

ACC

10000 | 120 | 3661

G 13

Clas

Nov. 1944 - Oct

10000/120/3661

Q 13

Clothing Italian Units

Nov. 1944 - Oct. 1945

6708  
6759

Subject:- Washing of Battle Dress for Italian Units.

D.D.O.S. 2 DISTRICT.

206/50

Reference letter received by this unit from 56 BLU., copy attached herewith, and conversation of to-days date (Major Barraclough - Capt. Roberts), regarding washing of Battle Dress for HQ MANTOVA GROUP.

1. Regarding para 1 of the attached letter. no instructions can be traced at this HQ., other than your ORD/5116 dated 9 AUG 45, and on the instructions of Capt. R.P.Wills., O.C. 206 Mobile Laundry Unit, this clothing was processed in bulk which is the usual procedure with this type of work. Quantity processed was approx. 10,300 suits, and it will be appreciated that, owing to Medical and Hospital commitments, it was impossible to do otherwise.
  2. Regarding para 2, which states that clothing from sources outside the MANTOVA GROUP was re-issued, this is not understood as no "used" Battle Dress has been processed for any other Allied? units.
  3. Reference para 3, which complains that items were not properly laundered. It is pointed out that this unit has been functioning for the past four and a half years, during which time it has received many commendations for the high standard of the work performed, both from visiting General Officers, and from the Hospitals and Units entered for. It should also be noted that at least 50% of the clothing received was, by British standards, fit only for return to R.S.D., and the bulk of the remainder was by no means in first class condition, and was in many cases extremely soiled. It was however all processed, and returned to the sending Units. At the same time a quantity of "new" Battle Dress was processed in exactly the same manner for A.D.O.S. 59 Area, and no complaints have been received from that source.
  4. Reference para 4, regarding return of exact clothing. This is explained in para 1 of this letter, but it must be added that clothing was not delivered to this HQ in any uniform manner, being mostly in sacks, without any legible marking, and certainly not tied in bundles of any set number.
  5. In conclusion, it is felt that this complaint is thoroughly unjustified, and that the poor condition of the garments has much to do with the resulting inconvenience to the sending Units. If the garments had been properly sorted and classified before being sent for cleaning, and the U/S clothing included, no further adjustments to previous demands would now be necessary.
- It would be appreciated if the matter could be thoroughly investigated as the present position leaves a slur on this Unit's previous high record of service.

Field.  
24th OCT 45.

Signed. ?????????? Capt.  
O.C. 206 Mobile Laundry Unit, R.A.O.C.

Copy to:- O.O. 56 B.L.U. (Your ORD 2/1 and copy letter attached refer).

67

Subject: WASHING OF WINTER CLOTHING.

ORDNANCE OFFICER, 56 B.L.U.  
ORD 2/1  
29 OCT 45.

HQ MANITOVA I.C.G.

D.A.A. & Q.M.G. 56 B.L.U. —

Reference your 1436/Comm dated 12 OCT 45.

1. Herewith copy of letter received from 206 Mobile Laundry is forwarded to you for information and any action you may consider necessary.

DEIS/HG.

*22 148A*  
*Brewster*  
CAPT.  
ORDNANCE OFFICER, 56 B.L.U.  
D.E.H. SEWELL.

*29 OCT 1945.*  
*67-8/9*

*147A*

*144A*

COPY

SUBJECT :- Washing of Winter Clothing.

HQ 76 Infantry Regt

3075/Mat

P.M. 104. 18 Oct 45

HQ MANNOVA Inf Div

Reference folio 1278/Comm dated 12 Sep 45.

1. On the 9th and 10th Oct this HQ withdrew, from 206 Laundry, in MILAN the following winter clothing :-

|                     |        |                    |
|---------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Battledress Blouses | - 2320 | } in bundles of 10 |
| : Trousers          | - 1945 |                    |

2. At the time of drawing the above it was not possible for the officer in charge to check the bundles as the British NCO of the laundry did not give permission to open the bundles.

3. When a check was ultimately carried out the following was found :-

MISSING

|                     |      |                          |
|---------------------|------|--------------------------|
| Battledress Blouses | - 30 | } Used to tie up Bundles |
| Canvas Sacks        | - 28 |                          |
| Italian Tent Sheets | - 3  |                          |

OVER

Battledress Trousers - 26

USELESS

Battledress Blouses - 323

: Trousers - 432

WITH TEARS & HOLES

Battledress Blouses - 53

: Trousers - 45

4. The Regiment sent all battledress to the laundry in good condition.
5. Washing has been done badly.

6. It is therefore necessary to issue the Regiment with a number of new battledresses equal to the number of the ones received useless.

8757

Battledress Blouses - 2320 }  
: Trousers - 1945 } in bundles of 10

2. At the time of drawing the above it was not possible for the officer in charge to check the bundles as the British NCO of the laundry did not give permission to open the bundles.

3. When a check was ultimately carried out the following was found :-

MISSING

Battledress Blouses - 30  
Canvas Sacks - 28 }  
Italian Tent Sheets - 3 } Used to tie up Bundles

OVER

Battledress Trousers - 26

USELESS

Battledress Blouses - 323  
: Trousers - 432

WITH TEARS & HOLES

Battledress Blouses - 53  
: Trousers - 45

4. The Regiment sent all battledress to the laundry in good condition.

5. Washing has been done badly.

6. It is therefore necessary to issue the Regiment with a number of new battledresses equal to the number of the ones received uselessly.

Certified true copy :

(SED) TRAPASSI GIUSEPPE Capt.

(SED) GIORGIO SALVI Col  
CO 76 Infantry Regt.

6737

*Ref Folio 2201 700502*  
SUBJECT :- Washing of Winter Clothing | *145A*

MANTOVA Inf Div HQ

1461/Comm

P.M. 104 22 Oct 4556 BLU

Following and in confirmation of our  
folio 1436/Comm dated 12 Oct 45.

Please find attached copy of folio  
3075/Mat dated 18 Oct from 76 Inf Regt.

(SGD) A. PIGA Major  
for Lt Col Chief of Staff

*see 148A*  
6758

Subject: WASHING OF WINTER CLOTHING.

