officina (il suo rendimento essendo effettivamente lo stesso come quello del 4 Reparto Riparauto Merano, che dispone del doppio numero di personale) ed in

t.v.p.

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

riguardo alla difficolta' di impiantare una officina italiana veramente buona, si propone di fare il meglio possibile onde mantenere in funzionamento questa Officina 21 Commissione Ricupero. Detta Officina potrebbe funzionare independentemente dal 16° Reparto Riparazioni Auto come un'officina di 3ª classe entro l'organico (W.E.) del Comando Militare Territoriale od esuberante all'organico nel caso che una modificazione dell'organico non sia possibile. Se fosse impossibile tenere un'officina in piu' si proporrebbe di denominarla nuovamente 16° Reparto Riparazioni Auto e di sciogliere invece l'Officina di Verona, il cui funzionamento non e' buono.

7. Riassunto brevemente: Se non sara' possibile di realizzare le due proposte sopracitate, si spera che lo scioglimento venga differito per un periodo determinato (6 mesi ?) finche' il 16° Reparto Riparazioni Auto sia in piena efficienza.

8. Il Direttore Riparazioni Automobilistiche del 4 Comiliter e' interamente d'accordo colle proposte sopracitate.

9. Nel frattempo e' venuto a conoscenza che gli operai dell'Officina a Vicenza sono tanto appassionati e zelanti che desiderano comperare lo stabilimento dell'officina ed il macchinario nel caso che questa venisse sciolta.

Firmato:
CAPITANO WHITE
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

2141

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

[illegible] Reparto Riparazioni Auto sia in piena efficienza.

8. Il Direttore Riparazioni Automobilistiche del 4 Comiliter e' interamente d'accordo colle proposte sopracitate.

9. Nel frattempo e' venuto a conoscenza che gli operai dell'Officina a Vicenza sono tanto appassionati e zelanti che desiderano comperare lo stabilimento dell'officina ed il macchinario nel caso che questa venisse sciolta.

Firmato:
CAPITANO WHITE
S.O. ARMY 4 B.L.U.

2141

Rec'd 3rd Jan 47

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

43 (36)

Subject : Unit Maintenance Inspection - "Folgore" Infantry Division.

To : A.D.M.E.
Land Forces Sub. Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) Rome.

SC REME
7 Liaison Unit
c/o 6 B.L.U.
Tele 217 Area Ex 7

EME/71A/3
18/12/46

1. We enclose a summarized table giving details of the Italian U.M.I. Inspection Reports on Units of the "Folgore" Inf, Div.

From these reports it will be seen that the general standard of maintenance in this Division is still far from satisfactory and considerable instruction in M.T. Discipline and Vehicle Documentation is required.

2. This table covers eleven Units of the "Folgore" Div. and the following analysis gives a clear picture of the general state of maintenance

	GOOD (OR Less 10%)	FAIR (20 - 30%)	UNSATISFACTORY (40 - 60%)
PERCENTAGE OF V.O.R.	2	4	5
M.T. DISCIPLINE	5	3	3
VEHICLE DOCUMENTATION	I	3	7
STANDARD OF MAINTENANCE	I	5	5

NOTE.

From the above it will be seen that 20% of the Units Inspected can be classified as "GOOD" - 34% as "FAIR" - 46% as "UNSATISFACTORY".

Figures in above table indicate No. of Units coming under the respective classifications.

2140

Copy to H.Q. "Folgore" Div. for information and action with Units concerned.

Copy to R.E.M.E. File - Florence.

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

maintenance in this Division is still [illegible] Vehicle Documentation is required, instruction in M.T. Discipline and Vehicle Documentation is required.

2. This table covers eleven Units of the "Folgore" Div. and the following analysis gives a clear picture of the general state of maintenance

	GOOD (V.O.R. Less 10%)	FAIR (20 - 30%)	UNSATISFACTORY (40 - 60%)
PERCENTAGE OF V.O.R.	2	4	5
M.T. DISCIPLINE	5	3	3
VEHICLE DOCUMENTATION	I	3	7
STANDARD OF MAINTENANCE	I	5	5

NOTE.

From the above it will be seen that 20% of the Units Inspected can be classified as "GOOD" - 34% as "FAIR" - 46% as "UNSATISFACTORY".

Figures in above table indicate No. of Units coming under the respective classifications.

2140

Copy to H.Q. "Folgore" Div. for information and action with Units concerned.

Copy to R.E.M.E. File - Florence.

P.H. Nelson SO REME

254

RECEIVED 27 DEC 1946

Resp. 30th Nov

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

	Arty T
3	5 Art Group
4	IV A Grou
5	II A Grou
6	II Gar Rgt
7	III Rgt.
8	H.Q Bat
9	Is 18 Rg
10	II G
11	R 1 A

2139

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

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

UNIT MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

" FOLGORE " INFANTRY DIVISION - OCT/1946

REG.No	UNIT	TRANSPORT STATE EX "A" VEHICLES				M.T. DISCIPLINE	DOCUMENTATION	M A	
		STRENGTH	IN RESERVE	VOR	INSPECTED			ENGINE	TRANSMISSION
1	Mort. Coy Nembo Rgt	16	NIL	7	7	FAIR	Unsatisfactory & Incomplete	Bolts Loose & Dynamo need lubrication	Loose bolts - C.600 used instead of H.Y.90
2	3 LAD 184 Arty Rgt.	9	3	1	7	GOOD	Good - 2 not complete	Very Good	Good
3	5 Arty Group	25	8	5	10	GOOD	Fair - Fault Book not kept	Fair - Bolts & Fan Belt loose	C,600 used instead of HY 90 Bolts loose & a few need lubrication
4	IV Arty Group	35	NIL	18	NIL	UNSATISFACTORY Not based on task system	Unsatisfactory and incomplete	Bolts & Fan belts Loose	C.600 used instead of HY 90 and unsatisfactory
5	II Arty Group	41	21	13	13	UNSATISFACTORY W.E. deficient	Insufficient and badly kept	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
6	II Batt. Garibaldi Rgt.	18	NIL	5	7	SATISFACTORY	Fair - but incorplete	Fair - Fan belts & Bolts loose	Bolts loose and oil levels low
7	III Inf. Rgt. Nembo	31	NIL	20	6	GOOD	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts Loose	Fair - Loose bolts & C.600 used instead of H.Y.90
8	H.Q. Eng. Batt.	10	NIL	2	5	FAIR	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts & Fan Belts Loose.	Fair
9	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	—	—	—		

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

MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

FOLGORE " INFANTRY DIVISION - 00/1946

		MAINTENANCE STATE						
HLINE	DOCUMENTATION	ENGINE	TRANSMISSION	AXLES	B. WORK	ELEC. SYSTEM	BATTERIES	TYRES
	Unsatisfactory & Incomplete	Bolts Loose & Dynamo needs lubricatio	Loose bolts - C.600 used instead of H.Y.90	-	Fair - Bolts Loose - Hooks to be attached	-	Bad - Liquid levels low and dry	Bad pressures irregular & M/C tyres flat.
	Good - 2 not complete	Very Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good - Some Vehicles fit odd tyres due to lack of normal ones.
	Fair - Fault Book not kept	Fair - Bolts & Fan Belt loose	C,600 used instead of HY 90 Bolts loose & a few need lubrication	-	Good	-	Good	Good - Odd tyres used.
CTORY on n	Unsatisfactory and incomplete	Bolts & Fan belts Loose	C,600 used instead of HY 90 and unsatisfactory	-	Good	-	Good	Incorrect pressure
CRY ent	Insufficient and badly kept	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	-	Fair	-	Fair	Fair
Y	Fair - but incomplete	Fair - Fan belts & Bolts loose	Bolts loose and oil levels low	-	Fair	-	Fair - Water levels low	Unsatisfactory
	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts Loose	Fair - Loose bolts & C.600 used instead of H.Y.90	-	Good	-	Good	Fair - M/C pressure incorrect
	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts & Fan Belts Loose.	Fair	-	Good	-	Fair - Water levels low.	Incorrect pressure.

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

5	II Arty Group	41	21	13	13	UNSATISFACTORY W.E. deficient	Insufficient and badly kept	Unsatis-factory	Unsatisfactory	
6	II Batt. Garibaldi Rgt.	18	NIL	5	7	SATISFACTORY	Fair - but incomplete	Fair - Fan belts & Bolts loose	Bolts loose and oil levels low	
7	III Inf. Rgt. Nembo	31	NIL	20	6	GOOD	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts Loose	Fair - Loose bolts & C.600 used instead of H.Y.90	
8	H.Q. Eng. Batt.	10	NIL	2	5	FAIR	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts & Fan Belts Loose.	Fair	
9	Ist Grp. 184 Arty Rgt.	38	NIL	14	12	VERY POOR	Very poor	Poor due to lack of maintenance	Loose bolts, Low oil levels, general check of maintenance poor.	Low lev Poor
10	III Btg Rgt Garibaldi	23	4	11	10	FAIR	Poor	Poor main-tenance	Loose Bolts, Lubrication poor	Oil vel low.
11	Rep. Gov. 184 Rgt. Asti	46	14	4	11	GOOS	Fair, but improving under new M.T.O.	Fair	Loose Bolts etc Need Lubrica-tion.	Oil vels low. Wrong oil u

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

RY nt	Insufficient and badly kept	Unsatis-factory	Unsatisfactory	-	Fair	-	Fair	Fair
	Fair - but incomplete	Fair - Fan belts & Bolts loose	Bolts loose and oil levels low	-	Fair	-	Fair - Water levels low	Unsatisfactory
	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts Loose	Fair - Loose bolts & C.600 used instead of H.Y.90	-	Good	-	Good	Fair - M/C pressure incorrect
	Unsatisfactory & incomplete	Fair - Bolts & Fan Belts Loose.	Fair	-	Good	-	Fair - Water levels low.	Incorrect pressure.
	Very poor	Poor due to lack of maintenance	Loose bolts, Low oil levels, general check of maintenance poor.	Low oil levels Poor	Fair	Fair	Dirty, levels low	Incorrect pressure Many cases tyres flat.
	Poor	Poor maintenance	Loose Bolts, Lubrication poor	Oil levels low.	Fair	Fair	" " "	Incorrect pressure Many flat tyres, some minus tubes
	Fair, but improving under new M.T.O.	Fair	Loose Bolts etc Need Lubrication.	Oil levels low. Wrong oil used	Fair	Fair	Dirty, levels low, corroded Leads etc.	Pressures incorrect.

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

Subject :- Sitreps

Rome

55

To :- ADME
Land Forces Sub.Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME

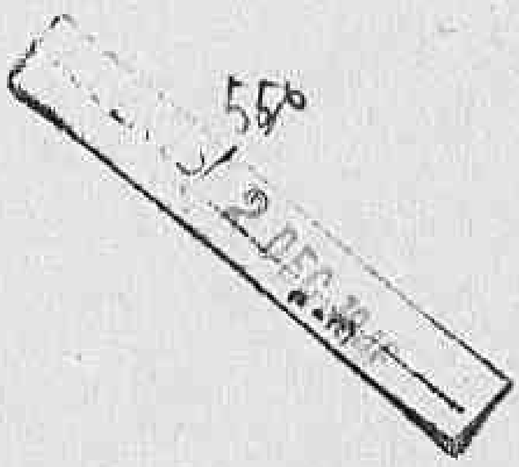
SC REME
7 British Liaison Unit,
c/o 6 B.L.U.
Tele 217 Area Ex 7

Ref. EME/2/22
28 Nov. 46

33

Ref. your ME/43/2/33 dated 19 Nov. 46 receipt is acknowledged of this letter and sitreps covering the period October and November are now being prepared. A point brought forward in previous Sitreps which is causing considerable difficulties is the lack of an O.A.R.E. Stores Section, see WE SS/125/1 and although we feel that the "Deposito Base Ricambi Auto per l'O.A.R.E." WE ref. SS/127/1 is actually for the OA.R.E. W/Shops Stores Section, no official confirmation re this has been received from the Ministry of War and consequently the O.A.R.E. is at present endeavouring to cope without an official Stores Section.

In view of the large stocks of M.T. Spares recently obtained from JESI and CEMSA and other sources, this is quite impossible and so far the accounting for 1946 is still outstanding and unless action can be taken to clarify the position it is most unlikely that the returns required by ADOS - HQ. M.M.I.A. will ever be obtained.



Pp Nelpe

SC REME

2138
Reg
5 Dec.

Reml M 43

(34)

Subject:- SITREP REME 4 B.L.U.

AB

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
B o l z a n o
Ref.: 4/ME/30-44

19 November 1946.

To:- ADME, HQ. M.M.I.A.,
R o m e

Reference paras 3 and 4 of your ME/43/30 dated 24 Oct 46.

1. Your suggestion re posting Workshop Personnel to L.A.D.'s has already been made to CME of the "Friuli" Infantry Division, but he opposed it on the grounds that :-

(a) The Workshop is already very depleted.
(b) The number of personnel fully trained held by the Workshop is very small.
(c) If partly trained men were sent out, they would not work well due to lack of supervision as 3 of the L.A.D.'s lack N.C.O.'s and the Workshop cannot, according to CME and O.C. Workshop, spare any trained N.C.O.'s.
(d) If the Workshop is depleted very much further, there is a danger that it will collapse completely.

2. The Return of Small Arms Inspections is intended to show that although work is continuing in the Workshop no actual inspections have been carried out in the regiments during this period.

It is regretted that the return was misleading due to the completing of the inspection column which should have been left blank.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

423

REC'D 20 NOV 1946

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

(a) The Workshop is already very depleted.
(b) The number of personnel fully trained held by the Workshop is very small.
(c) If partly trained men were sent out, they would not work well due to lack of supervision as 3 of the L.A.D.'s lack N.C.O.'s and the Workshop cannot, according to CME and O.C. Workshop, spare any trained N.C.O.'s.
(d) If the Workshop is depleted very much further, there is a danger that it will collapse completely.

2. The Return of Small Arms Inspections is intended to show that although work is continuing in the Workshop no actual inspections have been carried out in the regiments during this period.

It is regretted that the return was misleading due to the completing of the inspection column which should have been left blank.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

423

RECEIVED 26 NOV 1946 DATE

2137

Regd. 5 Dec.

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

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

33

SUBJECT :- Sitreps.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
M.M.I.A. ROME.
ME/43/2/33
19 Nov. '46

TO :- E.M.E. 7 B.L.U.
c/o 6 B.L.U.

Your attention is invited to para 6 of R.E.M.E. Directive No 1 dated 5 Dec. '45, which requires sitreps every fortnight. Your last sitrep was dated 6 Sep. '46.

Please forward sitrep for first half of November at once covering important points of progress made and difficulties ~~only~~ MET.

Acknowledge receipt.

Lt Col,
A.D.M.E.

AB/ma

File

Reg 21336
20 Nov 46

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

43 (34)

Telephone
Rome 459081 Ext 248

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMA) CMF

G/57

14 Nov 46

12 ELM

Subject:- Monthly Progress Report

Ref your Progress Report No 23.

1. (a) Para 19

It is not thought that the addition of a RE storeman would be approved by MMC on the grounds that the ITALIANS have now been in possession of BMLF Eqpt for over two years, and that if we have not yet taught them both to identify and to use it, we should have done.

(b) Para 51

Under the Armistice the ITALIANS are not allowed by AA. As a matter of grace one tp was approved for the Arty School in order that a cadre might remain in the ITALIAN Army with some elementary knowledge of the subject.

2. It is not however thought likely that MMC would approve the addition of a special RME Instr to teach the ITALIANS about what is at present prohibited eqpt.

A.R. Gourlay
Lt-Col,
G.S. (Mtn).

213

Regd.
14 Nov 46

ARG/all
Internal distribution
G(Trg)
'Q'

ME/43

29

CONFIDENTIAL.

Subject : Establishment of Proposal "A" Vehicle Park - ITALIAN ARMY - within 6 Territorial Command.

6 British Liaison Unit.
Tele: 217 Area 119.
Ref: Q/1/1.
14 October, 1946.

To :- Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.
(M. M. I. A.)

1. In conjunction with representatives from ITALIAN Ministry of War and 6 COMLITER, a reconnaissance has now been completed with a view to selecting a site for the proposed Armoured Fighting Vehicle Park. Lt.Col. BLUNT, ADME, M.M.I.A. was present to advise as technically necessary.

