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Jan - Sep

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Courses - General

Jan - Sept 1945

6977
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Combat Group MANTOVA

Office of the Chief of Staff - Ops & Int.

01/5207

15 Sep 45

Subject :- Divisional Training Courses.

HQ 76 Inf Regt.
 HQ 114 Inf Regt.
 HQ 155 Arty Regt.
 HQ 104 Eng Bn.
 HQ 104 S & T Coy.
 501 Fd Hospital.

Copies to :- HQ GENOA Italian Area.
 Services Office.
 Medical.
 Supplies.
 56 BLU.

Following letter 01/4860 of 21 Aug 45.

1. In the coming October, the following div training courses will be carried out, the dates of which will be fixed by me.

"Platoon Weapons" instructors.
 "Infantry Signals" instructors.
 Junior Leaders Course.
 Vehicle Maintenance.

2. Area.

SAVONA (LEGION BARRACKS).

3. Duration.

60 days for the wireless operators and fullerphonists.
 25 days for all other courses.

4. Instructors.

These will be provided as follows :-

Platoon Weapons Course.	1 offr, 1 NCO, 1 Junior NCO per inf regt.
Infantry Signals Course.	{ 1 offr of 107 Sig Coy.
Wireless Operators	{ 1 offr of 76 Inf Regt.
Fullerphonists.	{ 1 offr of 114 Inf Regt.
	{ 2 NCOs of 107 Sig Coy.
	{ 1 NCO of 76 Inf Regt.
	{ 1 NCO of 114 Inf Regt.

Switchboard Operators

{ 2 NCOs of 107 Sig Coy

HQ 104 S & T Coy.
504 Td Hospital.

Copies to :- HQ GENOA Italian Area.
Services Office.
Medical.
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56 ELN.

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1. In the coming October, the following div training courses will be carried out, the dates of which will be fixed by me.

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"Infantry Signals" instructors.
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Vehicle Maintenance.

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3. Duration.

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4. Instructors.

These will be provided as follows :-

Platoon Weapons Course.	1 offr, 1 NCO, 1 Junior NCO per ⁶⁹³⁷ inf regt.
Infantry Signals Course.	{ 1 offr of 107 Sig Coy.
Wireless Operators	{ 1 offr of 76 Inf Regt.
Fullerphonists.	{ 1 offr of 114 Inf Regt.
	{ 2 NCOs of 107 Sig Coy.
	{ 1 NCO of 76 Inf Regt.
	{ 1 NCO of 114 Inf Regt.
Switchboard Operators	{ 2 NCOs of 107 Sig Coy
Telephone Operators.	{
Electricians & Linesmen	{ 1 NCO of 107 Sig Coy
	{ 1 engineer (Pte MAURO) of 107 Sig Coy.
	{ 1 NCO of 76 Inf Regt.

2/.....

Junior Leaders Course.	2 offrs & 1 NCO per inf regt.
Vehicle Maintenance.	{ 1 offr, 2 NCOs, 2 Junior NCOs of 104 S&T Coy.
5. <u>Students.</u>	
Platoon Weapons Course.	{ 22 ORs and Junior NCOs of 76 Regt. 22 ORs and Junior NCOs of 114 Regt. 6 ORs and Junior NCOs of 155 Regt.
Infantry Signals Course	{ 50 Wireless Ops (25 per inf regt) 20 Fullerphone Ops (10 per inf regt) 20 Switchboard & telephone Ops (10 per inf regt) 20 Linemen (10 per inf regt) 4 Electricians (2 per inf regt)
Junior Leaders Course.	{ 42 all ranks (6 offrs and 15 NCOs per inf regt)
Vehicle Maintenance.	{ 70 ORs { 15 of 76 Inf Regt { 15 of 114 Inf Regt { 10 of 155 Arty Regt { 10 of 104 Eng Bn { 10 of 104 S&T Coy { 10 of 104 Med Sec

6. Selection of Personnel.

Instructors.	{ From officers and NCOs who have attended similar courses with good results at British or Italian schools. Select, if possible, persons who have had previous teaching experience or show particular aptitude in instruction.
Students.	{ From regular officers and NCOs and Junior NCOs of 1920 class and upwards. If it is not possible to fill the vacancies with regular officers and NCOs, select officers and NCOs who are not regulars, from the very young classes.

7. Organisation of the Courses.

OC Divisional School	- OC 76 Inf Regt.
Director of Courses	- Lt-Col GAFTA.
Chief Instructor	- The most senior of all instructors on the courses.

6996

Duties.

OC Div School	Supervise all training activities and control the
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Infantry Signals Course

50 Wireless Ops (25 per inf regt)
 20 Fullersphone Ops (10 per inf regt)
 20 Switchboard & telephone Ops
 (10 per inf regt)
 20 Linemen (10 per inf regt)
 4 Electricians (2 per inf regt)

Junior Leaders Course.

42 all ranks (6 oftrs and 15 NCOs
 per inf regt)

Vehicle Maintenance.

