

10000/120/3899

G/1/2

War Establishments

NOV. 21, 1944 - Sept. 23, 1945

7117
7260

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Subject: AFHQ Maltese Liaison Pool

To: HQ 2 District

Copy: Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C. (LMA)
A/C

CONFIDENTIAL

55 B.L.U.

61/21

23 Sep 45

1. Ref AFHQ letter C-1(Br) 7951/A9 of 12 Sep 45.
2. No. 115561 Major MERGIEGA E.A., Royal Malta Artillery, (Emergency Commission),
is referred to this BLU.

3. This officer has elected to be considered under the terms of para 2(c) of above-mentioned AFHQ letter, viz. "to be considered for other employment in Italy in present or W.S. rank."

4. Ref para 5 of A/C AFHQ letter, the following are the particulars asked for:-

(a) Records of Qualifications

(i) Record of Service:

2/Lt	21. 9. 39
A/Capt	1. 10. 40
A/Major	9. 3. 45 (Sty Comm until 15 Jan 45.)

(ii) On 4 Sep 43 this officer was officially informed (in writing) by C.R.A. and A.A.D.C. MALTA that he had been considered as suitable to hold a post-war Regular (R.A.) Commission and was advised not to claim his release from the Army until a final decision as to his Regular Commission had been made. This decision is still pending.

(iii) Overseas Service: 8 months in Italy, attached throughout to 53 B.L.U. (POLORE Italian Const Group), including two months in active operations. During this 8 months this officer has had 2 months' experience of R.A. Staff and Liaison duties, under active service conditions, and subsequently 6 weeks experience as a "E" Staff Officer in this B.L.U.

(iv) Civil Qualifications:

Civil Servant, MALTA.

(v) Languages:

Italian - Fluent
French - Not Fluent

(vi) Release: This officer is a volunteer in the R.A. and, as such, has no determined date for release. He can claim release whenever he wishes, but he particularly desires to increase his tour of foreign service in order to add weight to his chances of a Regular Commission.

5. As a result of the valuable and efficient services, both in a liaison and executive capacity, of Major MERGIEGA during his 8 months attachment to this B.L.U., I have no hesitation in recommending him for further employment in Italy in his present rank. He has particularly requested that he be considered for employment under the terms of L.L.I.A. signal A360* of 10 Sep 45, for which employment I consider he is fully qualified and suitable.

Lt. Col.

* asking for names of British offrs. becoming surplus to B.L.U. W.E. who are recommended & willing to continue duty with Italian Army

Appt 1st to 53 MIA letter
Ref. No. - 16 of 28 Aug 45

1. Appointments covered by HQ CW/508/2

Officers holding appointments

CSO 1st Grade
CSO 3rd Grade
MAJORS
Staff Captain
Captain HMC
Ordinance Captain
Captain HMC

Lt. Col. J. Taylor MC
Major R.I.B. Cobb
Captain G.C. Ley
Captain A.A. White

2. Officers previously held on posted strength of 53 MIA under HQ CW/508/1 and on conversion of Unit to HQ CW/508/2 now surplus to HQ and held attached to this HQ:

Previous Appointment

Major G.C. Marken
Major J.H. Brownie
Lieut. B. Murray

CSO 2nd Grade 53 MIA
SO RA 2nd Grade 53 MIA
Camp Commandant 53 MIA

3. Officers previously attached to 53 MIA under HQ CW/508/1 and on conversion of Unit to HQ CW/508/2 now remain attached to this HQ:

Major J.A.G. Grindle	Attached to 53 MIA as Eng Major not previously posted or attached to D Eng Iner (Inf).
Captain G.T. King	Attached from AFHQ interpreters pool.
Lieut. F. James	Attached from L(IV) list

4. Officers previously on posted strength of D Eng Iner (Inf) now attached to this HQ:

Major A.I. Fairweather
Major H.C. Mann
Major T. Leamy
Major H.H.C.A. Bartwell
Major C.W. Bradley

AGG/Service Release Op 21. Proceeded on
MIP 20 Aug 45

Proceeded on MIP 27 Jul 45

Detached to Italian AFHQ Training Centre 12 Mar 45.

5. Reference the officers named in paras 2, 3 and 4 to this Appx.

(a) Major G.C. Marken

It is understood that AFHQ are considering the attachment of a CSO 1st Eng and Co-ordination to this HQ surplus to HQ CW/508/2. Major Marken has been recommended to fill this appointment.

7265

of Units to HQ CM/504/2 now remain attached to this HQ:

Major J.A.C. Gribble Attached to 53 MI as Trg Major not previously posted or attached to D Trg Inar (Inf).
 Captain C.E. King Attached from AFHQ Interpreters Pool.
 Lieut. E. Jones Attached from XI(iv) List

4. Officers previously on posted strength of D Trg Inar (Inf) now attached to this HQ:

Major A.I. Fairweather
 Major R.C. Ponn
 Major T. Leahy
 Major R.W.C.B. Hartwell
 Major A.S. Bradley

Age/Service Release to 21. Proceeded on
 AM 20 Aug 45

Proceeded on MLE 27 Jul 45

Detached to Italian AFHQ Training Centre 12 Mar 45.

7265

5. References the officers named in para 2, 3 and 4 to this appx.

(a) Major C.G. Markee

It is understood that AFHQ are considering the attachment of a GSO II Trg and Co-ordination to this HQ surplus to HQ CM/504/2. Major Markee has been recommended to fill this appointment.

(b) Lieut. E. Munn

While the total strength of all ranks with this HQ remains at approximately 80 it is considered that it is essential that this officer remains attached to this HQ.

(c) Major J.A.C. Gribble

Pending completion of the re-arrangement within the Combat Group Release of Bdes, application for the retention of this officer has been made to HQ AFHQ. This completion will not take place before 3 Apr.

(d) Captain C.E. King

At present this officer is acting as Staff Captain 'G'. On the posting of a Staff Captain as authorised by HQ CM/504/2 the retention of this officer is still considered essential.

(e) Major A.I. Fairweather

It is considered unlikely that this officer will return from HQ owing to his early A/S Release. If he returns, the AFHQ pending order transferring him to 'A' British Camp, Polish Repatriation Camp will be complied with.

(f) Major R.C. Ponn

It is understood that AFHQ are considering the attachment of a Trg Major to this HQ surplus to HQ CM/504/2. Major Ponn has been recommended to fill this post.

Appx 131 to 53 HMT letter
Ref. A146 of 28 Aug 45.

One held on Posted Strength of 53 British Medium Unit

under W.B. 04/504/2

PART X

Personal held on attached
on Posted Strength strength against manning in

W.B.

Clerks General Duties RASC: Sgt
Col
Plas

1 Sgt. Ford
1 Col. Mayo
2 Cdn Opie

Bdr. Bennett

10/0

Clerk (RASC, duties) L/Opt
Clerk technical, RASC, L/Opt
Clerk general duties, RASC, L/Opt
Duty 200 Sgt.
Driver Mechanic, L/Opt.

1 S/Cpt. MacGillivray
1 Pte. McGilroy

Sgt. Macdonald

1 Pte. McCall
3 Pte. Gendron

Patman Drivers
Cook, AOC

Total

9

PART II

One attached to 53 H.M.U. surplus to establishment.

1. R. Signals

Operators W & L Sgt
L/Opt 3
Sgt 1
Sgt 5

Operator Cipher Col

Driver Opt Sgt

Driver Mech Det

Driver L.C. L/Opt

Eleo Sigs Sigs

1284

16

Chief, General Office, RASO, L/Cpl.
 Duty RCO Sgt.
 Driver Mechanic, L/Cpl.
 Station Drivers
 Cook, AOC

Sgt. Michaelson
 Pte. McCall
 Pte. Garibay

Total

9

PART II

One attached to 53 B.L.U. surplus to establishment.

7264

1. B. Signals

Operators # 1	Sgt	1
" " 2	Cpls	5
" " 3	L/Cpl	1
" " 4	Sgtm	5
Operator Cipher	Cpl	1
Driver Cpl	Sgtm	2
Driver Mech	Det	1
Driver L.C.	L/Cpl	1
Elec Sigs	Sigm	1
		16

2. RAO

Station Tech	S/Cdr	1
	Sgt	1
	Ptes	2
Clerks RAO	Cpl	1
	Ptes	2
		8

3. Other Attached Personnel

Interpreters	Cpls	2
Officers' Mess orderly	L/Cpl	1
General Detention		1
Driver Detention RASC	1 } On RLP	
Detention Ptes	2	8
	Total	32

Appx 'C' to 53 ULU letter
Ref. 47-16 of 28 Aug 45

Proforma showing tpt position with 53 D.L.U.

Transport authorized by WS 44/508/2	Tpt held against WS 44/508/2	Tpt held surplus to WS 44/508/2 but against deficiencies of holdings.	Tpt held sur- plus to WS 44/508/2
M/cas Solo	2	2	
Car, civilian			1 *
Cars 4x2 Light Utility	4	2	
Cars 4x4 5 cwt		1	6 7 8
Trucks 15 cwt 4x4 GS	2		
Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 GS		2	
Truck 15 cwt 4x2 Water			7283
Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 W/T			2
Lorries 3 ton 4x2 GS			3
Loary 3 ton 4x2 Office			1
Water 2 whld 180 galls			1

* Civilian car held under authority H.Q. 1 District.

8 Cars 4x4 5 cwt - 3 in shops awaiting major repairs.

Subject: WEs.

50 B.L.U.

53 B.L.U. —

"A"

"Q"

BT

REME

HQ 217 Area

Ref: 1321 G

21 Aug 45

The following extract from Minutes of AFHQ WE Committee 224th Meeting held on 6 Aug 45 is forwarded to you for info, together with extract from Minutes of 9th Meeting Land Forces Sub-Commission AG (MHA) referred to below: -

"Additions to Minutes"TRANSPORT PLATOON FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPHEADQUARTERS TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY COMPANY FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPMECHANICAL ENGINEERS PLATOON FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP

7282

(CM/533/1)
(XII/468/1)
(CM/531/1)
(XII/557/1)

(CM/539/1)
(XII/611V/1)

Amendments passed at the 9th meeting (Serials 42,43,44) of Land Forces Sub-Commission AG (MHA) War Establishments Committee are promulgated w.e.f.

ASD/ 949.4 dated 5 Aug 45 refers.

File: 303/2/Org-3

C.M.F.

G. Anon.
Major
GS
217 Area

Subject : WE - BLU.

To : CG 5 Army
(for G. SD Brit Inc).
- - - - -

53 B.L.U.
Ref. A4 - 11
17 Jun 45.

1. Ref your HQ 196/8/G(SD) of 14 Jun and signal 4925 of 15 Jun; and further to this HQ A4-9 of 15 Jun and signal A9/A4-10 of 16 Jun.
2. At Appx 'A' to this letter are shown detailed proposals for modifications in the proposed WE CM/508/2 forwarded under your HQ 196/8/G(SD) of 14 Jun.
3. Reasons for these proposals ^{is here} ~~were~~ not stated in the appendix, have already been forwarded in this HQ above quoted A4-9 of 15 Jun.
4. Adoption of the proposals would permit a reduction in the existing WE Italian Increment to BLU of

3 Batmen
2 Drivers.

Copy to ~~44~~ GI File

442614
Lt. Col.
G.S.

Appx 'A' to 53 RAN letter
ref A/ - 11 of 17 Jan 1955.

Proposed modifications to proposed W 504/2

Detail	Proposal	Remarks.
(i) <u>Personnel</u>		
(a) Staff and att to Gen Staff	Add GSO 2nd Grade " 1 Cpl interpreter " 50 R Sigs and Rear Link Sigs Sec as in existing W 504/1	
(b) <u>Services</u>	Add Major DADOS " 1 DWO " 1 Sgt Storeman " 2 Clerks " 3 Ptes (Storeman) " Major DADOS	In lieu of proposed Captain RAC For Ordnance duties In lieu of proposed Captain RAC
(c) <u>Admin Staff</u>	Add Camp Comdt " Cpl Driver-Mech " 3 Ptes Gen duty	In lieu of proposed 1/Cpl Gen for Office Mess
(ii) <u>Transport</u>	Add 1 Staff car " 2 1500 cc w/T Delete 3 cars light utility Add 3 500 cc 4x4 " 2 1500 cc 4x2 Add 3 3-ton 4x2	For GSO I For Sigs Unsuitable types for existing conditions; 1 1500 cc for general purpose. For GSO I, 6 Staff, 4 Staff. Making proposed total 4 (for Sigs, Services, Camp Comdt) 1 for Sigs, 2 for Camp Comdt.

