

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

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10000/120/352.3

A/ORD/10 Progress Reports to HQ #1 BLU

opened Dec. 9, 1945. Closed Dec. 30, 1946
Dec 1945. Dec. 1946

1853
1878

Ref:- A/ORD/10.
Date:- 30 Dec '46.

To :- C.S.O.1
Headquarters, 1 British Liaison Unit.

PROGRESS REPORT No.17.

STORES.

Boots.

Present stock of Boots in Magazzino V.E. is approx. 28,000 Pairs all types. The Opificio Militare hold approx. 11806 Pairs. in stock. For information the Opificio have manufactured 50,107 Pairs of Boots over the past 12 months, and repaired 9034 in the same period.

Cremona Div. received 1997 pairs. of the 2000 allocated, and I inspected these this morning. They appeared to be a mixed bag of English and American Boots, repaired in most cases; the English Boots might have been good if they had been properly baled for despatch, and real care and maintenance taken in the late Store-house in Naples. The majority have only been repaired once, and in many cases the 'repairing' consists only of stuffing; but they are absolutely bone-dry and consequently as hard as iron; instead of lasting for the prescribed period of 10 months, I give them personally only 3 months life, and approx. 14 days before they require major repairs. The American Boots are rubber soled in most cases, and are definitely not fit for use until they have been thoroughly overhauled by the Opificio Militare, which means a further waste of materials when proper care etc in the first instance would have met the case. (Some 6000 Pairs. of American Boots received from Bari a matter of 6 months ago were in the same condition.)

The position is now that instead of being in a relatively good state for Boots, Cremona will be worse off, because an issue to last 10 months will last only approx. 3 months. If an issue of two pairs of Boots were possible, I am convinced that there would be a saving in repair materials in quite a short time. At present there are many boots needing repairs that the 20% reserve held by Battalions is insufficient to enable boots to be repaired at once. Furthermore the monthly Grindery allotment is used up very quickly and there is a period during which many boots are becoming U/S and unfit for further repairs.

Clothing.

There are still deficiencies of certain items, Vests, Pants and Pallovers in Territ. Comd., but the position has improved considerably over the last three months. The C.A.R. has been issued with Kit for the new intake in January, however a visit after arrival of the recruits will confirm whether or not they will be dressed sufficiently well to keep them warm during the remaining months of winter.

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Cremona Div. still await their final allocation of 1000 Great-Coats from Verona. Their Vest and Pullovers deficiencies are 1000 and 400 respectively; a request to the Ministry of War has already been made. Cremona are complete in respect of Battle Dress.

Socks.

Material is very poor and the life of a pair of socks is not much more than one week.

Arms.

Cremona are in the process of re-distributing arms within the Div. The formation of new Regts has resulted in considerably deficiencies, especially Rifles of which approx. 3000 are position required. Presumably the Ministry of War have the present under control.

Ammunition.

Territ. Comd. are awaiting 20 Truck Loads expected, approx. date of receipt is not yet known. Caramona have received sufficient to cover 2nd Line which is now complete. There are very small deficiencies at Units. More Ammunition is expected during next year from Allied sources; the Ministry of War are opening new dumps to receive this Amm. and it is to be hoped that generally the position will improve tremendously.

GENERAL.

The Opificio Militare V.E. are not suffering from any special shortages at present. Sufficient material is held to keep work going at medium pressure. Leave etc. over the Holiday period is having its effects, but naturally this is only temporary and no great importance can be attached to it. I regret to say that Major Pession is leaving very shortly, he has undoubtedly worked extremely hard under very trying conditions; shortages of material etc, power cut-offs have been his lot during 12 months I have known him, but he has managed to keep things going in a very efficient manner. The workers too are very sorry to lose him as their Direttore.

The Magazzino V.E. is progressing well, the smooth running continues to improve. There are still shortcomings in some ways, but generally speaking there is no reason at all why it should not become a very efficient organisation.

[Signature]

Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Socks and Boots

(Y) The army is still being issued with very poor quality materials.

The Tipo L Boot is very bad

Socks are from cotton material and last about a week

If an issue of 2 pairs of boots were possible, I am convinced that there would be a noticeable saving in repair materials in quite a short time.

At present there are so many boots needing repair and that the 20% reserve held by Battalions is insufficient to enable boots to be repaired at once.

Furthermore the ^{monthly} grinding allotment is used up very quickly and there is a period during which ~~some~~ ^{many} boots are becoming 1/3 and unfit for further repair

1876

N.T.

A typical example of delay in issue is shown as follows :-

- (a) Commissariato, Div. Cremona, demanded 2000 Pairs of Boots on 21 Sept.
- (b) The G.O.C., Div. Cremona, wrote to the Min. of War. (Gen. Pelligre in particular) on the 20 Oct.
- (c) The latter authorised issue on 30 Oct.
- (d) The Magazzino received order to despatch Boots on 21 Nov.
- (e) Commissariato, Div. Cremona received information stating that Boots left Naples on 29 Nov.

These Boots were required urgently by the Div. Cremona. Even the most excellent of systems will fail to operate properly when such delays occur. The Min. of War themselves state that Boots are in short supply, and authorise a mere 20% to cover exchanges and repairs. If delays of three months are frequent then it is not surprising that in a certain Unit 40 men were unable to proceed with their training.

So no Boots to men!

To :- G.S.O. 1,
1 British Liaison Unit.

Ref :- A/ML/10.
Date :- 25 Nov., 1946.

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 16.

STORES.

Clothing.

With special reference to Progress Report No. 15. Material for the new type H.D. has been received, the transaction being completed early this month. Quantity in hand is 6000 metres, and Major i/c states that it represents approx. 3600 suits. These should be completed by the end of Dec.

242 Greencoats have been manufactured at the Office during this month; a further 3000 are being manufactured at Verona, and have already been allocated as follows :-

Div. Pant. 'Gremona' - 2500.
Div. Pant. 'Pullover' - 500.

The issue to Gremona will complete recruits and replace U/S.