O.G. 206 MOBILE LAUNDRY.

REPLY: HQ MANTOVA GROUP.  
DAA & GAI 96 DEJ

COMMUNIC OFFICERS, 56 B.L.U.  
CDD 2/4  
17 OCT 45

1441A

1. The attached copy of letter received from H.Q. MANTOVA Group is forwarded to you for information and any action you may consider necessary.

DEJ/m.

*Washburn*  
CAPT.  
COMMUNIC OFFICERS, 56 B.L.U.  
D.L.H. STATION.

EXEMPTED THIS COPY.

Subject: Washing of Winter Clothing.

HQ GUMBAT GROUP MANTOVA  
1436/Comm  
IN 104 12 OCT 45

56 DEJ

1. Reference washing of winter clothing done by 206 Mobile Laundry.
2. Units under command have reported that although they wanted in their clothing as per instructions of this HQ (each battle correctly noted) on withdrawing their stuff they found that they did not receive their own clothing.
3. Exchange did not only happen between units of the Group, but with Allied units, many blames having Allied units on the situation.
4. Over and above that the washing has been done in an imperfect way, in fact, apart from being torn and untidied it is also still covered with spots and has a bad smell. Many bottles/cases delivered in good condition have been returned useless.

6715

Units confirm that the exchange is blame of returning the clothing.

1. The attached copy of letterhead from HQ, MATRUH, Egypt is forwarded to you for information and any action you may consider necessary.

WMA/EE

*WMA/EE*  
 CAPT.  
 CHARLES C. WILSON, 96 E.J.H.  
 D.E.H. SERVICE

CONTINUED FROM COPY

Subject: Issuing of Winter Clothing

TO: COMBAT GROUP MATRUH  
 1436/COMM  
 RM 10A 12 OCT 45

56 JUL

Reference: Issuing of winter clothing items by 206 Mobile Laundry.

1. Units under command have reported that although they headed in their clothing as per instructions of this HQ (each bundle correctly marked) on withdrawing their stuff they found that they did not receive their own clothing.
2. Matruh did not only happen between units of the Group, but with Allied units, many blouses having Allied marks on the sleeves.
3. Over and above that the washing has been done in an imperfect way, in that, apart from being torn and mutilated it is also still covered with spots and has a bad smell. Many replacements delivered in good condition have been returned useless.
4. Units inform that the officers in charge of withdrawing the clothing reported the a/s inconveniences to the personnel of the laundry but they considered that they could not expect to get back the same clothing they headed in.
5. Result of this inconvenience will be that we will have to ask units to do a new selection of winter clothing and therefore the quantity asked for replacement in our 1436/COMM dated 6 Sep 45 will be insufficient.

*WMA/EE*  
 147/1A  
 130 OCT 45

SIGNED: A. CHALINO 1st Col  
 Chief of Staff

130

REF FOWC 214A FILE 50/2

142A

Subject:- Winter Clothing

Hq MANTOVA Inf Div

03/4452

VARAZZE P.M. 104. 15 Oct 45.

56 BLU

1. A good part of the winter clothing issued to the units under command is composed of items nearly worn, because already worn when they were issued and because submitted to considerable use during the winter months of last year, in which an intensive training was carried out.
2. The item that in general has suffered more for these conditions is the battle dress, the continuous use of which during these months will give the grave inconvenience that we will see many soldiers go around with uniforms dirty and rent.
3. To preserve battle dress as much as possible from further irreparable use one of the following solutions is prospected:-
  - (a) Get, through your interest, an allotment of overalls that the soldiers would put on for fatigues and during daily training, in lieu of battle dress.
  - (b) In the case that there are not enough overalls available, get authority to leave to the soldiers 1 pair of trousers and 1 shirt KD that with gaiters and a pullover if cold, could be the uniform to wear in lieu of the battle dress as said in para (a).

(Sgd) A. GUALANO Lt Col,  
Chief of Staff.

6754

GO/mh.

REF FOLIO 206A FILE 50/A

136A

Subject:- Clothing for Soldiers released.HQ Combat Group MANTOVA.  
1417/Comm  
VARAZZE P.M. 104 - 8 Oct 45.  
-----All Units.

Copy to:- 56 BLU.

1. A unit has asked if it was possible to give to soldiers released in class 1916 a pair of KD trousers in lieu of KD shorts.
2. Reason for that is the quick change in the weather conditions.
3. As it has not been possible to issue personnel of class 1916, still under release, with green battle dress as only a small amount of these uniforms has been given to the Group, authority is given to issue released personnel of the a/m class with a pair of trousers in lieu of shorts.

67c

GC/mh.

(Sgd) A. GUALANO Lt Col,  
Chief of Staff.

SUBJECT :- Hats Grey - Green

MMTA

56 BLU  
13 Q

13 Sep 45

Reference our 13/Q dated 1 Sep 45 and Italian War Department  
letter 21291/VC dated 22 Aug 45.

1. MANTOVA Combat Group now state that they have made arrangements for 1000 of the Republican hats to be altered to regulation pattern.
2. They therefore wish to hand in only 1000 of the Republican hats and to draw the 2000 grey green hats mentioned in the Ministry of War letter.
3. This appears to be in order as this further 1000 drawn would replace approximately one month wastage (reference your Q/OS/1 dated 21 July 45) for the month of August.

In The Field,  
JRK/ajwLt Col,  
CS.

6752

REF FOLIO 182 A FILE 50.9/127A

SUBJECT :- Green - Grey Hats.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

1254/Comm

P.M. 104 7 Sep 45

56 BLU

118-A

Reference your 13/Q dated 3 Sep 45.

1. This office takes notice that 1000 hats are allotted monthly to replace wastage.
2. 1000 of the 2000 Republican Hats have already been issued to be transformed, to units who required them urgently for issue to soldiers deficient of one. It is proposed that these hats are considered the allotment for the month.
3. Therefore on receipt of confirmation of the above, this Group will hand in to ROME the remaining 1000 Republican Hats and will draw the 2000 allotted with message 21291/VC dated 22 Aug 45 from Italian War Department.