DA FORM 1444 350M 11/43 M. L. 51-5553

ARMY FORM C 2136 (rge)		MESSAGE FOR		Register No.
Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions	
FROM (A)			Originator	Office Date Stamp
53 BLU			Date-Time of Origin	
201230B				
TO			For Action	
DISTONE				
(W) For Information (INFO)			Message Instructions	GR
MMIA				
G				

Originator's No.

7259

AQ/44-12 (.) Restricted (.) Ref your SD54 of 17 Jul (.) First (.)
 WE of BLU No. CM/508/2 as shown in appx to Brit Inc G(SD) Branch
 HQ Fifth Army ref 196/6(G(SD) of 14 Jun (copy to action addresses)
 only acceptable with following additions GSC 2nd grade, one Cpl
 interpreter, SC R Sigs and rear-link Sigs as in WE CM/508/1, Captain
 DADCS, one BOWC, one Sgt Storeman, two clerks, three Ptes (Storeman),
 Captain DADST, Camp Commandant, one Cpl driver mechanic, three Ptes
 (general duties), one staff car, two trucks 15cwt 4x2, three cars
 5cwt 4x4, two trucks 15cwt W/T 4x2, three lorries 3ton 4x2 (.)
 Three cars light utility can be deleted (.) Second (.) Ref Brit
 Inc G(SD) Branch HQ Fifth Army ref SD 1421 of 21 Jun paras 4 and
 5 agreed

HQ Fifth Army ref 196/e/e(SD) of 14 Jun (copy to action addresses) only acceptable with following additions GSO 2nd grade, one Cpl interpreter, SO R Sigs and rear link Sigs as in WB CM/508/1, Captain DADOS, one BOWC, one Sgt Storeman, two clerks, three Ptes (Storeman), Captain 3ADST, Camp Commandant, one Cpl driver mechanic, three Ptes (general duties), one staff car, two trucks 15cwt 4x2, three cars 5cwt 4x4, two trucks 15cwt W/T 4x2, three lorries 3ton 4x2 (.) Three cars light utility can be deleted (.) Second (.) Ref Brit Inc C(SD) Branch HQ Fifth Army ref SD 1421 of 21 Jun paras 4 and 5 agreed

This message may be sent
AS WRITTEN by any means
WIRELESS.

Signed,

If liable to be intercepted or to fall
into enemy hands this message must
be sent IN CIPHER.

Signed.

Originator's Instructions.
Degree of Priority.

Time	System Op.
THI or TOR	
Time Cleared	

RESTRICTEDSubject: Minutes of AFHQ WEC Meetings.To :- H.Q. Combat Group FOLGORE55 B.L.U.
Ref. G1 - 34
24 May 45

7258

Attached at Annex 'A' are Extracts from Minutes of AFHQ WEC Meeting No.199 held on 27 Apr 45. passed to you for information.

Cate
Lt.Col.
G.S.

RESTRICTED

APPX 'A' to MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY
 letter Ref. M 670 SD2 dated 15 May 45

AFHQ WEC MEETING No. 199
 HELD ON 27 APR 45

Serial
Number

Minutes

W.E.

Additions to minutes of meetings Nos. 128, 134, 149, 163, 171 182.

1373A

HEADQUARTERS AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP

CM/523/1

To conform with War Office policy amendments will be promulgated to the above war establishment authorising the addition of caravans as follows :-

For use of each Major-General and Brigadier authorised on the WE - Caravan, class II - 1

7257

Will be promulgated as amendments No. 2, 2, 9, 1, 5, 3, 37, 6, and 9 respectively waf 30 Oct 44.

Authority : War Office letter 57/Vehs A/112.3 SD1 dated 30 Oct 44.

SUBJECT : Minutes of AFHQ WEO MeetingsRESTRICTEDMAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY CMT
M 670 SD2

15 May 45

5 CORPS (5)
 13 CORPS (3)
 2 POLISH CORPS
 10 IND DIV
 25 ARMD ENGR BDE
 26 BLU
 50 BLU
 53 BLU
 56 BLU

Main : A : AFV : X : Camp : ITO

Rear : C : Bdn : Camp : NAILA LO

Att at Appx 'A' are Extracts from Minutes of AFHQ WEO Meeting No 199
 held on 27 Apr 45.

Brig
C of SRESTRICTEDAppx 'A' to M 670 SD2
Dated May 45

AFHQ WEO MEETING NO 199
 HELD ON 27 APR 45

Serial
Number

Minutes

WE

Main : A : AFV : A : Camp : MO
 Rear : C : Ean : Camp : MIA LO

Att at Appx 'A' are Extracts from Minutes of AFHQ WEC Meeting No 199
 held on 27 Apr 45.

Brig
 C of S

RESTRICTED

Appx 'A' to J. 670 SD2
 Dated May 45

AFHQ WEC MEETING NO 199
 HELD ON 27 APR 45

Serial
 Number

Minutes

WE

Additions to minutes of meetings Nos. 128, 134, 149, 163, 171, 182.

1373A
 1441
 1633
 1762
 1864
 1964

HEADQUARTERS IN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP
 HEADQUARTERS INDIAN LORDED INFANTRY BRIGADE
 HEADQUARTERS FIFTH (US) ARMY (BRITISH INCREMENT)
 HEADQUARTERS IN ASSAULT BRIGADE RAC/RE
 26 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
 INCREMENT TO HEADQUARTERS III CORPS
 HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS OF AN INDIAN DIVISION
 HEADQUARTERS OF AN INDIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE (M.T.)

CM/523/1
 CM/558/1
 CM/79/5
 CM/660/4
 CM/646/4
 CM/555/2
 CM/223/4
 I/14/2 Ind
 I/64/2 Ind

To conform with War Office policy amendments will
 be promulgated to the above war establishments authorising
 the addition of caravans as follows :-

...../2

-2-

Serial
Number

Minutes

WD

- a) For use of each Lieutenant-General and above authorised on the WD - Caravan, class I - 1
- b) For use of each Major-General and Brigadier authorised on the WD - Caravan, class II - 1

Will be promulgated as amendment Nos 2, 2, 9, 1, 5, 3, 37, 6, and 9 respectively wef 30 Oct 44.

Authority : War Office letter 57/Vehs 2/1443 SD1 dated 30 Oct 44.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 178

1919B
1915C

AN INCREMENT TO AN ARMoured BRIGADE
ARMoured REPLACEMENT GROUP, SIGNAL TROOP,
R SIGNALS

CM/759/1
CM/381/2 Addt 1

The review of these war establishments is deferred until 1 Jul 45.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 187

2026

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN POOL OF INDIAN ARMY
EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

CM/929/1

GHQ India have approved wef 19 Mar 45 this war establishment provided no demand for manpower is made on GHQ India.

Authority : GHQ India cable 82644 SD7 dated 25 Apr 45.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 190

dated 30 Oct 44.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 178

1919B
1919C

AN INCREMENT TO AN ARMoured FRIGATE
ARMoured REFLEMENT GROUP, SIGNAL TROOP,
R SIGNALS

CM/759/1
CM/381/2 Indat 1

The review of these war establishments is
deferred until 1 Jul 45.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 187

2026

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN POOL OF INDIAN ARMY
EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

CM/929/1

GHQ India have approved vef 19 Mar 45 this war
establishment provided no demand for manpower is made on
GHQ India.

Authority : GHQ India cable 82644 SD7 dated
25 Apr 45.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 190

2067

INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS (HIGHER SCALE)

I/26/4 (Ind)

GHQ India have approved vef 26 Mar 45 the amendment
as submitted, which will be promulgated as local amendment
No 2 applicable to this theatre only.

Authority : GHQ India cable 82836/SD7 dated 26 Apr 45.

Addition to minutes of meeting No 196

2177(A)

MACHINE GUN BATTALION SIGNAL SECTION

CM/630/1

GHQ India have approved vef 16 Apr 45 the amendment
as submitted, which will be promulgated as amendment No 3
applicable to Indian Machine Gun Battalions in this theatre
only.

Authority : GHQ India cable 82886/SD7 dated 26 Apr 45.

Subject : Amendment to SEL's.

To : HQ Combat Group FOLGORE

G
Sigs
ST
Ord

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q 16 -m52
8 Apr 45.

*Entered in Wt. File
let.*

1. Herewith amendments No. 4 and No. 6 to SEL No. 121/1 and SE. No. 136/1.

2. It is pointed out, however, that the only change in establishment not already covered by the Staff Table AFHQ/6520/15/Q(AE) of 3 Mar 45, is the provision of 12 trucks 15cwt 4 x 4 personnel for the Signal Coy of Engr Bn.

Spill Cup
Lt. Col.
G.S.

7255

808

Subject: Minutes of HQ Meeting
 To: Hq. Combat Group POLONE

35 R.I.U.
 Ref G1 - 33
 17 May 45

1. The following extracts from Eighth Army Letter H 670 HDE of 11 May - Minutes of AMHQ HQ Meeting No. 197 of 20 Apr 45 - are passed to you for information.

2. ITALIAN AIR INTERPRETATION DETACHMENT

CS/989/1

(a) The above new establishment was approved wef 20 Apr 45.

Strength	Officers	2
	Other Ranks	4
	Vehicles	2

This unit is intended for attachment to the headquarters of an Italian Combat Group, and will only be implemented in respect of those Combat Groups that are placed under command of 15 Army Group.

(b) The war establishment for the headquarters unit was not agreed. The Committee decided that the functions of the headquarters should be undertaken by the existing G.I.I.(West) organization, and that a separate Italian headquarters was not required.

3. ITALIAN ROAD DETACHMENT

The above new war establishments were approved wef 20 Apr 45.

Strength:

(a) Regimental Headquarters

CS/989/1

Officers	9
Other Ranks	64
Vehicles	8

7251

(b) Road Battalion

CS/990/1

Officers	28
Other Ranks	772
Vehicles	9

3. LIGHT AID DETACHMENT FOR AN ITALIAN TRANSPORT COMPANY

The above war establishment was approved wef 20 Apr 45.

CS/675/1

Strength:	Other Ranks	17
	Vehicles	3

New War Establishments will not be implemented without A824 authority.

magell left
f
 Lt. Col.
 G.S.

TELEGRAMMA

DAL COMANDO GRUPPO COMBATTIMENTO "FOLCORE"

AT :

N° CORPO BRITANNICO (tramite 53° S.L.H.)

N° 1298/S.M. DI PROT (..) 19 APRILE (..) ORE 1700 (..) COMPAGNIA
PARTIGIANI SAMPUTASI VALONGSARRETTI CON IL GRUPPO FOLCORE
PER 50 GIORNI (..) CODE ADESSO BREVE PERMESSO CHE (..) AVRA'
TERMINI GIORNO 23 (..) SAREBBE MIO DESIDERIO INCASSARE
ORGANICO REPARTO E PORTARLO A 200 UOMINI (..) MI OCCORRE
QUINDI ARMAMENTO ED EQUIPAGGIAMENTO OCCORRENTE PER 100
UOMINI SEMILE IN TUTTO A QUELLO DELLA COMPAGNIA CHE HA
GIÀ COMBATTUTO (..) GENERALE MORIGI (..)

28
7253

SUBJECT: - BORGO Partisane.

File G1

SECRET.1616
29 MAR 1945

Ltr

HQ 13 Corps.
5614/3.

28 Mar 45.

53 BLU

Ref your G1/S1 dated 27 Mar 45.

It is not proposed to take any further action at this HQ until the partisan comments have been received and the answer to your query re rifles, etc, so please feel all further info as soon as possible.

Lt. Hart
for *Legadier*,
General Staff.

7252

ARMY FORM 62-16 (Rev. 1-54)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

53 BLU

Originator

Date - Time of Origin

270900A

Office Date Stamp

For Action

MAIN HQ 13 CORPS

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

HQ 1CG FOLGORE

Message Instructions

CR

3637/GHQJP

Originator's No.

GA/SI ○ SECRET ○ Attached is translation of HQ 1CG FOLGORE 2p letter 764/SM of 19 Mar ○ A copy has been passed to Parkison L.O. and comments are still awaited ○ It was still to be explained why 84 rifles are shown considering the Parkison by is already armed with almost 100% automatic weapons

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Time 7251

Op.

THI or TOR

Time cleared

SIGNED

SIGNED

cc Parker
Major

TRANSLATIONH.Q. I.C.G. POLCORE

No. 893/SM

Tactical HQ

29 March 1945

Subject: Parachute Unit for Special MissionTo:- General McCreery,
Commander Eighth Army

The invitation given by you to the parachutists of the POLCORE Combat Group has found the enthusiastic support of all. The sole difficulty has been that of limiting the selection to 5 officers and 104 parachute troops from among the best of those who volunteered for the particular mission. In the number are included 1 officer and 10 parachutists trained in assault pioneer work.

This unit under formation has reached RONTA complete this evening, to await transfer to the location selected by HQ Eighth Army.