70 ORs { 15 of 76 Inf Regt
 { 15 of 114 Inf Regt
 { 10 of 155 Arty Regt
 { 10 of 104 Eng Bn
 { 10 of 104 S&T Coy
 { 10 of 104 Med Sec

6. Selection of Personnel.

Instructors.

From officers and NCOs who have
 attended similar courses with good
 results at British or Italian schools.
 Select, if possible, persons who have
 had previous teaching experience or
 show particular aptitude in instruction.

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From regular officers and NCOs and
 junior NCOs of 1920 class and upwards.
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7. Organisation of the Courses.

OC Divisional School -
 Director of Courses -
 Chief Instructor -

OC 76 Inf Regt.
 Lt-Col GAETA.
 The most senior of all instructors on the
 courses.

6996

Duties.

OC Div School

Supervise all training activities and control the
 working of the services.

Director of Courses.

Responsible for the training activities
 and for the working of the services.

3/.....

-3-

Chief Instructor

Draw up training programmes; allot training hours to the various instructors; responsible for the discipline and training of the course he is specialist in.

Training programmes

Should reach this HQ by the end of this month.

Hours of course.

Morning - 0800 - 1200 hrs
Afternoon - 1500 - 2000 hrs.

Classification.

At the end of the course, students will be examined and classified by the same methods as are in use at CESANO.

Leave.

No leave will be granted during the course.

8. Services.

(a) School equipment (tables, benches, chairs, black boards etc) to be provided by 76 Inf Regt.

(b) Students billets. Officers, if possible, in hotels or in private houses. NCO's and ORs in the barracks. NCO's, if possible should be kept in rooms apart from the men.

(c) Equipment and arms. Students will arrive at SAVONA armed (individual arms) and equipment. Officers should also take camp beds and bedding. Students will be provided with overalls.

(d) Rationing. Officers & ORs will be the responsibility of Regt HQ 76 Inf Regt.

(e) Kitchen utensils. Will be provided by DADOS upon indent by OC Div Schools.

(f) Straw for bedding. Local purchase by 76 Inf Regt.

(g) Vehicles will be placed when required at the disposal of OC Course.

4 - 15 cwt	}	Provided equally by 76 Inf Regt and 104 S&F Coy.
4 - 3 ton		
4 - M/Cs		

(h) Medical Service. 501 Rd Hospital.

(i) Ground sheets. Those required for closing windows will be asked for directly by the OC Course to the 'Q' Div Office.

(l) Adm. HQ 76 Inf Regt is authorised to purchase locally, all necessary equipment required for the course (chalk - paper - nails etc)

(m) Personnel provided by 114 Inf Regt. 114 Regt will place the following man at the disposal of OC Course.

10 duty men (including 1 cook and 2 waiters)

Leave.

No leave will be granted during the course.

8. Services.

- (a) School equipment (tables, benches, chairs, black boards etc) to be provided by 76 Inf Regt.
- (b) Students billets. Officers, if possible, in hotels or in private houses. NCO's and ORs in the barracks. NCO's, if possible should be kept in rooms apart from the men.
- (c) Equipment and arms. Students will arrive at SAVONA armed (individual arms) and equipment. Officers should also take camp beds and bedding. Students will be provided with overalls.
- (d) Rationing. Officers & ORs will be the responsibility of Regt HQ 76 Inf Regt.
- (e) Kitchen utensils. Will be provided by DADOS upon indent by OC Div Schools.
- (f) Straw for bedding. Local purchase by 76 Inf Regt.
- (g) Vehicles will be placed when required at the disposal of OC Course.
 - 4 - 15 cwt } Provided equally by 76 Inf Regt
 - 4 - 3 ton } and 104 S&T Coy.
 - 4 - M/Cs }
- (h) Medical Service. 501 Rd Hospital.
- (i) Ground sheets. Those required for closing windows will be asked for directly by the OC Course to the 'Q' Div Office.
- (l) Adm. HQ 76 Inf Regt is authorised to purchase locally, all necessary equipment required for the course (chalk - paper - nails etc)
- (m) Personnel provided by 114 Inf Regt. 114 Regt will place the following men at the disposal of OC Course.
 - 10 duty men (including 1 cook and 2 waiters)
 - 1 typist with a typewriter.
 - 1 clerk
 - 1 NCO (used to adm work)

4/.....

9. Details.

A For Junior Leaders Course.

(a) Ammunition.

This will be provided by HQ 76 Inf Regt as follows :-

1000	.303
500	Thompson
3000	Bren
50	PIAT
20	HE 2" Mortar
50	Smoke 2" Mortar
50	Flares 2" Mortar

(b) Light equipment will be drawn from the 104. Eng Bn as follows :-

20 Small Spades.
10 Picks.

B For Signals course.

(a) Equipment. Wireless sets, fullphones, switch boards and telephones will be placed at the disposition of the course, as per verbal arrangement with OC No. 3 Pl, 107 Signal Coy.

(b) This HQ has approached 56 BLU in order to obtain training buzzers, morse keys and other equipment required for the smooth running of the course.

(c) The 76 Inf Regt is asked to raise the petrol allotted to the 3rd Signal Pl used for charging batteries from 3.5 galls to 10 galls, this increase should last for the whole course.

