

ACC

10000/120/3688

E 6

Engineer

Jan. 7, 1945

10000/120/3688

E 6

Engineers Progress Reports

Jan. 7, 1945 - May 15, 1945

137
164

Subject :- Report on 104 Eng Bn - Combat Group MANT A.

56 HLU
6 B

15 May 45

GSO I,
56 HLU.

1. Standard of Training Achieved.

(a) Policy. The engr training policy laid down by Eng Sec, AFHQ was that the eng units should receive training only in the use of British equipment with which they were not familiar and that they were not to be trained in RT, Mech Equipment, or Wet Bridging. In other respects the units were to be considered as trained Sapper units. In practice the task was much more difficult and by the time the units were re-organized to the new WE they were virtually new units and had to be trained from scratch.

(b) Method. Training was carried out by Italian offrs and NCO's who had attended courses at the SER. The number of trained instructors available was inadequate, and in some cases the instructors were not considered suitable types for the Gp Engrs, showing that the original selection had not been done with sufficient thoroughness. Had it not been for the 3 British Sapper NCO's attached for training, training would have been very much slower.

(c) Syllabus. Training carried out was :-

1. Mine Warfare.
2. Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging.
3. Fieldworks & Roadworks.
4. Demolitions and use of British Service Explosives.
5. Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles.
6. General Military Training, including Weapon Training.

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3. Fieldworks & Roadworks.
4. Demolitions and use of British Service Explosives.
5. Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles.
6. General Military Training, including Weapon Training.

(d) Conclusion. It is considered that the task of training the HAWTHA Engrs has been achieved i.e. they are trained sufficiently to be able to operate in a defensive role. They are not capable of mobile operations.

2. Suggested Improvements in Training for the future.

- (a) Discipline. The principle cause of the shortcomings of the Eng units is bad discipline, resulting in bad organization and sloppiness in training and works. Any future training must be designed to obviate this fundamental failing.
- (b) Training. Generally the Italian officer had very little idea of how to train his men. Offrs and NCO's will have to be much more thoroughly trained at Military Training Establishments before this can be improved.
- (c) Junior Officers & NCO's. The present standard is poor. Junior offrs generally ~~are~~ ^{are} quite well informed but they lack the drive to put their ideas into practice. NCO's are very poor. Drastic steps should be taken to produce a much improved type of Junior offr and NCO.

3. Engrs in Post War Italian Army.

The present organization is unsuitable for div engr. Suggested improvements are :-

- (a) Engrs and Sigs should be completely separate.
- (b) CRE should have adequate staff.
- (c) Tpt of Pd Coys should be increased to equal the British scale to make them completely mobile.
- (d) Pd Coys should be equipped and trained in MT and Mech Equip.
- (e) Training should commence from the beginning with individual training, and sappers must learn to be soldiers first.

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3. Engrs in Post War Italian Army.

The present organization is unsuitable for div engrs. Suggested

improvements are :-

- (a) Engrs and Sigs should be completely separate.
- (b) CTS should have adequate staff.
- (c) Tpt of Pd Coys should be increased to equal the British scale to make them completely mobile.
- (d) Pd Coys should be equipped and trained in RT and Mech Equip.
- (e) Training should commence from the beginning with individual training, and sappers must learn to be soldiers first.

In the Field.
PWC/cc

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Capt.
SO RT.

13A
Subject :- Report of Eng Tn and Equipment of 10th Eng Bn, It Combat
Gp, SANTOVA as at 1200 hrs. 28.4.45.

To :- CE Main 3 Army

From :- Major P.D. HAMMOND RM. Att 56 HLM.

1. Organization.

10th Eng Bn consists of 4 Pz Coy and 79 Pz Coy, plus one Signal Coy, all w/c C.O. of the Bn who acts as CSM and CR Sigs. There is no Pz Pz Coy attached to this Bn at present.

2. Past History.

Bn commenced mobilising Dec 1944 and has been training and continuing with its mobilization for the past 3 1/2 months under supervision of Capt. F.H. GENTLE SO RM. During the last six weeks they have received practically the whole of their G 1093, vehicles and equipment, and at present have only minor deficiencies.

3. PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT.

- (a) G 1093 - Up to scale apart from explosives and 1st line am which is being provided locally in the immediate future.
- (b) Vehicles - Up to scale.
- (c) W.O. Controlled Stores - Up to scale.
- (d) Personnel - W/O is 230 all ranks.

4 Pz Coy - present strength 232.
79 Pz Coy - present strength 218.

Major FENCHELLO is CSM, but has been absent through sickness for two months and Capt. SPENCER RM, is acting CSM.
79 Pz Coy are one Subaltern deficient but a replacement has already been asked for through Italian Army Reinforcement channels.

- (e) INTERCOMMUNICATIONS. - No R/T is included in W/O and DE 1c the only means of intercommunication.

- (f) Arms & Equipment - Up to scale.

4. STATE OF TRAINING.

- (a) For 3 months from Jan to March 1945 the Coys had individual military and sapper training, during which time they did mine warfare, Simple Dry Bailey Bridging, Field Works and Demolitions, Driving and maintenance of Vehicles, Road Construction (in laying of Soudfield track, Condorey rd.)

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2. PAST HISTORY.

It commenced mobilising Dec 1944 and has been training and continuing with its mobilisation for the past 5 1/2 months under supervision of Capt. P.H. GENTLE SO RD. During the last six weeks they have received practically the whole of their G 1093, vehicles and equipment, and at present have only minor deficiencies.

3. PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT.

- (a) G 1093 - Up to scale apart from explosives and 1st line arm which is being provided locally in the immediate future.
- (b) Vehicles - Up to scale.
- (c) A.O. Controlled Stores - Up to scale.
- (d) Personnel - W/S is 230 all ranks.

4. Pd Coy - present strength 232.

79 Pa Coy - present strength 213.

Major PROCKLE is CSM, but has been absent through sickness for two months and Capt. JENNINGS, is acting CSM.

79 Pa Coy are one subaltern deficient but a replacement has already been asked for through Italian Army Reinforcement channels.

- (e) INTERCOMMUNICATIONS. - No R/T is included in W/E and DR 1 is the only means of intercommunication.

- (f) Arms & Equipment - Up to scale.

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4. STATE OF TRAINING.