I attach a nominal roll of the officers and parachute troops now placed at your disposal, Signor General.

I am certain that the men chosen by me will know how to respond to the confidence placed in us by you, and how to maintain high the name of my Combat Group.

(Signed)

259
General Commanding
(GIORGIO MORIGI)

ELENCO PARACADUTISTI PER A.O. - LANCIO

Reggimento "Nembo"

Tenente	CEINAR Guerrino	S.Tenente	BAGNA Franco
S.Tenente	DE SANTIS Vincenzo		
"	RAFFONE Aurelio		
"	BODON Ugo		
Serg.Magg.	MARRONI Romano	Serg.Magg.	PISTILLI Nicola
"	ZARA Massimo	Paracad.	DE PERON Giuseppe
"	PISCIONIERI Enzo	"	LUNESU Giovanni
"	MARIANI Luigi	"	MULAS Gian Maria
"	MAGLIONE Potito	"	CONGIU Francesco
"	MARTINETTO Benedetto	"	PROCUCCI Gino
"	MONTALBANO Antonio	"	DE VALERIO Mario
"	PERUZZO Antonio	"	ZANINOTTI Agostino
"	VILLANTI Salvatore	"	CRESOLI Antonio
Sergente	USSI Giorgio	"	GREPPI Cirillo
Cap/Magg.	MORETTI Michele	"	SALIS Giovanni
"	FIUMI Roberto	"	ZANIN Gerolamo
"	TORNIELLO Armido	"	VENTURI Renzo
"	ZOCASTELLO Luciano	"	NACCARI Antonio
"	GAUDIO Tullio	"	MAGRI Lino
"	MILANO Carlo	"	COLLI Raimondo
"	MURCIA Sestilio	"	DE ZORZI Giovanni
"	BORDIN Giovanni	"	MARINI Nicola
"	VIRETTI Battista	"	DI NATALE Carmelo
"	MAGI Alfonso	"	SERRA Antioco
Caporale	CENERI Dino	"	LIBERTI Giovanni
"	GALLI Giuseppe	"	MORELLI Giovanni
"	MAGANI Armando	"	ACCORDINI Guido
"	VARA Mario	"	MOBILIA Paolo
"	BRILLETTI Angelo	"	PENNA Mario
"	VALLATI Federico	"	POMANTE Nicola
"	POMPO' Francesco	"	FALFONE Mauro
"	ZECCHI Giuseppe	"	PROSONI Primo
"	COCCHETTO Alfredo	"	PUPPI Giorgio
Paracad.	FURLAN Efraim	"	CENCETTI Settimio
"	MENIS Tarcisio	"	CERUTTI Gino

"	GAUDIO Tullio	"	MAGRI Lino
"	MILANO Carlo	"	COLLI Raimondo
"	MURCIA Sestilio	"	DE ZORZI Giovanni
"	BORDIN Giovanni	"	MARINI Nicola
"	VIETTI Battista	"	DI NATALE Carmela
Caporale	MAGI Alfonso	"	SERRA Antioco
"	CENERI Dino	"	IBERTI Giovanni
"	GALLI Giuseppe	"	MORELLI Giovanni
"	MAGANI Armando	"	ACCORDINI Aldo
"	VARA Mario	"	MOBILIA Paolo
"	BRILLETTI Angelo	"	PENNA Mario
"	VALLATI Federico	"	POMANTE Nicola
"	POMPO' Francesco	"	FALFONE Mauro
"	ZECCHI Giuseppe	"	FROSONI Primo
"	COCCHETTO Alfredo	"	PUPPI Giorgio
Paracad.	FURLAN Efraim	"	CENCETTI Settimio
"	MENIS Tarcisio	"	CERUTTI Gino
"	FRANCIO Calisto	"	SODOCCO Riccardo
"	FIORUCCI Orlando	"	ZENNARO Aurelio
"	ZANCAHLLI Renzo	"	PELLEGRINO Rinaldo
"	FILIPPIN Giuseppe	"	TROI Giacinto
"	NASTASIO Aldo	"	CAVALIERE Ettore
"	TAGLIERINI Salvatore	"	FRANCINI Alfiero
"	SILVESTRI Franco	"	D'ELLERA Francesco
"	SORI Edgardo	"	SPALLUZZI Giovanni
"	PACE Carlo	"	BELLINI Mariano
"	VARALDINI Bruno	"	NERELLA Salvatore
"	FADDA Angelo	"	MICHELINI Renato
"	ODOE RDO Domenico	"	FINOTTO Ermete
"	LANDI Olindo	"	STEFANELLI Giuseppe
"	PRANDI Pasquino	"	TIMOSSO Giovanni
"		"	TOMMASI Giorgio

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- 2 -

Serg. Magg.	IOP Libero
Cap. Magg.	MONDADORI Ernesto
" "	GELLI Paris
Caporale	CUCCHI Enea
Paracad.	ALBANESE Gastone
" "	COSSANTEN Gino
" "	GUGLIELMINETTI Antonio
" "	BIAGI Fiorenzo
" "	DI BERNARDO angelo
" "	CARETTO Giovanni
" "	BERTACCO Pietro
" "	PECILE Tarcisio

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

7248

Proposed amendments to W.Es. of Italian Combat Groups.

Serial No.	W.E.	Proposed Amendments.	Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU
1	CM/508/1 BLU.	Addition of 1 car 5 cwt 4x4 for Staff capt REME.	51 BLU	Recommended
2	"	Upgrading of Camp Comd, Adn Sgt, M.T. Cpl, and addition of one clerk.	51 BLU	Recommended
3	"	Addition of one Staff Capt to assist DAI & QMG.	-	Proposed.
4	"	Addition of one Jeep fitted for stretcher carrying.	56 BLU	Recommended

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Appx 'A' to 53 BLU letter
 Ref. G1 - 29 of 23 Mar 45.

W.Es. of Italian Combat Groups.

Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU	Reasons, Remarks.
51 BLU	Recommended	As for 51 BLU
51 BLU	Recommended	As for 51 BLU
-	Proposed.	(a) This proposal was originally disapproved on the grounds that the "addition of a Camp Commandant relieves the DAA & QMG of all adm duties within the BLU." (b) The proposal to upgrade the Camp Comd is a fair indication that this officer's duties leave him no scope to assist DAA & QMG in extra BLU duties. (c) It has been found in practice that the 'Q' services reps in the BLU are fully occupied (and normally detached from BLU HQ) with the functioning of their particular services. (d) As the co-ordination of A/Q and Services in the BLU, and in practice, also, at the Combat Gp HQ, the DAA & QMG urgently requires an assistant. (e) In fact, 13 Corps has seen fit to provide this BLU with Staff officer assistants in both 'Q' and 'S & T', without whom this department of the BLU would have found it most difficult to function.
56 BLU	Recommended	As for 56 BLU

56 BLU./...

"2"

Serial No.	W.E.	Proposed Amendments.	Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs.	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU.
5	CM/508/1 BLU	Grading of "Capt or Lieut RMC" as "Captain RMC"	-	Proposed
6	"	Addition of D.A.P.M. with rank of Captain	-	Proposed
7	BLU (Rear Link Signals)	(a) <u>Personnel.</u> Addition of the following (i) O.W.Ls. 3 (ii) T.S.B.Os. 3 (iii) Linemen 4 (iv) D.Rs. 3 (v) Dvrs I.C. 1 (b) <u>Tpt.</u> Add - (i) Car 5 cwt 4x4 12 (ii) Trailer for above 1 (iii) M/cs solo 2 (c) <u>Equipment</u> (Sigs controlled stores) Add (i) Switchboard UC 10-line 1 (ii) Teles "F" 1 (iii) Teles "L" 2 (iv) Barrows Drum ED Mk.I 1 (v) Test Sets portable No.2 1 (vi) Ladders telegraph 1		Proposed " " " " "

7246

"2"

Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs. Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU.

Reasons, Remarks.

Rank	-	Proposed	As British Adviser and co-ordinator of Medical Services within the Group it is considered essential that this officer's rank should be at least equal to that of other specialist reps on BLU (RE, R. Sigs, REME)
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Rank	-	Proposed	APM 13 CORPS is submitting this proposal with appropriate recommendations and reasons.
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ng.		Proposed	
-----	--	----------	--

- (i) to man Fullerphones
- (ii) to man Switchboards
- (iii) 1 NCO & 3 to instal & maintain tie-lines & locals.
- (iv) for E.L.S. duties
- (v) for line party vehicle

ve 1	2	"	(i) 1 for DR, 1 for line party	} this assumes the distribution of 6 Jeeps, for use of Gp Sigs, from the 50 Jeeps authorised under 8 Army letter M/13680/SO2 of 16 Feb
			(ii) for line party	
			(iii) for 2 DRs	

illed stores)			(i) to take on the tie lines & subscribers
O-line	1	"	(ii) for BLU subscribers
	2		(iii) }
rk. I			(iv) }
to No. 2			(v) }
			(vi) }

...../3.

"3"

Serial No.	W.E.	Proposed Amendments	Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs.	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU
8	XII/882/1 Italian Increment for BLU	Addition of - (a) 1 Batman (b) 1 Batman/Dvr (c) 3 Gen dutymen (d) 1 Clerk	56 BLU	Recommended
9	CM/523/1 HQ I.C.G.	Addition of one batman/driver and one car 5 cwt 4x4.	MMIA	Recommended
10	NA/527/1 Inf Bn (Ref Appx 'A' to 8 Army M/13680/SD2 of 9 Mar)	Addition of one Cpl in Intelligence Section.	-	Proposed
11	"	Addition of one Sgt in Pioneer Assault Pl.	-	Proposed
12	"	Addition of one pte (motor- cyclist) in HQ pl of HQ Coy.	-	Proposed
13	"	Addition of two motor-cycles for Inf Bn Intelligence Sec.	-	Proposed

#3

Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs.	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU	Reasons, Remarks.
56 BLU	Recommended	As for 56 BLU.
MMIA	Recommended	As for MMIA
-	Proposed	(a) the original proposed org of the Inf Bn 'I' sec was 1 Sgt, 1 Cpl and 8 ptes. (b) confirmation of above amendment has already been notified under Main 8 Army letter M/14222/4 SD2 of 26 Nov 44.
-	Proposed	(a) The original WE of the Pioneer Pl included 2 sgts in the tradesmen's sec, which has been retained intact. (b) 2 sgts now cond the 2 assault secs. (c) the extra sgt now proposed is for the Pnr Pl HQ. This was envisaged in the original proposed reorg of the Pnr Pl.
-	Proposed	(a) The present total of motor-cyclists is 17, for 18 motor-cycles. (b) No motor-cyclist is provided for the motor-cycle in HQ pl, HQ coy.
-	Proposed	Original WE of Inf Bn was 21 motor-cycles. On abolition of Scouts Pl it was expected that 2 of the 3 m/cs in this pl would be made available to the 'I' Sec. It is now noted that these 3 m/cs have been removed from the WE, and not allotted to the En 'I' Sec which has need of them.

...../14-

them./...

"4"

Serial No.	W.E.	Proposed Amendments	Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs.	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU
14	NA/526/1 Regt Mortar Coy.	(a) <u>Personnel</u> <u>Add</u> (i) 1 Offr (Junior) to comd HQ pl of Mortar Coy. (ii) 6 drivers (iii) 3 Rangefinders in lieu of 3 Director-operators (goniometrists). (b) <u>Tpt.</u> <u>Add</u> - (i) 2 carriers, Mortar (ii) 4 15-cwt trucks		Proposed 7241
15	CM/533/1 S & T Coy	<u>Tpt Fl</u> (i) Add 3 m/cs and motor- cyclists to each pl. (ii) <u>Add</u> 3 ton 4x2 GS 3 " Dvrs for above 3	50 BLU 51 BLU 50 BLU 51 BLU	(i) NOT recommended (ii) Recommended
16	CM/532/1	<u>R.D.I.</u> Add to each RDI Drivers 5	50 BLU 51 BLU	Recommended

"4"

Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs. Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU

Reasons, Remarks

to
r Coy.

Proposed

2241

in lieu of
ators

- (i) HQ pl is 31 strong: considered too large to be commanded, without assistance, by Mortar Coy ocmd who has in addition his tactical ocmd of two pls.
- (ii) for two carriers and four 15 cwt trucks (see (b) below).
- (iii) at present the mortar coys have no Rangefinders or Rangefinder equipment as in British pls. These are considered essential.
- (i) the inf bn mortar pl has been increased from 4 to 5 carriers to provide carrier for pl ocmd. Two carriers are now required for 2 pl ocmds of Mortar Coy.
- (ii) Mortar pl in inf Bn has 3 15-cwt trucks which are essential. Mortar coy has only one truck per pl and 2 to coy HQ. 4 extra 15-cwt trucks now required to bring Regt pls into line with inf pls.

motor-
pl.50 BLU
51 BLU(i) NOT
recommended.