Commissariato states that Vests have been issued as far as possible, but only to Independent Regts. Gremona are still deficient and have been obliged to re-allocate Vests and Pullovers within the Div., e.g., those men with 2 Vests and 1 Pullover have been relieved of either the Pullover or one Vest, and these items have been issued to men without; each man as far as possible will either 1 Vest and 1 Pullover or 2 Vests. More Vests becoming available each month when, as men are released, Vests and Pullovers are withdrawn and re-issued after cleaning etc.

Commissariato states that in spite of this he still needs 1500 Vests to equip recruits.

The Battle Dress has been received from Naples for Gremona, and this completes their requirements.

SOCKS

Although there seems to be ample stocks available in Italy, the quality is very poor. Gremona received an issue of 10,000 prs. only a short while ago, but these are useless. They have submitted a demand for a further 10,000 prs, and request that they be of good quality only. *unavailable U/S and when socks are being re-issued for the issue*
Present stock of socks - all types - in the Magazzino V.I. is approx. 25,000 prs, of these 10,000 prs. are being issued very shortly to other Commands. A reserve of 1500 is being kept for Recruits arriving in Jan. '47.

BOOTS.

X issue orders to
Beallwater

completed early this month. Quantity in hand is 6000 metres, and Major I/c states that it represents approx. 5600 suits. These should be completed by the end of Dec.

242 Greatcoats have been manufactured at the Opificio during this month; a further 5000 are being manufactured at Verona, and have already been allocated as follows :-

Div. Pant. 'Cremna' - 2500.
Div. Pant. 'Pullover' - 500.

The issue to Cremna will complete recruits and replace U/S.

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The Battle Dress has been received from Naples for Cremna, and this completes their requirements.

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Present stock of boots - all types - in the Magazzino V.2. is approx. 25,000 prs, of these 10,000 prs. are being issued very shortly to other Commands. A reserve of 4500 is being kept for Recruits arriving in Jan. '47.

Boots.

Opificio hold a stock of 12,000 prs., these of course, will be passed eventually to the Magazzino.

The leather position for manufacture and repairs should show considerable improvement during the next 5 or 6 weeks. The following assignments have been made :-

6000 Leather ex 557 S.O.D.	-	Rec'd.
2000 prs for Socks and	-	
15,000 prs. for Uniforms.	-	Expected within 2 or 3 days.
245 quint and 45,000 prs.	-	Expected shortly.

The total assignment will produce approx. 12,000 prs.

Cont.....Sheet 2.

X Issue orders to
Reallocate

SECRET

Ammunition.

Copy of monthly return sent in by Div. Comando to Comando Territoriale shows deficiencies in both 1st and 2nd lines, and for training. To off-set these a consignment is in transit from Bari, full details are not yet known. It is anticipated that a percentage will be for training purposes.

Arms.

The general position has recently been revised by Ministry of War; they have issued new Holdings and the Divs. are in process of checking and re-distributing. All surplus arms will be issued to Comando Territoriale for Independent Regts., and any deficiencies will be issued from Naples. The handover is to take place immediately arms are received, and will be completed by the end of the month following. (See Note)

It is to be hoped that Units will pay strict attention to the various instructions issued by the Ministry of War on Care and maintenance of arms. Spare parts are very hard to come by, and in fact, supply from Allied sources has practically ceased. Plans for manufacture are under consideration, but when production will start is a matter for conjecture. (See Note)

Commissaries.

The Magazine V.S. report that issues and receipts are proceeding satisfactorily, and apart from shortages in various items no undue difficulties are being experienced. The general state of the Commissary has improved in early over the last six months, and is now fit to stand any kind of inspection.

The Official Magazine continues to work in an efficient way; production has dropped during the past month, but this is due to lack of power and materials, and not to any particular person. The Major i/c states that the leather expected should last at least 6 weeks, and has no knowledge of receipts after that time.

Notes.

I think that Comando Territoriale should have notified this H.Q. re the new disposition of arms.

Notes.

I understand that S/Capt. H.M.M.R. will submit a detailed report on Arms Inspection, 22nd Regt.

[Signature]

1879

Ordinance Varrant Officer.

GENERAL.

It is to be hoped that Units will pay strict attention to the various instructions issued by the Ministry of War on Care and maintenance of arms. Spare parts are very hard to come by, and in fact, supply from allied sources has practically ceased. Plans for manufacture are under consideration, but when production will start is a matter for conjecture. (See Note)

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NOTE.

I think that Comando Territoriale should have notified this H.Q. re the new disposition of arms.

NOTE.

I understand that S/Capt. R. M. B. will submit a detailed report on Arms Inspection, 2nd Regt.

[Signature]

1873

Ord and Warrent Officer.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject:- Magazzino V.N.

1 British Liaison Unit.
C.M.F.

A/CED/10
8 Nov. '46.

To:- Comando Territoriale, Turin.

For attention:- Direzione di Commissariato.

The Magazzino V.N., Via Ottavio Reval, No. 8, was visited today by Lt. Col. J.L.C. Egerton, GSO I of the Unit accompanied by myself.

The GSO I expressed his complete satisfaction on the state of affairs, and on the very excellent condition of the Magazzino generally. Capt. Pavia and Staff have obviously worked very hard to achieve the present results.


Ordnance Warrant Officer
(S/Cdr Chapman).

1872

To:- G.S.O.I,
H.Q., 1 British Liaison Unit.

Ref :- A/ORD/10.
Date :- 29 Oct., 1946.

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 15.

CLOTHING.

The new type Battle Dress has been issued to the C.A.R., Casale, this week. Remainder of troops in Command will be in Winter Dress by the end of this month. Material for remainder of new type B.D. has not yet arrived. Manufacturers require payment before handing over. Matter has been taken up with War Ministry by Comando Territoriale.

BOOTS.

Although the stock position remains fairly satisfactory, there is still considerable number of complaints from Units, the most important of which comes from the Cobblers who complain of lack of material for repairs. This is due apparently to the shortage of leather throughout Italy, and the high price demanded by the distributors.

ARMS.

Nothing to report.

ARMS.