2. The desirability of the park being established in the vicinity of FORLI was emphasised: local conditions however, made this difficult for the following reasons :-

(a) Ground in the vicinity of 12 Veh. Park, is entirely unsuitable for the parking of heavy vehicles during winter months. Hard standings are non-existent, and vehicles would 'bog down', or become entirely inundated. The contruction of suitable hard standings on this site was considered impracticable.

(b) The only suitable standings in the immediate area, were on the site of the local Cattle Market. It was considered that this site would accommodate 500 vehicles. Although the site had been requisitioned by the ALLIES, it was about to be handed over to the local Commune, and its procurement by the ITALIAN Army would be difficult. Further, no covered accommodation was available, and the perimeter of the area was not cordoned. The necessary GENIO work is therefore considerable, and authority for its execution is unlikely, since the property is not Government owned.

(c) The question of accommodation for personnel at FORLI is difficult. Approx. 1,000 SEPs. are already in the area and likely to remain there for some time. Additionally, CHETNIKS employed on local administrative duties are occupying certain buildings, and the town is eventually to house some 600 POLISH married families. Tented accommodation, and its accompanying administrative complications - water, latrines, ablutions, cook-houses, lighting etc. - appeared the only alternative.

3. It was decided therefore, that

2136

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

1. In conjunction with representatives from ITALIAN Ministry of War and 6 COMLITER, a reconnaissance has now been completed with a view to selecting a site for the proposed Armoured Fighting Vehicle Park. Lt.Col. BLUNT, ADME, M.M.I.A. was present to advise as technically necessary.

2. The desirability of the park being established in the vicinity of FORLI was emphasised: local conditions however, made this difficult for the following reasons :-

(a) Ground in the vicinity of 12 Veh. Park, is entirely unsuitable for the parking of heavy vehicles during winter months. Hard standings are non-existent, and vehicles would 'bog down', or become entirely inundated. The contruction of suitable hard standings on this site was considered impracticable.

(b) The only suitable standings in the immediate area, were on the site of the local Cattle Market. It was considered that this site would accommodate 500 vehicles. Although the site had been requisitioned by the ALLIES, it was about to be handed over to the local Commune, and its procurement by the ITALIAN Army would be difficult. Further, no covered accommodation was available, and the perimeter of the area was not cordoned. The necessary GENIO work is therefore considerable, and authority for its execution is unlikely, since the property is not Government owned.

(c) The question of accommodation for personnel at FORLI is difficult. Approx. 1,000 SEPs. are already in the area and likely to remain there for some time. Additionally, CHETNIKS employed on local administrative duties are occupying certain buildings, and the town is eventually to house some 600 POLISH married families. Tented accommodation, and its accompanying administrative complications - water, latrines, ablutions, cook-houses, lighting etc. - appeared the only alternative.

2134

3. It was decided therefore, that a site in the FORLI area presented so many difficulties as to make it impracticable; and in order that economical administration could be effected, the possibility of park being establishedat BOLOGNA, should be investigated.

4. With this end in view, the site of the PARCO di SAN FELICE, badly damaged by bombing, was reconnoitred, and in the opinion of all representatives was considered adequate for requirements.

Q Dept REME ←
DRO

Rept. 17 Oct 46

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

5. The following factors substantiated this opinion :-

(a) An adjacent railhead is available.

(b) The site comprises sufficient hard standings for approximately 500 vehs., and may be enlarged if necessary.

(c) The property is State owned, (ITALIAN Army), and although repairs will be necessary to existing buildings required as accommodation for personnel, kitting store, servicing bay etc., authority for this work to be carried out, should not be difficult.

(d) The site is in a 'ZONA MILITARE', the perimeter is already protected, and generally the security of the proposed park should be simple.

(e) Road approaches are reasonable, and necessary alterations to enlarge the entrance(s) can be effected at little cost.

(f) Petrol pumps are in situ, and electric power available.

6. It was finally agreed that Major FIORE, (SMRE), should return to ROME with plans of the proposed project, and a request for GENIO work to start immediately.

7. This matter will be further reported on as necessary.

Major. DAA & QMG.
6 British Liaison Unit.

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

(f) Petrol pumps are in situ, [illegible]

6. It was finally agreed that Major FIORE, (SMFE), should return to ROME with plans of the proposed project, and a request for GENIO work to start immediately.

7. This matter will be further reported on as necessary.

Major. DAA & QMG.
6 British Liaison Unit.

2133

Regd 17 Feb

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

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

REME (27)

Subject :- Inspection 3 Magazzino Ricambi Auto - PIACENZA

2159 9-10-46

To :- ADME
Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A) ROME

SC REME
7 British Liaison Unit,
c/o 6 B.L.U.
Tele 217 Area Ex 7

Ref: EME/70/22
4 Oct. 46

1. Reference your ME/43/23 dated 30 Sept. 46.

Para 1 - As pointed out in our EME/70/19 dated 23 Sept. 46 the transformation of the 15 Repair Unit into a Major Assembly Repair Shop is only under discussion and to date no definite decision has been arrived at.

Para 2 - From inspection of several indents for M.T. Spares it was evident that in all cases the availability was fairly high.
As previously stated the exact percentage of availability cannot be given as all cases are not yet opened and it is agreed that it would be possible under such circumstances to find many items in the Stores which were marked N.A. on indents, obviously due to the fact that in all probability these spares have been taken from cases opened after the original availability on indents had been notified to Units.

2. During this inspection the difficulty regarding the two Majors referred to in para 2 (e) was not evident, the inspection was carried out in company with Maj. FAUCI who was extremely helpful and the Stores System was found to be completely in accordance with the Italian Ministry of War Directive ref. 35000 dated 25 June 46.
Before Maj. FAUCI was posted to this Unit the Store Section was being run by Maj. DELLINO O.C. of the 15 Repair Unit and this is properly responsible for the statement made by CME 4 B.L.U. but we feel his statement exagerates the position.

2132

P.H. Nelson SC REME Rcd 10/9/46

REME (26)

AMG - Tour Notes.

1. 17 Sept 2 BLU Genoa.

(a) Det Ryme and Thrapp. Accomodation satisfactory. Ryme occupies large villa which is also Mess with guest accomodation.

(b) Local Maintenance. No problem so long as South African Detachment remain in Genoa.

(c) Domestic Transport. "Harpies" Jeep returned to Base, has this arrived?. Generally BLU transport unreliable and difficulty in obtaining spare parts. Italian Army transport frequently borrowed.

2. 18 Sept 1 BLU Turin.

(a) Det Egerton - Perry - Barthey. Accomodation. We Mess, intend to give up villa owing to difficulty of approach and heating in winter. Are not satisfied with officers accomodation. OR's in good flats but demand central heating with civilians presents problem.

(b) 1 BLU has submitted Local Maintenance proposals. Reluctant accept War Ministry help over accomodation and heating as this expulses contract British and Italian Officers service conditions. See their letter c 5 12 Sept.
Personnel. Prefer mail to be addressed - c/o Base PO and forwarded by A.C. Courier plane.

(c) Domestic Transport. Unavailable. ~~Jeep~~ Car Jeep and Caravan preferably converted 3 Tonner not trailer.

(d) Personnel. Short of British drivers and need Comp Coats and G/S. This is a general request from BLU's who have to administer attd British personnel. See para 8(e).

(e) Italian Army. Det C of S. 1 Tank Coad. Rations and equipment for Alpine Regiments not satisfactory. War Ministry have not satisfied their demands. This also general concern of Tank Coads in the North.

3. 21 Sept 3 BLU Milan

(a) Det Morris and Clarkin. Egerton on leave. Accomodation not satisfactory except for Baglan and Odd with the villas at Como and Gemo. No Mess and [illegible] Det left in a very poor

A

2131

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

(a) Det Egerton - Perry - Hartley. Accomodation. We have, intend to give up villa owing to difficulty of approach and heating in winter. Are not satisfied with officers accomodation. OR's in good flats but communal central heating with civilians presents problem.

(b) 1 RAF has submitted local maintenance proposals. Reluctant accept War Ministry help over accomodation and heating on this explanation contrast British and Italian officers service conditions. See their letter 5 12 Sept.
Personal. Preferred this to be addressed- c/o Base HQ and forwarded by A.C. Courier plane.

(c) Domestic Transport. Unreliable. ~~Urgent~~ Asx for Jeep and German preferably covered 3 Tonner not trailer.

(d) Personnel. Short of British drivers and need Jeep Qualif and O/R. This is a general request from HQ's who have to administer attd British personnel. See para 2(c).

(e) Italian Army. Det C of S. 1 Para Cond. Rations and equipment for Alpine Regiments not satisfactory. War Ministry have not satisfied their demands. This also general concern of Terr Comds in the North.

A

2131

3. 23 Sept 5 RAF Milan

(a) Det Harris and Aldridge. Egerton on leave. Accomodation not satisfactory except for Hughes and Gold with the villas at Varese and Como. No Harris and Harris offered requisitioned flat left in a very poor shape by Polish Army. OR's accomodation not visited but no complaints.

(b) Local Maintenance. RAF not clear as to future. Milan Det of 247 Area closing down. Require 3 ton lorry for rations.

(c) Domestic Transport. Unreliable. Delay in repairs being to non availability of spare parts.

4. 24 Sept 4 RAF Bolzano

(a) Det Johnstone - Bradley - White and S/L Lyons. Accomodation for officers and OR's satisfactory.

Continued sheet...2/

Rg 10/9/46

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

(b) Repatria Transport Require copy of revised GO. 3 ton lorry needed urgently, not yet received. Asks for 8 cwt Chev to be replaced as unsuitable on winter roads. (See para 7d). Are sending particulars of two cars which we should get from AG 1 Italian 1 German sales, both looked good. Q

(c) Local Administration Are looking after displaced persons but need civilian detachment. Total rations strength 7?! Crew ETC and Pedlar for reconditioned animal transport from Naples.

(d) Personnel Asked urgently for AT rep or Officer to help us Comp. Also for replacement Sgt Harrison due for release and a Kompanen. A

(e) Maint Pilto reports move of 4 Repair Unit to Verona. Local labour troubles are hampering G.C. workshop. Asks for more military technical personnel (ex south whose visit from AGM. Director of Repairs advises cost of repairs to Chev staff car charged from some other source than 4 Tank Grad allotment. REME

(f) A.F. Garrison Service Flown Lisse with Allen on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

(g) Italian Army Met CO 4 Tank Bde and G of 4. Extremely courteous and expressed appreciation of A. MMT's efforts. Required if CCG had any comment to make on his recent tour of inspection.

Leghe Premises at Verona lately used as Officers Club and barracks at Vicenza. HQ Letters G1 - 7 and G4 - 8 of 8b Regt to 217 Area Depot. ~~[illegible]~~

Alpine Troops evitation. HQ Letter G4 12 Regt to 52 reform. Q

5. 1 Corps & HQ Troops

(a) Met Mathen - Mannington - Johnston and Butler. Accommodation Officers accommodation GE's by arrangement with AMG but has recently received more British GE rtts which would prefer to go without or otherwise be used start separate GE's Mess. No writing to about this. Could be sent to Bologna or Bologna. 2130 A

(b) Personnel Require Sgt Clerk. Ask for CCG to advise and look into local "Ordnance" matters. Request leave from Bologna (Lyons) on gratuitously Alexander Pathy-John who is due for leave and could "stop off" at home on his way to U.K. 210 ORD

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

(c) [illegible] Units reported move of 4 Repair Unit to Verona. Local labour troubles are hampering R.E. workshop. Ask for more military technical personnel and would welcome visit from SCAE. Director of Repairs stated cost of repairs to Army stuff our intrigued from some other source than 4 Base Coal allotment.

REME

(d) A.F. Garrison Service. Close liaison with Allies on Army, Navy and Policy.

(e) Italian Army. Met CGS 4 Base Coal and C of S. Extremely courteous and expressed appreciation of 4 BCU's efforts. Inquired if CGS had any comment to make on his recent tour of inspection.

Verona. Premises at Verona lately used as Officers Club and barracks at Vicenza. SCS letters (6 - 7 and C1 - 3 of 25 Sept to 217 Area refer.

Q

Alpine trained vehicles. SCS letter (8) 12 Sept to HQ refers.

5. 1 October 5 SCS Office

(a) Met Walker - Harrington - Johnston and Rattray.
Accommodation. Officers subsidiary CH's by arrangement with AMC but has recently received some British CH's which would prefer to do without as otherwise he must start separate CH's base. Is writing to check this. Could be sent to Bologna or Bologna.

2130 A

(b) Personnel. Require get clear. Ask for CGS to advise and look into local "overcrowd" authors. Suggest loan from Bologna (Lyons) or possibly Maurice Pathy-johns who is due for leave and could "step off" at Milan on his way to U.K.

ORD

(c) Italian Army.

(1) Met C of S 5 Base Coal. Regrets delay in issuing British weapons to engineers in their command. Could have postponed activity in view of frontier position. Boot and clothing factory in full swing but issue of new battledress (which looked and felt extremely good) will hardly be made in time. G.S.M. have own boot repair arrangements. Cpt

G

Q

Continued sheet.../

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

(d) Wielded OAR Sacile

Men looked fit and in good spirits. Sickness State strenght. 7 out of 1700. Commiserated with one invalid and found I had picked the wrong one as he was the only V.D. case (suspected) in the ward. Could enthusiastic and on top of his form. Only complaint he had was lack of married accomodation for instructors. Barracks generally clean and well kept Institute and Gate lines bright and attractive. G

(e) MAS
Armorers tools not needed U.S.A. weapons sent out to local Replacements where such tools as have been received are located. 5 Repair Unit has received various machines in exchange for corap vehicles and these are now installed including reboring plant. No labour difficulties and output rising.

6. 5 October 6 MAS Polmara

(a) Met Nelson - Keiter. Accomodation satisfactory. Italian Army provided good Mess with guest rooms. OR's accomodation excellent based on RAF increment.

(b) Local Maintenance 217 Area closing down end of October and sub-area opening at possibly Bloodino. Relations with present Area staff excellent.

7. 7 October 7 MAS Monfalcone

(a) Met Markes - Gregson - Hamilton. Accomodation Officers have good OR's and Gregsons villa. Villa Primavera and liable to be lost by end of December as owner (American civilian) wishes to regain possession. This being resisted as alternative buildings late "G.R.DR" Unit buildings not so good.

(b) Local Maintenance Can purchase rum for cash such items as Rice, oil, flour and cheese but quantity limited to Italian scale. This used for extra messing. Fuel not authorised and desired on Italian contract rate is less than 50% local rate for wood or lignite. Q/ST

(c) Personnel Want assistance to get former Chief Clerk back into Army and into 7 MAS. Can War Ministry be persuaded to grant MAS Civilian drivers military status as accomodation for visiting drivers is difficult if they are Italian. AT Officer must be replaced when he is due for release. A 2128

(d) Italian Army 7 Corps Cont urgently require 300 sq yds of "Mica" for windows of newly occupied barracks, can we help obtain direct from U.K. Milit- Q

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

various machines in exchange for army vehicles and these are now installed including rebuilding plant. No labour difficulties and output rising.

5. 5 October 6 MAU Bologna

(a) Met Nelson - Driber. Accomodation satisfactory. Italian Army provided good Mess with guest rooms. OR's accomodation excellent based on RAF increment.

(b) Local Maintenance 217 Area closing down end of October and sub-area opening at possibly Bologna. Relations with present Area staff excellent.

7. 7 October 7 MAU Florence

(a) Met Marks - Gregson - Hamilton. Accomodation Officers Mess good OR's and Gregsons villa, Villa Primavera and liable to be lost by end of December as owner (American civilian) wishes to regain possession. This being resisted as alternative buildings into "G.R.T." that buildings not so good.

(b) Local Maintenance Can purchase now for cash such items as rice, oil, flour and cheese but quantity limited to Italian scale. This used for extra messing. Fuel not authorised and desired as Italian contract rate is less than 50% local rate for wood or lignite.

Q/ST

(c) Personnel Want assistance to get former Chief Clerk back into Army and into 7 MAU. Can War Ministry be persuaded to grant MMA Civilian drivers military status as accomodation for visiting drivers is difficult if they are Italian. SM Officer must be replaced when he is due for release.

A 2128

(d) Italian Army 7 Terr Coud urgently require 300 sq yds of "Mica" for windows of newly occupied barracks, can we help obtain direct from U.S. Military stocks.

Q

(e) Domestic Transport Require 8 cwt MT and Chev... (See para 4b).