PSV/éc

General Commanding

Guido BOLOGNA.

6994

Subject :- Training at REC TOP - CESANO.

Ft IL & TU,
CESANO.

56 JUL
6 G

17 Sep 45

Reference your 9/14/51 dated 31 Aug 45.

1. Attached are the comments of the Genl MARTIN Combat Group. Observations on the General's notes are included in Appx 'A' to this letter.

2. With reference to the visit of Col McKay to this unit it is again stressed that every effort will be made by the Combat Group and this ILU to produce the maximum number of instructors for CESANO during the next few months, but that the material is very limited for two reasons.

- (a) Demobilization is taking place and as this involves men who have been the longest in the army it also involves the better trained specialists and NCO's.
- (b) The Group is now "fully extended". The role they have at present requires the employment of all available personnel and this is further congested by the enormous area this Group is covering.

CAF
JAN/50

Lt-Col.
M.

6993

Army 'A' to SC HJ Letter
6 G dated 17 Sep 45

The answers below are numbered to correspond with the questionnaire.

1. (a) No comment.

(b) It is difficult to tell at present if all the students are being put to good use but it is fairly certain that all personnel who attend a specialist course in a trade are fully employed. In the case of SIVA however there is so little training taking place that the instructor often returns to duty and only instructs at irregular periods.

(c) The full implication of "man management" has now been explained to the General and he is very much in favour of this course. It is felt by the HJ that this should be one of the most useful courses running and one for which the necessity has long been felt.

(d) Here the General's opinion is not agreed. It is felt that it is most important not to teach tactics and administration in two water tight compartments. This especially so in the case of the Italian Army which already has a great tendency to regard the two branches as entirely separate. The following points should therefore be stressed:-

(i) That every tactical plan must be made after due consideration of the administrative aspect.

(ii) That in the issuing of orders to Operation and Administration ~~staffs~~ both must be given a clear picture of others difficulties. This the Italian Army tends to forget and thus often leaves the Administration staff to carry out tasks, the full implication of which they are never told.

(iii) The importance of maintaining as high or a relatively higher standard of man management, hygiene, welfare etc, under difficult conditions. Under this heading a great stress should be laid on punctuality of meals, of mail etc.

2. Agreed.

3. (a) All the General's points are agreed in so far as they concern telephone operators and line men, but wireless operators are not much used at present in the communications of the Group. They are however best in practice, and the divisional course at SAVONA for infantry signallers will in fact employ most of the ~~highly~~ ^{best} available for a certain period. The Signals, owing to the ~~large~~ ^{small} number of men who have attended outside courses, are in fact short of highly trained instructors.

(b) (i) This problem again depends on reducing the scope of the activities of the Group. A limited number of Engineer students for a refresher course could be made available.

that the instructor often returns to duty and only instructs at irregular periods.

- (c) The full implication of "man management" has now been explained to the General and he is very much in favour of this course. It is felt by the HM that this should be one of the most useful courses running and one for which the necessity has long been felt.
- (d) Here the General's opinion is not agreed. It is felt that it is most important not to teach tactics and administration in two water tight compartments. This especially so in the case of the Italian Army which already has a great tendency to regard the two branches as entirely separate. The following points should therefore be stressed:-
- (i) That every tactical plan must be made after due consideration of the administrative aspect.
 - (ii) That in the issuing of orders to Operation and Administration ~~staffs~~ both must be given a clear picture of others' difficulties. This the Italian Army tends to forget and thus often leaves the Administration staff to carry out tasks, the full implication of which they are never told.
 - (iii) The importance of maintaining as high or a relatively higher standard of man management, hygiene, welfare etc, under difficult conditions. Under this heading a great stress should be laid on punctuality of meals, of mail etc.
2. Agreed.
3. (a) All the General's points are agreed in so far as they concern telephone operators and messengers, but wireless operators are not much used at present in the communications of the Group. They are however kept in practice, and the divisional course at SATEMA for infantry signallers will in fact employ most of the ~~instructors~~ available for a certain period. The Signals, owing to the small number of men who have attended outside courses, are in fact short of highly trained instructors.
- (b) (i) (ii) This problem again depends on reducing the scope of the activities of the Group. A limited number of Engineer students for a refresher course could be made available.
4. (a) As stated by the General the difficulty is in not sending novices. The Group has started a D & M school with a view to producing suitable students to go on these courses and every LAD and whoops in the Group is now dilated with a large percentage of novices who are being instructed in the elementary knowledge and skills of their trade. This all takes time (weeks and months) and it is thought that it will be the end of October before a regular flow of students will become available.

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5. (b) Agreed, and it is strongly urged that this be started at once.
- (a) The CO RR are very good. Their weaknesses are all well points the only one of importance, that they appear to require further training in night work.
- (b) Agreed. It would be necessary to explain and bring to the notice the duties of the Regimental Police on courses attended by officers of the Groups C.E. in man management, tactical courses, as the function of Regimental Police is only partially understood at present.
6. (a) There are a certain number of students available for MCO courses at Inf Schools.
- (b) Instructors will be made available as far as is compatible with the task of the Group.
- (c) The subject of pamphlets is so large that it is felt that until the organization, equipping and future role of the Italian Army has been clearly defined and explained it is not worth while translating and publishing a number of works written entirely for the British Army and which may become redundant before they are printed.