There has been a considerable outcry during the past month re shortage of cleaning materials within the Command. Replies to reports to M.E.I.A. state that the M. of W. have been informed. See also G 5/6. Information has been received from D.A.D.O.S., 217 Area, that all Sten Machine Carbines, Mk. II, III and V are to be returned to U.K. shortly, and withdrawn from Italian Army forthwith. Instructions have been passed to Cremona and Mantova -2BUU- accordingly.

GENERAL.

The Ufficio Militare V.E. have worked at full pressure during the past month to ensure that new type B.D. be ready for Winter. This has been done with some few days to spare. The Major i/c hopes to have the Greatcoats completed within 10 days. Boot manufacture has slowed up considerably during the past two months; only 150-200 pairs are being manufactured daily instead of the usual 350 - 400. Some leather has been received, but the Major has been warned also that this must last as long as possible; he does not know from one month to the next of what leather he is to receive or the condition.

I was instructed to supply details of Vehicles within the Command in order that Ministry of War may be supplied with the correct spares ex 557 B.O.D. and A.R.A.R. Some information was already available and has been passed on to 10 E.L.U. Instructions have been issued to Cremona and Mantova asking for full details. Cremona indicate that this will take approx. 15 days.

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1871

[Signature]

Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject : Small Arms - cleaning.

LAND FORCES SUB COMM.A.C.

M.M.I.A.

R.O.M.E.
G/CS/1

21 Oct 46

1 B.L.U.

Ref your A/OND/10 of 1 Oct 46.

This matter has been referred to War Ministry.

Will you please refer to this H.Q. letter SD/109 of
17 Oct 46.

HGE/lm

H. G. Evans
H.G. EVANS, Lt. Col.
A.D.C.S. M.M.I.A.

1870

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject : Cleaning Materials - Small Arms.

No. 1 British Liaison Unit,
A/ORD/10.
1 Oct., 1946.

A.D.O.S., Headquarters,
M.M.I.A., ROME.

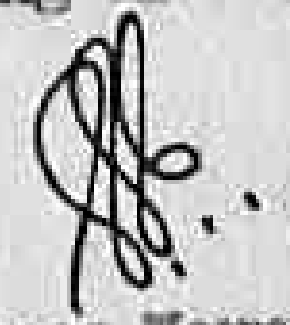
I wish to bring to your attention the very urgent need for cleaning materials - Pullthroughs etc. - existing within No. 1 Territorial Command at present.

1. There have been frequent references made in Progress Reports since the beginning of this year; the matter was brought up during your last visit in May, and I signalled only a matter of two days after that visit asking for arrangements to be made for certain items to be despatched as soon as possible. My OS/10/D dated 26 May 46 refers.

2. S/Capt., R.E.M.E. arranged for manufacture of Pullthroughs and Brushes in the Arsénale, Turin, but it has not been possible to produce the numbers required; those that were issued certainly helped in some small way, but the position still remains very acute.

3. Ufficio Servizi of No. 1 Territ. Comd. requested Ministry of War for these materials a matter of three months^{ago}, and to date have received neither the items or any reply whatsoever.

4. I respectfully suggest, therefore, that the M. of W. be asked to take steps immediately to alleviate this extreme shortage. The Small Arms are becoming completely U/S and training is suffering as a result.


Ordnance Warrant Officer.

1839

16
A/ORD/10.
23 Sept., 1946.

To :- G.S.O.1, Headquarters,
1 British Liaison Unit.

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 14.

STORES.

Clothing.

The new type Battle Dress for the Italian Army is now in course of manufacture at the Opificio Militare, and completion will be effected by middle of Oct. The whole of the 5000 suits are to be issued to the C.A.R. at Casals for recruits.

The War Ministry have allocated 6000 suits of Battle Dress, British pattern, for Cremona Div; these will be used to make up present defts. in B.D., and to replace those U/S.

C.A.R. will be issued to old pattern Italian Greatcoats, so that they will be clothed in Khaki colour B.D. and Grey Green Greatcoats; this is unavoidable in view of non-availability of Khaki cloth for latter item.

Cremona are to be issued with 3000 Greatcoats manufactured in Opificio from C.R.M. of colour similar to British Khaki.

Independents Regts. will be clothed in Old Pattern Italian Uniform.

Blankets.

Position will be satisfactory for the coming winter. (4 per man)

Boots.

Extremely satisfactory

Arms.

There have been no receipts during the last month. Ufficio Servizi report that arms in transit for C.A.R. have not yet arrived.

Ammun.

30 Tons have been received over a period of 2 months; this has been allocated to Cremona Div - being all British Amm - and is to complete 1st, 2nd Line and ~~Reserve~~. Another 20 loads - approx. 60 tons - have been advised, also for 1st and 2nd line; Cremona have asked for Training amm., and it is thought that a percentage of the 60 tons will be made available for this purpose.

GENERAL.

There has been no further news of the repairs to the Opificio Militare, so that output is still some 60% below normal. I fail to understand the attitude of the War Ministry in this matter; all clothing - with the exception of a very small percent - is sub-contracted to Civilian Firms, and as an example the new Battle Dress is costing 500 Lire per suit, this brings the total cost to something like 2,500,000 Lire for only one item. The estimate of repairs will show 14,000,000 Li. cost, and the Opificio has been awaiting these very essential repairs since Oct. '45. Where is the object in paying out millions of lire for contracts to Civilians, when - with all machines working at the Opificio - all this work could easily be done with far less expenditure.

There is a general shortage of leather for boot manufacture, and in addition the price per kilo has risen considerably during the last 4 months. Fortunately the position is not acute at present with special regard to manufacture, but it does mean that the employees are not working up to normal output, and slackness means lowering of morale.

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Mag. Test. e Equip. Ref. Progress Reports Nos. 12 and 13. It seems that the question of reducing employees has been adoned for the time being; in point of fact there has been an increase.



1808

Sub-Comdr., R.A.O.C.
Ordnance Warrant Officer.

Ref:- A/ORD/10.
Date:- 27 Aug, 1946.

1) :- G.S.O.1, Headquarters,
No. 1 British Indian Unit.

PROGRESS REPORT NO.13.

STORES.

Clothing.