Q

8. General

(a) Local administration an increasing worry MAU's uncertain as to future and would welcome change now to Local purchase and adequate allowance.

Continued sheet...4/

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

(b) Accomodation very mixed desirable each BLU should have and maintain a home for single and visiting officers.

(c) Domestic Economy a serious distraction to the working of BLU's who all request this be realised.

'A' types want an officer as cook.

'B' types want a suitable Mi Sgt.

(d) Lorryide Transport A serious handicap to the efficient performance of their job. Essential BLU's in the north have reliable Jeeps. All ensure demand for caravan accomodating one or two officers preferably its own price cover. Great difficulty in obtaining spares. Suggest 5 BLU be made self with only remaining British source of supply and demands made through them. 5 BLU anxious to help especially if they may be given an additional officer for the purpose. He would then contact the appropriate Supply, EVI, and RE stores Depots.

A

Q

Rae

AMB

9th October 1946

NOTE DISTRIBUTION

A/C [illegible]

A [illegible]

G [illegible]

C

2129

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

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

O OREME (25)

SUBJECT: Quarterly Historical Reports

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA)
(489081 Ext. 401) G/99
Oct 46

TO : List 'A'

Attached is copy of Appendix to ACI 633 of 26/6/46 for information & guidance in rendering returns.

R. P. Cummins
Major General,
M. M. I. A.

RNC/sb

2127

Reg 7/10/46

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

APPENDIX

RESTRICTED

Original/Duplicate (delete as applicable)

QUARTERLY HISTORICAL REPORT

of the .....
(Headquarters, unit or establishment)

for the quarter ending .....194.....

1. Location (giving map reference) .....

2. Strength:- ..... Officers ..... Other Ranks.

3. How employed (with notes on important training exercises carried out, appreciations and recommendations of the commander).

4. Administration (particularly administrative difficulties encountered and action taken to overcome them. Any other important administrative matters, such as changes in establishment, alteration of designation, etc., with dates and authorities).

5. Miscellaneous (including comment on morale, notes on important visits paid and received by commanders and senior staff officers, with reasons for such visits and decisions taken).

6. Appendices as applicable.

48

Progress Report No. 16

R.E.M.E. Branch.
1 British Liaison Unit.
1/EME/13/16
Tel. Turin 22976 x 36

28th. September 1946.

(24)

To:- A.D.M.E.
Land Forces sub-Commission AC.
Rome.

G.1.
1 B.L.U.

During the period 23-29 Aug. I visited Rome and with Major Franklin went to the Ministry of War and discussed with Gen. RUSSO and Lt-Col FUSCALDI the future programme of the Turin Arsenal.

On my return a letter was sent to the Director of the Arsenal outlining the points discussed and this letter was in the nature of a warning letter to your ME/20/84 of 23 Sept 46.

1 Reparto Reparazione

Work continues as normal, the only item outstanding during this period has been the theft of the Lancia Aprilia on charge to the G.11. which was in the W/shops for water pump repairs. This case has been handed over to the CCRR and enquiries are proceeding.

Divisional Workshops "Cremona"

The armourers shop was called upon to visit the 4th. Alpini Regt. and carry out a small arms inspection. Herewith the report as submitted by the O.C. W/shops. All weapons requiring repairs have been called in to W/shops and repairs are being carried out as soon as possible.

Type	W.E.	Inspected	Serviceable	Called into Workshops	BER	Remarks.
Enfield Rifles.	541	520	391	129	4	
Brens	54	54	-	54	-	
TSMG	94	88	78	10	-	X
PIAT	12	8	5	3	-	
2" Mortar	5	5	4	1	-	
3" Mortar	4	4	4	-	-	
Pistol 38"	23	20	20	-	-	

X all require new barrells.

The arms of this unit are in quite a good state of maintenance. The damage found was not due to carelessnes but due to usual recruit training, e.g. the large number of rifle butt plates which were found broken.

2795 RECEIVED 3 - OCT 1946 21125

2 Reparto Reparazione Genoa.

In view of the large number of vehicles of Allied make which have been continually appearing in this workshop for repair, and due to lack of spares, remain in w/shops for a considerable period until reduced to Class IV

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

1 Reparto Reparazione

Work continues as normal, the only item outstanding during this period has been the theft of the Lancia Aprilia on charge to the G.11. which was in the W/shops for water pump repairs. This case has been handed over to the CCPR and enquiries are proceeding.

Divisional Workshops "Cremona"

The armourers shop was called upon to visit the 4th. Alpini Regt. and carry out a small arms inspection. Herewith the report as submitted by the O.C. W/shops. All weapons requiring repairs have been called in to W/shops and repairs are being carried out as soon as possible.

Type	W.E.	Inspected	Serviceable	Called into Workshops	BER	Remarks.
Enfield Rifles.	541	520	391	129	4	
Brens	54	54	-	54	-	
TSMG	94	88	78	10	-	X
PIAT	12	8	5	3	-	
2" Mortar	5	5	4	1	-	
3" Mortar	4	4	4	-	-	
Pistol 38"	23	20	20	-	-	

X all require new barrells.

The arms of this unit are in quite a good state of maintenance. The damage found was not due to carelessnes but due to usual recruit training, e.g. the large number of rifle butt plates which were found broken.

2795 RECEIVED 3 - OCT 1946 125

2 Reparto Reparazione Genoa.

In view of the large number of vehicles of Allied make which have been continually appearing in this workshop for repair, and due to lack of spares, remain in w/shops for a considerable period until reduced to Class IV through cannabalisation; a conference was held with:-

Major PIRANI Director of Repairs Genova.
Lt-Col GARGUILO O.C. 2 Reparto Reparazione.
Capt. DE GARRACO A/CME Mantova Div.

The position regarding these vehicles which are entering this w/shop because it is in Genoa whilst the Mantova W/shops are some 30 mls out, was discussed and I suggested that Mantova transfer a LAD to Genoa to deal with this work load on allied pattern vehicles. This LAD could come under the admin. command of 2 Reparto. Thus this workshop will cease to have any responsibilities for allied pattern vehicles and all the floor space at present occupied by these derelict vehicles can be cleared and made available to Italian pattern vehicles. This LAD could backload direct to Mantova W/shops any vehicles beyond there programme.

Reg 3/10/46

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

SHEET TWO

I have since visited this workshop and I find that the idea of moving a LAD has been disbanded for some unknown reason, however strict orders have been issued to all units in Genoa apparently as now this w/shop is practically free from allied vehicles. Only one derelict 15cwt remains and this will be backloaded to Mantova W/shops as soon as possible

To obtain this result it has taken approximately 10 months.

Mantova Div. W/shops.

OARE have written to this workshop and told them not to send any more Bedford engines for overhaul to OARE. In view of the large numbers of U/S engine assemblies in this w/shop I have instructed them to send some and get the site cleared. As a result 8 Bedford and 7 Dodge engines have been despatched whilst 4-3tonners have been backloaded for overhaul.

Mobile Bn. CCRR Liguria Legion.

The HQ only is at Genoa at present and the Bn have moved out to CHIAVARI for patrol duty on the Baracco pass. Apparently bandits are giving some trouble and the pass is now patrolled during the hours of darkness.

Two Staghounds have been brought back to Genoa with transmission trouble and one is at present in 2 Reparto under investigation.

This patrol is a very heavy duty for the cars and during my visit to Chiavari I stressed to the mechanics the special need for proper vehicle maintenance to prevent major breakdowns.

General

Visit of Col. BALLANZIRI.

I am not impressed with the visit of this officer. I expected a certain amount of co-operation and helpfull criticism. From the moment I first met him at the Officio Approvigiamento he made it quite clear that he did not want to discuss any points with me. He had wisited Cremona W/sh. the day previous and when I asked him for his opinion of this W/shop he informed me that the site was ridiculous. It would have been appreciated if this Officer had come to Turin in Sept. of last year and helped us to find a suitable site. As is well known, considerable improvement to the site has been carried out by the w/shops themselves and it is felt that casual criticism of this nature has a very dampening affect on the morale of the Officer's and men who are continually striving to raise the standard of the Workshop. He visited the Arsenal but took no interest whatever in the manufacture of various items such as Steering worms, Tool kits, Butt plates Stocks and Dies etc which are in production. He merely walked around and in one instance complained that one vehicle had incorrect tyres. When the O.C. 1 Reparto told him that they were the only tyres available in this area, we received the very helpfull answer that there were plenty of the proper tyres in Sardinia but none in Rome.

Tyre maintenance

The latest tyre pressure lists have been circulated to both Divs. and I have suggested that Div. CCRR institute road patrols with instructions to stop vehicles, check tyre pressures and examine for even loading. This has been agreed to and patrols are now out checking these points and also watching for furious and dangerous driving. A speed trap has been set up in the Mantova Div. area and is producing a lot of customers for the Chief of Staff.

"Cremona Div School"

As will be remembered a small classroom has been laid out in the

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

CHIAVARI for patrol duty on the Baracco pass. Apparently [illegible] some trouble and the pass is now patrolled during the hours of darkness.

Two Staghounds have been brought back to Genoa with transmission trouble and one is at present in 2 Reparto under investigation.

This patrol is a very heavy duty for the cars and during my visit to Chiavari I stressed to the mechanics the special need for proper vehicle maintenance to prevent major breakdowns.

General

Visit of Col. BALLANZIRI.

I am not impressed with the visit of this officer. I expected a certain amount of co-operation and helpfull criticism. From the moment I first met him at the Officio Approvigiamento he made it quite clear that he did not want to discuss any points with me. He had visited Cremona W/sh. the day previous and when I asked him for his opinion of this W/shop he informed me that the site was ridiculous. It would have been appreciated if this Officer had come to Turin in Sept. of last year and helped us to find a suitable site. As is well known, considerable improvement to the site has been carried out by the w/shops themselves and it is felt that casual criticism of this nature has a very dampening affect on the morale of the Officer's and men who are continually striving to raise the standard of the Workshop. He visited the Arsenal but took no interest whatever in the manufacture of various items such as Steering worms, Tool kits, Butt plates Stocks and Dies etc which are in production. He merely walked around and in one instance complained that one vehicle had incorrect tyres. When the O.C. 1 Reparto told him that they were the only tyres available in this area, we received the very helpfull answer that there were plenty of the proper tyres in Sardinia but none in Rome.

Tyre maintenance

The latest tyre pressure lists have been circulated to both Divs. and I have suggested that Div. CCRR institute road patrols with instructions to stop vehicles, check tyre pressures and examine for even loading. This has been agreed to and patrols are now out checking these points and also watching for furious and dangerous driving. A speed trap has been set up in the Mantova Div. area and is producing a lot of customers for the Chief of Staff.

"Cremona Div School"

As will be remembered a small classroom has been laid out in the workshops for teaching D&M. They are going one better now and are collecting a "Chamber of Horrors" such as seized bearings, burnt out tyres etc. and are going to make a small exibition which will tour the Div area and an Instructor will lecture all drivers on the cause and remedy of each exhibit. Further reports will be submitted on this.

Capt. E.M.E.
STAFF CAPT. R.E.M.E.
BRITISH LIAISON UNIT.

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

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

(23)

Sec 27 O.

SUBJECT :- Sitreps.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
R O M E.
M.A.I.A.
MR/43/23
30 Sept '46

(22)

TO :- E.L.E. G.B.L.U.

Ref. your sitrep MME/70/13 of 23 Sep. '46, the following is forwarded for information.

1. Ref. para 2 (c). There is no known proposal to transform 15 Repair Unit into a Major Assembly Repair Shop, though it might be possible to use it for overhaul of one kind of assembly e.g. gearboxes. by MR20/57 of 11 July '46 and MR20/84 of 23 Sep. '46 refer.

2. The following is an extract from A.B.L.U. Sitrep of 9 Sep :-

" E.T. Stores 4th Repair Unit (Bolzano).

(a) Reference para (d) under 'Further Enclosures' of my previous Sitrep S/R 26 dated 26 August 46.

(b) Of 112 items (not including quantities of these items) demanded during the period of a month from Piacenza, only 10 issues were made. Difficulties.

(c) Captain Gavotti, S/S Officer of the 4th Repair Unit, personally went to collect the last bulk demand recently, and reports he found that again the stores awaiting him satisfied only a fraction of the demands.

(d) He then requested that he be shown round the stores to obtain a general idea of its contents, and to see what demands would probably be met. He reports that he found many items which were on his indents, but which had not been satisfied and his general impression was that a far higher percentage of demands would be met if the stores organisation was improved. "

2123

1.1.1.1

Reg 30/10/46

File

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

(e) It is further understood that there seems to be a dispute as to who is commanding the depot, there being two Majors posted to this unit, who, it is again understood, are at loggerheads."

Have you any comments in view of the statement in your report that availability on most indents varies from 80% to 100%.

3. The difficulties mentioned in your letter will be brought to the notice of the Ministry of War.

AB

AB/cb

A. BLUNT, Lt. Col.
Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering.
M.M.I.A.

43

REME (23)

Subject :- Inspection 3rd Magazzino Ricambi Auto - Piacenza

Sec 27

SC REME
7 British Liaison Unit,
c/o 6 B.L.U.
Tele 217 Area Ex 7

To :- ADME
Land Forces Sub-Comm., A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME

Ref. EME/70/19
23 Sept. 1946

66 Old Cross

1. With further reference to our first Inspection Report of the above Depot ref. EME/70/8 dated 29 June 46, we now enclose for your information and necessary action a copy of a second Inspection dated 18 Sept. 46.

2. The importance of the organisation of this Stores Depot cannot be over-emphasised in view of the Ministry of War directive ref. 35000 dated 20 June 46 which states that this Depot will supply Repair Units of Milan, Bolzano, Udine, Bologna and Florence.

At present the Depot has been closed for receipt of Stores to enable its organisation to be completed and availability figures obtained but meanwhile the attention of the Ministry of War should be drawn to the following principal factors retarding the organisation of the Stores Depot.

(a) Outstanding Genio Work - At present all repair of buildings is being carried out by Depot personnel although building materials are being supplied by Genio Bologna. Approx. 2/3 of the available accomodation has now been completed but the remaining third is beyond the scope of Depot Personnel and Genio assistance is urgently required.

(b) Binning of Stores - This is held up by lack of racking and it is felt that the standard type racking made by Turin Arsenal would assist here.

(c) Major Assemblies - The proposal to transform 15 Repair Unit into an Assembly Repair Shop requires expediting, although we consider that Bologna would afford better facilities for Major Assembly Repairs which could either be carried out by an extended section of the No. 6 Repair Unit or by a completely separate W/Shop located in the paratechnical.

P.H. Nelson SC REME

2121

Copy to :- 'Q' Branch - 6 & 7 BLU
Director of Repairs - 6 & 7 Terr. Cond.
O.C. (Maj. FAVCI) 3rd Magazz. Ricambi Auto - Piacenza

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

66 Old Cpmd

1. With further reference to our first Inspection Report of the above Depot ref. EMB/70/8 dated 29 June 46, we now enclose for your information and necessary action a copy of a second Inspection dated 18 Sept. 46.

2. The importance of the organisation of this Stores Depot cannot be over-emphasised in view of the Ministry of War directive ref. 35000 dated 20 June 46 which states that this Depot will supply Repair Units of Milan, Bolzano, Udine, Bologna and Florence.

At present the Depot has been closed for receipt of Stores to enable its organisation to be completed and availability figures obtained but meanwhile the attention of the Ministry of War should be drawn to the following principal factors retarding the organisation of the Stores Depot.

(a) Outstanding Genio Work - At present all repair of buildings is being carried out by Depot personnel although building materials are being supplied by Genio Bologna. Approx. 2/3 of the available accomodation has now been completed but the remaining third is beyond the scope of Depot Personnel and Genio assistance is urgently required.

(b) Binning of Stores - This is held up by lack of racking and it is felt that the standard type racking made by Turin Arsenal would assist here.

(c) Major Assemblies - The proposal to transform 15 Repair Unit into an Assembly Repair Shop requires expediting.although we consider that Bologna would afford better facilities for Major Assembly Repairs which could either be carried out by an extended section of the No. 6 Repair Unit or by a completely separate W/Shop located in the paratechnical.