1669

HQ COMBAT GROUP MANTOVA

Office of the Chief of Staff - Ops & Int Sec.

01/5063

7 Sep 45

Subject: Points to Discuss with Italian Combat Group Command.HQ 56 HUS. (for attention of Major Moore)
(for transmission to Col Kelly, C.A.C.P.I.C.)Reference Letter G/41/751/2 dated 31 Aug 45 from 1st British Liaison
A Training Unit.

In the following I give my views on the points raised in the above quoted letter. For easy reference the order of my points will be identical (number and letter) to that contained in the said letter.

1. School of instructors for mixed units. (S.I.V.A.)

- (a) The present system of distribution and allotment of vacancies at S.I.V.A. (a certain number of officers and WO's from each Combat Group) is satisfactory. This system however may give rise to serious inconveniences when a Combat Group is asked to send personnel on a series of courses which are being carried out at the same time: in this case a crisis would arise in the units which would make it impossible to supply the demands of S.I.V.A. It is not possible at the moment to think of increasing the number of "students" the units being in a difficult period of operations, as they are constantly being depleted by reason of transfers and releases and the many duties of territorial character in an area which goes from LIGURIA to EMILIA, ROMAGNA, LOMBARDIA up to the Swiss frontier. The proposed release of military up to the 1920 class makes it desirable to start short period courses of training for regular WO's and junior WO's of young classes, so that units will not find themselves in a difficult position regarding WO's.

I have already sent a letter to HQ CASAL for the formation of courses for instructors in Infantry, Artillery and Engineers and hold in readiness the personnel as in Annex 1.

- (b) On their return from the training centre the students are very usefully employed within the units, working according to the type of course attended. The best are employed as instructors in the training of the unit.

- (c) I do not know what is actually meant by the course of "Man Management", but from the contents of the paragraph it appears to deal with a newly established course. I am therefore not in a position to give an opinion of its usefulness. However the expression "Man Management" is not the definition

Reference Letter G/M/751/2 Dated 31 Aug 45 from "P" British Liaison & Training Unit.

In the following I give my views on the points raised in the above quoted letter. For easy reference the order of my points will be identical (number and letter) to that contained in the said letter.

1. School of instructors for fixed arms. (S.I.F.A.)

- (c) The present system of distribution and allotment of vacancies at S.I.F.A. (a certain number of officers and NCOs from each Combat Group) is satisfactory. This system however may give rise to serious inconveniences when a Combat Group is asked to send personnel on a series of courses which are being carried out at the same time; in this case a crisis would arise in the units which would make it impossible to supply the demands of S.I.F.A. It is not possible at the moment to think of increasing the number of "Students" the units being in a difficult period of operations, as they are constantly being depleted by reason of transfers and releases and the many duties of territorial character in an area which goes from LIQUORI to BELLIA, MINOCCA, LOMBARDA up to the Swiss frontier. The proposed release of military up to the 1920 class makes it desirable to start short period courses of training for regular NCO's and junior NCO's of young classes, so that units will not find themselves in a difficult position regarding NCO's.

I have already sent a letter to HQ CASVIC for the formation of courses for instructors in Infantry, Artillery and Engineers and hold in readiness the personnel as in Annex 1.

- (b) On their return from the training centre the students are very usefully employed within the units, working according to the type of course attended. The best are employed as instructors in the training of the unit.
- (c) I do not know what is actually meant by the course of "Man Management", but from the contents of the paragraph it appears to deal with a newly established course. I am therefore not in a position to give an opinion of its usefulness. If however the expression "man management" means the discipline, morale and education of the soldier, my opinion is for the institution of similar courses which are very useful to instill, (especially in the officers of junior rank) that good educational disciplinary capacity which unfortunately leaves much to be desired and which is a necessary addition to their technical qualifications.

-2-

- (d) I do not think that it is a good thing to modify the programme of the course at the tactical school. The subject of man management and the duties of officers should be dealt with in this course. (see para (c))
- (e) The general opinion of the S.I.V.A. school is good because they bear in mind the importance of reforming the army. It seems however, that the methods used should be perfected. It is necessary as well, to develop in greater detail, several very important arguments such as, for example: co-operation between infantry and artillery, between infantry and aircraft etc.
- It is necessary to define more clearly that which is essential and that which is of less importance, thus making the unfolding of the argument more simple and convincing, and to change the hours in order to make them less monotonous, giving the student the chance to relax and study with greater ease.
- It is also thought necessary to discontinue the use of the term "regiment" for men who are no longer young, using that of "student" as they do in the Scuola di Guerra.
- It is desirable to improve the quality and quantity of the food and billets.
- (f) To each tactical course it would be good to send an artillery officer and an engineer officer for the study of specific subjects and to make the battle plan more realistic, selecting these from officers who have been to the respective schools of arty and engr.