- (i) Not considered necessary as the tpt of the coy seldom moves in blocks of more than 20 vehs, and in any case enough m/cs are held by the coy for convoys of this size.

3
ove 350 BLU
51 BLU

(ii) Recommended

- (ii) Considered absolutely essential to have 10% spare vehs. This is done at present by reducing working str of pl to 28 task vehs, which is not satisfactory.

50 BLU
51 BLU

Recommended.

Additional drivers considered essential for reliefs and for loading duties.

.../17.

Anties./....

"5"

Serial No.	W.E.	Proposed Amendments	Proposed/Recommended by other BLUs	Proposed/Recommended by 53 BLU	
17	NA/530/1 Sigs Coy (Eng Bn)	(a) <u>Personnel.</u> Add - (i) 1 extra offr to each of the four sigs pls - 4 offr (ii) 14 extra linemen - 14 (iii) 4 operators - 4 (iv) 6 Drivers I.C. - 6 (v) 3 Gen dutymen - 3 (b) <u>Tpt.</u> (see note to Serial 7(b): no extra tpt is proposed provided the distribution of 6 Jeeps to Gp Sigs is confirmed.) (c) <u>Equipment.</u> Add (i) Switchboards UC 10-line 10 (ii) Teles D Mk.5 56 (iii) Teles 'L' 10 (iv) A.C.L. No.6 6 (v) Wireless sets No.38 complete 56		Proposed 22533	(i) 1 s Gp Bde sig (ii) Und pro con a f two con (iii) one off WE (iv) for Sig (v) 2 s (i) 1 (ii) 4 (iii) 1 (iv) 1 (v) 6 3 2 3

"5"

Proposed/
Recommended
other BLUs

Proposed/
Recommended
by 53 BLU

Reasons, Remarks.

Proposed

22433

- (i) 1 sigs offr with each inf regt, arty regt and Gp HQ is insufficient. British equivalent at Bde HQ has Capt and Subaltern R.Sigs. Italian sigs pls are over 60 in strength.
- (ii) Under existing ops conditions, which may be prolonged the requirements of line comms are considerable. To maintain these efficiently a further 6 linemen for Gp HQ, 2 each for the two Inf Regts, and 4 for the Arty Regt are considered essential.
- (iii) one extra is required in each of the 4 Signal offices, as counter clerks for which present WE does not provide
- (iv) for the 6 Jeeps recently authorised for Gp Sigs.
- (v) 2 as gen storemen 1 as P.O.L. storeman.

- (i) 1 for each inf bn and Fd Bty
- (ii) 4 " " " " " 6 for each Fd Bty
- (iii) 1 " " " " " 1 " " " " for regtl linemen.
- (iv) 1 " " " " "
- (v) 6 per inf bn (36)
- 3 per Fd Bty (12)
- 2 per Regt Mortar Coy (4)
- 3 are in Sigs Coy (4)

..../18.

Sigs Coy (4)./...

"6"

Serial

No. W.B.

Proposed Amendments.

18 CV/539/1

Mech Eng Pl.

It is understood that modifications affecting REME services have already been discussed and agreed by REME reps at Corps HQ.

19 CV/524/1
CCRR
Section

(a) Main HQ 13 Corps letter Pro 29 of 19 Mar 45 deals with the proposed reorg of Gruppo CCRR in 3 self-contained secs.

(b) It is recommended, and strongly urged by Gruppo HQ, that the Group CCRR should be commanded by a specially selected officer with the rank of captain.

(c) F.S.S.

(i) Main 8 Army letters M/361/2 I(b) of 17 Mar 45 and M/630/SD2 of 18 Mar 45 provide for the W.E. of Personnel (1 offr, 11 NCOs and 1 Batman/Dvr) and Tpt (1 Jeep, two 15 cwt, 6 m/cs) for the F.S.S. (S.S.M.).

(ii) FOLGORE Gp has already organised a F.S. Sec of 1 offr and 13 ORs, of whom all but 4 have been taken from Gp C.C.R.R. resources, thereby reducing C.C.R.R. strength.

(iii) The tpt provided for in para (i) above is considered adequate for this purpose.

(iv) It is suggested that the F.S. Sec, even if initially recruited from CCRR personnel and subsequently administered by CCRR company, should be placed directly under orders of GS'I' of Gp HQ for policy and operations.

Sigs Coy (4)./...

"6"

Serial

No. W.E.

Proposed Amendments.

18 GH/539/1

Mech Eng Fl.

It is understood that modifications affecting REME services have already been discussed and agreed by REME reps at Corps HQ.

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CCRR
Section

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(iii) The tpt provided for in para (i) above is considered adequate for this purpose.

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SECRET

Appx 'Z' to 53 ELU letter
Ref. G1 - 29 of 23 Mar 45.

Present Distribution and further Requirements of Cars 5 cwt 4x4 in
I.C.G. FOLCORE.

Unit	No. held	No required	Balance required	Remarks
1. <u>HQ I.C.G.</u> , Comd Gp	1	1	-	
2 <u>i/c Gp</u>	1	1	-	
G of S	1	1	-	
GSO II	1	1	-	
Ops Sec	3	3	-	
Services Sec	2	2	-	
Total ICG HQ	9	9	-	
2. <u>Regt HQ</u>		1		
Comd		2		
Ops, Regtl coys		6		
Total 2 Regts				
3. <u>Inf Bn</u>		1		
Comd		1		
Ops, recco		12		
Total 6 Bns				
Total 2 Inf Regts	14	18	4	
4. <u>Arty Regt</u>		1		
Regt Comd		2		
Gp (section) Comds		6		
Bty Comd (6)		12		
Tp Comds				
Total Arty Regt	14	21	7	
5. <u>Eng Bn</u>		1		
Bn Comd				

incl Senior Naval L.O.

2. <u>Regt HQ</u>	Comd			1	
	Ops, Regtl coys			2	
	Total 2 Regts			6	
3. <u>Inf Bn</u>	Comd			1	
	Ops, recon			1	
	Total 6 Bns			12	
	Total 2 Inf Regts	14		18	4
4. <u>Arty Regt</u>	Regt Comd			1	
	Cp (section) Comds			2	
	Bty Comd (6)			6	
	Tp Comds			12	
	Total Arty Regt	14		21	7
5. <u>Eng Bn</u>	Bn Comd			1	
	Bn HQ			1	
	Sigs Coy	6		6 +	
	Fd Coys (2)	3		4	
	Total	9		12	3
6. <u>S & T Coy</u>	Coy Comd			1	
	Pl Comds (3)			3	
	Total	3		4	1
7. <u>Med Sec</u>	Total	3		3	
8. <u>COMM</u>	Pro Secs (2)	2		2	
	TOTALS	54	69		15

Excl 1 Jeep proposed for P.S. Sec.

+ already
authorised

CONFIDENTIALSubject:-- War Establishment of an Italian Artillery Regt

Appx "Y" to 53 BLU
 Letter CL-29 of
 23 Mar 45

A. PERSONNEL

1. It is felt that the Establishment of personnel should be revised completely by a committee of British and Italian Artillery officers. The Establishment seems to be far too generous in number of men, and many of them have no effective jobs to do, eg, 12 Ammunition Storemen. As a result the Regiment is unwieldy and lacks mobility. Except for increases to meet such needs as extra Italian administration, and to compensate for the lower standard of education and versatility among Italian ORs it is not thought that the Italian WE should be unduly greater than the British WE. Lt-Col R.A. Dohn of the RA Training Team has made an analysis of the Establishment and forwarded his conclusions to MMIA. It is suggested that his report should be made the basis of the revision.

2. At present there are several surprising omissions from the Establishment. The following are considered important:-

- (a) There is no 2 IC on WE although the CO has in theory the functions of British CMA and also British Regimental Commander. In fact a 2 IC has been posted to the Regiment by the Ministry of War. He is mainly concerned with Admin, but as he is not on Establishment, he has no transport.
- (b) There is no MT officer. The Regt has 2 LADs attached. An Italian NCO is quite incapable of commanding an independent unit like a LAD. A Bty subaltern has therefore had to be detached to command the LADs. He has made a success of his job, but it is felt that he should be a Captain.
- (c) The WE makes no provision for Mechanics, Port Repairers, Equipment Repairers or Armourers. Although such craftsmen are in the Regt they are not entitled to an issue of tools, which somewhat handicaps their efforts.

At present the Regt is running two local HQs, as artillery support has to be given to two separate roads. The local Commander in each case is a senior officer attached to the Regt although the senior Battery Commander could do the job equally well. The local Commander acts as Regt Bde HQ and has a staff of one officer. The arrangement appears to work satisfactorily but it is not felt that any increase to the establishment of personnel is necessary.

2. At present there are several surprising omissions from the establishment. The following are considered important:-

- (a) There is no 2 IC on WE although the CO has in theory the functions of British CMA and also British Regimental Commander. In fact a 2 IC has been posted to the Regiment by the Ministry of War. He is mainly concerned with Admin, but as he is not on Establishment, he has no transport.
- (b) There is no MT officer. The Regt has 2 LADs attached. An Italian NCO is quite incapable of commanding an independent unit like a LAD. A Bty subaltern has therefore had to be detached to command the LADs. He has made a success of his job, but it is felt that he should be a Captain.
- (c) The WE makes no provision for Mechanics, Boot Repairers, Equipment Repairers or Armourers. Although such craftsmen are in the Regt they are not entitled to an issue of tools, which somewhat handicaps their efforts.

At present the Regt is running two local HQs, as artillery support has to be given to two separate roads. The local Commander in each case is a senior officer attached to the Regt although the senior Battery Commander could do the job equally well. The local Commander acts as Regt Bde HQ and has a staff of one officer. The arrangement appears to work satisfactorily but it is not felt that any increase to the establishment of personnel is necessary.

In conclusion, it is emphasized that nothing less than a thorough revision of the Establishment will enable the Regiment to operate satisfactorily. Meanwhile piecemeal proposals for minor alterations may well be held over and are therefore not submitted in detail. Lt-Col Dehn's proposals mentioned above were prepared with great care and nothing has transpired during the first weeks of action which is not covered by them. The Regt is at present preparing a "Light Scale" to which they intend to limit themselves in the case of an advance.

B. TRANSPORT.

1. The Establishment of transport does not match the Establishment of men. If the Regt, as established at present, had to move without outside assistance, even load-carrying vehicle would have to make two journeys to ferry surplus men and baggage. There appears to be two answers to the problem. First, keep the same number of men and greatly increase the amount of transport. This is generally the Italian view, but as the present scale of transport is already that of the equivalent British units, this view is not acceptable. Second, reduce the number of men and amend the transport to the Regt's battle requirements. The following proposals involve an increase in the total of vehicles of 1 car 5-cwt 4x4 for Regt HQ and a decrease of 16 Trailers Arty in the 25 pr Btys, while greatly increasing the Regt's carrying capacity and mobility.

-2-

MODIFICATIONS TO BE OF AN ARTY REGT FOR AN ITALIAN C

SERIAL	PROPOSAL	OVERALL EFFECT	REASONS, REMARKS
1	<u>REGTL HQ</u> Delete 1 15 cwt FFW Add 1 White Scout Car		1. This veh would be available for No other and veh is held on RH 2. It is important that a veh sho less sets can be fitted.
2	Delete 1 Car 2 str 4x2 1 Car 4 str 4x2 Add 3 Cars 5 cwt 4x4		1. No 4-wheel drive vehs are held available for CO, 2 IC and SVY 2. Where local HQs are necessary,
3	<u>25 PR BTY HQ</u> Delete 1 Car 2 str 4x2 1 Car 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4 1 Truck 15cwt GS	Delete 4 Cars 2str 4x2 4 Cars 4str 4x2 Add 4 Cars 5cwt 4x4 4 Trucks 15cwt GS	1. Neither cars 2str 4x2 nor cars 2. This alteration allows for vehs liaison.
4	Delete 1 Car recco Add 1 White Scout Car	Delete 4 Cars Recce Add 4 White Scout Cars	1. As the Regt is equipped with No have to be carried by each Bty sal are suitable for this purpose
5	<u>25 PR TROOP</u> Delete 1 Car 2 str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5 cwt 4x4	Delete 8 Cars 2str 4x2 Add 8 Cars 5cwt 4x4	1. Cars 2str 4x2 are not suitable 5cwt 4x4 are more efficient and ly with regard to establishing
6	Delete 1 truck 15 cwt GS Add 1 Lorry 3 ton GS	Delete 8 trucks 15 cwt GS Add 8 Lorries 3ton GS	1. Italian custom does not involve no cable-layer is provided for 2. If the WB of personnel is alte the Troop. This is provided 3. At present there is no veh sui service conditions Troop could
7	Delete 1 Tractor FA 4x4 2 Trailers Arty Add 1 Lorry 3ton 4x4	Delete 8 Tractors FA 16 Trailers Arty Add 3 Lorries 3ton 2x4)	1. This proposal gives more carry 2. A 3-ton lorry is needed in a 2 3. This veh should be 4x4 so that CO C
8	<u>ANTI-TANK BTY HQ</u> Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2 1 Car 4str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4 1 Truck 15 cwt 4x2		See Serial 3 above.