P.H. Nelson SC REME

2121

Copy to :- 'Q' Branch - 6 & 7 BLU
Director of Repairs - 6 & 7 Terr. Comd.
O.C. (Maj. FAUCI) 3rd Magazz. Ricambi Auto - Piacenza

2655

RECEIVED 21 SEP 1946

Reg 22/9/46

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

Inspection of 3 Stores Depot - PIACENZA

1. Date of Inspection:- 18 Sept. 46 2. Inspected by:- S/Cdr. SMITH

3. W.E. and Personnel

	W.E.	Def.
Officers	5	2
Sgts and above	6	3
Rank and File	11	4
Civilian	17	-

The Depot is employing approx. 250 civilian tradesmen, some on the strength of 15 Repair Unit but from the amount of repair work etc. still being done by unit personnel a further 3 personnel per each shed could be utilised.

4. Stores Buildings and Accomodation

A great deal of repair work has been accomplished by unit personnel mainly in roofing sheds whose walls etc. were in good condition. No Genio personnel were working but raw materials are received ex Genio Bologna.

All stores buildings at present in use are very efficiently organised and well kept

5. Availability of Spares

The majority of M.T. Spares are plentiful; with the return of all personnel from the Bolzano Area the job of sorting the M.T. Spares received is proceeding rapidly, but is being greatly hampered by lack of racking.

Orders have been placed with Piacenza Arsenal for racking but will not be available until Oct. Can these be obtained from Turin Arsenal?

The system of issue of stores is good. All available items are issued immediately and N.A.'s passed to Turin Purchasing Office who take all further action to Obtain.

There appears to be no difficulty over Tyres and Tubes. Demands are passed to Ministry of War who, through the Ministry of Commerce, obtain release from Pirelli and Fiat. Full quantities demanded are not always released as these firms have civilian commitments to maintain but all tyres and tubes so far required have been obtained.

Repairable Tyres and tubes are now repaired by unit personnel and a reply is awaited from Pirelli as to prices etc. for complete re-conditioning of tyres.

6. Major Assemblies

A large amount of repairable and B.L.R. engines are held and Maj. FAUCI stated that Col. BALANZINO had visited 3 Magazzino on 17 Sept. and stated that it was now proposed to transform 15 Repair Unit to a W/Shop solely for the repair of Major Assemblies. This is obviously in view of our EME/70/8 dated 29 Jun. 46 para 7. 2120

7. System of demanding

The system of demanding spares has now been defined under Ministry of War letter 35000 (EME/31/82) and is being conformed to by all Units. Availability on most indents varies from 80% to 100% but all indents are eventually completed by Purchasing Office-Turin. Difficulty is experienced at the moment with few electrical and Diesel spares but as all cases have not yet been opened accurate availability cannot be given. Only approx. half of the boxes ex Bolzano have been opened and binned.

8. Major FAUCI was most helpful throughout the visit and agreed that we could demand spares, including Tyres and Tubes, for the Italian Vehicles on charge to us in accordance

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

A great deal of repair work has been accomplished by unit personnel mainly in roofing sheds whose walls etc. were in good condition. No Genio personnel were working but raw materials are received ex Genio Bologna.

All stores buildings at present in use are very efficiently organised and well kept

5. Availability of Spares

The majority of M.T. Spares are plentiful; with the return of all personnel from the Bolzano Area the job of sorting the M.T. Spares received is proceeding rapidly, but is being greatly hampered by lack of racking.

Orders have been placed with Piacenza Arsenal for racking but will not be available until Oct. Can these be obtained from Turin Arsenal?

The system of issue of stores is good. All available items are issued immediately and N.A.'s passed to Turin Purchasing Office who take all further action to Obtain.

There appears to be no difficulty over Tyres and Tubes. Demands are passed to Ministry of War who, through the Ministry of Commerce, obtain release from Pirelli and Fiat. Full quantities demanded are not always released as these firms have civilian commitments to maintain but all tyres and tubes so far required have been obtained.

Repairable Tyres and tubes are now repaired by unit personnel and a reply is awaited from Pirelli as to prices etc. for complete re-conditioning of tyres.

6. Major Assemblies

A large amount of repairable and B.L.R. engines are held and Maj. FAUCI stated that Col. BALANZINO had visited 3 Magazzino on 17 Sept. and stated that it was now proposed to transform 15 Repair Unit to a W/Shop solely for the repair of Major Assemblies. This is obviously in view of our EME/70/8 dated 29 Jun. 46 para 7. 2120

7. System of demanding

The system of demanding spares has now been defined under Ministry of War letter 35000 (EME/31/82) and is being conformed to by all Units. Availability on most indents varies from 80% to 100% but all indents are eventually completed by Purchasing Office-Turin. Difficulty is experienced at the moment with few electrical and Diesel spares but as all cases have not yet been opened accurate availability cannot be given. Only approx. half of the boxes ex Bolzano have been opened and binned.

8. Major FAUCI was most helpful throughout the visit and agreed that we could demand spares, including Tyres and Tubes, for the Italian Vehicles on charge to us in accordance with EME/31/82 when he would make all efforts to complete demands.

S/Cdr.

Field

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

43

Subject:- SITREP REME 4 B.L.U.

Reme

(21)

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
B o l z a n o
Ref.: 4/ME/30-34

9th September 1946.

To:- ADME, HQ. M.M.I.A.,
R o m e

19 SEP 1946
RECEIVED
23.9.46

1. Reference your ME/43/2/2 dated 14 August 46.
It is regretted that O.C. Workshop was apparently misinformed or misunderstood the information given verbally to him by his HQ.

2. Attached is a Memorandum from Major Leone, CME "Friuli" Infantry Division explaining the exact situation. It should be noted that on visiting the CME he was himself not aware of the exact position and had to call the Personnel Office to complete his Memorandum.

3. As regards trades to be taught the O.C. W/S having insufficient personnel to detail instructors, has stated that he intends to find out from this last assignment of 40 - 50 personnel what type of work they prefer to do and then assign one to each tradesman working in the workshop to learn as best they can.

4. (a) The grading and distribution of the 22 personnel received in April 46 was as follows :-

6 Drivers (Main W/S)
8 Apprenticed to Main W/S personnel
4 Apprenticed to Platoon W/S personnel
2 Typists (Main W/S).

(b) The grading and distribution of the July assignment was :-

5 Drivers (Main W/S)
10 Apprenticed to Main W/S personnel
5 Apprenticed to Platoon W/S personnel.

Enclos.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

2119

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

exact position and had to call the Personnel Office to complete his Memorandum.

3. As regards trades to be taught the O.C. W/S having insufficient personnel to detail instructors, has stated that he intends to find out from this last assignment of 40 - 50 personnel what type of work they prefer to do and then assign one to each tradesman working in the workshop to learn as best they can.

4. (a) The grading and distribution of the 22 personnel received in April 46 was as follows :-

6 Drivers (Main W/S)
8 Apprenticed to Main W/S personnel
4 Apprenticed to Platoon W/S personnel
2 Typists (Main W/S).

(b) The grading and distribution of the July assignment was :-

5 Drivers (Main W/S)
10 Apprenticed to Main W/S personnel
5 Apprenticed to Platoon W/S personnel.

Enclos.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

2119

Reg 19/9/46

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

Translation.

MEMORANDUM re ASSIGNMENTS OF RECRUITS TO THE "FRIULI" MAIN WORKSHOP.

End of April, when a first contingent of already instructed recruits was assigned to the Division, 22 recruits provided with special technical abilities were assigned to the Main Workshop.

Meanwhile the Ministry of War - General Staff 'Army' - assigned by letter No. 01/619/mob. dated 28 February : 224 recruits to the M.T. Units of the "Friuli" Division, nearly half part of which (117) were sent on route to the Division for performance of the advanced training. 20 of them were assigned to the Main Workshop.

The remaining recruits (224 less 117 = 107), which have performed the advanced training at the M.T. School Cecchignola, are to be distributed on arrival at the Division, equitably among the Transport & Supply Unit, the Mobile Park (A.G.A.) and the Main Workshop. It therefore can be foreseen that the Main Workshop will not get assigned more than 40 - 50 recruits of the next contingent arriving.

Summed up, the number of recruits already assigned and those of next assignment to the Main Workshop are as follows :-

assigned in April 1946	22 recruits
assigned end of July 1946	20 recruits
next assignment	50 recruits
Total :-	92 recruits.

Levico, 23 August 1946.

For CAPTAIN WHITE from MAJOR LEONE.

W.

2178

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

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

20

SUBJECT :- 8 Repair Unit.
R C M E.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
R C M E.
M.E.I.A.
ME/43/20
21 Sept '46

TO :- Col A/S.

At the suggestion of the G.O.C. the above unit was visited on 10 September 1946. G.S.O. II 8 B.I.U. accompanied the writer throughout the visit and Col. TOBIA, Director of Repairs at Territorial Command conducted us throughout the visit.

There appeared to be an improvement as regards the orderliness of the unit premises since the last visit but this can be ascribed to the completion of a batch of 300 jeeps which had been repaired and passed to the efficient vehicle park.

A. BLANT, Lt. Col.
Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering.
M.E.I.A.

AB/cb

Copy to :- 8 B.I.U.

2117

File

Reg 21/9/46

WORKSHOP INSPECTION REPORT

Date :-
10 September 1946
Location - R O M E.

Unit :- 8 Repair Unit.

O.C. :- Col. BARRONE (at present on sick leave).
Acting O.C. - Major VILLA.

1. General.

The workshop is organised in four main buildings named Officina A, B, C and D respectively, and in addition there are subsidiary sections such as engine shop, blacksmiths, carpenters, painters shops, stores and offices.

2. Officina A.

This is piloted for the repair of Italian cars and is choked with vehicles, a number of which will never be repaired and are apparently used as a source of spare parts. A number of cars were also seen whose repair, by reason of their age, would scarcely seem economical. This workshop had its own electricians department, store for workshop equipment, and simple machine shop, but not more than thirty workmen were seen in the whole "officina".

3. Officina B.

This is set aside for minor repairs to vehicles in transit through or visiting Rome. Although eighteen vehicles were in various stages of repair, all the staff visible (nine men) were clustered around one jeep which was apparently about to go out on road test. The floor of the workshop was very tidy, which could have been due to a "cleaning-up" prior to the visit, but some of the vehicles had obviously not been worked upon for some days.

Officina C.

4. Officina D.

These are two large workshops which seem fairly well organised and are occupied with heavy repairs to lorries and other large vehicles. Most of the vehicles therein were being worked upon, and these two workshops appear to call for little comment, except that Officina D again has a small machine shop (six lathes, a drill, a milling machine, and a shaping machine) of its own.

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

painters shops, stores and offices.

2. Officina A.

This is alloted for the repair of Italian cars and is choked with vehicles, a number of which will never be repaired and are apparently used as a source of spare parts. A number of cars were also seen whose repair, by reason of their age, would scarcely seem economical. This workshop has its own electricians department, store for workshop equipment, and simple machine shop, but not more than thirty workmen were seen in the whole "officine".

3. Officina B.

This is set aside for minor repairs to vehicles in transit through or visiting Rome. Although eighteen vehicles were in various stages of repair, all the staff visible (nine men) were clustered around one jeep which was apparently about to go out on road test. The floor of the workshop was very tidy, which could have been due to a "cleaning-up" prior to the visit, but some of the vehicles had obviously not been worked upon for some days.

Officina C.

4. Officina D.

These are two large workshops which seem fairly well organised and are occupied with heavy repairs to lorries and other large vehicles. Most of the vehicles therein were being worked upon, and these two workshops appear to call for little comment, except that Officina D again has a small machine shop (six lathes, a drill, a milling machine, and a shaping machine) of its own.

5. Motorcycle shop.

This is reasonably well equipped, but is far too small and inadequately staffed (3 mechanics and 4 assistants) for the number of motorcycles to be repaired, since the majority need extensive repairs. It is understood however that the ministry are not anxious to increase output much as there is great difficulty in obtaining tyres with which to equip these repaired machines.

2/.....

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

6. Engine shop.

This is far too small for the amount of work it has to do and is further hampered by difficulty in obtaining good engine fitters, of whom at present six only are held. Although this shop has a testing rig where engines can be run, it lacks a test bed for testing engines on the brake. A small store of spare parts for engines is held, and a store for holding complete engines (mostly awaiting overhaul) is being organised which should remove some of the unserviceable engines at present filling the engine shop awaiting repair.

The standard of cleanliness, which should be high in an engine shop, is by no means good.

Some machine tools including one crankshaft grinder were in use in an annexe to this shop.

7. Workshop stores.

This appeared reasonably well organised but was not sufficiently large to attempt to hold the large number of spare parts required to supply a workshop of this size. Tyres are stored separately under satisfactory conditions, but do not seem to be sorted or labelled. No inner tubes were seen in the store and it is believed that none of the commonly required sizes are held, local purchase being employed to provide them in every case.

8. Painters shop.

This is of adequate size but owing to its awkward entrance lorries are normally painted outside the shop which is not satisfactory in winter. In the summer it reduces the poisonous effects of the paint fumes which are more objectionable in hot weather.

9. Blacksmiths shop and Carpenters shop.

No comments.

10. Control of work.

Vehicles requiring repair are either collected from the Inefficient Vehicle Park when required by the workshop; or, if they belong to a unit, present themselves at the workshop in the hope that the workshop can accept them for repair. Few vehicles are refused and as a result the premises contain a large number of vehicles on which repair has not started, since no attempt is made to order the stores needed until the vehicle is in the workshop.

The inspecting staff (responsible to the G.C. Unit for the standard of work leaving the workshop) number only two, and as

2115

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

in use in an annexe to this shop.

7. Workshop stores.

This appeared reasonably well organised but was not sufficiently large to attempt to hold the large number of spare parts required to supply a workshop of this size. Tyres are stored separately under satisfactory conditions, but do not seem to be sorted or labelled. No inner tubes were seen in the store and it is believed that none of the commonly required sizes are held, local purchase being employed to provide them in every case.

8. Painters shop.

This is of adequate size but owing to its awkward entrance lorries are normally painted outside the shop which is not satisfactory in winter. In the summer it reduces the poisonous effects of the paint fumes which are more objectionable in hot weather.

9. Blacksmiths shop and Carpenters shop.

No comments.

10. Control of work.

Vehicles requiring repair are either collected from the Inefficient Vehicle Park when required by the workshop; or, if they belong to a unit, present themselves at the workshop in the hope that the workshop can accept them for repair. Few vehicles are refused and as a result the premises contain a large number of vehicles on which repair has not started, since no attempt is made to order the stores needed until the vehicle is in the workshop.

The inspecting staff (responsible to the O.C. Unit for the standard of work leaving the workshop) number only two, and as they handle more than twenty vehicles a day, their inspections are not as thorough as they should be and much doubtful work is bound to pass unnoticed.

The control of work inside the workshop generally follows normal procedure which puts a lot of responsibility on individual foremen, who, by reason of the large quantity of semi-skilled labour employed, have difficulty in ensuring a good standard of work. There seems however to be no system of progressing work in progress and investigating delays with a view to enabling work to continue.

2115

3/.....

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

11. Spares supply.

As indicated above only small quantities of suitable spares are held, and extensive purchasing is carried out which, although it avoids tying up capital in the form of spares holdings, imposes delay in completing repairs. Provision of spares by purchase is employed in the majority of repairs executed.

12. Output.

The output of this unit has remained consistently at ten heavy repairs per week (vehicles sent to the E.V.P. on completion) and a varying number (usually between 100 and 110 vehicles per week) repaired and returned to units. In view of the large number of employees this is not considered particularly good, and it is considered that with a reasonable spares supply, the same output could be obtained from a workshop of 450 men.

The Director of Repairs stated that there were about 700 employees which is far above the allowed establishment but that pressure of work rendered this increase necessary. He also pointed out that for political reasons the Ministry were not in favour of dismissing personnel unless the reasons were particularly strong. In this connection it is known that the Director General of Civilian Personnel in the Ministry of War in March issued an instruction (1113/33 of 7 March) on these lines which it is believed has never been rescinded.

Conclusions.

This unit functions after a fashion but to improve its efficiency it is felt that :-

(a) the O.C. unit should have greater powers of dismissal of unsatisfactory employees.

(b) an adequate supply of suitable spares should be held at the unit.

(c) vehicles beyond economical repair should be removed to the Inefficient Vehicle Park.

(d) higher rates of pay should be paid to leading workmen and foremen.

(e) the number of inspectors should be increased.

(f) the layout of certain workshops should be changed.

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

employees this is not considered particularly good, and it is considered that with a reasonable spares supply, the same output could be obtained from a workshop of 250 men.