- (a) For 3 months from Jan to March 1945 the Coys had individual military and sapper training, during which time they did Mine Warfare, Simple Dry Bailey Bridging, Field Forts and Demolition, Driving and maintenance of Vehicles, Road Construction (in laying of Sonerfield track, Corduroy rd.)
- (b) In the first two weeks of April, the Coys were organised into platoons with their own vehicles, and practised movement and loading of G 1093. They also took part in a skeleton exercise organised for the whole Combat Group, when orders, communications and battle drill were practised.
- (c) No training has been done in (i) Net bridging and Watersmanship, (ii) Water Supply, (iii) Use of M, and (iv) Advanced Bailey. It is not known whether it is intended that this Bn should be trained in (i), (iii) and (iv). If so, equipment and facilities would have to be provided and it would take at least six weeks to train both Pa Coys. May a ruling be given as to whether this training is required please?

2/.....

- 2 -

As regards (ii) Water Supply, it is considered that the Coys should be able to erect and run a Div water point, and efforts will be made to obtain necessary equipment locally to train them in this. I have had no opportunity to date to gather an opinion as to the state of training personally, but this will be possible during the coming week. It appears however that both Coys need further training in working as units, in deployment, in movement and in the organisations for platoon and Coy tasks, all under operational conditions.

5. TRAINING STORES.

The following latest types of German Mines are required :-
Topf Mine, Glass Mine 43, Riegel Mine (H.M. 43.), complete with igniters, if available. Is it possible for at least one sample of each to be supplied please?

In the Field.
28 April 45.
POH/dp

[Signature]
Major. RE.
Att. 56 BLU.

Distribution :-
CE Main 3 Army
C.O. 56 BLU
File

Subject: 104 Engineer Battalion, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
 Progress Report to 5th April 45

GSO I, 56 HJ
 MIA (for G. R.R.)

CONFIDENTIAL

56 HJ
 6 E

8 April 45

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

(a) Companies are now fairly well equipped with Special Equipment and vehicles. Equipment and vehicles have been allocated to Platoons. Training has consisted chiefly of use of technical equipment, practice loading of vehicles and training of personnel in small convoy runs. Drivers to fill R.E.'s have now been initially trained at the Battalion Driving School and their further training is now the responsibility of O's C Companies. The Battalion Driving School will close down on 7 April 45.

2. DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

(a) V.O.R. state is 10%. The newly equipped L.R.R. is due to join the Battalion now, and it is hoped that this will improve the V.O.R. state. The chief difficulty is lack of R.E. fitters with experience of Allied vehicles.

3. PERSONNEL - OFFICERS

(a) The G.O. of the Battalion is still sick, and G.O. 3 Field Park Company is not considered to be entirely satisfactory. It is therefore still desirable that the two Engineer Captains requested in 56 HJ letter AGA of 14 March 45 to MIA be posted to the Group.

4. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

NIL

5. MENUS ATTENDING TRAINING

Satisfactory.

6. COURSE RUNNING

NIL

7. STATE OF TRAINING AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

8. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

(a) There is NO Interpreter at Battalion HQ.

(b) Deficiencies of Tradesmen, particularly MT fitters and Tradesmen for Workshops Platoon of 3 Field Park Company.

9. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

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and training of personnel in small conveyance. Drivers to fill W.E.'s have been initially trained at the Battalion Driving School and their further training is now the responsibility of O's C Companies. The Battalion Driving School will close down on 7 April 45.

2. DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

(a) V.O.P. state is 10%. The newly equipped L.A.D. is one to join the Battalion now, and it is hoped that this will improve the V.O.P. state. The chief difficulty is lack of M.L. fitters with experience of Allied vehicles.

3. PERSONNEL - OFFICERS

(a) The C.O. of the Battalion is still sick, and O.C. 3 Field Park Company is not considered to be entirely satisfactory. It is therefore still desirable that the two Engineer Captains requested in 56 HJ letter AG4 of 14 March 45 to MILA be posted to the Group.

4. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

NIL

5. MEMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

Satisfactory.

6. COURSES BEING

NIL

7. STATE OF TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

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See Appendix 14(attached.

8. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- (a) There is HQ Interpreter at Battalion HQ.
- (b) Deficiencies of Tradesmen, particularly MF fitters and Tradesmen for Workshops Platoon of 3 Field Park Company.

9. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

General Military Training
 Sniper Training
 Maintenance and Operation of vehicles and Field Plant.

45%
 40%
 55%

10. READINESS FOR OPERATIONAL ROLE

A start has been made with Platoon schemes. More of these will be necessary before the Battalion can be considered ready for taking up an Operational Role, (together with Group exercises involving the whole of the Battalion).

In The Field
 MIL/ONE

SO. R.E.
 Capt.

Appendix A: 1st Engineer Co. Personnel Report to 5th April 45

TYPE OF TRADES OR SPECIALTY	4 Field Company				79 Field Company			
	Field Coy	No. Trained	No. Requiring Training	No. Under Training	Field Coy	No. Trained	No. Requiring Training	No. Under Training
ARMY ENGINEERS	5	5	-	-	3	2	-	-
WIREMEN	16	16	-	-	15	1	-	-
WIREMEN and COINERS	20	22	2	-	17	7	-	-
WIREMEN	4	4	-	-	4	-	-	-
WIREMEN	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
WIREMEN	4	4	-	-	3	1	-	-
WIREMEN (C/O and S.O.)	7	7	-	-	7	-	-	-
WIREMEN	12	12	-	-	12	-	-	-
WIREMEN and COINERS	5	2	1	1	4	-	-	-
WIREMEN	12	12	-	-	10	2	-	-
WIREMEN	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
WIREMEN and COINERS	4	3	1	1	3	1	-	-
WIREMEN	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
WIREMEN	4	4	-	-	3	1	-	-
WIREMEN	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
WIREMEN	26	26	-	-	26	-	-	-
WIREMEN	5	5	-	-	5	2	-	-

Inspection Report to

5th APRIL 45

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1st Field Company					79 Field Company					TOTAL DEFICIENCIES For Field Coy against W.D.
No	No	No	Deficiencies		No	No	Deficiencies			
Trained	requiring	under	against		Trained	requiring	under	against		
Training	Training	Training	W.D.		Training	Training	Training	W.D.		
5	5	-	-	-	3	2	2	2	2	2
15	14	-	-	8	15	1	1	1	1	1
22	22	2	-	2	17	7	2	7	2	2
4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4	4	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	1	1
7	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
12	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
5	3	1	1	2	4	-	-	1	1	1
12	12	-	-	-	10	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4	4	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	1	1
4	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
25	25	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-
5	5	-	-	-	5	2	-	2	2	2

THE

Field	:	3 Field Test Company.	:	Experiences
Rank	:	NO	:	NO
Company	:	Trained	:	Requiring: under
W.E.	:		:	Training: Training: WE.

FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: 104 Engineer Battalion, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 21 March 45.

56 HLU
6 H

21 March 45

300 L 56 HLU
MIA (for 50. R.R.)

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

With the arrival of substantial quantities of technical equipment and vehicles, emphasis during the past two weeks has been on organization of Companies, and training of drivers.