The new type Summer Uniform has been taken into General wear by troops in this command with the exception of Cremona Div. who are fitted with Summer Clothing of British and American pattern. Approx. 11,000 suits have been manufactured, and all reports have shown the pattern to be entirely satisfactory.

Latest report re the new Winter Uniform states that the War Ministry have allocated 16,000 metres of Khaki material for manufacture in Opificio Militare, Turin, these to be completed by end of Sept. Major i/o states that material will make up into approx. 5000 suits. Comissariato has indicated that the majority - 4000 suits - will go to the G.A.R., Casale, and remainder distributed amongst Independent Regts. and Cereb.

The position re Greatcoats is not yet clear; some material has been collected from Casale for manufacture but clarification is awaited from War Ministry.

Blankets.

Boots.

Comissariato has assured me that stocks of blankets will permit issue of 4 per man for this coming winter.

Position remains very satisfactory.

Arms.

Ufficio Servizio, Verit. Comd. have informed me that notification has been received from Naples stating that arms are in transit for G.A.R., Casale. Further details will be submitted in due course.

Amun.

Notification has also been received that amun. is in transit for this Command; exact details are not known.

GENERAL.

Opificio Militare. Re. repairs to this building. I am given to understand that the question was taken up at recent conference and some action will be expected in the near future.

Magazine Vest,
e Equip.

I have investigated further into the reduction in employees problem and information given by me in Progress Report No.12 is correct. War Ministry have issued instructions for numbers to be cut to 15. Verit. Comd. have asked War Ministry for delay of 4 to 5 months. No reply has been received to date. I recommend again that staff be kept at present strength until

Latest report re the new Winter Uniform states that the War Ministry have allocated 15,000 metres of Khaki material for manufacture in Oficicio Militar, Turin, these to be completed by end of Sept. Major i/o states that material will make up into approx 5500 suits. Comisariato has indicated that the majority - 4000 suits - will go to the C.A.R., Casale, and remainder distributed amongst independent Regts. and Carab.

The position re Casabucata is not yet clear; some material has been collected from Caselle for manufacture but clarification is awaited from War Ministry.

Blankets.

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Boots.

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Arms.

Officio Servizio: Perit. Cond. have informed me that notification has been received from Naples stating that arms are in transit for C.A.R., Casale. Further details will be submitted in due course.

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Magazzino Vest.
e Equip.

I have investigated further into the reduction in employees problem and information given by me in Progress Report No. 12 is correct. War Ministry have issued instructions for numbers to be cut to 12. Perit. Cond. have asked War Ministry for delay of 4 to 5 months. No reply has been received to date. I recommend again that staff be kept at present strength until recovery programme has been completed and in view of heavy issues and receipts expected in winter items.

1857

Sub-Comdr., R.A.O.C.
Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Ref:- A/ORD/40.
Date:- 28 July, 1946.

14

To :- G.O., Headquarters,
1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 12.

STORES.

Clothing.

The position is now extremely satisfactory in No. 1 Territorial Command; ample stocks of all items are available and no shortages are being felt or anticipated.

Boots.

The scale of issue to Italian soldiers is 1 pair per man, with a 20% reserve within the unit. The percentage is rather large and in view of the ample stocks (approx. 15,000 pairs) there is every possibility of the issue being increased to 2 pairs per man and the reserve reduced to 5%: this would be a much more satisfactory arrangement.

There are types of boot being manufactured at present, a very excellent and hard-wearing boot at the Opificio and a light boot by Civilian firms. If the scale could be increased to 2 pairs then it is suggested that it consists of 1 heavy pair for parades and etc., and the light pair for walking-out.

Gaiters are now being manufactured at the Opificio and are in course of issue. There is no good material available but a hard canvas is being used, and with care should last for almost 12 months.

Arms.

Arms have been released to the War Ministry but not yet received in this Command.

Amun.

Has also been released but not received.

GENERAL.

It is very necessary that the repairs to the Opificio be put into operation as soon as possible; there are considerable quantities of recovered clothing awaiting repair etc, and is being held up because of lack of facilities. It is stressed again that the Boot production can be increased to 1000 pairs per day if the repairs are completed.

The War Ministry has stated that employees in the Mag. Vest. c Equip. are to be cut from 33 at present to 13. I strongly recommend delay of this action until at least another six months when it is hoped that the Italian Army will be running more smoothly, and issues and receipts are of a normal nature.

The D.A.A. & Q.M.G. has inspected both the Opificio Militare

Boots.

The scale of issue to Italian soldiers is 1 pair per man, with a 20% reserve within the Unit. The percentage is rather large and in view of the ample stocks (approx. 15,000 pairs) there is every possibility of the issue being increased to 2 pairs per man and the reserve reduced to 5%; this would be a much more satisfactory arrangement.

There are types of boot being manufactured at present, a very excellent and hard-wearing boot at the Opificio and a light boot by Civilian firms. If the scale could be increased to 2 pairs then it is suggested that it consists of 1 heavy pair for parades and etc., and the light pair for walking-out.

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The D.A.A. & Q.M.G. has inspected both the Opificio Militare and Mag. Vestiario e Equipaggiamento and expressed himself most satisfied with the progress being made.

W. G. G. 18.0

Sub-Comdr., R.A.O.C.
Ordnance Warrant Officer.

Ref:- A/ORD/10
Date:- 27 June 1945.

13

To:- G.I. Headquarters, 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT NO: 11

STORES.

Clothing.

Stocks of Clothing and essential articles of wearing apparel are good, and continue to improve.
Boots are in good supply, and the Italian manufactured uniforms are being turned out in good quantities.

C.I.M.

Regarding Blankets at HUSIA, and recent interview with A.D.O.S. M.M.I.A. No further communications have been received regarding this matter.

C.A.R.

No delivery of gaiters has as yet been received or advised from M.M.I.A.

ARMY.

The brushes necessary for cleaning arms are being produced in moderate quantities at the Arsenal. When available, production figures of these items will be forwarded.

GENERAL.

CONSOLIDATED LISTS OF STORES AND EQUIPMENT. With the exception of Mantova Division Ammunition Return for the stated period, all the a/m Returns, both Cremona and Mantova Divisions, have now been forwarded to M.M.I.A. Rome, and acknowledgement received in Ordnance Office.