117-A

(SCD) A. FIGA Major  
for Lt Col Chief of Staff

751

Subject Washing of Battle - Dress.

H.Q. 5 (Mantova) Italian Combat Group.  
G/Gen. Cagalli, 56 D.L.U., C.M.P. ✓

FILE  
125A  
Ordinance Officer,  
56 D.L.U., C.M.P.  
Ref:- QID. 2/1  
8 Sept. 1945.

1. Arrangements have been made for all Battle - Dress held by Units under your command to be washed by "206 Mobile Laundry".
2. All Battle - Dress should therefore be returned to the Regimental Stores immediately, and this office notified on completion.
3. Please treat with the utmost urgency.

DPF/DPF.

*[Signature]*  
Capt.  
Ordinance Officer.  
(D.M.H. Sewell)

6750

*Ref Folio 178A file 50Q*

SUBJECT :- Winter Clothing

*123A*

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

1242/Comm

56 BLU

*104A*

P.M. 104 5 Sep 45

Reference your 13/Q dated 8 Aug 45.

1. The proposal to issue a sufficient number of housewives to allow " that the repairs mentioned could be done by the soldiers of the Group", was done by you in your letter 13/Q dated 8 Aug 45.
2. The position about changing of worn out clothing is very well known by this HQ.
3. We are waiting to know when the Mobile Laundry mentioned in your 13/Q dated 8 Aug will be available.
4. MMIA ADM Instruction No 25, para 5 COMM, instructed that " some items of winter clothing will be withdrawn in stores controlled by MMIA to be washed, repaired, again chosen by type and so on".

This HQ received the a/m instruction only on the 8 Aug 45.

*See 122A*

*see 139A*

6749

(SED) A. GUALANO Lt Col,  
Chief of Staff

Subject:- Washing of Battledress

D.A.A. & Q.M.G. 56 B.L.U., C.M.F. ✓

122A  
Ordnance Officer,  
56 B.L.U., C.M.F.  
Ref:- ORD 2/1  
7 Sept. 1945

Arrangements have been put in hand for all Battle Dress held by units of the Mantova Group to be collected and forwarded to "206 Mobile Laundry" for the purpose of washing.

DPT/DET.

*Bruce Sewell* Capt.  
Ordnance Officer  
(B.B.H. Sewell)

SEP 1945

8748

13. 9

Subject :- Soft Cap.

1.

56 BLU  
13 Q

3 Sep 45

HQ. Combat Group "MANTOVA".

117-A

113-A

Reference your 1210/Comm dated 30 Aug 45 and your 1169/Comm dated 20 Aug 45.

1. This Unit brought to the attention of MMIA the difficulty with regard to caps as soon as these were made known to it by your Ep.
2. In your letter of 20 Aug 45 it is specifically requested that the caps "be exchanged". No mention has been made to this unit of any contract with local factories and as this unit has not been kept up to date it was impossible to point this matter out.
3. As the caps may now be exchanged and the Group is in a position to demand approx 1000 caps a month as wastage (see our letter 13 Q of 31 July) it is not thought necessary to involve the expense of altering the 2000 Republican hats.
4. The point reference transport is not understood as presumably the Republican caps may be handed back in the same vehicles as collect the new headress.
5. This unit will bring to the notice of MMIA the difficulty found in obtaining hats for all and will request a release of approx 1000 a month to be made available to the Group.

In the Field.  
JRM/ec

*J. M. Morley*  
Lt-Col.  
GS.

6747

See 127 A

• • SUBJECT :- Green-Grey Hats.

Italian War Department  
Section 1 B

21291/VC

ROME 22 Aug 45

DIREZIONE DI COM/TO  
TERRITORIAL HQ ROME

Copy to :- HQ Combat Group MANTOVA  
(Reference 1166/Comm dated 19 Aug 45)

You are authorised to issue to Combat Group MANTOVA 2,000 green-grey hats in exchange for the same number of German or Republican hats already issued.

Direct arrangements will be made for withdrawal.

Certified true copy

(SGD) S. PAVONE Major

(SGD) PELLIGRA  
for Minister

Subject :- Italian Green - Grey Hats.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

1210/Comm

P.L. 104 30 Aug 45

56 BLU

Copy to :- Italian War Department

Reference our 1169/Comm dated 20 Aug 45.

You are informed that the Italian War Department has authorised, with the message attached, the DIREZIONE DI COMMISSARIATO of Territorial Military HQ of BOLE to issue 2,000 Italian green-grey hats in exchange for the already known German or Republican ones.

Considering that :

- (a) This allotment is absolutely insufficient, with regard to what we asked for to enable us to equip all soldiers of the Group with the same type of cap.
- (b) Deficiencies in caps has increased in the last few days owing to reinforcements arriving without them.

You are asked to interest MMIA so that the decision to withdraw the caps of German type be reconsidered and that the Group be allowed to retain them.

This HQ could provide to transform the a/m German caps and over and above the saving of transport required to hand them back, would enable the issuing of one cap to all the soldiers deficient of one at the moment.

Arrangements with local factories have already been made to modify the caps.

(Sd) E. MONACCI GENERAL

6745

per 94A

the message attached, the DIREZIONE DI COMISSARIATO of Territorial Military HQ of ROME to issue 2,000 Italian green-grey hats in exchange for the already known German or Republican ones.

Considering that :

- (a) This allotment is absolutely insufficient, with regard to what we asked for to enable us to equip all soldiers of the Group with the same type of cap.
- (b) Deficiencies in caps has increased in the last few days owing to reinforcements arriving without them.

You are asked to interest MMIA so that the decision to withdraw the caps of German type be reconsidered and that the Group be allowed to retain them.

This HQ could provide to transform the a/m German caps and over and above the saving of transport required to hand them back, would enable the issuing of one cap to all the soldiers deficient of one at the moment.

Arrangements with local factories have already been made to modify the caps.

(SCE) E. MONACCI GENERAL  
6745

for 94A  
96A  
97A  
128A

File

116A

SUBJECT :- Soft Caps for MANTOVA Combat Group.56 HLU  
13 Q

1 Sep 45

MILA

Reference your Q/OS/1 dated 21 July 45.