(a) Sapper Training

Training in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks has continued. Difficulty is still experienced in persuading Officers that once their units have learned to do a particular type of work, they must continue training in the same subject until the maximum efficiency has been attained.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Firing of all weapons has continued, each Company being allotted the Open Range for 2 days per week. The standard of Care of Arms is improving.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

The Battalion Driving School is functioning satisfactorily.

There are now 9 vehicles allotted for training and the Driver situation is in hand. By 31 March sufficient drivers will be trained to fill establishment. Training will continue, to prepare as many spare drivers as possible.

2. PERSONNEL

OPTIONS

See 56 HLU letter AGA of 14 Mar ch 45.

The O.C. 3 Field Park Company has effected an improvement in his unit, but the standard is not yet satisfactory.

3. DEPLETIONS FROM TRAINING :- ^{Refuse} NIL

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

This has not been satisfactory in the case of 79 Field Company, but is being rectified by the new O.C.

5. COURSES RUNNING

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(c) REPAIR TRAINING

Training in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks has continued. Difficulty is still experienced in persuading Officers that once their units have learned to do a particular type of work, they must continue training in the same subject until the maximum efficiency has been attained.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Firing of all weapons has continued, each Company being allotted the Open Range for 2 days per week. The standard of Fire of Arms is improving.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

The Battalion Driving School is functioning satisfactory.

There are now 9 vehicles allotted for training and the Driver situation is in hand. By 31 March sufficient drivers will be trained to fill establishment. Training will continue, to prepare as many spare drivers as possible.

2. PERSONNEL

OFFICERS

See 56 HLI Letter A24 of 14 Mar ch 45.

The G. C. 3 Field Park Company has effected an improvement in his unit, but the standard is not yet satisfactory.

3. DEVIATIONS FROM TRAINING :- ^{Proposed} NIL

4. HIDERS ATTENDING TRAINING

This has not been satisfactory in the case of /9 Field Company, but is being rectified by the new G.C.

5. COURSES RUNNING

Two courses are being held for Infantry Pioneer Assault Sections at the Engineer Training Ground, in Assault Demolitions, and Mine Warfare.

HEP is being asked to run a short course in Maintenance and Repair of Mine Detectors for unit Electricians to include personnel from Infantry Battalions.

6. STATE OF TRAINEES AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

2/.....sheet

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7. DEFICIENCIES ENCOUNTERED

- (a) Lack of interpreters. SO. R.E., GRENADA Group considers at least one Interpreter is required for each Company and Battalion R.E. At present there is no Interpreter with the Engineer Battalion.
- (b) Deficiencies of Tradesmen, particularly Fitters and Driver Mechanics, and Tradesmen for Workshop Platoon of 3 Field Park Company.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE OBTAINED

- Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging
- Mine Warfare
- Fieldworks
- Demolitions
- Weapon Training
- Road and Track Construction
- Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
- Water Supply
- Aircraft and Battle Drill
- Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant
- Store Keeping,

35%
40%
25%
30%
35%
25%
50%
100%
70%
80%
15%

In The Field
PHE/cw

SO. R.E.
Capt.

Appendix 'A' to 104 Engineer Bn Progress Report to 21 March 49

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TYPE OF TRADES IN OR SPECIALIZED	4 Field Company					79 Field Company				
	Field Co No.	Trained No.	Requiring Training No.	Under Training No.	Deficient No.	Field Co No.	Trained No.	Requiring Training No.	Under Training No.	Deficient No.
BLACKSMITHS	5	5	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	16	11	-	-	-	15	11	-	-	-
WELDER and JOINERS	24	22	2	-	-	13	4	-	-	-
CHIEFS	4	4	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-
SPRINTSMAN	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4	3	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS (I/O and PWPS)	7	6	-	-	-	7	7	-	-	-
CLERKS	12	12	-	-	-	12	12	-	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	3	3	1	1	2	4	1	-	-	-
MOTOR CYCLISTS	12	10	2	2	2	20	2	-	-	-
WATER PUMPERS	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	4	3	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
SPICE MAKERS	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	4	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
WATERMEN	4	4	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
DRIVERS I/O	4	4	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
DRIVER MECHANICS	26	17	9	9	9	17	9	-	-	-
	5	4	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-

Engineers Report to 21 March 45

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4 Field Company				79 Field Company				TOTAL
No. of				No. of				DEFICIENCIES
Trained: Requiring				Trained: Requiring				for Field Days
Training: Under				Training: Under				against
Training: T.S.				Training: T.S.				T.O.
5	5	-	-	3	2	1	2	2
16	11	-	-	15	1	1	1	6
22	22	2	-	13	4	2	11	13
4	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
4	3	1	-	2	-	-	2	3
7	6	-	-	7	-	-	-	1
12	12	-	-	12	-	-	-	-
5	3	1	1	2	-	-	1	3
12	10	2	2	4	2	2	2	4
1	-	1	1	10	1	1	1	1
4	3	1	-	3	1	-	1	2
4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
4	4	-	-	3	4	-	1	4
4	4	-	-	2	-	-	2	2
26	17	9	9	17	9	9	9	18
5	4	-	-	4	4	4	4	5

Subject: 101 Engineer Battalion, Combat Group "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 6 March 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

56 DML
6 E

7 March 45.

GSO I

S. O. P. E. MILL.

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

Training has continued according to program. The change of Training area has proved an advantage, giving personnel more interest. With all personnel under cover, a higher standard of economy and administration can be expected and is being obtained in the case of 4 Field Company, but 79 Field Company and 3 Field Park Company still have a great deal of leeway to make up. These two Companies require good O.C.s, which are at present lacking.

(a) Sapper Training

This has continued in Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldworks and Roadworks. For the first time, detailed programmes were made out by Company O.C.s, from which it was evident that they had not followed their Companies Training to date. It is hoped this will improve, as Officers are now being appointed in Companies to deal with administration, thus freeing the Company Commanders of this work.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Firing on open range continues. Firing with P.L.A.T. has commenced. Care of Arms in all units except 4 Field Company is still poor, but the Battalion Commander is following this up.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

The Battalion Driving School is now functioning. A short course for instructors has been completed, and the first batch of drivers are now being trained. Owing to the shortage of vehicles for this purpose, only 40 drivers and 20 motorcyclists can be trained at one time. This is insufficient, as this school has also to cater for the Signal Company, and will be increased as more vehicles become available.