The Director of Repairs stated that there were about 700 employees which is far above the allowed establishment but that pressure of work rendered this increase necessary. He also pointed out that for political reasons the Ministry were not in favour of dismissing personnel unless the reasons were particularly strong. In this connection it is known that the Director General of Civilian Personnel in the Ministry of War in March issued an instruction (1113/33 of 7 March) on these lines which it is believed has never been rescinded.

Conclusions.

This unit functions after a fashion but to improve its efficiency it is felt that :-

(a) the O.C. unit should have greater powers of dismissal of unsatisfactory employees.

(b) an adequate supply of suitable spares should be held at the unit.

(c) vehicles beyond economical repair should be removed to the Inefficient Vehicle Park.

(d) higher rates of pay should be paid to leading workmen and foremen.

(e) the number of inspectors should be increased.

(f) the layout of certain workshops should be changed.

2114

2114

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

43

(19)

NOTES ON MEETING HELD AT MMIA ON 11TH SEP 46 — 9.005

SUBJECT:- Contract CAPRONI - REME

REME

Present

M.M.I.A.- AGMI
AIMSI

CAPRONI:- Ing. Eugenio FARGION (Technical Director of the firm "Aeroplani CAPRONI of Taliedo, MILAN)
Ing. Roger TROLLI (Commercial Director of the firm "Aeroplani CAPRONI of Taliedo, MILAN)
Dott. Carlo PERRONE (Director of "CAPRONI" - Rome Branch)
Ing. Fernando MARTIGNATI (Director of "CEMSA" - CAPRONI ELETTRO-MECCANICA SA, of Sesto, MILAN)

1. Mr. FARGION explained how this contract, drawn up and signed on the 11th March 46, which CAPRONI were given to understand at the time, would in all likelihood be of 12 months duration was suddenly cut short as at 4 Oct 46.

2. This, he said, would throw some 4,500 to 5,000 workmen out of work, a fact which at this juncture of political uncertainty and labour strife in N.ITALY, would certainly tend to make matters worse.

3. He pleaded that something be done to enable the CAPRONI Works to carry on, at least until the end of the year, when the programme for 1947 would begin, which would provide work for all their personnel.

4. AGMI explained that it was the intention of MMIA to place before the ITALIAN War Ministry a suitable proposal, if adopted, the ITALIAN Army would provide the necessary amount of work to enable the Firm to carry on at approximately the same "tempo" which the above contract had entailed.

5. In order to formulate such a proposal it was necessary to know

(a) What amount of work the War Ministry required to be done, and
(b) what amount and type of work the CAPRONIs were prepared to undertake.

2113

6. The War Ministry have some 500 vehicles awaiting spare parts, subsequent annual repairs within capacity of A.O.R.E. IF spares were available.

7. In principle, said Mr. FARGION, CAPRONI would welcome a

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

Dott. Carlo FANONE (Director of "CAPRONI" - Rome Branch)

Ing. Fernando MAZZACURATI (Director of "OMMA" - CAPRONI ELETTRO-MECCANICA SA, OF Sesto, MILAN)

1. Mr. FANGION explained how this contract, drawn up and signed on the 11th. March 46, which CAPRONI were given to understand at the time, would in all likelihood be of 12 months duration was suddenly cut short as at 4 Oct 46.

2. This, he said, would throw some 4,500 to 5,000 workmen out of work, a fact which at this juncture of political uncertainty and labour strife in N. ITALY, would certainly tend to make matters worse.

3. He pleaded that something be done to enable the CAPRONI Works to carry on, at least until the end of the year, when the programme for 1947 would begin, which would provide work for all their personnel.

4. AGMG explained that it was the intention of MMA to place before the ITALIAN War Ministry a suitable proposal, if adopted, the ITALIAN Army would provide the necessary amount of work to enable the Firm to carry on at approximately the same "tempo" which the above contract had entailed.

5. In order to formulate such a proposal it was necessary to know:

(a) What amount of work the War Ministry required to be done, and

(b) what amount and type of work the CAPRONIs were prepared to undertake.

2113

6. The War Ministry have some 800 vehicles awaiting spare parts, subsequent annual repairs within capacity of A.O.R.E. If spares were available.

7. In principle, said Mr. FANGION, CAPRONI would welcome a suitable arrangement, pointing out (referring to a remark by AGMG) that at present the financial aspect of the transaction did not interest him provided the Works were enabled to function without interruption for a further 2 or 3 months. Questions of accounting and payment could be tackled later.

8. Summarising the discussions, the picture than presents itself :-

(1) That the Firm of CAPRONI is anxious to continue the repair of British vehicles.

(2) That they hold considerable stocks of spare parts which belong to MMA.

(3) The War Ministry have waiting for repair sufficient Dodge & Bedford vehicles to keep the Firm going till approx. Dec 46.

2/.....

Rg 13/9/46

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

(4) That they now await some practical proposal from the Ministry of War which AMIA will endeavour to bring about at an early date.

9. AMM was handed copy of the contract.

12 September 1946

N.B.- Since the foregoing notes were typed AMM spoke (by phone) to Brig. LAURIE (Q Branch AFHQ) who stated that the spare parts now with CAPRONI will shortly be shipped to AUSTRIA for the repair of Allied vehicles in that area. They are therefore NOT AVailabe for repairs to vehicles of the Italian Army.

It now remains for the War Ministry to discuss with CAPRONI the possibility of this Firm undertaking work for the War Ministry, making the spare parts themselves.

2112

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

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

43

REME 18

Subject:- Backloading of Vehicles.

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
B o l z a n o
Ref.: 4/ME/24-45

19

6 September 1946.

To:- ADME, HQ. M.M.I.A.,
R o m e

Reference your signal ME/52/174 dated 30 August 46.

Herewith attached list of vehicles backloaded since 19 July 46 which excludes the 7 Dodge Vehicles shown as B.L.R. on page 2 of the vehicle state attached to my 4/ME/24-38 dated 26 July 46.

Enclos.

Capt.
S.O. REME 4 B.L.U.

2147 10 SEP 1946
RECEIVED

2111

Reg 11/9/46

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

DIVISIONE DI FANTERIA "FRIULI"
- COMANDO Officina Mobile -

ELENCO DEGLI AUTOMEZZI INVIATI ALL'O.A.R.E.-BOLOGNA NEI
- GIORNI 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 -26/6/1946-

67° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

1°) Bedford 15 Cwt Z 4761095
2°) Austin Autoambulanza RE 410552
3°) Dodge 30 Cwt RE 410044
4°) Ford Canada 3 Tonn RE 410042
5°) Dodge RE 410055
6°) Dodge 15 Cwt RE 410063
7°) Bedford 15 Cwt Z 5686203
8°) Dodge 3 Tonn L 4471029
9°) Studebaker L 5248806
10°) Bedford 15 Cwt RE 410191

39° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA

11°) Morris Trattore RE 409924
12°) Bedford 15 Cwt Z 4431851

68° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

13°) Dodge 3 Tonn RE 410363
14°) Chevrolett 15 Cwt RE 410430
15°) Bedford 15 Cwt RE 410336
16°) Dodge 3 Tonn RE 410353
17°) Ford 3 Tonn L 5737204
18°) Bedford 3 Tonn L 5152387
19°) Dodge 15 Cwt RE 410432
20°) Bedford RE 410395(4669891)
21°) Bedford 3 Tonn L 527178

20 T.R.T.

22°) Chevrolet 15 Cwt Z 4722232
23°) Bedford 15 Cwt RE 410995
I° 24°) Morris Radio Z 5401548
25°) Morris Radio Z 5401767

V° COMPAGNIA ARTIGLIERIA

26°) Ferdmon 15 Cwt RE 410523

20° T.R.T.

27°) Dodge 15 Cwt RE 410528
II° 28°) Bedford 15 Cwt Z 4912161
29°) Ford 3 Tonn RE 410577

32° COMPAGNIA ARMATI

30°) Bedford 3 Tonn L 4878821

2111

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

ELENCO DEI AUTOVEICOLI AVVISTATI ALL'O.A.T.E. - BOLOGNA - NEL GIORNI 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 e 25 AGOSTO 1945 -

17° RAGGRUPPAMENTO FANTERIA

- 1°) Ratchlose US 102549
- 2°) " G 526788

35° RAGGRUPPAMENTO ARTIGLIERIA

- 3°) B.S.A. G 512377
- 4°) " " G 581509
- 5°) Trymph G 3427943

20° T.D.M.

- 6°) B.S.A. G 521455

30° RAGGRUPPAMENTO FANTERIA

- 7°) Late Lore US 102499
- 8°) B.S.A. G 521688
- 9°) Trymph US 102616
- 10°) Ariel G 4694145
- 11°) " US 102519

5° COMPAGNIA AVIERI

- 12°) B.S.A. US 102630 (G 521246)

5°? COMPAGNIA AVIERI

- 13°) B.S.A. US 102639

Trento, li 27 agosto 1946.-

IL CAPO UFFICIO MATERIALI
(Cap. Santinelli Umberto)

2109

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

49

Reme (17)

Subject :- Sitrep (Monthly)

To :- ADME
HQ. Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME

SC REME
7 British Liaison Unit,
c/o 6 B.L.U.
Tele 217 Area Ex 7

Ref. ME/2/7
4 Sept. 1946

1. Enclosed Sitrep for August 1946.

2. We regret delay in forwarding and lack of Sitreps but this has been due to the following:-

(a) Deficiency of REME Clerk Technical.

(b) Lack of action by Ministry of War in connection with the three principal delaying factors in connection with the organisation of the O.A.R.E. i.e. Personnel, Financial authority and Genio work.

(c) Large REME commitment of the Bologna and Florence Areas.

3. In connection with para 2 (b) above lack of solution of these three points has made it necessary for me to spend an excessive amount of my time, scrounding material and finding a temporary solution to these problems without which the present organisation of the O.A.R.E. would have been impossible.

SC ME/A3/E
re Sitrep

P.H. Nelson SC REME

Copy to :- 'Q' Branch
6 & 7 B.L.U.
REME File - Florence.

2153 11 SEP 1946
RECEIVED
(DATE)

2108

Reg 11/9/46

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

Subject:- Returns.

Headquarters
4 B. L. U.
Bolzano
Ref.: 4/ME/24-42

29 August 1946.

To:- O.C. 4 B.L.U.

Reference para 2 of ADME letter ME/43/63 dated 28 June 46.

Herewith attached is a list of returns rendered by the CME of the "Friuli" Infantry Division with remarks of EME in left hand column.

As the CME is obviously overloaded with work, it is requested that every effort be made to free him of returns which are the work of other Units in the Division.

Capt.
REME 4 B.L.U.

RECEIVED 4 - SEP 1946 S.O. 1931

Copy to:- ADME, HQ. M.M.I.A., Rome.

Rep 5/21/46

Translation.

Subject:- RETURNS.

COMANDO DIVISIONE DI FANTERIA "FRIULI"
- M.T. Office -
Ref.: 2200/Aut.

Levico, 18 July 1946.

To:- 4 B.L.U.
c/o. Com.Mil.Terr., Bolzano.

Referring to your letter dated 5 July 46 herewith list of all returns which must be rendered by our office :-

Periodical Returns :-

(a) Weekly return of repairs carried out by civilian workshops - to be sent off to the Ministry of War on the 8, 15, 22, 29 of every month.

(b) Semi-monthly return of vehicles being repaired and under repair - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command on the 15th and 30th of every month.

(c) Strength-Return of M.T. Personnel - to be sent off to the Ministry of War on the 10th of every month.

DADOS Work (d) Tyres required - to be sent off to Ministry of War on the 30th of every month.

(e) Report of efficiency of the vehicles held by the Division (milage = Ital. "killiaggio") - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command and to the 4 B.L.U. on the 1st of every month.

DADOS Work (f) Spare parts required - to be sent off to the Ministry of War on the 30th of every month.
Units render
DADOS consolidates

(g) Strength-Return of workshops' specialist-personnel - to be sent off to the 4 B.L.U. on the 20th of every month.

(h) Monthly return of expenses for the M.T. Service - to be sent off to the Territorial Command on the 30th of every month.

(i) Monthly report of vehicle & motorcycle maintenance - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Terr. Command on the 30th of every month.

"Q" Work (l) Vehicle Return - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command on the 5th of January - March - May - July - September - November.

"Q" Work (m) Return of Allied Vehicles - [illegible] the Territorial

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

Periodical Returns :-

(a) Weekly return of repairs carried out by civilian workshops - to be sent off to the Ministry of War on the 8, 15, 22, 29 of every month.

(b) Semi-monthly return of vehicles being repaired and under repair - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command on the 15th and 30th of every month.

(c) Strength-Return of M.T. Personnel - to be sent off to the Ministry of War on the 10th of every month.

DADOS Work (d) Tyres required - to be sent off to Ministry of War on the 30th of every month.

(e) Report of efficiency of the vehicles held by the Division (milage = Ital. "migliaggio") - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command and to the 4 B.L.U. on the 1st of every month.

DADOS Work (f) Spare parts required - to be sent off to the Ministry of War on the 30th of every month.
Units render
DADOS consolidates (g) Strength-Return of workshops' specialist-personnel - to be sent off to the 4 B.L.U. on the 20th of every month.

(h) Monthly return of expenses for the M.T. Service - to be sent off to the Territorial Command on the 30th of every month.

(i) Monthly report of vehicle & motorcycle maintenance - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Terr. Command on the 30th of every month. 21706

"Q" Work (l) Vehicle Return - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command on the 5th of January - March - May - July - September - November.

"Q" Work (m) Return of Allied Vehicles - to be sent off to the Ministry of War and to the Territorial Command on the 15th of January - March - May - July - September - November.

- -

Other Office-Work :-

(a) Monthly review of the Carburant-Books kept by the units (sections) and handed in to this office for this purpose.

(b) Checking the estimates of civilian workshops for repairs to be carried out there.

p.t.o.

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

Other Office-Work (Continuation) :-

(c) Checking requests for repairs etc. for M.T. and Artillery Service (Local purchase).

(d) Records referring to presentation of the driver-diploma.

(e) Provisioning of spares.

(f) Technical judgment upon the records of vehicle accidents.

Actions (= activity) to be taken outside the Office :-

(a) Administrative supervision of the units (sections) with regard to expenses for M.T. and Artillery material.

(b) Control of repairs carried out by the civilian workshops.

(c) Road test of the vehicles repaired by civilian workshops.

(d) Control of the repairs in the military workshops (Main Workshops, Workshop Platoon, No.6 L.A.D.).

(e) Vehicle Inspections held at the Units (nearly 22 under this Division) to state the efficiency and maintenance condition.

(f) Examinations for drivers of vehicles and motorcycles.

On Order :-
THE CHIEF OF THE M.T. OFFICE
(sgd) Major B.Leone

W.

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

(b) [illegible]

(c) Road test of the vehicles repaired by civilian workshops.

(d) Control of the repairs in the military workshops (Main Workshops, Workshop Platoon, No.6 L.A.D.).

(e) Vehicle Inspections held at the Units (nearly 22 under this Division) to state the efficiency and maintenance condition.

(f) Examinations for drivers of vehicles and motorcycles.

On Order :-
THE CHIEF OF THE M.T. OFFICE
(sgd) Major B.Leons

W.

2105

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

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

808 72

Rome

LROF V MEGE NR 31023 .

FROM E M E 7 BLU C/ O G S L U 301600

TO HQ M M I A ROME (FOR ADMIN)

INFO ----

GR ----- BT .

RECEIVED 3 - SEP 1946

~~ME/1~~ EME/2/6 . REF YOUR ME/43/2/9 DATED 26 8 46 .

RECEIPT OF ME/43/2/1 ~~ACKNOW~~ ACKNOWLEDGED . SITREP BEING

FORWARDED TODAY 30 8 46 .

IN FUTURE SITREPS WILL BE FORWARDED

FORTNIGHTLY . REGRET DELAY FULL EXPLANATORY LETTER

ATTACHED TO SITREP .

BT . 30 16 00 . THI 1030 .

REPT . ME/43/2/9 .

SENT NR 023 . BW . B (K) .

RECD JW 31 17500 ARK

2104 Recd 3rd Sept.

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

43

SUBJECT : Quarterly Historical Reports

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMLA)
(489081 Ext 401) G/99
20 Aug 46

TO : LIST 'A' & 'B'

1. Attention is drawn to GRO 562 of 16 Aug 46.

2. War Diaries will be discontinued w.e.f. 1 Jul 46 and Quarterly Historical Reports will be substituted.

3. HQ MMLA will prepare these, and OC BLUs will have no responsibility in this connection.

4. Quarterly Historical Reports will consist of extracts of the Progress Reports, augumented by any additional items of importance, from other sources.