2. Artillery.

I agree with the proposal to form courses to perfect both senior and junior officers. The number of vacancies placed at the disposal of Combat Groups should not be greater than those which are allotted to the tactical courses and inf arms course.

3. Engineers.

(a) Signale.

- (1) I do not know the actual programme of the signal course because no unit of the Group has attended a course of this nature at S.I.V.A.
- Our own specialists all come from the school at REGINA and S.MARIA CAMA VERDE, and from the divisional course held during the training period at ALTAVILLA TUFFIA and PUGGIO RE.
- (2) Specialized signal personnel are kept in training by the maintenance and working of the telephone lines and the radio net.
- It is planned to form a divisional course at SAVONA for the infantry signallers.

between infantry and artillery, between infantry and aircraft etc.

It is necessary to define more clearly that which is essential and that which is of less importance, thus making the unfolding of the argument more simple and convincing, and to change the hours in order to make them less monotonous, giving the student the chance to relax and study with greater ease.

It is also thought necessary to discontinue the use of the term "pupil" for men who are no longer young, using that of "student" as they do in the Escuela de Guerra.

It is desirable to improve the quality and quantity of the food and billets.

(f)

To each tactical course it would be good to send an artillery officer and an engineer officer for the study of specific subjects and to make the battle plan more realistic, selecting these from officers who have been to the respective schools of art and engr.

2. Artillery.

I agree with the proposal to form courses to perfect both senior and junior officers. The number of vacancies placed at the disposal of Combat Groups should not be greater than those which are allotted to the tactical course and the same course.

3. Engineering.

(a) Signals.

(i) I do not know the actual programme of the signal course because no unit of the Group has attended a course of this nature at S.I.V.A.

Our own specialists all came from the school at BUCENA and S.MARIA CARTA VERDE, and from the divisional course held during the training period at ALBAYILLA MARTIN and page 9

(ii) Specialised signal personnel are kept in training by the maintenance and working of the telephone lines and the radio net.

It is planned to form a divisional course at BUCENA for the infantry signallers.

(iii) As the Group is spread over such a vast area the signal personnel are indispensable to ensure communications with the units. At the moment there are no instructors can be taken away, as well as the fact that many will be required at the proposed divisional signal school at BUCENA.

3/.....

(b) Summary.

(1) The 24 Boys of the Combat Group are normally employed on various technical works on behalf of the Allies and for the immediate needs of the Group. It is therefore not possible to take away any persons from these units. However we will try to find some personnel by reducing the duties to be carried out as far as possible.

(2) The formation of a course on signal equipment will be useful, for the reasons explained in para (iii) above, it is only possible at the moment to release a small number of students.

4. School for Drivers and Mechanics.

(a) The units are finding great difficulty in selecting personnel to send on these courses :-

Vehiclo Maintenance.
Motor Mechanics.
Driver Mechanics.
Armours.
Gun Fitters.

as it is difficult to find personnel who have had sufficient preparation to attend the course after having already selected personnel for courses of all kinds. It would seem advisable to overcome this difficulty by proportionally lengthening the duration of the courses.

What is necessary is to ensure that on returning from the courses the students are actually ready to start work. It is not possible to provide instructors for these special subjects as the Group is and always has been short of a large number both in number and quality.

(b) In my opinion the formation of a course for vehicle maintenance and inspections for OC units would be very useful. Only in this way can the OC units carry out efficient and confident checks on the vehicles and personnel under them.

5. Police School.

(a) The OC who have come from the Police School conduct themselves very well, there are no remarks to make about them.

(b) It would be very useful to start a course for regimental adjutants. It would be possible to send about 10 men from each infantry and artillery regt.

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6. Infantry.

To the infantry specialist courses (mortars, carriers, pioneers etc.) it would be possible to send many more men if the territorial duties were reduced (sent guards etc.).

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6. Infantry.

To the infantry specialist courses (mortars, carriers, pioneers etc) it would be possible to send many more men if the territorial duties were reduced (asport guards etc.).

CONCLUSION.

The formation of a central school is obviously very useful to the units. It ensures unity of methods with the necessary equipment.

The sending of personnel on courses however should not put a unit in a difficult position. I propose therefore that the courses are not carried out at the same time for all the Combat Groups, but that certain are reserved for one Group, and same for another.

4/.....

For example, while the personnel of the PISCONE, CANTONIA and PHILLI Groups attend the tactical course, those of MARITON, LUGANO and the Administration Division take part in the mechanical, driver, pioneer courses etc. This also applies in view of the large number of persons on the courses.

PSV/ee

General Commanding.

GILLES BENTON.

6987

HQ COMBAT GROUP HANTOVA

Office of the Chief of Staff - Ops & Int Sec.

01/4839

20 Aug 45

Subject :- Training Courses for NCO Instructors at S.I.V.A.

HQ 76 Inf Regt.
 HQ 114 Inf Regt.
 HQ 155 Arty Regt.
 HQ 104 Eng Bn.