Handwritten signature

Ordnance Warrant Officer.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

M.M.I.A. No further communications have been received regarding this matter.

C.A.R.

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• ARMS.

The brushes necessary for cleaning arms are being produced in moderate quantities at the Arsenal. When available, production figures of these items will be forwarded.

GENERAL.

CONSOLIDATED LISTS OF STORES AND EQUIPMENT. With the exception of Mantova Division Ammunition Return for the stated period, all the s/m Returns, both Cremona and Mantova Divisions, have now been forwarded to M.M.I.A. Rome, and acknowledgment received in Ordnance Office.

M. Mangano

Ordnance Warrant Officer.

1800

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Ref :- A/OED/10.
Date :- 28 May, 1946.

To :- G.I., Headquarters, 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT-NO. 10.

SARVES.

Clothing.

The position in the Territorial Command Depot is extremely satisfactory. Ample stocks of uniforms and boots are held and no difficulty is being experienced. The new Battle Dress is being produced in small quantities; it is of a type similar to the British R.D., and differs only in colour and style of pockets and epaulettes. There is no immediate prospect of Summer Clothing being available this year. Contracts have been placed for 10,000 sets but these will not be completed until the end of Sept. 46. Material for Summer Clothing is of a superior quality, superior in fact to British K.D.. It is being manufactured in the form of a Battle Dress.

C.I.M.

A visit from A.D.O.S., M.M.I.A. has cleared the picture with specific regard to blankets at RHMA, and he has promised to have further enquiries made with G.M.Q.

C.A.R.

A.D.O.S. was also asked to enquire into a shortage of cleaning materials and possible provision of one pair of Gaizlers per man, approx. 5000 pairs. Alterations to Equipment were refused because this material was at present on 'IDAN' only.

ARM.

Referring only Grenaona Infy. Div; who state that areas are in desperate need of cleaning due to shortage of Pullthroughs etc. A signal has been despatched to A.D.O.S. M.M.I.A. requesting issue immediately. - OS 109 126 Nov

General.

The case of boots in respect of certain units of Grenaona has been cleared up, and results in any blame being laid at the door of units. Sufficient boots are held in Territ. Depot to cater for any demand within reason. Owing to shortage of labour and materials in the Military Factory repairing was taking rather a long time; however, arrangements were made with the Commissariat of Grenaona for all boots to be withdrawn and the materials for their repair issued with them, this has been done.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

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C.A.M.

W. H. H. H.
C.A.R.
W. H. H. H.

A visit from A.D.O.S., M.M.I.A. has cleared the picture with specific regard to Blankets at B.M.I.A. and he has promised to have further enquiries made with G.H.Q.

A.D.O.S. was also asked to enquire into a shortage of cleaning materials and possible provision of one pair of Gaiters per man, approx. 3000 pairs. Alternations to Equipment were refused because this material was at present on 'LOAN' only.

AME.

Referring only Cremona Infy. Div; who state that arms are in desperate need of cleaning due to shortage of Pullthroughs etc. A signal has been despatched to A.D.O.S. M.M.I.A. requesting issue immediately. - OS 103 - 126 104

General.

The case of Boots in respect of certain Units of Cremona has been cleared up, and results in any blouse being laid at the door of Units. Sufficient boots are held in Territ. Depot to cater for any demand within reason. Owing to shortage of labour and materials in the Military Factory repairing was taking rather a long time; however, arrangements were made with the Commissariat of Cremona for all boots to be withdrawn and the materials for their repair issued with them, this has been done.

J. J.

1804

Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Ref :- A/ORD/10.
Date:- 28 April, 1946.

To :- G.1., Headquarters, No.1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 16.

STORES.

There is at present no demand for Clothing and Equipment of any sort. All units are being satisfied and their demands being met.

G.R.M.

The question of release of materials by A.F.H.Q. to Ministry is being investigated as there seems to be a great deal of doubt of exactly what materials are available at MINTEL. Please see my A/ORD/7 dated 2 May, 1946.

C.A.R.

The equipment issued to the C.A.R. has been inspected by me and found to be in very good condition. There were surpluses and deficiencies between stores signalled and actually rec'd, and a letter to this effect has been forwarded. Please see my A/ORD/14 dated 27 April, 1946.

It is suggested that with all future issues of stores from Ministry of War in Rome, a copy of the consignment instrcs. be passed to the B.L.U. concerned. The Officers i/c of Clothing and Equipment Stores are highly delighted when items of Allied ^{stores} are received, and are so keen to put them to use that issues have been made before this office is even aware of their receipt from Rome; and in many cases they are not conversant with the types of equipment. Checking then becomes rather difficult when stores are spread out through the Territorial Command.

Mil Factory.

Work is proceeding satisfactorily.

Ordnance Warrant Officer.

2186

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

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Mil Factory.

Work is proceeding satisfactorily.



Ordnance Warrant Officer.

1800

Ref: O.D. 54 — Nov. 2 A / 100 / 10
Date: 12 April 1945.

To: G.1. Headquarters, No: 1 B.L.U.

FINCHES REPORT No: 8

STORES.

Boots.

Clothing.

Socks.

Equipment.

Arms.

Air.

General.

Very satisfactory.

An order for 4,000 pairs of trousers has been delayed, because suitable material is not available; but these will be cleared by the end of April. All other items are satisfactory.

Of the 10,000 pairs retained by the Ministry of War, 3,400 pairs will be collected on 13 April. (M.L.I.A. 4103 dated 27 March '45)

Very satisfactory.

Still an urgent need for spares to carry out necessary repairs. Cleaning material is urgently required, as stock in Divisional Dump is reduced to practically nil.

All arms advised as received.

Of the recruiting quota of 5,500 to be equipped in the Command, 5,500 have been suitably clothed and the remainder will be completed in three days. The only difficulty was a slight shortage of uniforms for larger sizes. This has now been overcome.

A full report on the M.O.L. materials will be forwarded 13 April, '45.

[Signature]

Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Suitable material is not available; but these will be cleared by the end of April.

All other items are satisfactory.