M W Hope BGS
for Major-General,
M. M. I. A.

RNC/oll

Regd.
21030 August.

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

(9)

M.M.I.A. 12

6 D.L.U.

40 1500 R.

AM/43/2/9

UNCLASSIFIED

(1)

FOR REF (.) PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS OPINION LETTER AM/43/2/1 DATED 14 AUG 46 (.) ADVISE WHAT ACTION YOU HAVE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THIS LETTER

2102

2102/

ROUTING

R.B.

A.A. LUCKRIDGE Capt.

Rec'd 27 Aug

Subject:- Inspection of the M.E. W/Shops - "Folgore" Inf. Div.

26 AUG 1946
1614

To :- ADME
HQ. M.M.I.A. Land Forces Sub.Comm. A.C.
ROME

SC REME
7 British Liaison Unit,
c/o 6 B.L.U.
Tele 217 Area Ex 7

Ref. EME/70/17
23 Aug. 1946

1) With further ref. to our EME/70/9 dated 3 July 46 and your ME/43/81 dated 15 July 46, we give below details of progress made with the organisation of the "Folgore" Divisional W/Shops.

For ease of reference this has been arranged in accordance with Appendix 'A' of our original Inspection Report EME/70/9.

Bays 1 & 2

Both these Bays are now well organised and due to slight modifications in layout the wall is no longer required. Benches have been manufactured by No. 7 Terr. Comd. W/Shops and these have greatly assisted the general layout.

Bay 3

Engine frames and stands have been obtained and are now being repaired and erected. A certain amount of Major Assembly repair is being carried out but there is still room for improvement. Particular attention is being paid to the organisation of this Bay and it is hoped to complete its organisation in the near future.

Bay 4

This Bay is now operating satisfactorly but, due to lack of Genio Work, the erection of a roof is still outstanding.

Bay 5 & 6

A good system of layout now exists in these Bays and stores lorries have now returned and have been rebinned. All lorries are jacked clean of floor and are well maintained.

Bay 7

There is a marked improvement in the layout of this Shop.

Bay 8

This Bay has now been completed and is in operation.

Bays 9, 10 & 11

A slight improvement in layout is evident but there is still considerable room for improvement and the workmen in these Shops appear to have very little system and to be unable to maintain a tidy and efficient layout. The progress of these Shops is being given especial attention.

Bay 12

This is well laid out but is still deficient of work benches and action has been taken with No. 7 Terr. Comd. to obtain these also the benches obtained for the CARE from Base W/Shops - Naples should provide sufficient for this purpose.

Bay 23

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

Bays 1 & 2

Both these Bays are now well organised and due to slight modifications in layout the wall is no longer required. Benches have been manufactured by No. 7 Terr. Comd. W/Shops and these have greatly assisted the general layout.

Bay 3

Engine frames and stands have been obtained and are now being repaired and erected. A certain amount of Major Assembly repair is being carried out but there is still room for improvement. Particular attention is being paid to the organisation of this Bay and it is hoped to complete its organisation in the near future.

Bay 4

This Bay is now operating satisfactorly but, due to lack of Genio Work, the erection of a roof is still outstanding.

Bay 5 & 6

A good system of layout now exists in these Bays and stores lorries have now returned and have been rebinned. All lorries are jacked clean of floor and are well maintained.

Bay 7

There is a marked improvement in the layout of this Shop.

Bay 8

This Bay has now been completed and is in operation.

Bays 9, 10 & 11

A slight improvement in layout is evident but there is still considerable room for improvement and the workmen in these Shops appear to have very little system and to be unable to maintain a tidy and efficient layout. The progress of these Shops is being given especial attention.

Bay 12

This is well laid out but is still deficient of work benches and action has been taken with No. 7 Terr. Comd. to obtain these also the benches obtained for the OARE from Base W/Shops - Naples should provide sufficient for the purpose.

Bay 13

Considerable improvement has been effected here and the provisional of Motor Cycles Benches has greatly assisted this.

Bay 14

The organisation of a Class VI Salvage Bay has been reasonably successful and when the required racking has been obtained it will be possible to complete its layout.

Bay 15

This Bay has been completed and has an extremely good layout.

Bays 16, 17 & 18

The Officers Billets and Latrines are always maintained in a satisfactory condition and require no re-organisation.

./. Regd.
26 Aug

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

./.

Bay 19

This has now been organised for inspection and washing down of vehicles but has been delayed by the fact that necessary repairs to the hydraulic ramp are held up by lack of spares.

Bay 20 & 21

These are well organised but there is still room for improvement in the general standard of Unit maintenance which is receiving our attention.

Bay 22

Clean and tidy.

Bay 23

Vehicle Parks have now been organised and vehicles awaiting repairs are now segregated according to classification. This has made possible the immediate identification of vehicles requiring Base overhaul and to expedite their backloading to the OARE.

Bay 24

The Class VI Vehicle Park still requires a considerable amount of organisation and preparation of "hard standing".

2) Amendments required to Progress Chart Appendix "A" of SAE/70/9

BAY No.	PROGRESS					Bay No.	PROGRESS				
	0	½	¾	1			0	½	¾	1	
1						13					
2						14					
3						15					
4						16					
5						17					
6						18					
7						19					
8						20					
9						21					
10						22					
11						23					
12						24					

Position as at 19 June 1946 — Amended as at 28 Aug 46

3) GENERAL

(a) W/Shops Repair Programme - The action taken as detailed in para 6 (b) of our original report in connection with liaison between "Folgore" and the OARE has produced very satisfactory results. Both "Folgore" and OARE are now co-operating fully and the co-operation has naturally been assisted by the return to "Folgore" of some 20 Class I Dodge Vehs. No difficulties are now experienced when requesting Folgore to backload vehicles to the OARE and this has also been of considerable assistance to the OARE.

2100

The proposed maintenance Areas have not yet materialised but a degree of centralisation of inefficient vehicles has been obtained and I intend visiting "Folgore" on the 26th Aug. for the purpose of completing the organisation.

(b) Co-ordination of Civilian repair - This still requires considerable organisation [illegible] frequent liaison and have

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

backloading to the OARE.

Bay 24

The Class VI Vehicle Park still requires a considerable amount of organisation and preparation of "hard standing".

2) Amendments required to Progress Chart Appendix "A" of XXX/70/9

BAY No.	PROGRESS					Bay No.	PROGRESS				
		½	¾	1				½	¾	1	
1						13					
2						14					
3						15					
4						16					
5						17					
6						18					
7						19					
8						20					
9						21					
10						22					
11						23					
12						24					

Position as at 19 June '46 — Amended as at 20 Aug '46

3) GENERAL

(a) W/Shops Repair Programme - The action taken as detailed in para 6 (b) of our original report in connection with liaison between "Folgore" and the OARE has produced very satisfactory results. Both "Folgore" and OARE are now co-operating fully and the co-operation has naturally been assisted by the return to "Folgore" of some 20 Class I Dodge Vehs. No difficulties are now experienced when requesting Folgore to backload vehicles to the OARE and this has also been of considerable assistance to the OARE.
The proposed maintenance Areas have not yet materialised but a degree of centralisation of inefficient vehicles has been obtained and I intend visiting "Folgore" on the 26th Aug. for the purpose of completing the organisation.

2100

(b) Coordination of Civilian repair - This still requires considerable organisation but "Folgore" have already learnt the value of frequent liaison and have purchased some 3 milion lire worth of M.T. Spares from Firms in Turin Area. Considerable improvement would be possible if more frequent liaison could be maintained with EME 1 B.L.U. but the dissensies involved and the committments of the Florence and Bologna Areas make this impossible.

EME 1 BLU
visiting to watch
a/ Italian.

(c) The original assessment of the new CME has proved to be correct and he has already effected a considerable improvement in the "Folgore" Div.
A system of transport control based on the system adopted by the British Army is to be introduced into the "Folgore" Div. and is to be applied particularly to the Class I Vehs returned by the OARE. With this system monthly summaries of Vehs Performance will be maintained (i.e. A.F. G 3520) and these summaries will will provide unvalable statistical data for both the OARE and Folgore.

./.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-403/NNDC No. 785020

./.

5) Further discussions on the above points will take place with the CME during my visit to Florence on Monday the 26th and you will be advised of action taken by the "Folgore" Div. as result of these discussions.

P H Nelson SC REME

Copy to :- 'Q' Branch - 7 B.L.U.
Director of Repair - No. 7 Terr. Comd.
REME File - Florence.

2099

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

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

LROF V MEDY NR 250189
FROM 10 B L U 231500
TO EMI HQ MMIA ROME
BT
REME1. UNCLASS'D. YOUR ME/43/2/4 OF 22 ND AUG
HEREWITH ACKNOWLEDGED
BT
SENT EVANS VA TKU (K).
RD TFH AT 1611 R. AR A ND TKS

MMIA
SIG
RECEIVED 24 AUG 1946 (DATE)

43 6773

2098 Regd 24 Aug

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

REME (5)

SUBJECT : Amendments to Minutes of Conference 8 - 9 Aug

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA)
(489081 Ext 218) G/33/3
19 Aug 46

TO : LIST 'B'
LIST 'A' (Less Serials 17,19,20)

(3)

Please make the following amendments to Appx 'B' of this HQ letter G/33/3 dated 15 Aug 46 :-

Para 9(c) line 7

For "irrepairable"

Read "repairable"

Para 9(d) line 3

For "allocation of stocks"

Read "allocation and stocks"

Major-General,
M. M. I. A.

TR/012

2097

Numerous
23 on August
Infone

Rep
23 Aug

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

(4)

N.M.I.S.

(6)

TO SEE

22 N.

1415

22/8/46.

DECLASSIFIED

FOR INFO (.) CONFIRMATION IN SIGNA HERE DIRECTIVE No 1 DATED 5 DEC 45 (.)
ATTACHED NOT RECEIVED SINCE 20 JUNE 46 (.) PLEASE RETURN THIS YOU
COPIES WHICH CONTAIN NO AS IN DIRECTIVE No 1 AND REMAIN ATTACH
PARAGRAPHS TO THIS OF LOG (.) ADM.

File

2086

Regd.
23rd. Aug.

DISTRIBUTION
N.M.I.S.

A.M. MACDONALD Capt.

See (5) REME (3)

SUBJECT : Minutes of Conference 8 - 9 August 46

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA)

(489081 Ext 218) G/33/3

13 Aug 46

TO : LIST 'B'
LIST 'A' (Less Serials 17,19,20).

Herewith attached at Annx 'A' Minutes of Conference held at HQ MMIA, 8 - 9 August 46.

A.C. Hunter Cx
for Major-General,
M. M. I. A.

ARCS/ell

App^x. B.
Amended
endum to
5.
13th Aug 46

2095

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

Herewith attached at Annx 'A' Minutes of Conference held at HQ MMIA, 8 - 9 August 46.

A.F. Hunter Lt Col
for Major-General,
M. M. I. A.

ARCS/ell

App^x. B.
Annexed according to folio 5.
M. Jones. 13th Aug 46

2095

Regd.
17 August.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDD HQ. 785020

ANNX 'A' to MMIA
letter G/33/3
Dated 15 Aug 46

MINUTES OF MMIA CONFERENCE
8 - 9 AUG 46

OPENING ADDRESS

GOC - Stressed the present transitional state of the ITALIAN Army, and the need to keep in mind the possibly different shape of that Army after the Peace Treaty.

DEP COMD - Stressed the progress made in the reorg of the ITALIAN Army since his first acquaintance with MMIA in 1943.

'G' DISCUSSION

BGS (a) CARs General

Referred to excellent start made by CARs, largely as a result of good work by BLUs. Amenities at CARs still required development, and further efforts were needed to popularise the Army with the people.

(b) Weapons

Policy was to supply the ITALIAN Army with BRIT Weapons but situation not entirely clear. AFHQ signalled CCS for clarification in May. Global surpluses in this theatre may be given to the ITALIANS. The Ministry of War has been urged to plan and bid for long term requirements.

(c) Amn

Priority in allotment is to 13 CORPS, until def of the Country is handed over to the ITALIAN Army, when considerable stocks should be freed.

(d) Arty Problems

GSO II RA 12 BLU will shortly make a tour of Inf Divs.

(e) Channels of Comns

2094

Normal Domestic affairs of the ITALIAN Army should be left to them to deal with, and not passed through MMIA for Ministry of War, unless Territorial HQ have already taken the matter up with the Ministry of War and failed to get satisfaction.

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

'G' DISCUSSION

BGS

(a) CARs General

Referred to excellent start made by CARs, largely as a result of good work by BLUs. Amenities at CARs still required development, and further efforts were needed to popularise the Army with the people.

(b) Weapons

Policy was to supply the ITALIAN Army with BRIT Weapons but situation not entirely clear. AFHQ signalled CCS for clarification in May. Global surpluses in this theatre may be given to the ITALIANS. The Ministry of War has been urged to plan and bid for long term requirements.

(c) Amn

Priority in allotment is to 13 CORPS, until def of the Country is handed over to the ITALIAN Army, when considerable stocks should be freed.

(d) Arty Problems

GSO II RA 12 BLU will shortly make a tour of Inf Divs.

(e) Channels of Comns

2094

Normal Domestic affairs of the ITALIAN Army should be left to them to deal with, and not passed through MMIA for Ministry of War, unless Territorial HQ have already taken the matter up with the Ministry of War and failed to get satisfaction.

(f) Priority for Eqpt

Question was asked by Major HAMILTON about the Priority for Jeeps between the Ministry of the Interior Police Force and the CC.RR. Reply :- Ministry of Interior obtains its jeeps through ARAR (Azienda Ricupero Alienazione Residuati) over which War Ministry have no control. Major PRINSLOO stressed the political rivalry between the Police Force and the CC.RR

...../2

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

SD PTS

			BY WHOM RAISED
DOMESTIC			
1.	(a)	WE of BLU	
	(i)	Addition of load carrying vehs Alteration of tpt ('B' Type)	4 BLU 9 BLU
		HQ will back 4 and 9 BLUs in a request for extra tpt, but est will not be altered.	
	(ii)	Addition of Adm COMS or NCO ('B' Type)	9 BLU
		Under consideration.	
	(iii)	Addition of LO ('B' Type)	9 BLU
		A letter will be written to the Ministry on this subject.	
	(b)	Postal and Sigs Comns	4 BLU
		Instances were given of bad comns in the theatre. Offrs should bear this in mind when sending letters and sigs. SO Sigs MMLA will investigate the matter.	
ITALIAN			
2.	(a)	Need for a Tactical Doctrine in ITALIAN Army	12 BLU
		The ITALIANS have been asked to produce their own pamphlets, but under the present org there is no DMT. This Directorate should be formed under the reorg of the Ministry; Lt-Col MEDLAM said that all relevant BRIT trg material which came to hand was immediately sent to the Ministry; BGS stated that pending a Directorate of Trg, School of Cooperation must start evolving a doctrine which would be disseminated gradually throughout the Army.	
	(b)	Policy for Future Emp of Territorial Inf Regts	10 BLU
		This problem cannot be solved at the moment due to ignorance of the role of the Territorial Inf in the Peace Time Army. BGS suggested that the possible future disposition of the Army might consist in 1st Line full str units on the Frontiers and res fmns on a Peace est.	
	(c)	Arms for Inf Regts	6 BLU
		Arms and Eqpt in excess of those which units can usefully employ should be stored as MOB Stores. GOC stressed this pt. A letter will be written to War Ministry on the subject.	

2053

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND Nr. 785020

(iii) Addition of LO ('B' Type) 9 BLU

A letter will be written to the Ministry on this subject.

(b) Postal and Sigs Comns 4 BLU

Instances were given of bad comns in the theatre. Offrs should bear this in mind when sending letters and sigs. SO Sigs MMLA will investigate the matter.

ITALIAN

2. (a) Need for a Tactical Doctrine for ITALIAN ARMY 12 BLU

The ITALIANS have been asked to produce their own pamphlets, but under the present org there is no DMT. This Directorate should be formed under the reorg of the Ministry; Lt-Col MEDLAM said that all relevant BRIT trg material which came to hand was immediately sent to the Ministry; BGS stated that pending a Directorate of Trg, School of Cooperation must start evolving a doctrine which would be disseminated gradually throughout the Army.