1. MANTOVA Combat Group draw the 2000 soft caps from MILA as instructed in your letter. The COG of the Group however states that these caps are GERMAN and Republican Fascist types of headress.
2. In view of the present task of the Group and of the delicate political situation it is strongly urged that these caps be exchanged for a pattern which would cause less comment both in the army and amongst the civilian population.

In The Field,  
JRM/ajwJRM  
Lt Col,  
GESee 128 A

6744

File

SUBJECT :- Winter Clothing.

111A  
56 JUL  
13 Q

19 Aug 45.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

110A

104A

Reference your P.M. 104 dated 13 Aug 45 and further to our letter of even reference dated 8 Aug.

1. Supplies of the 'housewife' have been issued to the Group in the past, on the basis of one per soldier, by DADOS. Consequently no further issues can be made.
2. In cases however where clothing is too badly torn for repairs to be effected by the soldier, the clothing should be returned to DADOS, marked unserviceable, and indents should accompany the clothing in order that DADOS can effect an exchange.

In The Field,  
RCM/agw

hcl  
Lt Col,  
GA.

6743

Ref Folio 164A file 50Q

SUBJECT :- Winter Clothing.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

1131/Comm

P.M. 104 13 Aug 45

56 BLU

104A

Reference your letter dated 8 inst calling for the urgency to start with the washing and mending of winter clothing, could you please hasten, not only the sending of the Mobile Laundry but also the entitlement of the cleanliness bags which are needed for the repair of the above mentioned clothing.

(SGD) A. FIGA Major

See 111A

6742

18 AUG 1945

*File*

SUBJECT :- Waterproofs for Motorcyclists.

*108A*

56 BLU  
13 Q

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

*105A*

// Aug 45

Reference your 1125/Comm dated 9 Aug 45.

1. HQ 2 District has been asked to give approval for redistribution of the waterproofs.
2. As soon as that approval is given you will be advised.

In The Field,  
RCN/ajw

*see 109A*

*Lch*  
Lt Col,  
GS.

6741

*File* *104A*

SUBJECT :- Winter Clothing

56 HLU  
13 G

8 Aug 45.

Hq Combat Group MANTOVA

DADOS 56 HLU

*102A*

Reference your 1059/Comm dated 24 Jul 45.

1. Application has been made by 56 HLU to DDOS 2 District for the attachment of a Mobile Laundry to carry out the necessary washing of Battle Dress held by the MANTOVA Group.
2. Repairs will have to be carried out within the Group by the soldier himself.
3. DADOS 56 HLU is obtaining sufficient supplies of the 'housewife' to enable the repairs to be executed.
4. You will be informed when the Mobile Laundry is available.

In The Field,  
RCB/ajw

*see 110A*

*see 123A*

*see 111A*

*Lch*  
Lt Col,  
US.

6740

SUBJECT :- Economy in Clothing

56 HLU  
13 Q

HQ Combat Group HANOVA

3 Aug 45

1. Please instruct all CO's personally to ensure that the contents of this letter are brought to attention of all ranks.
2. It is stressed that the greatest possible economy in clothing must be exercised especially in the safeguarding and reissue of winter clothing. In order to prevent damage to winter clothing this will be withdrawn from the individual and placed into unit store.
3. It is further pointed out that Ord Dumps do not now carry stocks of clothing and therefore is extremely difficult for replacements to be made.
4. A report will be submitted by 15 Aug 45 showing what measures have been taken to ensure that all possible economy in clothing is being exercised.

In The Field,  
JRM/ejr

*Almond Key*  
Alt. Col.  
GS.

6739

Yell  
 169  
 56 MJJ  
 13 Q  
 31 July 45

Subject:- Caps for MANTOVA Group.

IR Combat Group MANTOVA.

1. Herewith reply from MIA re Caps for MANTOVA.
2. When caps are available further instructions will be issued.

In the Field,  
 JRM/mb.

*McKee*  
 Lt Col,  
 GS.

CONF.

Subject :- Caps for MANTOVA Group.

Land Forces Sub Comm AG  
 (MIA)  
 R O H E  
 9/08/45  
 21 July 45.

56 IR Mainarm Unit.

Ref your 13 Q dated 11 July 45.

1. Your request for 10,000 caps is not understood as this quantity would be sufficient completely to re-equip the MANTOVA Group with caps and leave surplus 10% spare.
2. However, 2000 caps green - representing approx 2 months' usage - are being released to you at MILAN. 6728
3. Please contact MIA LO NW ITALY c/o 59 AREA regarding collection.

Copies to:- MIA LO NW ITALY  
 c/o 59 AREA  
 Q - file 9/15/45  
 Q(AE)

(Sgd) W.A. RADCOCK, Major,  
 for Col DA & QM,  
 MIA.

In The Field,  
JEM/mb.

CONF.

Subject :- Caps for MANTOVA Group.

56 B Madison Unit.

Ref your 13 Q dated 11 July 45.

1. Your request for 10,000 caps is not understood as this quantity would be sufficient completely to re-equip the MANTOVA Group with caps and leave approx 10% spare.
2. However, 2000 caps green - representing approx 2 months passage - are being released to you at MILAN. 6793
3. Please contact MILIA LO NW ITALY c/o 59 AREA regarding collection.

Copies to:- MILIA LO NW ITALY  
c/o 59 AREA  
Q - file Q/15/1  
Q(AE)

WAR/ab

Land Forces Sub Comm AG  
(MILIA)  
R O M E  
Q/03/1  
21 July 45.

(Sgd) W.A. BUCKLEY, Major,  
for Col DA & QM,  
MILIA.