2. PERSONNEL

OFFICERS

O.C. 79 Field Company has proved unsuitable, after nearly a month consulting the Company. A replacement has been asked for through Italian Channels. The Officer who has to have taken Command 3 Field Park Company has now been transferred to the Signal Company as the Signal Company O.C. was unsuitable. A replacement has also been asked for through Italian Channels. The position regarding Officers to Command these two Companies is therefore still most unsatisfactory and until suitable Officers are forthcoming neither Company will be satisfactory.

up. These two companies require good O.C.s, which are at present lacking.

(c) SAFETY TRAINING

This has continued in Elementary Dry Bayley Bridging, Mine Warfare, Demolitions, Fieldcraft and Roadwork. For the first time, detailed programmes were made out by Company O.C.s, from which it was evident that they had not followed their Companies Training to date. It is hoped this will improve, as Officers are now being appointed in Companies to deal with administration, thus freeing the Company Commanders of this work.

(d) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Firing on open range continues. Firing with P.I.A.T. has commenced. Care of Arms in all units except 4 Field Company is still poor, but the Battalion Commander is following this up.

(e) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES

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2/.....sheet

- 2 -

3. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAM

NIL

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

Satisfactory

5. COURSES RUNNING

Nil in addition to training within Battalions.

6. STATE OF TRAINING AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The most serious difficulty is O's & C's for 79 Field Company and 3 Field Park Company, see para 2 above. Other difficulties are as stated in my last report.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging

Mine Warfare

Flamethrowers

Demolitions

Weapon Training

Road and Track Construction

Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles

Water Supply

Fieldcraft and Battle Drill

Maintenance and Organisation of British Field Plant

Store Keeping

45%
45%
50%
35%
45%
35%
75%
100%
80%
90%
60%

In The Field
RM/CMF

1st Col.
GR

Appendix 'A' to M4 Engineer Co. Progress Report to 6th March 45

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TYPE OF TRADE OR SPECIALIST	4 Field Company				79 Field Company			
	W.I.	Boys	Trained	Requiring Training	W.I.	Boys	Trained	Requiring Training
ENGINEERS	5	5	-	-	3	2	1	2
BATTAL ENGINEER	16	11	-	-	5	1	-	1
COMPASS AND JOURNAL	2	22	-	-	2	4	1	11
CHARTS	4	4	-	-	4	-	-	-
TELETYPE	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
TELETYPE MANS	4	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
TRAINING OFFICERS (1/2 and 2/3)	7	5	-	-	2	-	-	2
WIRELESS	12	12	-	-	2	-	-	-
POLYGRAPH and DOCUMENT	5	2	1	1	12	-	-	-
ARMY VICTIMS	12	10	2	2	4	-	-	1
WIRELESS	1	-	1	2	3	4	4	2
TELETYPE and TELETYPE	4	3	1	1	1	-	-	-
WIRELESS	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	1
TELETYPE MANS	4	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
WIRELESS	4	4	-	-	1	1	-	1
DRIVERS 1/c	26	6	19	10	3	-	-	1
DRIVER ASSISTANTS	5	4	-	-	20	9	12	17
					1	2	10	4

6th March 45

151

4 Field Company

79 Field Company

TOTAL
DEFICIENCIES
for Field Coy's

4 Field Company				79 Field Company				TOTAL	
No		No		No		No		No	
Trained		Requiring reader		Trained		Requiring reader		Trained	
Training		Training		Training		Training		Training	
Against		Against		Against		Against		Against	
5	-	-	-	3	2	1	2	2	2
11	-	-	-	5	1	-	1	6	6
22	-	-	-	13	4	1	11	13	13
4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	3	3
5	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	2	2
12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	1	1	4	-	-	1	4	4
10	2	2	2	3	4	4	9	11	11
-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
3	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	2	2
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	2	2
4	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1
6	6	19	10	20	12	10	17	27	27
5	4	-	-	1	2	-	4	5	5

Appendix 2 to 104 Engineer Bn Progress Report to 6th March 45

TITLE OF TRANSMISSION OR SPECIALISTS	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field Rank	Field 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74 98
Subject: 104 Engineer Bn, Combat Group, "MANTOVA"
Progress Report to 24 Feb 45.

56 HLU
6 B
22 Feb 45

CSO I

S.O.R.E. M.M.I.A.

1. Progress of Training

Training has continued according to programmes, a short interruption being caused by the move of units to the new locations. This move provided valuable training experience, particularly for 3 Field Park Coy, (loading and moving of Engineer Stores especially Bailey Bridge Sets) providing that the various mistakes made have been noted and are not expected in the future.

(a) Snapper Training

Progress is fair. The most serious fault lies in the weak lack of organisation on the part of platoon Officers and N.C.O.s. The men are keen and providing they are in the picture they will work satisfactorily.

(1) Elementary Bailey Bridging

50% of personnel have now completed the second Bailey training programme. The move of the Bailey Set to the new site was carried out in the form of a simple bridging exercise, the bridging platoon of the 3 Field Park Coy doing the loading and transporting in their own vehicles and a platoon of 79 Field Company erecting a 80' D.S. Class 40 bridge over the river at the new training site. The Field Park Coy worked well and efficiently, but the platoon engaged on construction was hopeless and gave an exhibition of how NOT to build a Bailey bridge making every conceivable mistake. There was little evidence of any forethought or planning and complete lack of organisation of work on the site.

(11) Mine Warfare

50% of personnel have completed the second programme. Again lack of organisation and planning reduces the effectiveness of this training and every advantage is not being derived from a considerable amount of training stores available.

(111) Demolitions

This subject is going well. Emphasis is being placed on the values and different uses of British service explosives, accessories, and instruments, Italian methods of carrying out of demolitions being retained to avoid confusion.

(v) Fieldworks and Roadworks

Progress is satisfactory, and the only problem is transport for material for roadworks. All personnel are familiar with use of Boverfield track.

(a) General Training

Progress is fair. The most serious fault lies in the weak lack of organization on the part of platoon officers and N.C.O.s. The men are keen and providing they are in the picture they will work satisfactorily.

(1) Elementary Bailey Bridging.

50% of personnel have now completed the second Bailey training programme. The move of the Bailey Set to the new site was carried out in the form of a simple bridging exercise, the bridging platoon of the 5 Field Park Coy doing the loading and transporting in their own vehicles and a platoon of 75 Field Company erecting a 80' D.S. Class 40 bridge over the river at the new training site. The Field Park Coy worked well and efficiently, but the platoon engaged on construction was hopelessly and gave an exhibition of how NOT to build a Bailey bridge making every conceivable mistake. There was little evidence of any forethought or planning and complete lack of organization of work on the site.

(11) Mine Warfare.

50% of personnel have completed the second programme. Again lack of organization and planning reduces the effectiveness of this training and every advantage is not being derived from a considerable amount of training stores available.

(111) Demolitions.