1. In agreement with General HANTOVA at GUSANO, courses for training of NCO instructors for infantry, arty and engineers will be started at S.I.V.A. These will be for the younger classes (from 1924 onwards).

2. Object.

To place the units in a position to have a sufficient quantity of NCO instructors even after the release of the old classes.

3. The course for the infantry NCO instructors will begin on the 28 of this month. The following will attend :-

30 soldiers or corporals of 76 Regt.
 30 " " of 114 Regt.

4. The qualifications required :-

Must be of a young class (from 1924 onwards).

Show aptitude to make an instructor.

Possess the physical and moral qualities required.

Have a sufficient degree of education (at least 4th elementary)

5. Instructions will be given later about the 100 instructors course for artillery and engineers. In the mean time I ask the OCs of 155 Arty Regt and 104 Eng Bn to prepare respectively, 30 and 15 students.

6. I ask the addressee HQs to let me know by return of post, if the numbers indicated can be increased.

7. Instructions will be given at a later date regarding the journey of the inf NCO pupils.

8. Names selected must reach me by the 26th of this month.

9. Detailed instructions, as per joining instructions of the S.I.V.A. courses.

6936

1. In agreement with General MANIOLLO at CIBANO, courses for training of NCO instructors for infantry, arty and engineers will be started at S.I.V.A. These will be for the younger classes (from 1924 onwards).

2. Object.

To place the units in a position to have a sufficient quantity of NCO instructors even after the release of the old classes.

3. The course for the infantry NCO instructors will begin on the 23 of this month. The following will attend :-

30 soldiers or corporals of 76 Regt.
30 " " of 114 Regt.

4. The qualifications required :-

Must be of a young class (from 1924 onwards).

Show aptitude to make an instructor.

Possess the physical and moral qualities required.

Have a sufficient degree of education (at least 4th elementary)

5. Instructions will be given later about the NCO instructors course for artillery and engineers. In the mean time I ask the COs of 155 Arty Regt and 104 Eng Bn to prepare respectively, 30 and 15 students.

6. I ask the addressee HQs to let me know by return of post, if the numbers indicated can be increased.

7. Instructions will be given at a later date regarding the journey of the inf NCO pupils.

6986

8. Names selected must reach me by the 26th of this month.

9. Detailed instructions, as per joining instructions of the S.I.V.A. courses.

General Commanding
Guido Bologna.

eo

see also 93A

92A

SUBJECT:-

Training at RTC ICF, CIESANO'F' BRITISH LIAISON AND
TRAINING UNIT, RTC ICF

Ref: G/A.4/731

31 August, 1945

OC, 50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLUMMIA (For GSO.II Trg)

1. In planning future courses at this Centre it would be most helpful to have the views of BLUs with the Gruppi.
2. Attached herewith a short questionnaire dealing with the various schools at this Centre on which your views are requested.
3. Colonel L.H. MACKAY, OBE, is, at present, making a tour of the Gruppi and would be pleased to discuss or enlarge on any of these points.

HWK/asj

InternalFile
FloatMajor, GSO.II
Training,'F' BRITISH LIAISON AND
TRAINING UNIT, RTC ICF

SEP 1945

6985

SUBJECT:- Notes for discussion with Gruppi

'F' BRITISH LIAISON AND
TRAINING UNIT, RMC ICE

Ref: G/244/731/2

31 August, 1945

1. SIVA (All Arms Instructors School)

- (a) Is our present system of allocating students suitable?
Could larger numbers of students be made available?
- (b) Are students being put to good use on return?
- (c) What are your views on the MAW MANAGEMENT Course - this course will start touring the Gruppi and Territoriale Divs at the end of next course (early September).
- (d) It is suggested the Tactical School courses are changed to include far more administration and duties of the Officer. Any particular suggestions about this as to which points to stress?
- (e) What are the general opinions on the SIVA courses?

2. Artillery

In order to retain a standard of teaching and policy throughout the Gruppi it is suggested that a refresher course for Junior and Senior Officers is run at the Artillery School here. Can students be made available?

3. Genio

(a) Signals

- (i) Is the present syllabus for courses sufficient?
- (ii) Are signallers kept in practice while in the Gruppi?
- (iii) Are any Instructors available for cross posting?
Experienced Instructors in all branches are needed.

(b) Sappers

- (i) Instructors, both young officers and Senior NCOs urgently required.
- (ii) A short refresher course for Officers and Senior NCOs to cover all branches is suggested. Could students be made available?

6934

- (b) Are students being put to good use on return?
- (c) What are your views on the MAN MANAGEMENT Course - this course will start touring the Gruppi and Territoriale Divs at the end of next course (early September).
- (d) It is suggested the Tactical School courses are changed to include far more administration and duties of the Officer. Any particular suggestions about this as to which points to stress?
- (e) What are the general opinions on the SIVA courses?

2. Artillery

In order to retain a standard of teaching and policy throughout the Gruppi it is suggested that a refresher course for Junior and Senior Officers is run at the Artillery School here. Can students be made available?