KK

20/112



90A

WYD V 1807 NRSTDS QVR2  
FROM UNIA 241130Z  
TO DISTONE  
INFO 86 BID  
CR19 BT  
0703/336 RESTRICTED  
FOR UNIA LO (.) REF YOUR QA DATED 18 (.)  
WHY DOES MANTOVA GROUP REQUIRE GREEN BATTLE DRESS  
CHERY  
BT 241130  
SENT....SEP....(VA).....TKS

6737

13Q

RECE 8598 22/1504Z CRT

Ref: 1424 FINE 502  
HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

Supply Office

1037/Comm

FM 104 14/7/45

Subject: Request for Side Hats of Grey - Green MaterialTo : 56 BLU.  
-----

The Ministry Of War, in despatch 168550 of the 6th Dec 44 instructed that, with Allied Uniform, soldiers belonging to the Combat Group will wear a GREEN - GREY Side Hat.

Taking into account that:

The clothing store is completely out of the a/m articles of clothing.

Soldiers coming from the CSESNO Training Centre, as well as Patriots who are reporting to the group are generally without hats, or else wear headaddresses of a non regulation pattern.

The side hats which have been distributed, after a long period of use and because of the intense training activities which the units have carried out, as well as the adverse season, are all worn out and therefore require replacements.

Often many Italian soldiers, circulating in the area and without headaddress and with their uniform in disorder, are being mistaken for soldiers of this Group.

This would not happen if all the soldiers of the Group had same type of headaddress.

I have requested from the Ministry of War, through the General Staff, an allotment of 10,000 GREEN - GREY Side Hats.

The Ministry of War has replied that there is no difficulty regarding the above assignment, but that it must be sent in the regular manner directly to MMIA through the Allied Liaison Officer.

I therefore ask the a/m Command to be so kind as to forward the indent on the a/m subject, considering it of some importance for reasons of a disciplinary nature as well as for turnout and uniform.

6736

(SGND) Gen BOLOGNA.

see 113A

13Q.

*File*

*88H*

Subject: - Clothing - ITALIAN Source.

56 BLU  
13 Q

// July 45.

MMIA.

1. The 'MANTOVA' Combat Group have requested release of ten thousand (10,000) Italian type green hats from the Italian war office.
2. SMRE replied to the Group that they were prepared to release the hats providing the request was passed through BLU channels to MMIA. Their letter 3/1705/SMRE dated 22 June refers.
3. May your approval for the release of 10,000 hats please be given to SMRE.

In The Field,  
RCN/mh.

*see 94A*

*lcl*  
Lt Col,  
GS.

6730

*Ref. Index 132A File 500*

SUBJECT:-- Washing and Repair of Winter Clothing.

*844*

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

973/Comm

P.M. 104 *26* June 45

56 BLU

1. This HQ has contacted the DIREZIONE DI COMMISSARIATO MILITARE of BOLOGNA to arrange for washing of the winter clothing withdrawn from the soldiers and stored by the units.
2. This was done with a view to good maintenance of the clothing and to ensure that the troops are not issued with dirty and unrepared dress.
3. The s/m DIREZIONE has warned that clothing handed in to its dumps, would not be issued back to the Group as it would then be at the disposal of MILA.
4. 56 BLU is kindly required to see if arrangements could be made with DIREZIONE of BOLOGNA, or with some other Italian or British unit for washing and repair of the clothing making sure that the clothing will be given back.
5. In the serious interest and for the good maintenance of the clothing this should be considered as an urgent matter and therefore your kind interest is necessary.

(SMD) G. BOLOGNA

GOC Combat Group MANTOVA

*102A*

6734

Subject:- Clothing.

56 MLU  
13 Q

78A

14 June 45.

133 Combat Group MANTOVA.

Copy to:- Camp Commandant,  
56 MLU.

1. All items of winter clothing will be retained and stored under unit arrangements during the summer and will be used next winter by troops in this theatre.
2. It is essential that adequate steps are taken to preserve and safeguard these garments since the supply position for next winter of 1945/6 will be on a very limited scale.
3. The following are the major items of winter clothing involved:

Houses Battledress.  
Trousers "  
Shirts Angora drab.  
Shirts Anti-lice.  
Cap comforter.  
Gloves knitted.  
Drawers woollen.  
Vests "  
Socks worsted per 1.

In the Field.  
JRM/mh.

JRM  
+ Lt Col,  
GS.

6733.

1 7600 76A  
Subject:- Clothing - Italian Military.

56 BLU  
13 Q

13 May 45.

MEMO.

Copy to:- HQ No. 1 District.

1. Combat Group 'MANTOVA' state that Italian soldiers have to hand in their British clothing when they are posted to units which are not fighting units, works units or other units under Allied Command.
2. It is necessary, however for these soldiers to be clothed in Italian Army style, viz bottle-green battle dress, on being posted.
3. The Combat Group 'MANTOVA' hold no stocks of such Italian Army clothing. Consequently may an allotment of 250 complete sets of Italian Army clothing be made to them to meet the needs of soldiers posted from the Group to units not under Allied Command.

In The Field.  
RCN/rh.

hch  
7 Lt Col,  
GA

6732

SCALE OF SUMMER CLOTHING

| <u>ITEM</u>            | <u>SCALE</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Shirts Bush            | 2 per man.   |
| Trousers KD       prs  | 2   "   "    |
| Shorts KD       prs    | 1   "   "    |
| Vests Tropical         | 2   "   "    |
| Drawers Cellular   prs | 2   "   "    |
| Buckles, shorts        | 2   "   "    |
| Shirts, Bush, belts    | 1   "   "    |
| Honotops       prs     | 1   "   "    |
| Nets Bush              | 1   "   "    |

6731

File 74A  
Subject: - Summer Clothing

56 BLU  
13 G

29 Apr 45.

Combat Group MANTOVA.

1. Summer clothing is to be issued to personnel of Italian Combat Groups according to the attached scale.
2. It is proposed to start the distribution of this clothing immediately and it is requested that units be instructed to submit their indents as quickly as possible to DADOS 56 BLU.
3. Demands should be made out exactly in the same way as previously for Battle dress, showing both the strength of the units and the quantities required by sizes, Large Medium Small.

In The Field.  
JRM/mb.

*W. M. Mornell*  
2 Lt Col,  
GS.

6730

*Ref Folio 10/A file 50 Q.**73A*

SUBJECT:- Clothing for Soldiers leaving the Combat Group.