(b) Policy for Future Emp of Territorial Inf Regts 10 BLU

This problem cannot be solved at the moment due to ignorance of the role of the Territorial Inf in the Peace Time Army. BGS suggested that the possible future disposition of the Army might consist in 1st Line full str units on the Frontiers and res fmns on a Peace est.

(c) Arms for Inf Regts 6 BLU

Arms and Eqpt in excess of those which units can usefully employ should be stored as MOB Stores. GOC stressed this pt. A letter will be written to War Ministry on the subject. 2083

(d) SEL for ALPINI Regts 4 BLU

It is considered unlikely that ALPINI Regts will lose their specialist role.

...../3

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

BY WHOM RAISED

2. (Contd)

(e) Need for an Inspectorate of Inf at Ministry of War — 12 BLU

There is an Inf Gen at each Territorial Comd but there is no co-ord between the Gens at each Comd and no proper direction above them. BGS said Inspectorate will be recommended in reorg of the Ministry. Duties would include co-ord of effort of Inf Gens at Territorial Comd HQ with effort at Schools etc.

(f) Fmn of a PT Corps and an Army Sports Control Board — 12 BLU

Major PRICE stated that PT was generally carried out but unco-ord and that Sports on a full unit basis were impossible owing to the lack of facilities; there was some discussion about the value of PT. BGS said we must keep in mind the question of expense when recommending new Ests. Supervision of PT and Sports are included in the duties of the Directorate of Trg recommend to the Ministry.

(g) WE of CARs

(i) Addition of Adm Offr — 9 BLU

Some discussion as to level required. Finally agreed that redisposition should be effected of the seven 'LEDETTI' offrs from CAR HQ down to Bns and Coys. MMLA will take this up with the War Ministry.

(ii) Addition of one MO — 9 BLU

It was pointed out that MOs very often do work that could be done by Med Orderlies, and that more Orderlies should be trained. BGS said that the matter would be reviewed.

(h) Inclusion of Regtl Police in new WE — 11 BLU

Further infm on ITALIAN opinion of this subject is awaited.

TRG PTS

GENERAL

3. (a) Instr of Senior Offrs in Modern Battle Technique — 4 BLU

BGS asked if School of Cooperation could start a Senior Offrs' Course in modern low level tactics and it was [illegible] that Senior Offrs might also be att to Inf Divs

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

Major PRICE stated that PT was generally carried out unco-ord and that Sports on a full unit basis were impossible owing to the lack of facilities; there was some discussion about the value of PT. BGS said we must keep in mind the question of expense when recommending new Ests. Supervision of PT and Sports are included in the duties of the Directorate of Trg recommend to the Ministry.

(g) WE of CARs

9 BLU

(i) Addition of Adm Offr

Some discussion as to level required. Finally agreed that redisposition should be effected of the seven 'LIDETTI' offrs from CAR HQ down to Bns and Coys. MMLA will take this up with the War Ministry.

9 BLU

(ii) Addition of one MO

It was pointed out that MOs very often do work that could be done by Med Orderlies, and that more Orderlies should be trained. BGS said that the matter would be reviewed.

11 BLU

(h) Inclusion of Regl Police in new WE

Further infm on ITALIAN opinion of this subject is awaited.

TRG PTS

GENERAL

3. (a) Instr of Senior Offrs in Modern Battle Technique

4 BLU

BGS asked if School of Cooperation could start a Senior Offrs' Course in modern low level tactics and it was suggested that Senior Offrs might also be att to Inf Divs such as the 'FOLGORE' for short periods.

6 BLU

(b) Trg of Territorial Cond Staffs

This is normally done by a Staff College but this cannot hope to start before next year. In the meantime a great deal can be done by sending Offrs to the School of Cooperation.

...../4

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

3. (Contd)

BY WHOM RAISED

(c) Trg of Higher Fmns — 12 BLU

None possible this year for financial and political reasons.

(d) Trg of Offrs and NCOs of Inf Regts — 6 BLU

Lt-Col MEDLAM said that fmns in the North already familiar with BRIT eqpt must help with this trg. BGS suggested the fmn of Cadres in all Regts to speed up the trg and pointed out that the best use of Instrs must be made on return from the School of Inf. There is a great shortage of good long-service NCOs owing to the unattractive pay. MMLA will take up with War Ministry the possibility of each Combat Div running Instrs Courses.

(e) Trg Directives for Arty, Engrs, Sigs and Recce Units — 1 BLU

Considered to be impracticable.

CENTRAL SCHOOLS

4. Trg of Inf Specialists — 1 BLU

Lt-Col MEDLAM recommended that Inf recruit specialists should be trained at CARs (excl signallers and pnrs). It was suggested however that they should be trained in their own Units and that COs should be enabled to choose own men for trg; this would not be possible if recruits selected as specialists at CAR were trained prior to joining their Regts. This would be a departure from the now established principle of centralised trg and MMLA did not approve the suggestion.

CARs

5. (a) Possibility of Monthly Intakes — 7 BLU

BGS said that four months system was neither smooth nor economical, and MMLA had very strongly recommended a monthly intake to the Ministry. At Ministry, Trg Offrs at present seem in favour of monthly system but adm against it. The subject was under further consideration.

(b) Increase in Preliminary Trg Period at CARs for All Arms — 2 BLU

Not recommended as total trg of conscript lasted only for one year.

(c) Alteration of Syllabus to Reduce Foot Drill and Increase Range Firing — 7 BLU

Periods of Drill etc had already been cut down considerably in favour of Weapon Trg etc and a daily spare period at disposal of Commanders [illegible]

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

2091

take up with War Ministry the possibility of each Combat Bde running Instrs Courses.

(c) Trg Directives for Arty, Engrs, Sigs and Recce Units — 1 BLU

Considered to be impracticable.

GENERAL SCHOOLS

4. Trg of Inf Specialists — 1 BLU

Lt-Col MEDLAM recommended that Inf recruit specialists should be trained at CARs (excl signallers and engrs). It was suggested however that they should be trained in their own Units and that COs should be enabled to choose own men for trg; this would not be possible if recruits selected as specialists at CAR were trained prior to joining their Regts. This would be a departure from the now established principle of centralised trg and MMIA did not approve the suggestion.

CARs

5. (a) Possibility of Monthly Intakes — 7 BLU

BGS said that four months system was neither smooth nor economical, and MMIA had very strongly recommended a monthly intake to the Ministry. At Ministry, Trg Offrs at present seem in favour of monthly system but adm against it. The subject was under further consideration.

(b) Increase in Preliminary Trg Period at CARs for All Arms — 2 BLU

Not recommended as total trg of conscript lasted only for one year.

(c) Alteration of Syllabus to Reduce Foot Drill and Increase Range Firing — 7 BLU

Periods of Drill etc had already been cut down considerably in favour of Weapon Trg etc and a daily spare period at disposal of Commander inserted in Programme.

(d) Fmn of Pool of Instrs for CARs — 7 BLU

Recommended; these should be experts and specialists. A res is at present being trained at CESANO to allow of "Turn over" between CAR Schools and Units.

(e) ABCA for CARs — 4 BLU

Lt-Col DOUGLAS stressed the ignorance of the average ITALIAN soldier; Col PIDSLEY revealed the existence of a Weekly Newsheet. It was generally agreed that ABCA as understood in the BRIT Army was not suitable, and that educational lectures would be better. Col PIDSLEY said he would investigate the distribution of the Newsheet, which many BLU Offrs had not seen before.

...../5

2091

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

AQ PTS

COLONEL AQ PTS

6. (a) Col AQ referred to the Minutes of the last Conference, outlined the progress made and referred to the many pts still outstanding which were for discussion later. With regard to visits to BLUs, the AAG's Branch, which now co-ords all visits, was instr to see that adequate notice of intended visits was given to BLUs bearing in mind the time taken by correspondence to reach BLUs.

(b) The CC.RR Section having now reached its first objective, and being unable to proceed further in the absence of direction from higher authority, is to continue as a technical advice section and be allowed to waste to two Offrs, both of whom will be at HQ.

(c) IPW Section is nearing the end of its task and it is hoped to be able to wind it up by the end of 1946.

(d) Attention was drawn to Directives 1 and 2 which are still operative and to Directive No 3 which is being amended by AQMG.

(e) The importance of the new Public Relations Branch of the War Ministry (UPEC) was stressed and BLUs were asked to refer constantly to the Directive issued by MMLA and passed to the War Ministry for guidance. BLUs to report frequently on the progress of Public Relations.

(f) Attention was drawn to MMLA [illegible] of 17 Jul, stressing the importance of correct procedure in our relations with ITALIAN authorities in order to avoid misunderstandings. The responsibilities of Offrs of the Services was described as being exactly similar to those normally serving on BRIT higher and subordinate HQs. OsC BLUs were asked to watch and see that this procedure was properly observed. With regard to the future, Col AQ stated that it was impossible at the moment to give any reliable forecast but saw no reason to anticipate any major change before Oct or a complete change of regime before next Mar, after which anything might happen. OC BLUs were asked to send, wherever possible, thumb nail sketches of outstanding ITALIAN Army Offrs. 'G' Branch will be sending out a letter on this subject.

7. (a) Dealt with by AQMG under 9(a).

(b) The question of accn for Permanent Staff and Families was fully discussed and it was agreed that MMLA would again take up the question with the War Ministry and inform BLUs of any developments.

(c) It was not considered advisable to bring pressure to bear on the War Ministry regarding the institution of an ITALIAN Army Canteen Service similar to NAAFI in view of the present financial and

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

be at HQ.

(c) IPW Section is nearing the end of its task and it is hoped to be able to wind it up by the end of 1946.

(d) Attention was drawn to Directives 1 and 2 which are still operative and to Directive No 3 which is being amended by AQMG.

(e) The importance of the new Public Relations Branch of the War Ministry (UPEC) was stressed and BLUs were asked to refer constantly to the Directive issued by MMLA and passed to the War Ministry for guidance. BLUs to report frequently on the progress of Public Relations.

(f) Attention was drawn to MMLA letter [illegible] of 17 Jul, stressing the importance of correct procedure in our relations with ITALIAN authorities in order to avoid misunderstandings. The responsibilities of Offrs of the Services was described as being exactly similar to those normally serving on BRIT higher and subordinate HQs. OsC BLUs were asked to watch and see that this procedure was properly observed. With regard to the future, Col AQ stated that it was impossible at the moment to give any reliable forecast but saw no reason to anticipate any major change before Oct or a complete change of regime before next Mar, after which anything might happen. OC BLUs were asked to send, wherever possible, thumb nail sketches of outstanding ITALIAN Army Offrs. 'G' Branch will be sending out a letter on this subject.

7. (a) Dealt with by AQMG under 9(a).

(b) The question of accn for Permanent Staff and Families was fully discussed and it was agreed that MMLA would again take up the question with the War Ministry and inform BLUs of any developments.

(c) It was not considered advisable to bring pressure to bear on the War Ministry regarding the institution of an ITALIAN Army Canteen Service similar to NAAFI in view of the present financial and other circumstances.

(d) see 9(b).

(e) It was agreed that there was no objection to ITALIANS manufacturing certain parts for vehs or weapons, but it was not known whether this would be economically sound or technically satisfactory. It is a matter which must be decided by the ITALIANS themselves - MMLA being prepared to give any assistance asked for.

...../6

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

7. (Contd)

(f) The dereuisition of State Property as a priority over Industrial or Private Property was discussed. Col AQ pointed out the need for looking at the wider picture in view of the various Industrial needs, it being accepted that the ITALIAN Army had already done very well in the way of accn. Local and BRIT HQs are to be asked by BLUs to help in every way possible.

(g) The question of the valuation of fixed assets will be taken up with the War Ministry.

(h) See 9(a).

(i) DADMS will examine the existing hygiene set-up with a view to advising on any necessary changes.

(j) Inadequacy of Welfare facilities was fully ventilated and Col AQ promised to hold a Welfare Meeting with War Ministry reps with a view to considering the possibility of improvement, particularly with regard to voluntary helpers, material, and accn.

(k) Welfare of patients in hosp, incl occupational therapy, was being taken up with the War Ministry and BLUs will be informed of the result.

(l) The problem of regular commissions for temporary offrs being an extremely complicated one, it is difficult for MMIA to interfere. AAG will however, inquire into the matter with the War Ministry and satisfy himself that MMIA is doing everything possible to retain the services of really efficient individuals.

(m) The retention or enlistment of specialists, both mil and civ is recognised as being important, and will be again taken up with the War Ministry by AAG with special ref to the trg aspect.

(n) Offrs pay is under revision but that of ORs is likely to remain as at present in view of the value of Clothing, Food, etc already provided.

(o) All recommendations for BRIT Awards to ITALIAN Offrs and Men for Services during the War have already been handed to AFHQ who are awaiting approval or otherwise, which is not expected before the Peace Treaty.

(p) BLUs were asked to ensure that full use was made of the Army Newspaper, (NOTIZIARIO DELL'ESERCITO) and that unit notice boards containing Army Orders etc of personal interest to the men, should be universally est and kept up to date. BLUs were asked for any suggestions which might occur to them for improving the spreading of knowledge amongst the tps. At the same time taking care to avoid propaganda or controversial political matters.

2089

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

(i) DADMS will [illegible] advising on any necessary changes.

(j) Inadequacy of Welfare facilities was fully ventilated and Col AQ promised to hold a Welfare Meeting with War Ministry reps with a view to considering the possibility of improvement, particularly with regard to voluntary helpers, material, and accn.

(k) Welfare of patients in hosp, incl occupational therapy, was being taken up with the War Ministry and BLUs will be informed of the result.

(l) The problem of regular commissions for temporary offrs being an extremely complicated one, it is difficult for MMIA to interfere. AAG will however, inquire into the matter with the War Ministry and satisfy himself that MMIA is doing everything possible to retain the services of really efficient individuals.

(m) The retention or enlistment of specialists, both mil and civ is recognised as being important, and will be again taken up with the War Ministry by AAG with special ref to the trg aspect.

(n) Offrs pay is under revision but that of ORs is likely to remain as at present in view of the value of Clothing, Food, etc already provided.

(o) All recommendations for BRIT Awards to ITALIAN Offrs and Men for Services during the War have already been handed to AFHQ who are awaiting approval or otherwise, which is not expected before the Peace Treaty.

(p) BLUs were asked to ensure that full use was made of the Army Newspaper, (NOTIZIARIO DELL'ESERCITO) and that unit notice boards containing Army Orders etc of personal interest to the men, should be universally est and kept up to date. BLUs were asked for any suggestions which might occur to them for improving the spreading of knowledge amongst the tps. At the same time taking care to avoid propaganda or controversial political matters.

2039

AAG PTS

8. AAG gave a detailed account of 'A' matters (see Appx 'A' att).

...../7

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

AQMG PTS

9. AQMG gave a complete outline of the maint situation (See Appx 'B' att). The following action is necessary :-

(a) HQ MMLA will continue its efforts with GHQ and keep BLUs informed of the situation.

(b) MMLA will take up with the War Ministry the question of provision or retention of specialists, particularly artificerss and gun fitters and will ensure that trg facilities are adequate.

(c) BLUs to interest themselves in the est of the Base Wksps and Deps enumerated in Appendix.

(d) BLUs to ascertain which units are experimenting with the new Army Clothing and obtain advance opinions. Boot Repair orgs will be examined by MMLA with a view to the provision of adequate services.

10. The future maint of BLUs was discussed under two headings :-

(a) The Interim period during which ALLIED Installations were disappearing and during which many BLUs would find themselves far removed from any ALLIED Deps or HQs, whilst others would be comparatively handy.

(b) The Later Period when no BRIT authorities would be within practicable maint distance.

During the Interim Period means were discussed for the provision of all the necessary facilities and it was generally agreed that as former BRIT facilities disappeared we should depend more and more on ITALIAN Army systems.

In regard to Med, it was also open to us to use, on repayment from Imprest Accounts, local civ resources.

As regards pay, arrangements have already been made for paying of Imprest Account with the Local Branch of the Bank of NAPLES. Offrs advances should also be made from these banks in the same way as at present made from the Fd Cashier. They may not be made from Imprest.

The most difficult problem of all is EFI Supplies, for which it seemed that a credit system was the only one which would work.

As regards later infm, it was impossible to lay anything down but it seemed likely that the time may come when the whole question of living would have to be settled by a living allowance.