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(a) Signals

- (i) Is the present syllabus for courses sufficient?
- (ii) Are signallers kept in practice while in the Gruppi?
- (iii) Are any instructors available for cross posting? Experienced instructors in all branches are needed.

(b) Sappers

- (i) Instructors, both young officers and Senior NCOs urgently required.
- (ii) A short refresher course for Officers and Senior NCOs to cover all branches is suggested. Could students be made available?

4. E & M School

- (a) Still a great shortage of students for courses.

Vehicle Mechanics.
Motor " "
Driver " "
Armourers,
Gun Fitters.

Students require basic knowledge as the courses are mainly advanced conversion. Instructors urgently required in all branches.

6984

- 2 -

4. E & M School (Cont'd)

- (b) Would a COs course in Maintenance and Inspection be useful?

5. Police School

- (a) How are the many Carabinieri we have trained progressing - what are their weak points, if any?
- (b) We could run a Regimental Police course for the Gruppi if they have suitable students available.

6. Infantry

At present we have plenty of scope and vacancies for training Battalion Specialists (Mortars, Carriers, Anti-Tank, Pioneers, etc). Are any men available for training?

Reviewed by
Col Mc King.

(a) are any available available for NCO course at 2nd School?
(b) We want instruction there for any?
(c) are there any pamphlets, requiring completion with studies?

NOTE:-

++++ SIVA

1. (f) In order to make Tactical School discussions on co-operation of All Arms more realistic - could a few additional Artillery and Genio Officers be made available to attend each Tactical course?

HWK/asj

6933

HQ COMBAT GROUP MANTOVA

Office of the Chief of Staff - Ops & Int.

904

List of Courses attended by personnel of the MANTOVA Group at CESANO Training Centre at CESANO.

Nature of Courses	Location of Courses	Personnel to attend	Duration
Motor Mechanics	Scuola Meccanici CESANO	2 ORs	6 weeks (commenced on 5 May)
Driver Mechanics	"	4 ORs	4 weeks (commencing on 6 May)
Armourers	"	2 ORs	3 weeks (commencing on 6 May)
Gun Fitters	"	2 ORs	6 weeks (commenced on 6 May)
Tactics Course No. 2	S.I.V.A. Manziana	3 offr	4 weeks (commencing 14 May)
Weapon Trg Course No. 2	"	5 offr 5 NCO's	"
Administration Course No. 1	"	3 offr 3 NCO's	"
Tactics Course No. 3	"	2 Capt 2 Subs	4 weeks (commencing 17 June)
Weapon Trg Course No. 3	"	2 offr 3 NCO's	"
Administration Course No. 2	"	2 offr 1 NCOs	"
Drivers	Drivers School CESANO	50 ORs	Commenced 6 July
Tactics	S.I.V.A. Manziana	8 offr	Commences 30 Aug
Weapon Trg	"	6 offr 5 NCOs	6932
Admin	"	2 offr	"
Hygiene	"	3 offr	18 - 30 Aug
Military Police Course No. 3	Trg Centre CESANO	1 offr 10 Carabinieri	7 July - 4 Aug
Military Police Course No. 4	"	1 offr	To commence 13 Aug

Motor Mechanics	Scuola Meccanici CESANO	2 ORs	6 weeks (commencing on 6 May)
Driver Mechanics	"	4 ORs	4 weeks (commencing on 6 May)
Armourers	"	2 ORs	3 weeks (commencing on 6 May)
Gun Fitters	"	2 ORs	6 weeks (commencing on 6 May)
Tactics Course No. 2	S.I.V.A. Manziana	3 offr	4 weeks (commencing 14 May)
Weapon Trg Course No. 2	"	5 offr 5 NCO's	"
Administration Course No. 1	"	3 offr 3 NCO's	"
Tactics Course No. 3	"	2 Cpts 2 Subs	4 weeks (commencing 17 June)
Weapon Trg Course No. 3	"	2 offr 3 NCO's	"
Administration Course No. 2	"	2 offr 1 NCOs	"
Drivers	Drivers School CESANO	50 ORs	Commenced 6 July
Tactics	S.I.V.A. Manziana	8 offr	Commences 30 Aug
Weapon Trg	"	6 offr 5 NCOs	6982
Admin	"	2 offr	"
Hygiene	"	3 offr	18 - 30 Aug
Military Police Course No. 3	Trg Centre CESANO	1 offr 10 Carabinieri	7 July - 4 Aug
Military Police Course No. 4	"	1 offr 9 Carabinieri	To commence 13 Aug
Physics	School of Physics CESANO	1 offr 1 NCO	6 weeks (To commence 25 Aug)

Subject :- Courses.

56 BLU
6 G

/ May 45.

Combat Gp, MANTOVA.

1. The following vacancies on Courses are allotted at the Italian Instructors School MANZIANA F 4593 (map ITALY 1: 200,000 Sheet 17).

(a) Tactical Wing.

(i) Senior Officers and Coy Comds (combined) Course No 2.	Senior offrs 3 Junior offrs 3
---	----------------------------------

(b) Weapon Training Wing.