Of the 10,000 pairs released by the Ministry of War, 8,400 pairs will be collected on 13 April. (M.L.L.A. 410) dated 27 March '46)

Very Satisfactory.

Still an urgent need for spares to carry out necessary repairs. Cleaning material is urgently required, as stock in Divisional Dump is reduced to practically nil.

All Am. advised as received.

Of the recruiting quota of 5,500 to be equipped in the Command, 5,600 have been suitably clothed and the remainder will be completed in three days. The only difficulty was a slight shortage of uniforms for larger sizes. This has now been overcome.

A full report on the Miella materials will be forwarded 13 April, '46.

[Signature]

Grinace Warrent Officer.

1802

Ref :- O.D. 51. - Nov 1940/10
Date:- 12 March, 1946.

To :- G.I., Headquarters, 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 7.

STORES.

Boots.

The Commissariat reports that for the present the position re this item is satisfactory. Stock is 5000 with 200 - 300 manufactured daily at the Opificio Militari, and repairs being carried out to 6000 of American pattern.

Clothing.

Position is satisfactory.

Blankets.

Fair stock. All demands are being met.

Socks.

There is still an urgent need for this item; but Commissariat has received release of wool for socks, and manufacture will proceed as soon as possible.

Equipment.

Position satisfactory. The shortage of cooking materials has been reduced to Camp Kettles, 60 of which have been requested by the Comm. from Ministry of War.

Arms.

There is ^{still} an urgent need for spares as reported in Progress Report No. 6. The unclean state of small arms is not due to shortage of cleaning materials - as reported by Units - as quantities have been available in the Div. Dump for the past three months, and a small stock is still held.

Ammun.

As last reported Training Amm. - one truck-load - has been received, remaining two are still in transit.

General.

With further reference to cleaning materials for small arms; S.C., R.S.M.E. requested that I obtain information from records in this office and Div Dump; and issues were made to Units during the second week of Dec. '46 of sufficient material to last for an approx. period of three months. In addition the following items are available in the dump.

Oil 'A'	-	19 Gallis.
" 'C.70'	-	23 Gallis.
" 'M.30'	-	30 Gallis.
Grease Graphite	-	20 Cases.
Oil Min. Hyd. Buffer.	-	100 Pints.
Flanquette.	-	3300 Yards.

1801

The Bottles Oil for rifles holds approx. 1/50th of a pint, and it

Blankets. Fair stock. All demands are being met.

Socks. There is still an urgent need for this item; but Commissariato has received release of wool for socks, and manufacture will proceed as soon as possible.

Equipment. Position satisfactory. The shortage of cooking materials has been reduced to Camp Kettles, 60 of which have been requested by the Comm. from Ministry of War.

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Oil 'A'	-	19 Gallis.
" 'C.70'	-	23 Gallis.
" 'M.80'	-	30 Gallis.
Grease Graphite	-	23 Cases.
Oil Min. Hyd. Buffer.	-	100 Pints.
Flamelette.	-	3300 Yards.

1801

The Bottles Oil for rifles holds approx. 1/30th of a pint, and it will be seen therefore, that there is sufficient for 7000 men and to last at least one month. Enough 4 x 2 is held to maintain two Divs. for three months.

I visited No. 2 B.L.U. on Monday, 11 Mar. and cleared certain outstanding Ord. matters. I have arranged a further visit for Thursday, 14 Mar., and on this day will transfer all Ord. correspondence and files to this office. The D.A.A. & Q.M.G. will forward all future Ord. matters.

[Signature]

Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Ref :- G.D. 54. - Nos A 02010
Date:- 28 Feb., '45.

To :- G.I., Headquarters, 1 R.L.S.

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 6.

STORES.

Boots.

There does not seem to be any great shortage of this item for the time being. There is still a stock of some 5000 pairs in the Mag., and the (G.I.) pairs at present being repaired in the Oppificio will shortly be available for issue; the latter have been greased and repaired sufficiently to warrant another 6 months life.

The leather for the Oppificio has arrived - 2 lorries from Brescia and 2 truck loads from Sicily, and the rate of production is a steady flow of 200 pairs per day. This is only 50% of the normal output, but the object is to make the work last until the stock of leather is larger, and then speed up production.

Clothing.

The Oppificio are producing uniforms at the rate of 700 suits per day. At present cutting only is being done at the factory, the sewing is distributed amongst civilian firms; the former are making special size uniforms.

Blankets.

These are still arriving in small quantities from Biella, and the stock is satisfactory for the time being, pending clarification of the position between 2 District and R.L.S., G.I.

Socks.

Urgent action still needed as reported in Progress No. 5.

Equipment.

Position satisfactory. Shortage of Cooking utensils.

Arms.

The Arms are reports that there is a great need for cleaning materials in Cremona Division. 30% of the arms are in urgent need of repair, and spares do not appear to be forthcoming.

(May urgent action be taken re this matter, please. The English Armourer is shortly leaving for the U.K., and he fears that without his supervision the standard of the arms will fall even lower than at present.

Amm.

The monthly release of Training Amm. has been received and is in the course of off-loading from the Station.

General.

The return of Stores required by G.I. is being consolidated in this office, and difficulty is being experienced in translating items into English; another 14 days work is involved.

22 Engines have been received from 59 Area for Cremona. One truck load of M.T. spares has been received and distributed. One truck load of Tyres (178) and Tubes (65) has been received during the last week.

It is hoped to put the Magazzino Vestario on the English Road soon.

Clothing.

The leather for the Oppificio has arrived - 2 lorries from Brescia and 2 truck loads from Sicily, and the rate of production is a steady flow of 200 pairs per day. This is only 50% of the normal output, but the object is to make the work last until the stock of leather is larger, and then speed up production.

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Blankets.

These are still arriving in small quantities from Biella, and the stock is satisfactory for the time being, pending clarification of the position between 2 District and G.H.Q., G.M.F.

Socks.

Urgent action still needed as reported in Progress No. 5.

Equipment.

Position satisfactory. Shortage of cooking utensils.

Arms.