This subject is going well. Emphasis is being placed on the values and different uses of British service explosives, accessories, and instruments, Italian methods of carrying out of demolition being retained to avoid confusion.

(v) Fieldworks and Roadworks.

Progress is satisfactory, and the only problem is transport for material for roadworks. All personnel are familiar with use of Comerford track.

2/..... sheet

- 2 -

B. Weapon Training and General Military Training

All personnel have fired their weapons on the open range. NO firing has yet been done with the P.I.A.T. This will commence shortly.

C. Driving and Maintenance of British Vehicles

Motorcyclists of the 3 Field Park Coy have been trained. NO driving and Maintenance instruction has yet been commenced due to non-availability of vehicles, the vehicles of the 3 Field Park Coy being engaged on works for the Group. A Bn driving School will commence to operate shortly.

2. Personnel.

All units now have O's. C. The newly arrived O.C. for the 3 Field Park Coy was intended for the Signals Coy, but as the position had already been filled, he was allotted to the Field Park Coy.

3. Deviations from Programme.

NIL

4. Numbers Attending Training

SATISFACTORY

5. Courses Running

NIL in addition to training within Battalion.

6. State of Tradesmen and Specialists.

See App 'A' attached

7. Difficulties Encountered

- (a) Lack of efficient interpreter at Bn H.Q.
- (b) Lack of transport and Special Equipment for training. The Engineer units are essentially mobile units and the scope of training is limited by lack of transport. A considerable amount of training cannot be commenced until Special Equipment is received.

8. Balance of Training to be Completed.

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging

Mine Warfare

Fieldworks

Demolitions

Weapon Training

Road and Track Construction

Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles

Water Supply

Fieldcraft and Battle Drill

Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.

Store Keeping

55%
55%
40%
40%
50%
45%
95%
100%
100%
60%

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all units now have C's. C. The newly arrived O.C. for the 3 Field Park Coy was intended for the Signals Coy, but as the position had already been filled, he was allotted to the Field Park Coy.

3. Deviations from Programme.

N I L

4. Numbers Attending Training

SATISFACTORY

5. Courses Running

NIL in addition to training within Battalion.

6. State of Tradesmen and Specialists.

See App 'A' attached

7. Difficulties Encountered

(a) Lack of efficient interpreter at Bn H.Q.

(b) Lack of transport and Special Equipment for training. The Engineer units are essentially mobile units and the scope of training is limited by lack of transport. A considerable amount of training cannot be commenced until Special Equipment is received.

8. Balance of Training to be Completed.

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging

Mine Warfare

Fieldworks

Demolitions

Weapon Training

Road and Track Construction

Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles

Water Supply

Fieldcraft and Battle Drill

Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.

Store Keeping

In The Field.
FHC/awf

Capt.
SO. P.E.

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55%
55%
40%
40%
50%
45%
90%
100%
85%
100%
60%

Appendix 'A' to 104 Engineer in Progress Report to 21 Feb 45

TYPE OF TRADES IN OR SPECIALIZED	Field :			4 Field Company			79 Field Company		
	Coy :	W.E. :	No :	W.E. :	No :	W.E. :	Coy :	W.E. :	No :
			Trained :	Requiring :	Under :	Requiring :	Trained :	Requiring :	Under :
			Training :	Training :	Training :	Training :		Training :	Training :
BLACK SMITHS	5	5	-	-	-	-	53	-2	-1
BLACKSMITHS	16	84	4	-	2	85	1615	-1	-
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	24	1822	4	-	4	62	1413	-4	-1
WHEELERS	4	4	-	-	-	-	34	-	-
WRIGHTSMEN	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4	43	-1	-	-	1	2	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS (I/O and P&PS)	7	45	2	-	-	32	67	-	-
WELDERS	12	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5	12	21	11	463	4	-	-	-
ARMOR CYCLISTS	12	210	92	22	102	73	-4	-4	-
WATER DOCTORS	1	-	1	-	1	-1	1	-	-
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	4	23	21	1	21	33	-	-	-
SHOE MAKERS	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	23	1	-	21	43	-1	-	-
WAGONMEN	4	4	-	-	-	43	-	-	-
DRIVERS I/O	26	116	1419	-10	1520	219	512	-10	-
INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS	5	34	2	-	21	41	-2	-	-

Progress Report to 21 Feb 45

4 Field Company					79 Field Company					TOTAL	
Field	Coy	W.E.	No	W.E.	Field	Coy	W.E.	No	W.E.	Field	Coy
Trained	Requiring	Under	Against	Trained	Requiring	Under	Against	Trained	Requiring	Under	Against
Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training	Training
5	5	-	-	-	53	- 2	- 1	- 2	-	2	
16	8 4	4 -	2 -	8 5	16 15	- 1	-	- 1	8	6	
24	18 22	4 -	4 -	6 2	14 13	- 4	- 1	10 11	16	13	
4	4	-	-	-	3 4	-	-	1 -	1	-	
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
4	4 3	- 1	-	- 1	2	-	-	2	2	3	
7	4 5	2 -	-	3 2	6 7	-	-	1 -	4	2	
12	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	
5	1 2	2 1	1 1	4 6 3	4	-	-	1	5 4	4	
12	2 10	9 2	2 2	10 2	7 3	- 4	- 4	5 9	15	11	
1	-	1	-	1	- 1	1 -	-	1 -	2	1	
4	2 3	2 1	1	2 1	3 3	- -	-	1 1	3	2	
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
4	2 3	1 -	- -	2 1	4 3	- 1	- -	- 1	2	2	
4	4	-	-	-	4 3	-	-	- 1	-	1	
26	11 6	14 19	- 10	15 20	21 9	5 12	- 10	5 17	20	37	
5	3 4	2 -	-	2 1	4 1	- 2	-	1 4	3	5	

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Subject: 10th Engineer Bn, Combat Group, "MANHOVA"
Progress Report to 6 Feb 45.

56 HML

62

7 Feb 45.

G. S. O. I., 56 HML

S. O. R. E., M. E. I. A.

1. PROGRESS OF TRAINING

Pair program has been made since 24 Jan 45, although snow and rain have caused frequent minor interruptions.

(a) SAFETY TRAINING

All personnel including a few newly arrived reinforcements have now done a weeks course in elementary Dry Battery Bridging, and a start has been made with a more advanced program including methods of launching on restricted sites, construction of piers etc. Training in Plebentia, Mine Warfare and Demolitions continues, the last named now including use of British Electrical methods of firing and testing circuits. Practical work on Truck and Load construction has been limited by lack of transport.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Approximately 50% of personnel have now fired their weapons on 30m and 200m ranges. Progress in general military training is slow.