(i) Fl Weapons Course No 2	Junior offrs 3 NCO's 3
(ii) 3 in Mortar Course No 2	Junior offrs Nil NCO's 2
(iii) 6 pr A/tk Course No 2	NCO's 2
(iv) Snipers Course No 2	Junior offrs 2 NCO's 2

(c) Adm Wing.

(i) Adm Senior Course No 1	Senior offrs 2 Captains 2
(ii) Adm Junior Course No 1	Junior offrs 1 NCO's 3

6981

2/.....

- 2 -

2. It is suggested that one vacancy on the weapons course (sub para b (1) above should be given to the Artillery Regiment to provide an instructor in small arms.

3. All courses commence 14 May 45 and are of three weeks duration. Students will assemble on 13 May.

4. A brief syllabus of courses joining instructions and joining certificate are attached.

In the Field.
AG/dp

W. J. Padula
Lt-Col.
GS.

HQ COMBAT GROUP MANTOVA
Office of the Chief of Staff - Operations & Intelligence.

01/1471

PM 104 22 Feb 45

Subject :- Courses at CMTC BENEVENTO for Snipers,
Unit Junior Leaders and 3" Mortars.

To:- HQ 76 Inf Regt
114 Inf Regt.

56 BLU for information.

1. A course for snipers, unit junior leaders and 3" mortars will start on the 26 Feb at the CMTC.
2. Duration. 26 Feb to 17 Mar.
3. Vacancies

Snipers	1 officer per Regt.
Unit Junior Leaders	1 officer per Regt.
3" Mortars	2 officers per Regt.
4. Officers will report at 1400 hrs on 24 Feb at No. 2. Group office in CMTC building.
5. Departure at 1300 hrs on 24 Feb by transport supplied by this HQ from PIAZZA P PIEDMONT in S. GIORGIO.
6. General Details.
 - (a) Nominal roll of officers chosen to be submitted to this HQ by 24 Feb with attached personal record of service up to '44)
 - (b) Selected officers will be medically examined and a certificate as per enclosure 'A' given.
 - (c) Equipment. All must be equipped with blankets, mattress, eating utensils, camp beds and note books and pencils.
 - (d) Batmen will not be taken.
 - (e) No rations will be given on the day of reporting.
 - (f) Delays will under no circumstances be admissible.

Guido Bologna Gen

Subject :- Courses at GATC.

No. Combat Group, MANPOVA.

Copy to :- GATC.

Ing Inc.

56 HJH
6 C

21 Feb 45.

1. The following vacancies have been allotted to Combat Group, MANPOVA on courses at the GATC from 26 Feb - 17 Mar 45, :-

- (a) Snipers 2 officers
- (b) 3" Mortars 4 officers
- (c) Junior Leaders 4 officers

It is suggested that in all cases the vacancies should be split equally between the two Infantry Regts.

2. The complete party should report to No. 2 Group Office (inside the GATC compound) between 1400 and 1600 hrs on 24 Feb. An interpreter should accompany them to explain which courses they are to attend and see them settled into their billets. The interpreter can then return.

3. Other joining instructions are as at Appendix 'A' to 6/7 G dated 4 Feb of this HQ.

In the Field.
AG/CC

Copies to :- 6/12 G
6/9 G

for
for Lt-Col.
GS.

6979

42A
SECRET

SUBJECT: Courses - Combat Group MANTOVA.

DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ CMF

Tel: 11667

DMT/55/13/MT1

22 Jan 45.

56 BLU

Copy to:- NMIA

41A
Ref your 6 G dated 17 Jan 45.

1. It is regretted that at present there are no facilities for training personnel as you request, owing to large British demands on the same courses as you require. CMTC and other British Trg Establishments cannot help.

2. It is suggested that the only way of meeting these requirements until the Italian Rft Trg Centre is established, is by means of instructors courses run within MANTOVA Group by instructors already trained at CMTC.

RDS/mt

24 JAN 1945

69
1948
Brig. Maj
D.M.T.

Subject :- Courses - Combat Group MANTOVA.

SECRET

56 HLU
60

17 Jan 45

DAT.

Copy to :- MCLA.

It is requested that personnel of Combat Group MANTOVA may be sent on courses as follows :-

- (a) Snipers. 24. No sniper training has so far taken place in this Group. The W.E. is four per bn.
- (b) Fl Weapons. 36 Training has begun in this subject, but there is always need for more instructors.
- (c) Driver Mechanics.

The position is as follows :-

Deficiency as per Appx 'A' to Progress Report No. 2	42
Add Arty requirements. (None on W.E.)	30
" Mech Engs Wkps	41
" LAD's	13
" Med Sec	4
" Error in addition in Appx 'A'	15
	<u>150</u>

It will be appreciated if a proportion of these can be trained at the GTC or elsewhere. Though there are no Arty driver mechs on W.E. it is thought that at least 30 are required.

- (a) Other Specialists. A large number of specialists of other categories are also deficient. It is hoped that a proportion of these will be trained before being posted to the Group. If not, a heavy additional commitment will arise.

In the Field.
AG/ec

6977

Lt-Col.
CS.

1245