+ -2-

REQUIREMENTS TO BE OF AN ARMY REGT FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPWE - NA/525/1SUBJECTREASONS, REMARKS, etc

1. This veh would be available for recce purposes (gun areas OPs etc).
No other armed veh is held on RHQ.
2. It is important that a veh should be available to the CO in which 2 wire-
less sets can be fitted.
1. No 4-wheel drive vehs are held on RHQ. It is felt that Jeeps should be
available for CO, 2 IC and Svy Offr.
2. Where local HQs are necessary, vehs must be provided from RHQ resources.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 2str 4x2 | 1. Neither cars 2str 4x2 nor cars 4str 4x2 are suitable vehs for active ops. |
| 4str 4x2 | 2. This alteration allows for vehs more suitable for recce, OP work and |
| 5cwt 4x4 | liaison. |

as 15cwt GS

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Recce | 1. As the Regt is equipped with No 11 sets, which have no flick frequency 2 sets |
| Scout Cars | have to be carried by each Bty Comd. Neither Recce Cars or Carriers Univer-
sal are suitable for this purpose. |

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 2str 4x2 | 1. Cars 2str 4x2 are not suitable vehs for tactical purposes in fwd areas. Cars |
| 5cwt 4x4 | 5cwt 4x4 are more efficient and correspond to battle requirements, particular-
ly with regard to establishing OPs. |

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| as 15 cwtGS | 1. Italian custom does not involve the extensive use of cable-laying vehs. Also |
| ies 3ton GS | no cable-layer is provided for a 2nd cable-laying truck in the troop. |
| | 2. If the WB of personnel is altered or not, more carrying capacity is needed for
the Troop. This is provided by this proposal. |
| | 3. At present there is no veh suitable for carrying Cooks and rations. On active
service conditions Troop cooking is desirable. |

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| cars FA | 1. This proposal gives more carrying capacity in the Troop whilst saving eqpt. |
| lers Arty | 2. A 3-ton lorry is needed in a 25pr Troop. |
| os 3ton) | 3. This veh should be 4x4 so that it may be used for gun towing if necessary. |

See Serial 3 above.

-to sheet 3-

-3-

SERIAL	PROPOSAL		
	<u>ANTI-TANK TROOP</u>		
9	Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4	Delete 2 Cars 2str 4x2 Add 2 Cars 5cwt 4x4	See Serial 5 above
10	Add 2 Motor-cycles Solo	Add 4 Motor-cycles	1. There are no motor-cycles at More motor-cycles are needed
	<u>ANTI-AIRCRAFT BTY HQ</u>		
11	Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4		See Serial 3 above
	<u>AA TROOP</u>		
12	Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4		See Serial 5 above
13	Delete 2 Motor-cycles SOLO	Delete 4 Motor-cycles Solo	1. It is not considered that an to operate efficiently with 2. These motor-cycles are more

NOTE:-

1. The overall effect of these proposals leaves the number of vehs the although more suitable vehs for battle conditions are provided, decreased by 16.

7238

-3-

Cars 2str 4x2

See Serial 5 above

Cars 5cwt 4x4

Motor-cycles

1. There are no motor-cycles at present in the Troop, and only 4 in the Bty. More motor-cycles are needed for DR, recon and liaison duties.

See Serial 3 above

See Serial 5 above

Motor-cycles

Solo

1. It is not considered that an AA Troop needs 5 motor-cycles and ^{it} should be able to operate efficiently with 3 motor-cycles & 1 car 4x4 (see Serial 12)
2. These motor-cycles are more urgently needed in Serial 10.

of these proposals leaves the number of vehs the same except for one Jeep at HQ, able vehs for battle conditions are provided. The number of trailers, Arty, are

7238

-to sheet 4-

-4-

2. The changes can be summarized as follows:-

	<u>Present WE</u>	<u>Proposed WE</u>
Motorcycles	52	52
Cars 2str 4x2	29	10
Cars 5cwt 4x4	-	21
Cars 4str 4x2	7	1
Trucks 15cwt GS	37	34
Trucks 15cwt FFW	26	25
Loorries 3ton 4x2	48	56
Loorries 3ton 4x4	-	8
Trailers Arty	65	49
Tractors F.	48	40
Cars Recce	12	8
White Scout Cars	-	5
Carriers Universal	3	3

21 Cars 5cwt 4x4 is considered a comfortable number of mech vehs. However, it is felt that 15 is a minimum having regard to the needs for establishing local HQs. The balance of Jeeps could be made up with Cars 8 cwt.

4. As many vehicles as possible should be 4 wheel drive.

C. SIGNAL EQUIPMENT1. Wire Telephony.

(a) The number of telephones and exchanges held on WE is not considered adequate. I/T assumes greater importance in static operations (which will often be the role of the Italian Gp) than in mobile operations. As a result it is felt that the Arty unit should have as much or even more telephone equipment than its English equivalent.

(b) At present the WE of an Italian Field Bty is - 10 telephones
1 Exchange
while a British Bty has - 24 telephones
2 Exchanges.

The Italian AA Bty has 14 telephones; the English equivalent is 20.

The Italian Ltk Bty has neither telephone nor Exchange.

(c) R Signals EIGHTH Army has made the 25 pr Btys up to 17 telephones and 2 Exchanges, but this equipment is only lent. When the Regt took over the line in this sector, the number of telephones was still inadequate even when using the strictest economy

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The Italian AA Bty has 14 telephones; the English equivalent is 20.

The Italian Atk Bty has neither telephone nor Exchange.

(c) R Signals Eighth Army has made the 25 pr Btys up to 17 telephones and 2 Exchanges, but this equipment is only lent. When the Regt took over the line in this sector, the number of telephones was still inadequate even when using the strictest economy

(d) The proposal is therefore to increase the WE of a Fd Bty to 24 telephones and 2 Exchanges, the AA Bty to 20 telephones and 1 Exchange, and the Atk Bty to the equivalent British WE (unfortunately no WE of a British Atk Bty is available here).

2. Wireless

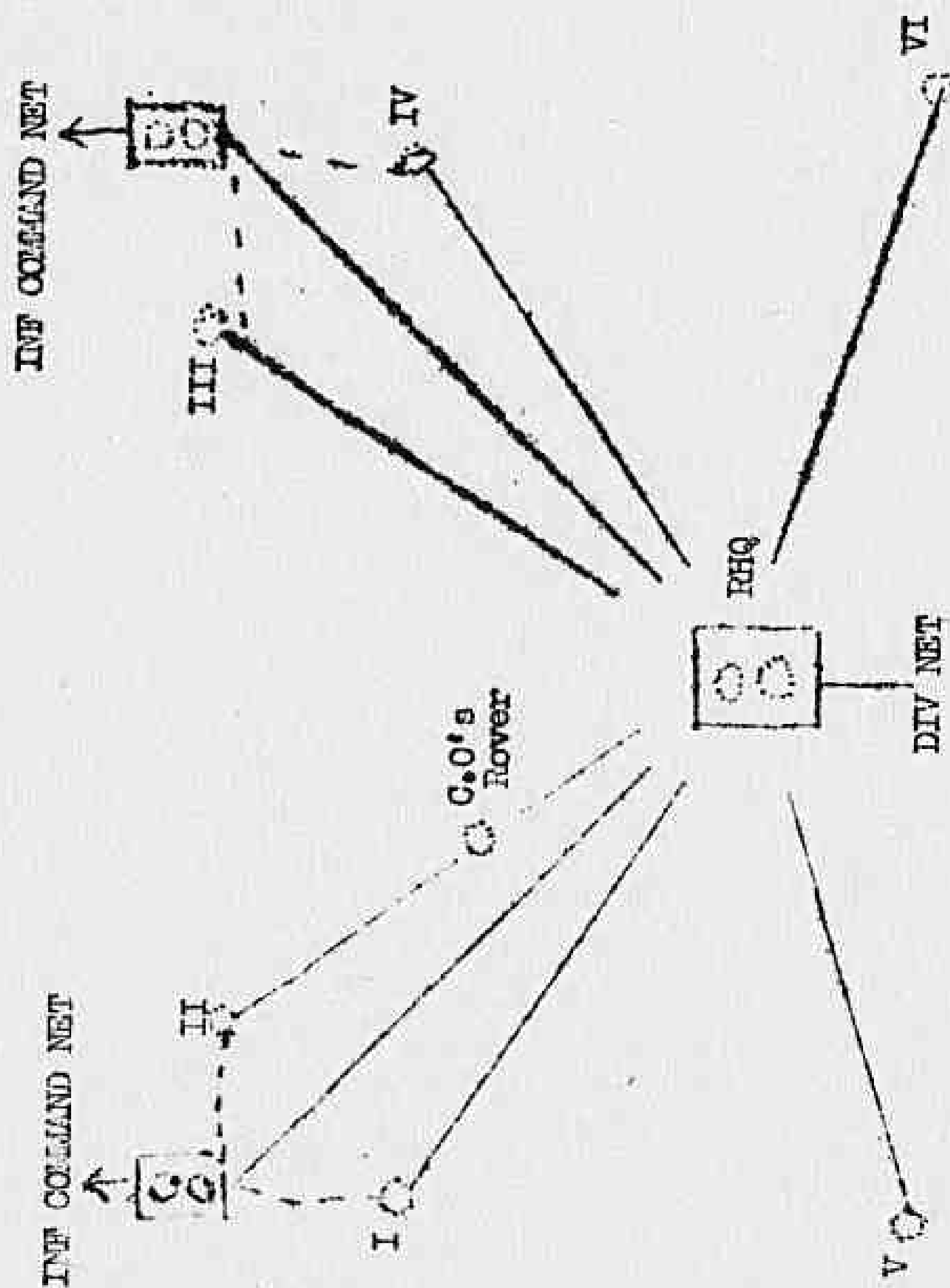
(a) The scale of wireless equipment is adequate, but little experience under active service conditions has yet been gained. It is not felt that the WE provides adequately for the needs of the regimental net. At present No 19 Sets are provided at RHQ to which the Btys have to work with No 11 Sets, as no No 19 Sets are held at Bty HQ as in a British unit. As the distance over which the regimental net is called upon to operate is likely to be greater if anything than a British Regt, and this net from a control point of view is vital, it is felt that 19 Sets should be provided in lieu of 11 Sets on a scale of 1 per Bty. Total 6 x No 19 Sets.

Further it is proposed that each Local Commander should have a No 19 Set for communication with Regt, as it is felt that usually a local HQs will be necessary. Total 2 x No 19 Sets.

(b) The total No of 19 Sets in the Regt, incl Sigs Pl would then be 13, which would be employed as per this diagram

-to sheet 5-

-5-



(c) The proposal is therefore to substitute 1 No 19 Set for 1 No 11 Set at each Bty and to add 2 No 19 Sets to the RHQ establishment for use by local Commanders.

Increase of No 19 Sets - 8
Decrease of No 11 Sets - 6

D. GENERAL

In addition to the points made above, which are briefly the needs for -

- (a) A complete revision of personnel,
- (b) A readjustment of transport,
- (c) A slightly improved scale of Signal equipment,

(c) The proposal is therefore to substitute 1 No 19 Set for 1 No 11 Set at each Div and to add 2 No 19 Sets to the RHQ establishment for use by local Commanders.

Increase of No 19 Sets - 8
Decrease of No 11 Sets - 6

D. GENERAL

In addition to the points made above, which are briefly the needs for -

- (a) A complete revision of personnel,
- (b) A readjustment of transport,
- (c) A slightly improved scale of Signal equipment,

there are two further points which need urgent attention before the best or even good results can be expected from the Regt. These are,

- (a) that the equipping of this Regt should be completed or nearly completed to G 1098 Scale. There are many important deficiencies particularly in transport,
- (b) that, now the Italians have become reasonably efficient in the maintenance and use of British equipment, they should be given as far as possible good and serviceable equipment. For example, several of the vehicles were collected at the end of a tow-rope and the majority are still without tools. Repeated RHQ attention has not yet succeeded in getting the guns into what might be described as good condition. While the Regt obviously has no claim to high priority for equipment, indifferent equipment has a harmful effect on morale and ultimately on results.

DIV NET

VI

Subject: CC.RR. for Combat Groups.