The Armourer reports that there is a great need for cleaning materials in Cremona Division. 30% of the arms are in urgent need of repair, and spares do not appear to be forthcoming. May urgent action be taken re this matter, please. The English Armourer is shortly leaving for the U.K., and he fears that without his supervision the standard of the arms will fall even lower than at present.

Admin.

The monthly release of Training Admin. has been received and is in the course of off-loading from the Station.

GENERAL.

The return of stores required by G.H.Q. is being consolidated into items into English, and difficulty is being experienced in translating 22 engines have been received from 59 Area for Cremona. One truck load of M.L. spares has been received and distributed. One truck load of Tyres (170) and Tubes (55) has been received during the last week.

It is hoped to put the Magazzino Vestario on the English 'Card Index System', and a short précis of the subject is being prepared for submission to the Comm. No. 1 Parit. Command.

The Comm. Cremona Div. has been issued with instructions re Unit A/C., and also instructions for the cleaning and preservation of small arms - the latter instrs. were suggested by the Armourer.

St.
Orlando W. Ward Officer

Ref :- C.D. 51. - Nov A 020'10
Date:- 12 Feb, 1946.

To :- G.I., H.Q., 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 5.

STORES.

Boots.

I have today inspected the Magazzino Vestiario, Territorial Command, and was informed that a total of 5000 pairs are available for issue. In addition 6000 pairs, American pattern, have recently arrived from Bari; these were packed badly, are therefore in need of slight repair before issue. This should obviate the present position in this Command.

The Major in charge at the Military Factory is despatching two lorries to Brescia to collect leather, and he hopes to have them back by the 14 Feb. Owing to the present shortage of power, the Factory is closed on Monday and Tuesday of each week; however, a 48 hour week is in operation as yet. There is a shortage of Hoesles for both foot and clothing machines; they are bought locally, but the demand exceeds supply.

Blankets.

The Mag. Vestiario at present hold 24,000 blankets, all now and received from Biella - available for issue. Supplies in small quantities are still arriving from the latter source.

Socks.

Urgent action still needed.

Equipment.

Large stocks of this item are held in Mag. Vest. and to date only very minute figures have been issued. Cooking equipment is needed urgently.

Arms.

The Armourer has not yet finished his inspection, but does state that 30% of small arms in Units already completed are B.L.R.d due to shortage of spares and cleaning materials within the Units.

Arms.

The monthly allotment of training has been advised and expected to arrive early next week.

General.

The return of Stores required has been completed and all are held in this office. Further instruction are awaited from D.O.S., 2 Dist. 2 truck-loads of Tyres have arrived during the past week and deposited with the O.F.P.; the latter have been instructed to contact the Comm., Cremona Infy. Div re distribution.

Ordnance Warrant Officer.

18.3

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The Major in charge at the Military Factory is despatching two lorries to Brescia to collect leather, and he hopes to have them back by the 14 Feb. Owing to the present shortage of power, the Factory is closed on Monday and Tuesday of each week; however, a 48 hour week is in operation as yet. There is a shortage of needles for both foot and clothing machines; they are bought locally, but the demand exceeds supply.

The Mag. Vestiare at present hold 24,000 blankets, all new and received from Biella - available for issue. Supplies in small quantities are still arriving from the latter source.

Urgent action still needed.

Large stocks of this item are held in Mag. Vest. and to date only very minute figures have been issued. Clothing equipment is needed urgently.

The Armourer has not yet finished his inspection, but does state that 30% of small arms in Units already completed are B.L.R.d due to shortage of spares and cleaning materials within the Units.

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18.3
Ordinance Warrant Officer.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Ref : OD 54- New A'ORD'10
Date : 28 Jan '46.

To : G.I., R.O., 1 D.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 4.

STORES.

Boots.

The situation re supply of this item is now serious; numbers as stated in Report No. 3 are still required, and the promised leather from Sicily has not arrived. The Military Factory state that all machines have stopped pending receipt of leather, this of course is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, the workers in the Factory are naturally becoming dis-satisfied - or so I am informed by the under manager - and have no desire to wait around for the work. I fail to understand why leather should have been ordered from Sicily when there a number of firms right here in Turin. It may be that the former is the normal source of supply, but when this supply fails then some action should be taken to keep the Factory going until the fault is rectified.

Blankets.

The present position is very unsatisfactory, large quantities are required for the troops in this area and to date have not been forthcoming. It is known that quantities are held in the factories at Biella, but the latter are not willing to divulge the exact numbers, not even to the Commissariato for this Command. I propose to make the attempt myself so that 2 Dist. can be informed and the balance from their request passed to Turin.

Socks.

Urgent action is still needed re this item as notified in Progress Report No. 3.

Arms and Amn.

The Armourer is making an inspection during the coming week, and will inform me re the position of cleaning arm. Amn. is satisfactory; position of Sten Amn. has not yet been clarified to my knowledge.

General.

The return of Stores held by Units has still not come to hand, and as I am being pressed by the D.D.O.M., 2 Dist., I request that urgent action be taken to hasten with Chief of Staff.

JP 1800
Ordnance Warrant Officer.

Ref : OD 51. - Nov 1945
Date : 12 January 1946.

To : G.I., H.Q., 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 3

Stores

Socks. Quartiere Generale, Territoriale state that 3000 pairs of Socks Woolen have been released for TIOs, which are due to arrive by 15 Feb 46. This however does not alter the position of the Italian troops in this area, and it is considered that 6000 pairs are most urgently needed, with a further 6000 pairs by the end of February.

Boots. All troops in this area, with the exception of Cremona Inf Div are in a very bad way for boots, and from what I have personally seen, very few soldiers have a pair of boots which are fit to wear during the winter months. 5000 pairs of boots are needed immediately, with a further 4000 pairs by the end of February. This is having a decided adverse effect on the morale of these troops.

Opificio (Military Boot Factory, Turin) state that to date no further supplies of leather have been received, but however, a signal has been received from Sicily stating that they hope to despatch two truck loads of leather by the 15th of this month.

Arms and Ammunition

Rifles. Very little attention is being paid to care of rifles, owing to lack of cleaning materials (oil, pullthroughs, flannelette etc).

Ammunition. The position seems to be satisfactory with all demands met, with the exception of ammunition for Sten guns, of which 2500 are held by troops under this command. Could position be clarified?