(c) MAINTENANCE AND MAINTENANCE OF BRITISH VEHICLES

Not yet commenced. The Group driving school is due to be attached to Engineer Bn in approx a weeks time, and driving instructions will also commence under Bn arrangements in the near future. As vehicles are now being released for 3 Field Park Coy, it is most urgent that the Group Driving School be attached as soon as possible, and that at least one of the Bn L. A. D's commence to function.

2. PERSONNEL

The most serious deficiency is two Captains to command 79 Field Coy and 3 Field Park Coy. The G. O. for the former is expected to report for duty on 11 Feb 45; nothing definite is known of the date of arrival of the latter. This is most urgent, as the standard of 3 Field Park Coy is very poor and it is felt that the arrival of a new and efficient G. O. will do much to improve the general efficiency of the unit.

3. DEFICIENCIES FROM PROGRAMS

Inadequate weather conditions necessitated certain minor alterations in training programs. Briefly, however, training has been carried out according to programs laid down.

4. PERSONNEL ATTENDING TRAINING

(a) SAPPER TRAINING

All personnel excluding a few newly arrived reinforcements have now done a weeks course in elementary Dry Battery Bridging, and a start has been made with a more advanced programme involving methods of launching on restricted sites, construction of piers etc. Training in Fieldworks, Mine Warfare and Demolitions continues, the last named now including use of British Electrical methods of firing and testing circuits. Practical work on Track and Road construction has been limited by lack of transport.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Approximately 50% of personnel have now fired their weapons on 30x and 200x ranges. Progress in general military training is slow.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF BRITISH VEHICLES

Not yet commenced. The Group driving school is due to be attached to Engineer Bn in approx a weeks time, and driving instructions will also commence under Bn arrangements in the near future. As vehicles are now being released for 3 Field Park Coy, it is most urgent that the Group Driving School be attached as soon as possible, and that at least one of the Bn L.A.D's commence to function.

PERSONNEL

The most serious deficiency is two Captains to command 75 Field Coy and 3 Field Park Coy. The O.C. for the former is expected to report for duty on 11 Feb 45; nothing definite is known of the date of arrival of the latter. This is most urgent, as the standard of 3 Field Park Coy is very poor and it is felt that the arrival of a new and efficient O.C. will do much to improve the general efficiency of the unit.

DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

Incident weather conditions necessitated certain minor alterations in training programme. Usually, however, training has been carried out according to programme laid down.

NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

This is satisfactory. Frequent checks are made to ensure that maximum numbers possible attend training.

2/.....sheet

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5. COURSES RUNNING

NIL, in addition to Battalion training. In reply to a request for courses in Mine Warfare and Dry Bailey for Officers and N.C.O.'s, Engineer Section (AFM) have stated the R.T.E. cannot arrange a course in Mine Warfare but that it may be possible to arrange a course in Dry Bailey in the future.

6. STATE OF TRAINING AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- (a) Lack of an efficient interpreter at Battalion N.C.
- (b) Organisation by platoon Officers and N.C.O.'s is poor, e.g. they will not split their classes into small groups to work under junior N.C.O.'s, and the instructor decides too easily that things are hopeless or impossible.
- (c) Lack of Equipment for Tradesmen.
- (d) N.C.O.'s below the rank of Sergeant appear to take practically no responsibility of any kind. This has a bad effect on organization of training, and values, and on discipline.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Dry Bailey Bridging	65%
Mine Warfare	65%
Fieldworks	50%
Demolitions	50%
Women Training	65%
Road and Track Construction	55%
Store Keeping	70%
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Aircraft and Battle Drill	95%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.	100%

In The Field,
FM/inf.

Sept.
S.O.R.E.

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(b) Organization by platoon officers and N.C.O.'s is poor, s.t. they will not split their classes into small groups to work under junior N.C.O.'s, and the instructor decides too easily that things are hopeless or impossible.

(c) Lack of Equipment for Troopers.

(d) N.C.O.'s below the rank of Sergeant appear to take practically no responsibility of any kind. This has a bad effect on organization of training, and waste, and on discipline.

2. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Bay Railway Bridging

Mine Warfare

Fieldwork

Resolutions

Weapon Training

Road and Track Construction

Store Keeping

Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles

Water Supply

Aircraft and Battle Drill

Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.

67%
67%
50%
50%
69%
59%
70%
100%
100%
93%
100%

In The Field.
FM/cont.

Capt.
A. G. R. R.

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Appendix 'A' to 101 Engineer Bn Progress Report to 6 Feb 45.

143

TYPE OF TRADESMAN OR SPECIALISTS	Field :		A Field Company				79 Field Company			
	Coy	W.R.	No Trained	No requiring Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.R.	No Trained	No requiring Training	No under Training	
BLACKSMITHS	5		5	5	-	-	3	5	-	-
BRICKLAYERS	16		16	8	-	-	9	16	7	2
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	24		20	13	4	4	12	14	-	-
CLERKS	4		4	4	-	-	3	3	-	-
DRAFTSMEN	1		-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
ELECTRICIANS	4		4	4	-	-	2	2	-	-
ENGINE FITTERS(1/0 and PUMPS)	7		4	4	2	2	4	6	-	-
MINERS	12		12	12	-	-	12	12	-	-
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	5		3	1	2	2	3	4	-	-
POWER CYCLISTS	12		6	2	6	9	5	7	-	-
WATER DUTYMEN	1		-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
PLUMBERS and PIPEFITTERS	4		3	2	1	2	2	3	2	1
SEED MAKERS	1		1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4		3	2	1	1	2	4	2	-
WATERMEN	4		4	4	-	-	4	4	-	-
DRIVERS 1/0	26		20	11	6	14	10	21	5	-
DRIVER MECHANICS	5		4	3	1	2	4	4	-	-

Progress Report to 6 Feb 45.

143

Field Coy	4 Field Company				79 Field Company				Total
W.E.	No Trained	No requiring Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	No Trained	No requiring Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	for Field Coys against W.E.
5	5	5	-	-	3	5	-	2	2
16	16	8	-	-	9	16	7	7	7
20	20	18	4	4	12	14	-	12	16
4	4	4	-	-	3	3	-	1	1
1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
4	4	4	-	-	2	2	-	2	2
7	4	4	2	3	4	6	-	3	6
12	12	12	-	-	12	12	-	-	-
5	3	1	2	2	3	4	-	2	4
12	6	2	9	6	5	7	-	7	13
1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1
4	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	3
1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
4	3	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	3
4	4	4	-	-	4	4	-	-	-
26	20	11	6	6	10	21	5	16	22
5	4	3	1	1	4	4	-	1	2