53 B.L.U.
Ref. G4 - 32
4 May 45

To :- II.Q. Combat Group POLCORE

Herewith copy of IMIA letter A 170 dated 29 Apr, passed to 7735
for information.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

488/20

George Call

SECRET

Subject: CC.RR. for Combat Groups.

Land Forces Sub Com A.C.
(M.H.I.A.) R O M E

A 170

29 Apr 45

To :- Ministry of War

Copy to 53 R.L.U.

Reference your 19946/Ord of 14 Apr 45.

1. As you know the ceiling of 1865 for CC.RR. ITI-ITI personnel allotted to the Army is already fully committed. Our SD/4 of 6 March refers. In order to post a CC.RR. Captain as Provost Marshal to each Combat Group it is therefore necessary to make a reduction elsewhere.
2. It is considered that this reduction can be made with least inconvenience from the General-duty men in 152 CC.RR Coy at RTC on W.E. CM/737/1, whose duties could be carried out by some of the 100 CC.RR reinforcements authorised at CESANO or by GD men on the permanent of the RTC HQ.
3. An amendment has therefore been made to W.E. CM/737/1 reducing the GD men from 7 to 2, and increasing the number of officers from 1 Captain and 1 Subaltern to 6 Captains and 1 Subaltern. The CC.RR Captains to be sent to Combat Groups will consequently be carried on the strength of 152 CC.RR Coy, CESANO and be attached, one to the HQ of each Combat Group.
4. Any proposal for a CC.RR HQ in the Combat Group in addition to the Captain mentioned above cannot be authorised by MHA, since there is no room for further increases within the ceiling, unless a proposal can be made for a corresponding reduction elsewhere.
5. Please report to MHA the names of the CC.RR Captains who are to be posted to Groups in accordance with the above, and confirm that the strength of HQ 152 CC.RR Coy has been correspondingly reduced.

(Signed)

W. Fildesley, Colonel,
for Major General
MHA.

Subject: Carabinieri

To: Hq Combat Group FOLCORE

53 B.L.U.
Ref G1 - 31
30 Apr 45

Ref your 909/S.M. of 30 March 45.

Herewith copy of 10 Corps letter G 150 SD of 29 Apr, passed to you for information.

Magill
Capt Lt. Col.
G.S.

Subject: Carabinieri

53 BLU

Main H.Q. 10 Corps.
G 150 SD
29 Apr 45

Ref letter GOC FOLCORE ICG on this subject dated 30 March addressed 13 Corps copy to you.

1. It is felt that if a Combat Group is adequately supported by a Corps organisation with traffic control Police and TC Coys, then the present WM of the CCRR is adequate to cope with the duties that the GOC enumerates in his letter, as only a few CCRR (about 10) need to be used to assist the Italian PBS leaving the remainder available for other duties.

2. There does appear to be a case for requesting the appt of a Coy Comd - cum - DAPM.

3. It is proposed to recommend to 8 Army that a Coy Comd - cum - DAPM be appointed to each Gruppi and that the formation of Italian Traffic Control Coys at the rate of one coy to each Gruppi be considered.

7233

(Signed) ??????????
Brigadier,
GENERAL STAFF.

SUBJECT: - Carabinieri.

445
30 APR 1945

Main H.Q. 10 Corps.

G 150 SD.

53 BLU.

✱

29 Apr 45.

Ref letter GOC FOLGORE ICG on this subject dated 30 March addressed 13 Corps copy to you.

1. It is felt that if a Combat Group is adequately supported by a Corps organisation with traffic control Police and TC Coys, then the present WE of the CCRR is adequate to cope with the duties that the GOC enumerates in his letter, as only a few CCRR (about 10) need be used to assist the Italian FCS leaving the remainder available for other duties.

2. There does appear to be a case for requesting the appt of a Coy Comd-cum-DAPM.

3. It is proposed to recommend to 8 Army that a Coy Comd-cum-DAPM be appointed to each Gruppi and that the formation of Italian Traffic Control Coys at the rate of one coy to each Gruppi be considered.

*Make one copy
to send to Gfr.
copy sent to Gfr.
Em*

Rutten 232
Brigadier,
GENERAL STAFF.

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

FOLGORE Combat Group

909/S.M.

30 Mar 45

Subject: Carabinieri.

To :- HQ 15 Corps

Inf'n 53 B.L.U.

1. According to normal regulations and through long practice among higher Italian formations, the CC.RR were given the exclusive job of military police, that is ;

Counter espionage
Maintenance of discipline in rear areas
Guarding of HQs

in accordance with the function and organisation of the CC.RR.

For road and traffic control there existed special mobile units which also provided necessary elements to form road blocks, bridge guards and other special guards and mobile patrols etc.

2. At present, almost all the CC.RR available are employed, as shown on the attached list, on road and traffic control. The three sections 314, 315 and 317, according to orders received, are merged into one Coy. This arrangement, however, has not met with the approval of the higher Italian authorities, who have not yet assigned a coy commander.

The CC.RR, adopting the method of higher British formations and according to the intentions of Lieut. Clark of this HQ, would therefore detach themselves from their existing command and become exclusively under command of A.P.M. 13 Corps. 3. In these circumstances, it is impossible for me to use the CC.RR, already fully occupied on traffic control, for those very necessary duties of military police which are so essential to deal with the somewhat exuberant and irresponsible elements still to be found within the Group.

In particular, the lack of personnel makes it impossible to provide for the following :-

- (a) Provision of a control post on the MARRADI - PAENZA road to prevent vehicles and men stationed in the rear areas without the necessary authority.
- (b) Form a mobile patrol service for road patrolling.
- (c) Carry out in FLORENCE frequent snap controls of vehicles, and individual men of the Group to check on those who may have got past the control posts.
- (d) Control of a reception camp now being formed at ROMA.
- (e) Arrest of soldiers and accompanying them to detention centres.
- (f) To cope with the generally increased responsibilities that would automatically result from the enlarging of our sector or other operational reasons.

assigned a coy comdr.

The CC.RR, adopting the method of higher British formations and according to the intentions of Lieut. Clark of this HQ, would therefore detach themselves from their existing comd and become exclusively under comd of A.P.M. 13 Corps.

3. In these circumstances, it is impossible for me to use the CC.RR, already fully occupied on traffic control, for those very necessary duties of military police which are so essential to deal with the somewhat enervant and irresponsible elements still to be found within the Group.

In particular, the lack of personnel makes it impossible to provide for the following :-

(a) Provision of a control post on the MARRADI - FAENZA road to prevent vehs and men stationed in the rear areas without the necessary authority.

(b) Form a mobile patrol service for road patrolling.

(c) Carry out in FLORENCE frequent snap controls of vehs, and individual men of the Group to check on those who may have got past the control posts.

(d) Control of a reception camp now being formed at RONVA.

(e) Arrest of soldiers and accompanying them to detention centres.

(f) To cope with the generally increased responsibilities that would automatically result from the enlarging of our sector or other operational reasons.

4. In view of the above and in order to raise the standard not only of traffic control but also to tighten up discipline in the rear areas, I submit the following proposals for your kind consideration:-

- Formation of a road control coy which could take over the duties of traffic control at present undertaken by the CC.RR; this coy could be formed by this HQ.

- To solicit from Italian General HQ, the posting of a coy comdr.

- To authorise the CC.RR to remain under effective comd of the Group. The latter we feel to be indispensable for the carrying out of police details.

I shall be grateful to have your views and decisions regarding my suggestions.

Signed - G. Morigi,

G.O.C

ADJG No. 1 to 909/EM
dated 30 Mar 45.

Strength of the CC.RR. Coys solely used on Traffic Control
duties and P.S.S.

Detachment at	CASOLA	16
	BOFFADI	1
	CASTAGNO	4
	PALAZZUOLO	8
	MARRADI	8
	GAGGIO	23
	CASTEL DEL RIO	4
	BORGIO S. LORENZO	4
Road Block at	NOVOLI	5
	COLCANTO	5
	VICCHIO	5
	FIRENZUOLO	5
P.S.S.		10
		<u>98</u>

Taking into account that of the W.E. of 155 CC.RR. only 137 are
at present on the strength, leaving only 39 men available for the various
duties.

1230

1636
1636
53 B.L.U.
Ref. 1010 5
Apr 45

Subject: Organisation of C.C.R.R. Provost Coy

To :- A.P.M. 13 Corps
'G' 53 B.L.U. ✓
DAA & QMG 53 B.L.U.
Chief of Staff, FOLGORE Combat Group

At present, the organisation of the CCR Provost Coy is very unsuitable for an operational unit. Mainly because (a) Coy HQ is at present too large and so causes much wastage of man power. (b) Sections are too large and cumbersome, therefore not mobile and as independent as they could be.

Proposals.

Coy HQ to consist of :-

	Offrs	W/Lt	Brig	V/Brig	App	C(Re	Total
Officer Commanding	1						1
Subaltern	1						1
Warrant Officers		2					2
CQIS		1					1
Clerks			1				2
Pay Duties			1				1
Storemen			1			1	2
Cooks				1		1	2
Batmen/Drivers						2	2
General Duties				1		1	2
Drivers I.C.						4	4
Motor-cyclist & Orderlies						3	3
Total	2	3	1	4	1	12	23

Transport

Coy HQ

1	5-cwt 4 x 4	for Officer Commanding
1	5-cwt 4 x 2	for Subaltern
3	Lorries 3-ton GS for (1- QM, 1-Traffic Eqpt & 1-General use)	
1	Truck 15-cwt GS for MT use	
3	M/cs (2-DRs, 1-Warrant Officer)	

Sections

7 Sections each with 2 NCOs (Brig, V/Brig and 13 men)

Clerks	1	1	1	2
Pay Duties		1		1
Storemen		1		2
Cooks			1	2
Batmen/Drivers				2
General Duties				2
Drivers I.C.		1		2
Motor-cyclist & Orderlies				4
				3
Total	2	3	4	12
				23

Transport

Coy HQ
 1 5-cwt 4 x 4 for Officer Commanding
 1 5-cwt 4 x 2 for Subaltern
 3 Lorries 3-ton GS for (1- QM, 1-Traffic Eqpt & 1-General use)
 1 Truck 15-cwt GS for MT use
 3 M/cs (2-DRs, 1-Warrant Officer)

Sections

7 Sections each with 2 NOOs (Brig, V/Brig and 13 men)
 1 Section with 1 Brig, 4 V/Brig and 10 men

Transport

2 Sections, { 1 15-cwt truck
 each with { 1 5-cwt
 { 7 M/cs

2 Sections, { 1 15-cwt truck
 each with { 7 M/cs

3 Sections, { 1 15-cwt truck
 each with { 4 M/cs

1 Section { 2 15-cwt trucks
 with { 4 M/cs

This would make 4 Sections fairly mobile and give the section with each Regiment, a 5-cwt car. These 4 Sections backed up with about 30 soldiers for traffic control should be sufficient for traffic duties.-

- 3 Sections not quite so mobile for duty at Group HQ and in rear areas for road checks and discipline.

- The last section with extra NOOs and an extra 15-cwt truck for regimental police duties, escorts and enquiries.

...../Also

7229

enquiries./...

"2"

Also on the strength of the Coy but at present acting as F.S. Section,
are -

1 Officer	}	2 15-cwt trucks
2 Brig		
1 V/Brig		4 M/cs
6 C/Re		

At present the Coy is not holding its full entitlement of vehicles.
Deficiencies at present are :-

Trucks 15-cwt	3
M/cs	9
Car 5-cwt 4 x 2 or 4 x 4	1

The proposed organisation of the Coy includes these vehicles. 1228

J. Black Lieut.
Provost Liaison Officer,
53 BLU.

App A' to 53 BLU letter
Ref. PLO 5 dated 13 Apr 45

C.C.R.R. Provost Coy.

	PERSONNEL						VEHICLES			
	Offrs	M'lli	Brig	V/Brig	App	Cro	3-ton	15-cwt	5-cwt	M/os
Coy H.Q.	2	3	1	4	1	12	3	1	2	3
Section No.1				2 +		13		1	1	7
No.2				2 +		13		1	1	7
No.3				2		13		1		7
No.4				2		13		1		7
No.5				2		13		1		4
No.6				2		13		1		4
No.7				2		13		1		4
No.8			1	4		10		2		4
F.S.S.	1		2	1		6		2		4
	3	3	6	21	1	119	3	12	224	51
War Establishment	3	3	6	21	-	120	3	12	4	51

+ Brig or V/Brig

Subject: Interpreters

To: Main HQ 13 Corps

53 H.L.J.
Ref 61/4
27 Mar 45

Reference conversation DCS - GSO I this HQ of 24 Mar.