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1807

0475.

boots. All troops in this area, with the exception of Cremona Inf Div are in a very bad way for boots, and from what I have personally seen, very few soldiers have a pair of boots which are fit to wear during the winter months. 5000 pairs of boots are needed immediately, with a further 4000 pairs by the end of February. This is having a decided adverse effect on the morale of these troops.

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Arms and Ammunition

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Ammunition. The position seems to be satisfactory with all demands met, with the exception of ammunition for Sten guns, of which 2500 are held by troops under this command. Could position be clarified?

18.

Capt.,
Ordnance Officer,
4 B.L.U.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject :- Fortnightly Reports

1 BLU
AQ 4

To :- Capt G BENTLEY RAOC

Please ensure that your fortnightly report covers the following questions :-

1. Clothing and Emt
2. Arms and Amn
3. RAOC problems.

Field
7 Jan 46
JAB/FM

JH Bourne
Major
DAA & QMG

18.6

Ref : 03 51.- Nam 17 02 610
Date : 27 December 1945.

To : GI., H.L., 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 2

Stores

Boots. Approximately 500 pairs landed at the Military Factory, Turin. The officer in charge of the factory reports that 70% of these were in a very bad condition, and a complaint has been lodged at the Headquarters, Cremona Division.

Visited Boot and Clothing Factory. Only seven days supply of leather left to carry on with.

Average output of Boots is 160 pairs per day, but this could be boosted to 500 pairs per day given sufficient materials.

Cremona Clothing and General Store. This has been transferred from Venezia Reale to Turin, I was not consulted on the move and on inspection of the new site found it to be quite unsuitable. I have spoken to Ufficio Commissariato, Headquarters Cremona Division, and they have agreed to find a new site.

Accounting for Issues

The return referred to in my Progress Report No. 1 is still not to hand. Headquarters Cremona Division state that they are having difficulty in translating the technical items, but have promised the return by 10 January 1946.

[Signature]
Capt.,
Ordinance Officer,
1 B.L.U.

Accounting for Issues

The return referred to in my Progress Report No. 1 is still not to hand. Headquarters Cremona Division state that they are having difficulty in translating the technical items, but have promised the return by 10 January 1946.


Capt.,
Ordinance Officer,
1 R.L.U.

1835

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Ref : OD 51.-Nov 1945
Date : 12 December 1945.

To : GL., H.Q., 1 B.L.U.

PROGRESS REPORT No. 1

Marching Out Stores

Transferring Vehicles ('A' and 'B'), Artillery Equipments and War Office Controlled Stores to charge of Italian Government, completed and despatched to Stats (G) Census, GHQ., MF.

Records from September 1944 still held in this office.

Stores

Demand for and supply of Vote 7 and 8 Stores now Italian responsibility.

Vote 7 and 8 Stores at present held in Ord Dump 'Frozen', only to be issued on authority of Commissariato, HQ Cremona Division.

Demands for all Vote 9 (MF, Artillery, Small Arms, Wireless and Signal Stores) still being placed on 557 Base Ordnance Depot, through this office, by Ordnance Field Park and Workshops Stores Section.

Instructions received that all boots (unserviceable and/or repairable) are to be handed into the Italian Military Factory, Turin. Approximately 470 pairs of boots are at present awaiting handling in to this factory.

50% of army had condition complaint - covered with G.O. Div.
Vehicle Engines, Covers Outer and Tubes Inner

Demands for these, still compiled by this office, and submitted to DMS DISTWO weekly.

Re-sealing of Division

Sealing of Ordnance Field Park, Workshops Stores Section, Light Air Detachments etc for 42 months, types and quantities of items being compiled by this office, after which these will be sent to Plans Branch, GHQ., MF.

Accounting for Issues

A return to be prepared by each unit of Cremona Infantry Division, showing actual holdings of stores as at 14 November 1945, was called for on 24 November (my letter 4/11/45, copy to you, refers). *Still not to be done - difficult*
in forwarding balance sheet, promised by 10/12/45.
To date figures have not been received, and action cannot be taken on the instructions received from DOS., GHQ., MF through DMS DISTWO, on accounting for issues to the Italian Armed Forces.

18.4

Vote 7 and 8 stores at present held in Ord Dump 'Frozen', only to be issued on authority of Commissariato, HQ Cremona Division.

Demands for all Vote 9 (MT, Artillery, Small Arms, Wireless and Signal Stores) still being placed on 557 Base Ordnance Depot, through this office, by Ordnance Field Park and Workshops Stores Section.

Instructions received that all boots (unservicable and/or repairable) are to be handed into the Italian Military Factory, Turin. Approximately 470 pairs of boots are at present awaiting handing in to this Factory.

50% very bad condition - complaint lodged with G. Div.
Vehicle Engines, Covers Outer and Tubes Inner

Demands for these, still compiled by this office, and submitted to DMS DISTWO weekly.

Re-evaluing of Division

Sealing of Ordnance Field Park, Workshops Stores Section, Light Aid Detachments etc for 12 months, types and quantities of items being compiled by this office, after which these will be sent to Plans Branch, GHQ., CMT.

1864

Accounting for Issues

A return to be prepared by each unit of Cremona Infantry Division, showing actual holdings of stores as at 14 November 1945, was called for on 24 November (my letter A/300/3, copy to you, refers). *Still not to hand - difficult to find in Cremona Division - promised by 10.3.46.*
To date figures have not been received, and action cannot be taken on the instructions received from DOS., GHQ., CMT through DMS DISTWO, on accounting for issues to the Italian Armed Forces.

[Signature]
Capt.,
Ordnance Officer,
1 B.L.U.

12203

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject : Progress Reports.

1 British Liaison Unit.

G 6

To : GII
DAA & QMG
ST
Ord
REVE

1. I am required to send fortnightly reports to AMIA. These are in addition to the monthly intelligence reports.
2. Please let me have written reports on 12th and 20th of each month. Reports will be serially numbered, commencing with No.1 on 12 Dec 43.

Field
9 Dec 43
JBS/NFF

[Signature]
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff 1800

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