Appendix 'A' to 10A Engineer En Progress Report to 6 Feb 45

TYPE OF TRAINING OR SPECIALISTS	Field		3		FD		PK		COY.		Deficiencies against U.S.
	Part Company U.S.	No Trained	No requiring under Training	No requiring under Training	No requiring under Training	No requiring under Training					
BLACKSMITHS	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BRICKLAYERS	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CARPENTERS and JOINERS	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GLAZERS	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DRAWINGMEN	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ELECTRICIANS	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGINE FITTERS (1/o and PUMPS)	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MINERS	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PAINTERS and DECORATORS	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MOTOR CYCLISTS	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WATER DOYMEN	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PLUMBERS and PIPE-FITTERS	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SEAM MAKERS	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
VEHICLE MECHANICS	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WATERSMEN	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DRIVER MECHANICS	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DRIVERS 1/o	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGINE HAND 1/o	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
FITTERS	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SALTERS	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SEMINARIAL WORKERS	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SURVIVORS and ENGINEERING	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TUNERS	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WELDERS ACETYLENE	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
WELDERS ELECTRIC	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Subject: - 104 Engineer Bn, Combat Group, "MAMMOET"
Progress Report to 21 Jan 45

56 BLU
6 E

22 Jan 45

To: GSO I, 56 BLU
Copy to: SO BE
IRLA

1. GENERAL PROGRESS OF TRAINING

Progress of training since 7 Jan 45 has been retarded by adverse weather conditions and it has only been possible to do one normal week's training during this period.

(a) SAFETY TRAINING

This consists of Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Field works, Demolitions, Road and Track Construction and proceeded as far as weather conditions permitted. Training in the last named has not been very effective owing to lack of transport for materials, and little practical work has been carried out.

(b) WEAPON TRAINING AND GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

Preliminary instruction has commenced in Rifle and Bayonet, Bren, T.S.M.C., and PIAT. Some general military training including Physical training and route marching has also been carried out.

(c) DRIVING AND MAINTENANCE OF BRITISH VEHICLES

No training can be carried out until the Engineer Bn receives some British Vehicles or the Group Driving School is attached to the Battalion.

2. PERSONNEL

Major, WINDHAM, the new C.O. for the Battalion has now taken up his duties. First impressions are favourable, but he appears to be primarily a Signals Officer in which capacity he has worked for a considerable period. Capt. MERRON, previously acting Bn C.O., is now filling the position of Field Engineer on the Bn HQ staff. A regular Captain should report for duty as C.O. 79 Field Coy within 14 days, but no new C.O. have been forthcoming as yet to command 4 Field Coy and 5 Field Park Coy. Two Capt's to fill these positions are urgently required, particularly in the latter unit where Officer standard is extremely poor.

141

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2/.....sheet.

- 2 -

3. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAM

Frequent changes and cancellations, have had to be made due to snow and heavy rain and the troops lack adequate clothing and accommodation. As a result one weeks training time has been lost.

4. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

6 Officers and 85 O.Rs. attended Sapper Training and
8 Officers and 137 O.Rs. , Weapon training etc.

5. COURSES RUNNING

N I L

6. STATE OF TRADESMEN and SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

7. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The same difficulties are still being experienced as detailed in previous reports.

8. BALANCE OF TRAINING to be COMPLETED

Elementary Bailey Bridging	80%
Mine Warfare	75%
Fieldworks	65%
Demolitions	65%
Weapon Training	90%
Road and Track Construction	65%
Storekeeping	85%
Driving and Maintenance of British Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Fieldcraft and Battledrill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant.	100%

In the Field.
FEC/cwf


Capt.
SO RE

APPENDIX 'A' to ENGINEER PROCESS REPORT to 21 Jan 45

Type of TRADESMAN or SPECIALISTS	Field Coy W.R.	A Field Coy				79 Field Coy	
		No Trained	No require Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against F.R.	No Trained	No require Training
Blacksmiths	5	5	-	-	-	2	3
Bricklayers	16	9	7	-	-	9	4
Carpenter and Joiners	24	8	9	2	16	6	3
Clerks	4	4	-	-	-	4	-
Draughtsmen	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Electricians	4	3	-	-	1	3	1
Engine Fitters(i/c and Pumps)	7	1	3	-	6	2	-
Miners	12	12	-	-	-	12	-
Painters and Decorators	5	1	4	1	4	2	-
Motor Cyclists	12	3	3	-	9	5	-
Water Dutyman	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Plumbers and Pipefitters	4	2	2	-	2	2	2
Shoe Makers	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Vehicle Mechanics	4	1	2	-	3	1	2
Waterson	4	4	-	-	-	3	-
Driver Mechanics	5	2	3	-	3	1	2
Drivers i/c	26	10	16	-	16	10	1

APPENDIX 'A' to ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT to 21 Jan 45

Field Coy W.E.	4 Field Coy				79 Field Coy				Total Deficiencies for All Coys against W.E.
	No Trained	No require Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	No Trained	No require Training	No under Training	Deficiencies against W.E.	
5	5	-	-	-	2	5	1	3	3
16	9	7	-	7	9	4	-	7	14
24	8	9	2	16	6	3	2	18	34
4	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
4	3	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	2
7	1	3	-	6	2	-	-	5	11
12	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-
5	1	4	1	4	2	-	-	3	7
12	1	3	-	9	5	-	-	7	16
1	-	2	-	1	1	2	-	2	4
4	2	2	-	2	1	2	-	-	-
1	1	2	-	3	1	2	-	3	6
4	1	2	-	3	3	-	-	4	1
4	4	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	7
5	2	3	-	3	1	1	-	1	1
26	10	16	-	16	10	1	-	15	31

APPENDIX 'A' to ENGINEER PROGRESS REPORT to 21 Jan

sheet.....2/

Types of Tradesmen and Specialists	Field Park Co W. R.	3 Field Park Company			Deficiencies against W. R.
		No Trained	No Require Training	No under Training	
Blacksmiths	2	2	-	-	-
Bricklayers	1	1	-	-	-
Carpenters and Joiners	4	4	-	-	-
Glaziers	4	4	-	-	-
Draughtsmen	1	1	-	-	-
Electricians	3	1	1	-	2
Engine Fitters (i/c and Pumps)	3	1	-	-	2
Miners	-	-	-	-	-
Painters and Decorators	2	2	-	-	-
Motor Cyclists	6	2	3	-	4
Water Dutymen	1	-	1	-	-
Plumbers and Pipefitters	2	-	-	-	2
Shoemakers	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle Mechanics	3	2	1	-	1
Watemen	2	-	-	-	-
Drivers i/c	38	5	28	-	33
Driver Mechanics	4	2	-	-	2
Engine hand i/c	2	1	-	-	1
Fitters	2	1	-	-	1
Sawyers	2	2	-	-	-
Sheetmetal Workers	1	-	-	-	1
Surveyor Engineering	1	-	1	-	1
Turners	1	1	-	-	-
Welders acetylene	1	-	-	-	1
Welders Electric	1	-	-	-	1

Subject: - Engineer Bn "TANKOVA" Combat Group.
 Progress Report to 7 Jan 45.