1. It is confirmed that a shorthand-typist will meet the present situation at this HQ and will speed up the transmission of orders and correspondence between HQ Combat Group and HQ 13 Corps. This typist should be provided with his own typewriter otherwise there will still be a bottleneck.
2. The reasons for this requirement which is not included in WZ of a HQ are as follows:
 - (a) Only two British HQ interpreters are allowed on HQ. Although both of them are present with the unit, they are both very slow and are low-grade interpreters and at the best can only do very literal translations and have little knowledge of military terms. Interpreters even of this class are in short supply. One of these interpreters is essential to our rear HQ for ordinance and G & T matters, and therefore only one is available for the Ops and ^{English Speaking} matters.
 - (b) One Italian officer and two Italian other ranks are on the strength of the Italian increment of the HQ but they are quite useless for any office work and in any case they are provided on HQ to deal with the internal administration of the HQ and are fully occupied.
 - (c) Although 3 Maltese officers are attached, their duties are laid down as liaison and not solely interpretation and they volunteered for service out of HQ and so too are not solely interpreting. In addition to this, few or none of them speak Italian well enough or can express themselves well enough on paper in idiomatic English to be of much use.
3. If the HQIA LO, Major Monico, is withdrawn, this HQ will need a first-class interpreter in addition to the shorthand-typist. Even the highest grade interpreter will not meet the situation as the position calls for more than interpretation and he not only must have sufficient military experience and knowledge to take his part in high level planning conferences, but must also possess the necessary standing to pass on to the Italian Commanding General adverse comments from British higher formations, without upsetting Italian dignity, which is very touchy.
4. At the present moment this HQ is fortunate to possess a GSO II, Major Marken, who is a fluent Italian speaker. He, in addition to the HQIA LO, can make very good use of a shorthand-typist.

C. H. B. 7226

Lt. Col.
C. B.

SUBJECT: Interpreters.

53 ~~MLU~~

~~6~~
41/Q A

wh

31/3

Re: your 01/1 dated 27 Mar 45.

Application for a shorthand typist has been made to ARMY and it is hoped that something will develop in the near future.

W. H. L. L.
br. *W. H. L. L.*
General Staff.

474
30 MAR 45

Hq 13 Corps.
5731/2.

30 Mar 45.

7225

SUBJECT - Minutes of WEC Meetings

~~RESTRICTED~~

1628

GI

3 APR 1945

1 H/Q. *clh*
3/4
Main HQ 13 Corps
5316/4/G(37)
2 Apr 45

53 BLU attached FOLGORE Gp

The attached extract ~~xx~~ from AMHQ WEC Meeting No. 184
is ~~xxxx~~ forwarded for information.

[Signature]
Brigadier
General Staff.

7224

1341A

Addition to Minutes of Meeting No 144BRITISH LIAISON UNIT (for Gruppo di Combattimenti)

(CM/508/1)

War Office have approved the continuation of this
est, subject to review on 25 Apr 45.

Authority : War Office cable 74342 SD3 of 7 Mar 45.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: - War Establishment of an Italian Artillery Regt

Appx "Y" to 53 BLU
Letter GL-29 of
23 Mar 45

A. PERSONNEL

1. It is felt that the Establishment of personnel should be revised completely by a committee of British and Italian Artillery officers. The Establishment seems to be far too generous in number of men, and many of them have no effective jobs to do, eg, 12 Ammunition Storemen. As a result the Regiment is unwieldy and lacks mobility. Except for increases to meet such needs as extra Italian administration, and to compensate for the lower standard of education and versatility among Italian ORs it is not thought that the Italian WE should be unduly greater than the British WE. Lt-Col R.A. Dohn of the RA Training Team has made an analysis of the Establishment and forwarded his conclusions to MMIA. It is suggested that his report should be made the basis of the revision.

2. At present there are several surprising omissions from the Establishment. The following are considered important: -

- (a) There is no 2 IC on WE although the CO has in theory the functions of British CFA and also British Regimental Commander. In fact a 2 IC has been posted to the Regiment by the Ministry of War. He is mainly concerned with Admin, but as he is not on Establishment, he has no transport.
- (b) There is no MT officer. The Regt has 2 LADs attached. An Italian NCO is quite incapable of commanding an independent unit like a LAD. A Bty subaltern has therefore had to be detached to command the LADs. He has made a success of his job, but it is felt that he should be a Captain.
- (c) The WE makes no provision for Mechanics, Boot Repairers, Equipment Repairers or Armourers. Although such craftsmen are in the Regt they are not entitled to an issue of tools, which somewhat handicaps their efforts.

At present the Regt is running two local HQs as Artillery support has to be given to two separate roads. The local Commander in each case is a senior officer attached to the Regt although the senior Battery Commander could do the job equally well. The local Commander acts as Regt St. Sub HQ and has a staff of one officer. The arrangement appears to work satisfactorily but it is not felt that any increase in the establishment of personnel is necessary.

- (a) There is no 2 IC on WE although the CO has in theory the functions of British CMA and also British Regimental Commander. In fact a 2 IC has been posted to the Regiment by the Ministry of War. He is mainly concerned with Admin, but as he is not on Establishment, he has no transport.
- (b) There is no MT officer. The Regt has 2 LADs attached. An Italian NCO is quite incapable of commanding an independent unit like a LAD. A Bty subaltern has therefore had to be detached to command the LADs. He has made a success of his job, but it is felt that he should be a Captain.
- (c) The WE makes no provision for Mechanics, Boot Repairers, Equipment Repairers or Armourers. Although such craftsmen are in the Regt they are not entitled to an issue of tools, which somewhat handicaps their efforts.

At present the Regt is running two local HQs: artillery support HQs to be given to two separate roads. The local Commander in each case is a senior officer attached to the Regt although the senior Jettify Commander could do the job equally well. The local Commander notes as Regt HQ and has a staff of one officer. The arrangement appears to work satisfactorily but it is not felt that any increase to the establishment of personnel is necessary.

In conclusion, it is emphasized that nothing less than a thorough revision of the Establishment will enable the Regiment to operate satisfactorily. Meanwhile piecemeal proposals for minor alterations may well be held over and are therefore not submitted in detail. Lt-Col Dehn's proposals mentioned above were prepared with great care and nothing has transpired during the first weeks of action which is not covered by them. The Regt is at present preparing a "Light Scale" to which they intend to limit themselves in the case of an advance.

B. TRANSPORT.

1. The Establishment of transport does not match the Establishment of men. If the Regt, as established at present, had to move without outside assistance, even load-carrying vehicle would have to make two journeys to ferry surplus men and baggage. There appears to be two answers to the problem. First, keep the number of men and greatly increase the amount of transport. This is generally the Italian view, but as the present scale of transport is already that of the equivalent British units, this view is not acceptable. Second, reduce the number of men and amend the transport to the Regt's battle requirements. The following proposals involve an increase in the total of vehicles of 1 or 5-cwt for Regt HQ and a decrease of 16 Trailers Art in the 25 pr Btys, while greatly increasing the Regt's carrying capacity and mobility.

+ -2-

MODIFICATIONS TO ME OF AN ARTY REGT FOR AN ITALIAN

SERIAL	PROPOSAL	OVERALL EFFECT	REASONS, REMARKS
1	<u>REGTL HQ</u> Delete 1 15 cwt FFV Add 1 White Scout Car		1. This veh would be available for No other arm'd veh is held on 2. It is important that a veh at less sets can be fitted.
2	Delete 1 Car 2 str 4x2 1 Car 4 str 4x2 Add 3 Cars 5 cwt 4x4		1. No 4-wheel drive vehs are held available for CO, 2 IC and SV 2. Where local HQs are necessary
3	<u>25 PR BTY HQ</u> Delete 1 Car 2 str 4x2 1 Car 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4 1 Truck 15cwt GS	Delete 4 Cars 2str 4x2 4 Cars 4str 4x2 Add 4 Cars 5cwt 4x4 4 Trucks 15cwt GS	1. Neither cars 2str 4x2 nor car 2. This alteration allows for veh liaison.
4	Delete 1 Car recon Add 1 White Scout Car	Delete 4 Cars Recon Add 4 White Scout Cars	1. As the Regt is equipped with have to be carried by each Bt sal are suitable for this purp
5	<u>25 PR TROOP</u> Delete 1 Car 2 str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5 cwt 4x4	Delete 8 Cars 2str 4x2 Add 8 Cars 5cwt 4x4	1. Cars 2str 4x2 are not suitable 5cwt 4x4 are more efficient ly with regard to establishin
6	Delete 1 truck 15 cwt GS Add 1 Lorry 3 ton GS	Delete 8 trucks 15 cwt GS Add 8 Lorries 3ton GS	1. Italian custom does not invol no cable-layer is provided for 2. If the WB of personnel is alt the Troop. This is provided 3. At present there is no veh su service conditions Troop ord
7	Delete 1 Tractor FA 4x4 2 Trailers Arty Add 1 Lorry 3ton 4x4	Delete 8 Tractors FA 16 Trailers Arty Add 8 lorries 3ton	1. This proposal gives more cap 2. A 3-ton lorry is needed in a 3. This veh should be 4x4 so the
8	<u>ANTI-TANK BTY HQ</u> Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2 1 Car 4str 4x2 Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4 1 Truck 15 cwt 4x2		See Serial 3 above.

+ -2-

MODIFICATIONS TO BE OF AN ARTY REGT FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPWE - NA/525/1ALL EFFECTREASONS, REMARKS, etc

1. This veh would be available for recce purposes (gun areas OPs etc).
No other armed veh is held on RHQ.
2. It is important that a veh should be available to the CO in which 2 wire-
less sets can be fitted.

1. No 4-wheel drive vehs are held on RHQ. It is felt that Jeeps should be
available for CO, 2 IC and Svy Offr.
2. Where local HQs are necessary, vehs must be provided from RHQ resources.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Cars 2str 4x2 | 1. Neither cars 2str 4x2 nor cars 4str 4x2 are suitable vehs for active ops. |
| Cars 4str 4x2 | 2. This alteration allows for vehs more suitable for recce, OP work and |
| Cars 5cwt 4x4 | liaison. |

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Trucks 15cwt GS | |
| Cars Recce | 1. As the Regt is equipped with No II sets, which have no flick frequency 2 sets |
| White Scout Cars | have to be carried by each Bty Comd. Neither Recce Cars or Carriers Univer-
sal are suitable for this purpose. |

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Cars 2str 4x2 | 1. Cars 2str 4x2 are not suitable vehs for tactical purposes in fwd areas. Cars |
| Cars 5cwt 4x4 | 5cwt 4x4 are more efficient and correspond to battle requirements, particular-
ly with regard to establishing OPs. |

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Trucks 15 cwt GS | 1. Italian custom does not involve the extensive use of cable-laying vehs. Also |
| Lorries 3ton GS | no cable-layer is provided for a 2nd cable-laying truck in the troop. |
| | 2. If the WT of personnel is altered or not, more carrying capacity is needed for
the Troop. This is provided by this proposal. |
| | 3. At present there is no veh suitable for carrying Cooks and rations. On active
service conditions Troop cooking is desirable. |

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Tractors FA | 1. This proposal gives more carrying capacity in the Troop whilst saving eqpt. |
| Trailers 1rty | 2. A 3-ton lorry is needed in a 25pr Troop. |
| Lorries 3ton) | 3. This veh should be 4x4 so that it may be used for gun towing if necessary. |

(52x4)
(N)

See Serial 3 above.

-to sheet 3-

-3-

SERIAL	PROPOSAL		
	<u>ANTI-TANK TROOP</u>		
9	Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2	Delete 2 Cars 2str 4x2	See Serial 5 above
	Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4	Add 2 Cars 5cwt 4x4	
10	Add 2 Motor-cycles	Add 4 Motor-cycles	1. There are no motor-cycles at present. More motor-cycles are needed for
	Solo		
	<u>ANTI-AIRCRAFT BTRY HQ</u>		
11	Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2		See Serial 3 above
	Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4		
	<u>AA TROOP</u>		
12	Delete 1 Car 2str 4x2		See Serial 5 above
	Add 1 Car 5cwt 4x4		
13	Delete 2 Motor-cycles	Delete 4 Motor-cycles	1. It is not considered that an AA to operate efficiently with 3 m
	Solo	Solo	2. These motor-cycles are more ur

NOTE:-

1. The overall effect of these proposals leaves the number of vehs the same although more suitable vehs for battle conditions are provided. The decreased by 16.

1551

-3-

See Serial 5 above

r 4x2
t 4x4
cles

1. There are no motor-cycles at present in the Troop, and only 4 in the Bty. More motor-cycles are needed for DR, recon and liaison duties.