56 BLU.

684/Comm

HQ Combat Group "MANTOVA"

104 P.M. 10 Apr 45.

1. As known by the BLU, according to instructions received, the soldiers leaving the Group must hand over their British clothing if they are not posted to fighting units, works units or other units under Allied Command.
2. All soldiers posted elsewhere must be provided with Italian Clothing.
3. This Combat Group holds no Italian Clothing, having returned same to NAPLES RETURN CLOTHING DUMP, being completely worn out.
4. Will the BLU please make application to MMIA for 250 Sets of Italian Clothing to be allotted to this Combat Group to enable them to equip soldiers no longer under Allied Command.

(SGD) Major FIGA

6729

ajw

SUMMER CLOTHING

56 British Liaison Unit

ORD 2/1

27 Apr 45

72A

DAA &amp; QMG

56 British Liaison Unit

1. The following is the scale of summer clothing for units of 5 (Mantova) Italian Combat Gp:-

| <u>Item</u>         |     | <u>Scale</u> |     |      |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-----|------|
| Shirts Bush         |     | 2            | per | man. |
| Trousers KD         | prs | 2            | "   | "    |
| Shorts KD           | prs | 1            | "   | "    |
| Vests Tropical      |     | 2            | "   | "    |
| Drawers Cellular    | prs | 2            | "   | "    |
| Buckles, shorts     |     | 2            | "   | "    |
| Shirts, Bush, belts |     | 1            | "   | "    |
| Hosetops            | prs | 1            | "   | "    |
| Nets Bush           |     | 1            | "   | "    |

2. Please instruct units to submit demands forthwith direct to this office.

T.M/RH

*T.W. Morgan*  
Major  
D.A.D.O.S., 56 BLU  
T.W. MORGAN

6728

28 APR 1945

13 Q



LRSJ V MEDY 17331 IMPORTANT QVR1

FROM DISTHREE 171510A

TO 56 BLU

INFO ORD MMIA LO

QQX BT

QG 3666 . RESTRICTED . ITALIAN COMBAT TPS G R U P P I WILL BE  
ISSUED WITH K D AND ANTI- MALARIA EQPT TO SAME SCALE AS BRIT TPS .  
RUTHY AFHQ SIGNAL FX 44192 OF 15 MAR

6727

BT 1630

SENT NR 331 1550 NB K

RD NR 331 1550 MEE /// JEE VA

18 MAR 1945

SUBJECT:- Clothing Officers

DAA & QMG, 56 B.I.U.,  
copy to Capt. Carpano.

DADOS 56 BLU  
ORD 3/3  
7 MAR 45

65A

1. Approximately 200 suits of new Battle Dress (Medium Sizes) and 200 pairs of New Boots are now available at the Italian Dump, for issue to officers.
2. Indents should be submitted to Capt. Carpano and arrangements made to return part worn items when the new is drawn.

TWM/LR.

*T. W. Morgan*  
MAJOR  
DADOS 56 BLU  
T.W. MORGAN

8 MAR 1945

6720

13Q

*Ref Folio MA file 50Q.*

HQ Combat Group "MANTOVA"

62A

390/Comm

P.M. 104 16 Feb 45

SUBJECT:- Situation regarding worn out boots.

To:- All units and establishments of Combat Group "MANTOVA"  
and to the following auxiliary units.

331 Field Hospital  
318 Field Bakery  
520 Field Hospital  
Information 56 BLU

In accordance with consent given by 56 BLU units stated above may obtain an exchange for Boots only drawn from DADOS Store, which are now worn out, while Boots even though of Allied source will be returned to the Recovery Store at NAPLES via S. GIOVANNI at TEDUCCIO informing the Director of Military Commissariat at NAPLES.

As a result some units have returned to the English Store at TERRANOVA, Boots which were not drawn from there. Units which have done so will withdraw them immediately and return them to the recovery store NAPLES.

17 FEB 1945  
6725

60A

Subject: Clothing Italian Combat Group Personnel

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.  
(M. M. I. A.) R O M E  
Q/OS/20

9 Feb 45.

56 BLU  
-----

33A

1. Reference your 13Q dated 29 Jan 45.
2. Personnel who may be sent to Reinforcement Training Centre or to another Combat Group should leave in khaki. Mule companies, however, like other service units, are entitled to green and should be posted so equipped.
3. It is hoped that the necessity of posting drafts from Mantova will not again arise, but should the necessity of sending soldiers away in green uniform occur, please communicate immediately with this HQ in case of difficulty.

*A. J. Head*  
A. J. HEAD, Major,  
for Major General,  
M. M. I. A.

AJH/wk

13Q

672+

12 FEB 1945

0 8 3 4

Ref 701068A file 50 Q.

5/vb

H.Q. "MANTOVA" Combat Group

No 346/Comm

P.M. 104 Feb 7 45

Subject:)- Unserviceable Boots

To: 56 BLU (Major. MOORE)

4-2 A

Ref letter 233/Comm dated Jan 23, in which we stated that the 114 Infantry Regiment had 360 pairs of boots unserviceable, and now 76 Infantry Regiment is in the same situation concerning boots, as many of them have "uppers" separated from the "soles" and cannot be repaired.

Will you please replace them.

cwf

(A. GUALANO)

6723

Subject: Greatcoats

Camp Commandant  
56 BLU.

56 BLU  
13 Q  
6 Feb 45

Herewith copy of 94 Sub Area letter 221 Q dated 2 Feb 45 for information and any necessary action.

1. " The War Office have given notification that there is a world wide shortage of Greatcoats and although efforts will be made to call upon such stocks as are known, it is unlikely that any long term improvement will be possible.
2. The vital necessity for economy and care in usage will therefore be impressed on all ranks.
3. Losses and deficiencies will be closely investigated and disciplinary action taken in all cases where negligence or carelessness is proved. In such cases, the debiting of the man with the cost of replacement is not considered sufficient deterrent. "

In The Field.  
/sh.

Lt Col,  
GS.