A great deal of useful infm was obtained from the BLUs on local and general circumstances as a result of which AQ will now make definite proposals (with the approval of GHQ to the War Ministry and as soon as possible circulate the results to BLUs.

11. (a) Adm Questions

Comns between MMLA and the BLUs was discussed at some length and will be fully examined by the SO P [illegible]

2088

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

(d) BLUs to ascertain which units are experimenting with the new Army Clothing and obtain advance opinions. Boot Repair orgs will be examined by MMIA with a view to the provision of adequate services.

10. The future maint of BLUs was discussed under two headings :-

(a) The Interim Period during which ALLIED Installations were disappearing and during which many BLUs would find themselves far removed from any ALLIED Deps or HQs, whilst others would be comparatively handy.

(b) The Later Period when no BRIT authorities would be within practicable maint distance.

During the Interim Period means were discussed for the provision of all the necessary facilities and it was generally agreed that as former BRIT facilities disappeared we should depend more and more on ITALIAN Army systems.

In regard to Med, it was also open to us to use, on repayment from Imprest Accounts, local civ resources.

As regards pay, arrangements have already been made for paying of Imprest Account with the Local Branch of the Bank of NAPLES. Offrs advances should also be made from these banks in the same way as at present made from the Fd Cashier. They may not be made from Imprest.

The most difficult problem of all is EFI Supplies, for which it seemed that a credit system was the only one which would work.

As regards later infm, it was impossible to lay anything down but it seemed likely that the time may come when the whole question of living would have to be settled by a living allowance.

A great deal of useful infm was obtained from the BLUs on local and general circumstances as a result of which AQ will now make definite proposals (with the approval of GHQ to the War Ministry and as soon as possible circulate the results to BLUs.

11. (a) Adm Questions

2088

Comns between MMIA and the BLUs was discussed at some length and will be fully examined by the SO R Sigs. Tests will be made for speed and efficiency and further instrs will be issued.

(b) Shortage of BRIT personnel was noted. AAG will go into the whole matter of available personnel with a view to redistribution, it being borne in mind that each BLU deals direct with O2E in these matters and that each BLU should do everything possible locally to secure the transfer of personnel from other units near by which are disbanding. It is recognised that every BLU should have at least one reliable BRIT NCO.

...../8

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

11. (Contd)

(c) BLU Tpt

AQMG gave a complete picture of BLU tpt. He stressed the need for the correct rendering of Veh Census Reports and took note of existing deficiencies which will be examined.

(d) War Ministry will be asked to ensure the provision of LOs for BLUs. 9 BLU is at present deficient.

(e) The question of Offrs travelling expenses is fully catered for in GRO 655/45.

12. At the end of the Conference the GOC referred to the value of the Conference and the great interest taken in it by all concerned, and in the work of MMLA generally, as a result of which he had already formed the opinion that the ITALIAN Army was extremely grateful to us. The GOC summed up the following important pts :-

(a) Tactical Directive must be worked out by MMLA.

(b) The Trg of Instrs must be tackled.

(c) Conditions of Service for Regular Army are not satisfactory. The BRIT Plan is none too good and even if it were, the role of the ITALIAN Army is entirely different.

(d) Adm is bound up with finance. Ind[illegible]ment Rates of Pay would seem to be out of date. [illegible] rents adequate, in any case by comparision with other theatres.

(e) The Peace Treaty, as far as it has gone, gives little indication about the future of the Military Mission. We hope to know more very soon, but it appears likely that redeployment of the ITALIAN Army may be required.

The GOC expressed his astonishment at the progress already made and the efficiency existing. He felt that we should be thankful for achievements and that even though at the moment there was some criticism of the ALLIED efforts on behalf of ITALY, that a true realisation of our achievements would ultimately be felt.

13. Lt-Col WATHEN, on behalf of the BLUs thanked the GOC and Offrs of MMLA for this opportunity of getting together and for the hospitality provided by HQ MMLA.

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

12. At the end of the Conference the GOC referred to the value of the Conference and the great interest taken in it by all concerned, and in the work of MMLA generally, as a result of which he had already formed the opinion that the ITALIAN Army was extremely grateful to us. The GOC summed up the following important pts :-

(a) Tactical Directive must be worked out by MMLA.

(b) The Trg of Instrs must be tackled.

(c) Conditions of Service for Regular Army are not satisfactory. The BRIT Plan is none too good and even if it were, the role of the ITALIAN Army is entirely different.

(d) Adm is bound up with finance. [illegible] Rates of Pay would seem to be out of date. [illegible] adequate, in any case by comparision with other theatres.

(e) The Peace Treaty, as far as it has gone, gives little indication about the future of the Military Mission. We hope to know more very soon, but it appears likely that redeployment of the ITALIAN Army may be required.

The GOC expressed his astonishment at the progress already made and the efficiency existing. He felt that we should be thankful for achievements and that even though at the moment there was some criticism of the ALLIED efforts on behalf of ITALY, that a true realisation of our achievements would ultimately be felt.

13. Lt-Col WATHEN, on behalf of the BLUs thanked the GOC and Offrs of MMLA for this opportunity of getting together and for the hospitality provided by HQ MMLA.

2087

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

DETAILED ACCOUNT OF
'A' MATTERS

Appx 'A' to
MMLA letter
G/33/3
Dated 15 Aug 4

8. (a) Str of ITALIAN Army

As a 1st Jul 46	REGULAR	OFFRS	12,918	
		ORs	13,583	
		TOTAL	26,501	
	CLASSES		121,944	1920-25
	TOTAL STR		148,445	
REDUCTIONS AUG	1922 & 23 CLASSES		52,818	
	1924 CLASS		4,000	
	1925 OLD SOLDIERS		11,108	
		TOTAL	67,926	
	ARMY REDUCED TO		80,519	
CALL UP AUG	1925 CLASS		42,000	
	ARMY STR AUG 31st		122,519	
DEFICIENCY AUG TO NOV WHEN BALANCE OF 1925 CLASS IS CALLED UP			17,481	

US-ITI 4,530
RR-ITI 757

(b) Man Power (NCOs & Specialists)

(i) considerable correspondence with Ministry of War has taken place as to to what they proposed to do about the loss of NCOs and Specialists when the 1922 & 23 Classes were demobilised.
With regard to NCOs Ministry of War sent a letter to all Territorial Cords No 46002/4 of 22.6.46. This lays down circunstances under which NCOs can apply to defer demobilisation. Effect as yet unknown,

(ii) With regard to Specialists

Ministry of War stated that they had again approached the Treasury to hasten approval of the New Rates of Pay for Specialist and Trademen so as to attract these persons to apply for their retention in the Army. That they were delaying the demobilisation of the 1922 & 23 Classes until Aug 15 and that with the transfers of Specialists from the Central Schools to units in Aug and Sep the difficulties will be overcome.

2026

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

REDUCTIONS AUG	1922 & 23 CLASSES	
	1924 CLASS	4,000
	1925 OLD SOLDIERS	11,108
	TOTAL	67,926
	ARMY REDUCED TO	80,519
CALL UP AUG	1925 CLASS	42,000
	ARMY STR AUG 31st	122,519
DEFICIENCY AUG TO NOV WHEN BALANCE OF 1925 CLASS IS CALLED UP		17,481

US-ITI 4,530
BR-ITI 757

(b) Man Power (NCOs & Specialists)

(i) considerable correspondence with Ministry of War has taken place as to to what they proposed to do about the loss of NCOs and Specialists when the 1922 & 23 Classes were demobilised.
With regard to NCOs Ministry of War sent a letter to all Territorial Corps No 46002/4 of 22.6.46. This lays down circumstances under which NCOs can apply to defer demobilisation. Effect as yet unknown,

(ii) With regard to Specialists

Ministry of War stated that they had again approached the Treasury to hasten approval of the New Rates of Pay for Specialist and Tradesmen so as to attract these persons to apply for their retention in the Army. That they were delaying the demobilisation of the 1922 & 23 Classes until Aug 15 and that with the transfers of Specialists from the Central Schools to units in Aug and Sep the difficulties will be overcome. The Treasury were first approached 9 months ago and nothing has happened yet, the Central Schools cannot possibly turn out sufficient replacements. The situation must therefore be considered serious and the difficulty has certainly not been overcome.

2026

...../2

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

(c) Surplus Offrs

There is now in force a degree which makes it possible to retire surplus Offrs compulsorily. This decree was held up for months by the Ministry of Treasury and Education the terms are extremely favourable for those being retired, but it is now law and surplus Offrs can be got rid of. This decree was drafted many months ago and widely discussed in the ITALIAN Army long before it became law.

(d) Legal Reform

(i) a decree setting up Courts Martial has been drawn up and is about to go before the Council of Ministers. We have been pressing for this for many months, the sole object being to speed up trial.
The set up, and procedure of these Courts are not unlike our own DCMs and the earlier articles of the decree are satisfactory, but articles 16 - 20 deal with the accused right of appeal and the accusing judges right of appeal. From these articles it appears that the accused can appeal his case to the Mil Tribunal in which case the whole project is wrecked since the case on every appeal would be put back on to the Mil Tribunals.
A Meeting is taking place with Gen BORSARI to try and get the right of appeal expunged and cases merely reviewed by the Mil Tribunals.
NOTE :- A Meeting with Gen BORSARI took place on Mon 12 Aug the matter of appeal has been satisfactorily settled. There will be no "appeal" only "review".

(ii) the Amnesty (Mil) has not had as much effect as was hoped. Of 6,000 men serving sentence about 3,500 have been released under the Amnesty.
The vast majority of cases awaiting trial 220,000 concern personnel who have not been apprehended, these people must voluntarily surrender before they can benefit by the Amnesty; the closing date for surrender to benefit by the Amnesty was extended to 18 Jul 46. Return of those surrending not yet received.

(e) Personnel Selection

Italians have never practised this but have studied it. We arranged a Course at BENEVENTO and then applied to the War Office for authority to pass all our methods over to the Italians. War Office have agreed and further offered to show Italian reps our methods at a Course in UK. We now await from the Ministry of War details of exactly what the Italians want from us.

2085

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

The set up, and procedure of these Courts are not unlike our own DCMs and the earlier articles of the decree are satisfactory, but articles 16 - 20 deal with the accused right of appeal and the accusing judges right of appeal. From these articles it appears that the accused can appeal his case to the Mil Tribunal in which case the whole project is wrecked since the case on every appeal would be put back on to the Mil Tribunals.

A Meeting is taking place with Gen BORSARI to try and get the right of appeal expunged and cases merely reviewed by the Mil Tribunals.

NOTE :- A Meeting with Gen BORSARI took place on Mon 12 Aug the matter of appeal has been satisfactorily settled. There will be no "appeal" only "review".

(ii) the Amnesty (Mil) has not had as much effect as was hoped. Of 6,000 men serving sentence about 3,500 have been released under the Amnesty.

The vast majority of cases awaiting trial 220,000 concern personnel who have not been apprehended, these people must voluntarily surrender before they can benefit by the Amnesty; the closing date for surrender to benefit by the Amnesty was extended to 18 Jul 46. Return of those surrending not yet received.

(e) Personnel Selection

Italians have never practised this but have studied it. We arranged a Course at BENEVENTO and then applied to the War Office for authority to pass all our methods over to the Italians. War Office have agreed and further offered to show Italian reps our methods at a Course in UK. We now await from the Ministry of War details of exactly what the Italians want from us.

2085

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

MAINT OF ITALIAN ARMY

Appx 'B' to
MMIA letter
G/33/3
Dated 15 Aug 46

9. (a) Maint of BRIT Eqpt comprises the production of Spare Parts, the org of Wksps and the Est of Deps to hold new or reconditioned articles. The direct transfer of essentail spare parts for BRIT Eqpt has virtually ceased and the War Ministry have been informed that in future they will have to rely on one of the following three sources :-

(i) surplus stores handed over to the Chief Disposals Offr and released by him to ARAR,

(ii) the local manufacture of such parts as may be possible without large capital outlay to produce specialised machinery,

(iii) Import Programme from the UK - no action as regards imports from the UK is likely until the War Ministry have been able to take stock of their posn and government decision has been obtained on the future of the ITALIAN Army.

Unit Maint is bad and everything possible must be done to ensure that eqpt already issued is maint and inspected according to BRIT Standards. Artificers tools and the special tools required for Arty Eqpt have now been released to the War Ministry. A serious deficiency is felt of trained artificers and gun fitters as well as Civ and BRIT Ord Tech Storemen. This requires action by G(TRG). Base Wksps have already been est for repairs as under :-

Arty	PIACENZA
Wrls & Sig Stores	ROME
BRIT SA	GARDONE
BRIT MT	BOLOGNA

The locn of Deps has provisionally been decided and there will be a stores dep at each of the above places as well as a subsidiary Dep at NAPLES.

(b) Little change in the ITALIAN Army eqpt situation, to that reported in the Minutes of the Conference held 28 Jan 46. Direct release of BRIT MT is continuing and limited quantities of Class I and Class II are expected.

(c) Clothing

Summer and Winter Clothing undergoing trials. BLUs should ascertain if any unit in their Territorial Commands have been selected and interests themselves in the subject.
Boot production is adequate to ensure every soldier has serviceable boots. It is essential that unit Comds obey War Ministry instructions to exchange boots, and insist on a pair of repairable boots being handed in whenever boots need to be replaced. The War Ministry will be approached concerning

2084

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

machinery,

(iii) Import Programme from the UK - no action as regards imports from the UK is likely until the War Ministry have been able to take stock of their posn and government decision has been obtained on the future of the ITALIAN Army.

Unit Maint is bad and everything possible must be done to ensure that eqpt already issued is maint and inspected according to BRIT Standards. Artificers tools and the special tools required for Arty Eqpt have now been released to the War Ministry. A serious deficiency is felt of trained artificers and gun fitters as well as Civ and BRIT Ord Tech Storemen. This requires action by G(TRG). Base Wksps have already been est for repairs as under :-

Arty	PIACENZA
Wrls & Sig Stores	ROME
BRIT SA	GARDONE
BRIT MT	BOLOGNA

The locn of Deps has provisionally been decided and there will be a stores dep at each of the above places as well as a subsidiary Dep at NAPLES.

(b) Little change in the ITALIAN Army Eqpt situation, to that reported in the Minutes of the Conference held 28 Jan 46. Direct release of BRIT MT is continuing and limited quantities of Class I and Class II are expected.

(c) Clothing

Summer and Winter Clothing undergoing trials. BLUs should ascertain if any unit in their Territorial Commands have been selected and interests themselves in the subject. Boot production is adequate to ensure every soldier has serviceable boots. It is essential that unit Comds obey War Ministry instructions to exchange boots, and insist on a pair of repairable boots being handed in whenever boots need to be replaced. The War Ministry will be approached concerning the issue of a wastage rate for various articles of clothing. Stocks are improving and previous objections to issuing such detailed information no longer apply.

2084

(d) POL Adequate quantities are being obtained by the War Ministry. CIP remains the distribuiting agency and in future BLUs will receive a copy of War Ministry monthly allocation ~~of~~ AND stocks state showing reserves held in each Command.

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

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

(2)

SUBJECT :- Sitrep R.E.M.E. 4 BLU.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
MS/43/2/2

14 Aug 46

To :- E.M.E., 4 BLU.

(Old file)

Reference your S/R 24 dated 29 July 46.

1. Your remarks at Para 2(a) are noted with interest.

2. Will you please advise this office whether the O.C. "FRIULI" Infantry Division Workshops received instructions in writing, that 90 men were to be attached for training. If so may the date and letter reference be given.

3. Any information that can be given in respect of the trades to be taught and the number allotted to each trade with also be appreciated.

See folio 21

W.J. Franklin

W.J. FRANKLIN, Major,
DADME
for Lt.Col.
Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering.
M.M.I.A.

WJF/ag

8083
Regd.
15th Aug.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

(1)

SUBJECT :- Sitrep.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E.
MM/43/2/1

see 9.

14 Aug 46

To :- M.E.E., 6 BLU.

1. Further to the discussion held with DAEME, please arrange to forward to this office immediately a Sitrep for period 27 July - 10 Aug. Sitreps need only be brief and should contain items of information on visits to Units, any difficulties encountered and suggestions for improvement.

2. Will you please ensure that brief Sitreps are rendered fortnightly in accordance with HQ MMIA MEE Directive No 1 dated 5 Dec '45.

W.J.FRANKLIN, Major,
DAEME
for Lt.Col.
Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering.
M.M.I.A.

WJF/ag

Regd 82
15 August.

I 484