FILE

56 HAJ
 6 R
 7 Jan 45

G S O I
 56 HAJ.

1. GENERAL PROGRESS.

The reorganization of the Field Coys and the Pk Coy is progressing and is now dependent on the arrival of the tradesmen and specialists which are deficient. The arrival of the new Bn C.O. and of the new Os C for both Pk Coys and the Pk Pk Coy is still awaited (see 56 HAJ letter to MHA ref 43 of 30 Dec 44). This is a matter of vital importance.

Progress of training in elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Fieldworks, Demolitions, Road and Truck Construction is "fair". Training of Tradesmen and Specialists has been limited by lack of facilities, but a certain amount is being achieved with the equipment and material available. There will be greater scope as British special equipment commences to arrive.

(a) Drivers.

Training has not yet commenced but a school for driving instruction has been organized under the supervision of DADST 56 HAJ and it is hoped to give existing drivers instruction in this school. This is urgent.

(b) Weapon Training.

NO weapon training has yet been carried out. It will be commenced shortly.

2. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAM. NIL
3. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING.

9 Offs and 179 O.R.'s of the Bn have now completed initial training in Elementary Dry Bailey bridging, Mine Warfare, Fieldworks, Demolitions, Road and Truck construction.

4. COURSES RUNNING.

There are no courses running in addition to Bn training.

5. STATE OF TRADESMEN AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

Cops and the PM. The Coy is still awaiting (see 50 MNDG letter to MIA ref AS of 30 Dec 44). This is a matter of vital importance.

Progress of training in elementary Dry Bailey Bridging, Mine Warfare, Fieldworks, Demolitions, Road and Track Construction is "Fair". Training of Tradesmen and Specialists has been limited by lack of facilities, but a certain amount is being achieved with the equipment and material available. There will be greater scope as British special equipment commences to arrive.

(a) Drivers

Training has not yet commenced but a school for driving instruction has been organised under the supervision of DDET 56 BLM and it is hoped to give existing drivers instruction in this school. This is urgent.

(b) Weapon Training

NO weapon training has yet been carried out. It will be commenced shortly.

2. DEVIATIONS FROM PROGRAMME

NIL

3. NUMBERS ATTENDING TRAINING

9 Ofcs and 179 O.R.'s of the Bn have now completed initial training in Elementary Dry Bailey bridging, Mine Warfare, Fieldworks, Demolitions, Road and Track construction.

4. COURSES RUNNING

There are no courses running in addition to Bn training.

5. STATS OF TRAINEES AND SPECIALISTS

See Appendix 'A' attached.

2/.....sheet

-2-

6. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED(a) Clothing

To date the position regarding clothing has been poor and training suffers as a result, since most of the training consists of outdoor work which cannot be carried out in inclement weather. The provision of gloves, socks and groundsheets is considered essential.

(b) Transport

The scope of training will be enlarged when some transport is available for training purposes. At present all available transport is tied up in unit administration and works within the Group.

(c) Interpreters

The Bn has no efficient interpreter at present, and this makes the work of attached British N.C.O.'s less effective.

(d) Technical Pamphlets

The existing pamphlets in Italian on Mine Warfare and Bailey bridging are inaccurately translated. It is understood that new and more comprehensive translations are being prepared and it is requested that they be provided in the immediate future.

7. BALANCE OF TRAINING TO BE COMPLETED

Elementary Bailey bridging	85%
Mine Warfare	80%
Fieldworks	70%
Demolitions	70%
Weapon Training	100%
Road and Track Construction	70%
Storekeeping	90%
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Fieldcraft and Battle Drill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant	100%
	138

In the Field.

785020

50 ES

J. J. J.
Capt.

(b) Transport

The scope of training will be enlarged when some transport is available for training purposes. At present all available transport is tied up in unit administration and works within the Group.

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The Bn has no efficient interpreter at present, and this makes the work of attached British M.C.O's less effective.

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Weapon Training	100%
Road and Track Construction	70%
Storekeeping	90%
Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles	100%
Water Supply	100%
Fieldcraft and Battle-drill	100%
Maintenance and Operation of British Field Plant	100%
	138

In the Field,
FEL/cmf.

Copy to:- SO IE MIA.

[Signature]
SO IE
Capt.

APPENDIX 'A' to Engineer Bn "MANTOVA" Group Progress Report for Week

Type of Tradesmen or Specialists.	4 Field Company					79 Field Comp				
	W.E.	Number Trained	Number require Training	Number under Training	Deficiency compared with W.E.	W.E.	Number Trained	Number require Training		
Blacksmiths	5	5	1	-	-	5	3	2		
Bricklayers	16	9	5	2	7	16	9	3		
Carpenters and Joiners	24	8	9	2	16	24	6	3		
Electricians	4	3	-	-	1	4	3	-		
Engine Fitters (i/o and pumps)	7	-	4	-	7	7	2	-		
Engine Hand i/o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Miners	12	11	-	-	1	12	12	-		
Painters and Decorators	5	1	4	1	4	5	2	-		
Plumbers and Pipefitters	4	2	2	-	2	4	2	2		
Sheet Metal Workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Vehicle Mech	4	2	2	-	2	4	1	-		
Welders	4	4	-	-	-	4	1	-		
Acetylene Electric	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Drivers i/o	33	9	20	-	24	33	11	1		
Motorcyclists	12	3	3	-	9	12	5	-		
Driver Mech.	5	1	-	-	4	5	1	-		

Progress Report for Week-ending 7 Jan 45

79 Field Company.					3 Field Park Company.					Total	
W.E.	Number	Number	Number	Deficiency	W.E.	Number	Number	Number	Deficiency	Ed Coys and	Ed Park Coy
:	: Trained	: require	: under	: compared	:	: Trained	: require	: under	: compared	: Total	: Deficiencies
:	:	: Training	: Training	: with W.E.	:	: Training	: Training	: Training	: with W.E.	: compared with	: W.E.
5	3	2	-	3 2	2	1	-	-	1	3	
6	9	3	2	7	1	1	-	-	-	14	
4	6	3	2	18	4	4	-	-	-	34	
4	3	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	2	4	
7	2	-	-	5	3	3	-	-	-	12	
-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	
2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
5	2	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	-	7	
6	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	6	
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	
-	1	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	-	5	
-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	3	
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	
3	11	1	-	22	38	3	32	-	35	81	
2	5	-	-	7	6	2	4	-	4	20	
5	1	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	3	11	

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