6722

COPIE

FROM : MMIA  
TO : 50, 51, 52, 53, 56 BLU's

291135

Q08/7 (.) RESTRICTED (.) AMENDMENTS No. 9 DATED 15 JAN 45 TO NORMAL  
EQUIPMENT LIST FOR ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP INCLUDES GLOVES KNITTED DRAB PAIRS  
QUANTITY 1 (.) PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INDENTS FORTHWITH THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS

SUBJECT:- Clothing - Italian units.

56 BLU  
13 Q

DADOS 56 BLU.

/ Feb 45.

Above copy message from MMIA is forwarded for information and  
any necessary action.

In The Field.  
/mh.

*W. Moody*  
Lt Col,  
GS.

6721

CONFIDENTIAL

33A

*File*

SUBJECT: - Clothing - Italian Combat Group Personnel.

56 BLJ  
13 Q

*24* Jan 55.

MMIA

1. Recently parties of Italian personnel have been leaving the MANTOVA Combat Group in order to join various other Italian units operating with the Allies.
2. As nearly all Italian personnel with this Combat Group are now in possession of battle dress drafts have been sent away with British battle dress.
3. The policy adopted by this BLJ with regard to personnel leaving the Combat Group has been to send drafts as fully equipped as possible to such units as the Reinforcement Training Camp, other Combat Groups or mule companies etc, Italian personnel who are returning to purely Italian units e.g. drafts returning to Italian depots for demobilisation have been instructed to leave the Group in Italian uniforms.
4. It is requested that confirmation may be given that this is the correct policy with regard to this question.

In The Field.  
JRM/mh.

*A*  
Lt Col.  
GS.

*see 60A 672i*

COPY *File* 32A

ACTION TO :- HQ 15 ARMY GROUP  
 INFO TO :- MIA MAIN 8 ARMY OF FIFTH ARMY FOR RE INCR 50 BLU 51 BLU  
 52 BLU 53 BLU 56 BLU REIN AREA DISORD

PX 90726

YOUR A177 ON 23 NOT TO ALL BATTLES (.) SIGNED SACRED CITY HQAE (.)  
 AGREED ALL REINFORCEMENTS FOR ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPS BE DISPATCHED  
 TO FORWARD AREA COMBINE WITH FOUR BLANKETS AND CLOTHING

SUBJECT: - Clothing Italian Units.

DADOS - 56 BLU.

56 BLU  
 13 Q

27 Jan 45

Above copy message from AFHQ dated 24 Jan 45 is forwarded for information.

In The Field.  
 JEM/mh

*J. M. McCreedy*  
 Lt Col,  
 GS.

6718

*Ref Folio 25A in file 50 Q*

HQ MANTOVA GROUP

URGENT *26A*

R/ma

Nr. 03/239 di prot

P.M. 104 = 15 Jan 45

Subject:- Drawing of shoes and overalls

To:- 104 ST Coy

Copy To:- 56 BLU

58 Transit Camp, Benevento

104 ST Coy will draw from English store at Terranova before 1600 hrs on the 15 Jan, 150 prs of shoes and 100 overalls.

The shoes will be issued to 58 Transit Camp Benevento, 100 prs, and 20 prs to HQ.

30 prs will be kept by 104 ST Coy at the disposal of this HQ.

The overalls will be issued to :-

HQ - 50 overalls at the disposal of Lt Col Saurio for Junior leaders course.

104 ST Coy at disposal of this HQ.

Lt Col  
Chief of Staff.

6718

*Ref Folio 23A in file Q50*  
H.Q. MANTOVA

No. 158/Comm di prot

P.M. 104

11/1/45

23  
A

Subject :- Blankets and Clothes.

To 519 Field Hospital

Copy to :- 56 BLU for information.

56 BLU allow 104 ST Coy to issue to 519 Field Hospital English blankets for the present strength. 519 Field Hospital will also obtain some clothes from the Allied store at TERRANOVA.

Lt-Col. Chief of Staff.

6717

*Ref Folio 22A in file Q 50*  
HQ MANTOVA GROUP

To :- 104 ST Coy. 1st Composite Platoon.

Copies to :-  
76 Inf Regt  
114 Inf Regt  
155 Arty Regt.  
104 Engineer Bn  
56 BLU

for information.

No 116 Comm di prot.

The addressed unit will draw from the Allied store at TERRONOVA tomorrow 11 Jan., 500 overcoats. The overcoats will be issued to the following units tomorrow afternoon.

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| 76 Inf Regt    | 180 |
| 114 Inf Regt   | 180 |
| 155 Arty Regt. | 50  |
| 104 Eng Bn     | 50  |

40 overcoats will be at the disposal of Group HQ.

10/1/45

Lt.Col.  
Chief of Staff

6716

## Translation

7to

COMBAT GROUP H.Q.  
Chief of staff's office=Qst section

N. 01/78 prot

P.M.104 = 5th January 1945

SUBJECT: Deficiency in the allotment of the 519 Field Hospital.

To BLU 56

\*\*\*\*\*

1 = The M.M.E.A. has informed the S.M.R.E. (Italian G.S.) that shortly the 519 Field Hospital of Combat Group, now located in S. Nazzaro, will move to advanced area.

The Friuli Combat Gp. has provided for the allotment, but now the following material are requested:

a) = CLOTHING

|     |     |               |     |     |                  |
|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Nr. | 65  | greatcoats    | Nr. | 130 | prs shoes        |
| "   | 195 | prs. socks    | "   | 139 | soldier's shirts |
| "   | 65  | haversacks    | "   | 65  | small haversacks |
| "   | 26  | water=bottles |     |     |                  |

b) = MECHANICAL TPT

2 x 3 tons light lorries  
1 x 1 ton light truck

## c) = 2 Bicycles

d) = LIGHTING MEANS

nr. 7 petromax  
" 7 oil stoves.

2 = This BLU will, please, require the above materials and inform this H.Q. the date and the issue point where the 519 Field Hospital will draw the above requested materials.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
(A. Gualano)

3 JAN 1946

6715

8-4-45  
H. Gualano

SUBJECT:- Boot Repairs

D.A.D.O.S.

11A  
56 B.L.U.  
13/9  
2 Jan 45.

1. The following are required by the MANTOVA Gp for the repair and maintenance of footwear.

|                         |        |     |             |     |
|-------------------------|--------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Leather soles and heels | (each) | 400 | Patches     | 200 |
| Twine                   | (lbs)  | 180 | Nails       |     |
| Heelball                | "      | 20  | (lbs) Studs | 400 |

2. Please could the above be supplied to 104 Reparto Tras & Rif for the distribution to the units concerned.

In the field  
AMS

*J. M. McCarthy*  
Lt Col,  
US.

6714

Subject:- Clothing and Equipment.  
MANTOVA GP.

10A 139  
Liaison Officer.  
Land Forces Sub Commission. A.C.  
(MIA).  
c/o 54 BLU.  
57 Dec 44.

To:- Comando Militare Della Calabria.

Information:- H.Q. MANTOVA GP.  
54 BLU. ✓

1. With reference to articles of clothing and equipment released from Depots in CALABRIA to the MANTOVA during the month of November 1944, in accordance with your letter 1 December 1944 (attached) addressed to me, my letter to you of 1 of 12 Nov 44 has already authorized the issue of all articles listed in your para 1 for men leaving CALABRIA to go on courses.
2. I hereby confirm the verbal authority already given for the issue of the articles listed under the heading of "Materiali ceduti per completamento detrasioni reparti".
3. In accordance with agreements taken between His Excellency General GONONATI and myself on 4 December 1944, the MANTOVA will return to the Depots in CALABRIA loaned clothing and equipment, and will be responsible for providing the necessary transport.
4. It is clearly understood that all issues made from your depots and listed in the attached letter will be regarded as a loan to be returned to Italian Army Depots on the issue of the British Counterpart.

H. AC. Howard

Lt-Col. GSG I.(L).  
MIA LA MANTOVA GP.

6713

APPENDIX 'D' to 56 R.I.U. letter 13.6. dated Dec 44.SIZE SCALE.

| Size.  | Measurement<br>Chest.              | Measurement<br>Waist.            |
|--------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Small  | Up to 36 ins<br>91 cm              | Up to 32 ins<br>81 cm            |
| Medium | 37 ins - 40 ins<br>94 cm - 102 cm  | 33 ins - 36 ins<br>84 cm - 91 cm |
| Large  | 41 ins - and over<br>105 cm & plus | 37 ins and over<br>94 cm & plus  |

0712



APPENDIX 'A' to 56 B.L.U. letter 13.9 dated Dec 44.CLOTHING RELEASED TO MANTOVA GROUP.

|                     |       |               |       |
|---------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Boots Ankle prs     | 4,000 | Blouses       | 4,000 |
| Drawers Woollen prs | 6,000 | Trousers      | 6,000 |
| Greatcoats          | 6,000 | Vests Woollen | 6,000 |
| Shirts              | 6,000 |               |       |
| Anklelets Web       | 6,000 |               |       |

IF available - Blankets 9,000.

-----

APPENDIX 'B' to 56 B.L.U. letter 13.9 dated Dec 44.SCALE OF CLOTHING FOR EACH SOLDIER.

NOTE:- This scale of clothing is NOT the full scale but is a convenient intermediate scale on which all units will base their demands for this issue.

|                 |    |                 |    |
|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| BD Blouses      | 1. | Vests woollen   | 1. |
| Trousers        | 1. | Drawers woollen | 1. |
| Boots Ankle prs | 1. | Shirts          | 1. |
| Anklelets Web   | 1. | Greatcoats      | 1. |
|                 |    | Blankets        | 1. |

-----

0710

SUBJECT:- Clothing.

56 B.L.U.  
13.0.  
Dec 44.

MANTOVA Group.

1. Clothing (as shown at Appendix 'A' attached) has been released to this Group. It is intended to issue this allocation by units, in order to complete equipping all personnel of the Group to the scale shown at Appendix 'B'.
2. Clothing, in bulk, will be drawn from 557 BOD by DADOS 56 HLU, who will hold this in his dump at SAN GIACOMO. 104 Reparto Trasporto Rifornimenti will draw from DADOS smaller quantities, in bulk, which they will issue in detail from their own depot to units of the Group.
3. Units will demand clothing from 104 Reparto Trasporto Rifornimenti on the form shown at Appendix 'C'. This will be submitted in triplicate, one copy being returned to the unit as certificate of issue. The second copy will be retained by the 104 Reparto Trasporto Rifornimenti to support their ledgers. The third copy will be forwarded to DADOS 56 HLU for checking.
4. Units should be instructed to demand clothing by sizes, Small, Medium or Large as shown in the table at Appendix 'D'.
5. The following is the order of priority for issuing to units:

76 rgt ftr  
114 rgt ftr  
155 rgt arty  
104 bty misto genio  
104 rep tr e rif  
Quartiere Generale MANTOVA Group incl Two Sections of  
Carabinieri (for underclothes ONLY).  
104. Los Sanita  
248 Ospedale da Campo  
501 Ospedale da Campo

In The Field.  
MH

Lt Col.  
GS.

Copy to:- DADOS.

6703

COPY

SUBJECT:- No. 5 (MANTOVA) Italian Combat Group

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

TEL. NO. PIRELLA 427.

AFHQ/9193/Q(AB).

22 Nov 44

No. 5 District

1. At the request of MIA the following will be made available to No. 5 (MANTOVA) Italian Combat Group:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Battledress Grade III      | 2000  |
| Underclothes, sets         | 3000  |
| Boots Grade III (repaired) | 5000. |

2. Will you please arrange for these to be issued at the earliest opportunity.

3. No other Ordnance stores will be issued to this formation until further instructions are given.

(Signed) R.W. REMLEY, Major,  
For Major-General G-4(Br).

HRE/WHH

Copy to: Ord(Br) - MIA signal 88367 dated 20 Nov 44 refers.

SUBJECT:- No. 5 (MANTOVA) Italian Combat Group

5 District  
Ext 113  
485/1 Q  
24 Nov 44

Ord

54 HIR  
MIA 10

0708

SEEN

The above copy letter is forwarded for action.

9501  
DRAWMG  
DADOS.

HRE/WHH

1001  
14 & 110  
(B.K. HUGHES)

0850