See Serial 3 above

See Serial 5 above

cles
Solo

it

1. It is not considered that an AA Troop needs 5 motor-cycles and should be able to operate efficiently with 3 motor-cycles & 1 car 4x4 (see Serial 12)
2. These motor-cycles are more urgently needed in Serial 10.

as proposals leaves the number of vehs the same except for one Jeep at RHQ, as for battle conditions are provided. The number of trailers, Arty, are

-to sheet 4-

1001

-4-

2. The changes can be summarized as follows:-

	<u>Present WE</u>	<u>Proposed WE</u>
Motorcycles	52	52
Cars 2str 4x2	29	10
Cars 5wt 4x4	-	21
Cars 4str 4x2	7	1
Trucks 15wt GS	37	34
Trucks 15wt PPW	26	25
Lorries 3ton 4x2	48	56
Lorries 3ton 4x4	-	8
Trailers Arty	65	49
Tractors FA	48	40
Cars Recon	12	3
White Scout Cars	-	5
Carriers Universal	3	3

3. 21 Cars 5wt 4x4 is considered a comfortable number of ^{such} vchs. However, it is felt that 15 is a minimum having regard to the needs for establishing local HQs. The balance of Jeeps could be made up with Cars 3 cwt.

4. As many vehicles as possible should be 4 wheel drive.

C. SIGNAL EQUIPMENT1. Wire Telephony.

(a) The number of telephones and exchanges held on WE is not considered adequate. I/T assumes greater importance in static operations (which will often be the role of the Italian Gp) than in mobile operations. As a result it is felt that the Arty unit should have as much or even more telephone equipment than its English equivalent.

(b) At present the WE of an Italian Field Bty is - 10 telephones
1 Exchange
while a British Bty has
- 24 telephones
2 Exchanges.

The Italian AA Bty has 14 telephones; the English equivalent is 20.

The Italian Atk Bty has neither telephone nor Exchange.

(c) R Signals EIGHTH Army has made the 25 pr Btys up to 17 telephones and 2 exchanges, but this equipment is only lent. When the Regt took over the line in this sector, the number of telephones was still inadequate even when using the striatest equipment.

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(b) At present the WE of an Italian Field Bty is - 10 telephones
1 Exchange
while a British Bty has - 24 telephones
2 Exchanges.

The Italian AA Bty has 14 telephones; the English equivalent is 20.

The Italian Ltk Bty has neither telephone nor Exchange.

(c) R Signals Eighth Army has made the 25 pr Btys up to 17 telephones and 2 exchanges, but this equipment is only lent. When the Regt took over the line in this sector, the number of telephones was still inadequate even when using the strictest economy

(d) The proposal is therefore to increase the WE of a Fd Bty to 24 telephones and 2 Exchanges, the AA Bty to 20 telephones and 1 Exchange, and the Ltk Bty to the equivalent British WE (unfortunately no WE of a British Ltk Bty is available here).

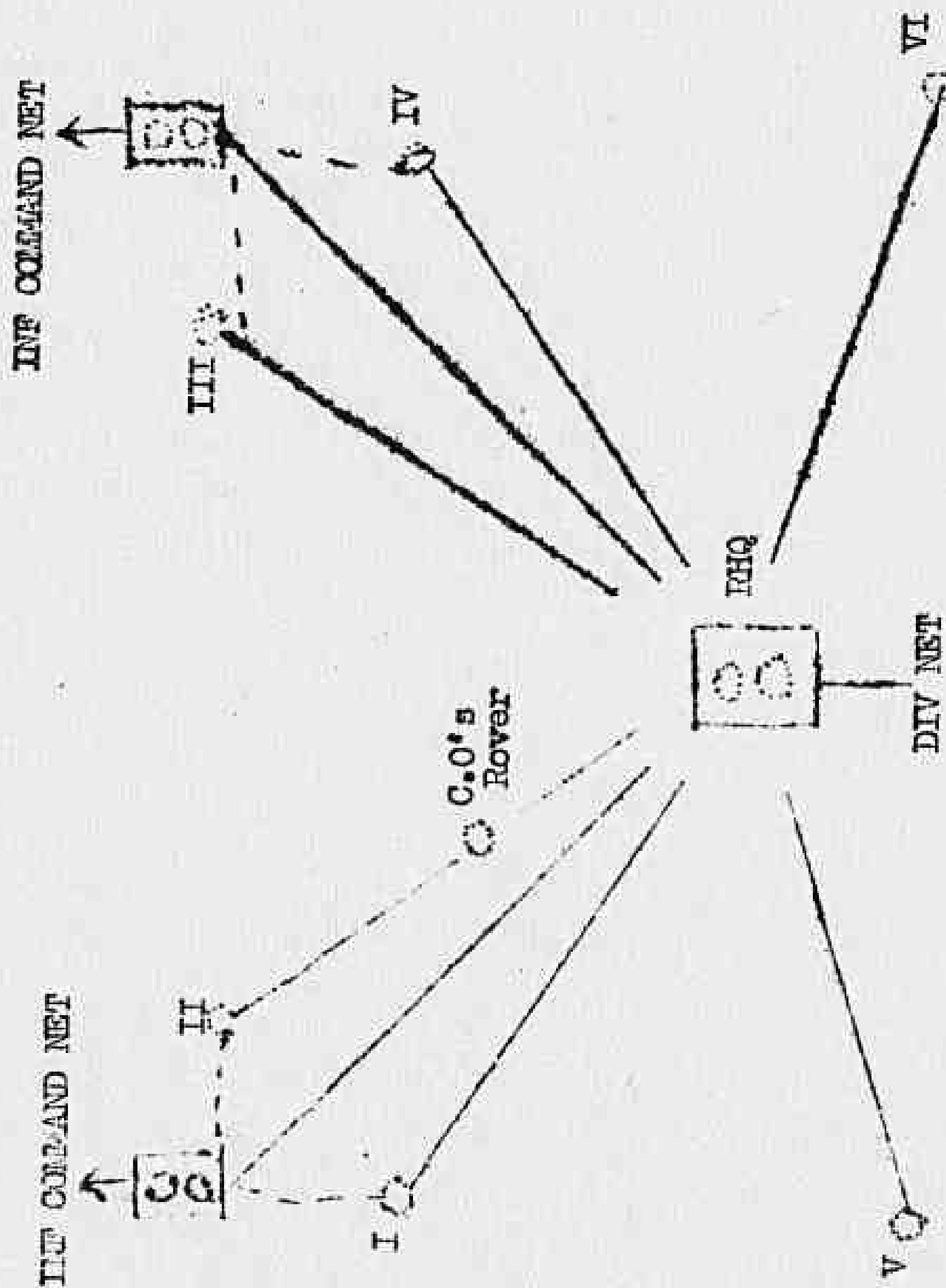
2. Wireless

(a) The scale of wireless equipment is adequate, but little experience under active service conditions has yet been gained. It is not felt that the WE provides adequately for the needs of the regimental net. At present No 19 Sets are provided at HdQ to which the Btys have to work with No 11 Sets, and No 19 Sets are held at Bty Hq as in a British unit. As the distance over which the regimental net is called upon to operate is likely to be greater if anything than a British Regt, and this net from a control point of view is vital, it is felt that 19 Sets should be provided in lieu of 11 Sets on a scale of 1 per Bty. Total 6 x No 19 Sets.

Further it is proposed that each local Commander should have a No 19 Set for communication with Regt, as it is felt that usually a local Hqs will be necessary. Total 2 x No 19 Sets.

(b) The total No of 19 Sets in the Regt, incl Sigs Pl would then be 13, which would be employed as per this diagram

-5-



(c) The proposal is therefore to substitute 1 No 19 Set for 1 No 11 Set at each Bty and to add 2 No 19 Sets to the RHQ establishment for use by local Commanders.

Increase of No 19 Sets - 8
Decrease of No 11 Sets - 6

D. GENERAL

In addition to the points made above, which are briefly the needs for -

- (a) A complete revision of personnel,
- (b) A readjustment of transport,
- (c) A slightly improved scale of signal equipment.



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In addition to the points made above, which are briefly the needs for -

- (a) A complete revision of personnel,
- (b) A readjustment of transport,
- (c) A slightly improved scale of Signal equipment,

there are two further points which need urgent attention before the best or even good results can be expected from the Regt. These are,

- (a) that the equipping of this Regt should be completed or nearly completed to C 1098 Scale. There are many important deficiencies particularly in transport,
- (b) that, now the Italians have become reasonably efficient in the maintenance and use of British equipment, they should be given as far as possible good and serviceable equipment. For example, several of the vehs were collected at the end of a tow-rope and the majority are still without tools. Repeated RMK3 attention has not yet succeeded in getting the guns into what might be described as good condition. While the Regt obviously has no claim to high priority for equipment, indifferent equipment has a harmful effect on morale and ultimately on results.

Subject: WE of an ITALIAN Arty Regt.

HQ RA FOLGORE Gp.
A/5/1.
28 Mar 45.

To: - G (SD)
13 Corps.

1. In response to your SD632 of 26 Mar 45 the following amendments to WE NA/525/1 are submitted for your consideration.
2. It is emphasised however, that these proposals have been drawn up entirely from a British point of view and no Italian Officer has been consulted. Also owing to the lack of time available, it has not been possible to balance the many proposals or obtain all the experienced advice desirable.
3. It is therefore requested that these proposals should serve only as a basis for discussion in their detail rather than a concrete proposal in their entirety for an alteration to WE.
4. The main objection to the present WE is that there are more men than are necessary or, can be carried in the transport. The comparison between British and Italian is as follows :-

	<u>Brit.</u>	<u>Italian.</u>
25 pdr Bty	204	254
17 pdr Bty	133	181
40 mm LA Bty	186	244

- Allowing for Regtl H.Q. having certain of the responsibilities of a Brit Div HQ Ra there are still approx 250 men extra. As no additional transport is held nor likely to be authorised the result is to render the Regt most unwieldy.
5. In order to increase the Regiment's mobility, the following proposals are submitted. The overall decrease of personnel is 161 all ranks. At the same time ample allowance has been made for the Italian desire for extra Officers and extra men to meet the requirements of Italian Army internal Administration.
 6. Lastly the situation is made more complicated by the fact that the Italian Army has never been short of man power and their motorised Artillery Regts were lavishly equipped with MT. The average Italian Officer thinks in terms of increasing his personnel slightly and expecting a radical increase of British transport, rather than decreasing his Establishment to operate within a British Regtl Organisation.

(Sgt) R.E. GREEN.

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(Sgd) R.E. GREEN.

Field.
REG/TFN.

Brig
CRA

MODIFICATION TO WE OF AN ITALIAN ARTILLERY REGIMENT.

<u>Serial.</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Overall Effect.</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1.	<u>RHQ</u> <u>OFFICERS.</u> Add 2 i/c (Lt.Col) MT Offr (Capt).	Plus 2 Offrs.	1. Regtl HQ has to be in Division, a Rd Regt R.H.Q. 2. These proposals are in on W.R. These are employ Assistant. 3. The above scale of Off necessary.
2.	<u>WO's and NCO's.</u> <u>DELETE</u> 1 MT Sgt. Ann Sgt. Gunnery Sgt. No change Signal Sgt. <u>ADD</u> RQMS. Duty Sgt. Survey Sgt. Sgt Clerk.	Plus 2 men.	1. It is believed that corresponds to the need organisation.
3.	<u>OTHER RANKS.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Dvr IC. 2 Motor cyclists. 11 General duty men. 2 Surv personnel. 4 W/T operators. <u>TOTAL 20.</u> <u>Add</u> 3 veh mecha. 2 Storemen. 1 Butcher. 4 Cooks. 1 Boot repairer. 1 San duties 1 water duties. 9 Batmen or orderlies <u>TOTAL 22.</u>		1. This proposal correct employment of certain p 2. The importance in the Italians of the correct provision of the necessary Total R.H.Q. increase
4.	<u>Field Bty H.Q.</u> <u>Officers.</u> <u>Delete.</u> 1 Medical Officer.	- 1 Offr per Bty = - 4 Offrs.	1. It is considered that It is proposed to leave and at A.A. Bty H.Q.
5.	<u>W.O. and N.C.O.'s.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Signal Sgt. <u>Add</u> 1 DQMS.	No change	1. To bring into line

TABLE OF AN ITALIAN ARTILLERY REGIMENT.1. Effect.Reason, Remarks.

2 Offrs.

1. Regtl HQ has to be prepared to carry out the functions of HQ RA of a Division, a Fd Regt R.H.Q. and R.H.Q. of an Anti Tk and an Anti Tk Bty.
2. These proposals are in addition to the Capt and 3 Subalterns already on W.E. These are employed as G III, I.O., Camp Commandant, and A & Q Assistant.
3. The above scale of Officers are posted to the Regt and appear to be necessary.

range

1. It is believed that this distribution of NCO resources more nearly corresponds to the needs of a Regt operating within the British organisation.

2 men.

1. This proposal corresponds to the needs of Regtl HQ and clarifies the employment of certain personnel.
 2. The importance in the above lies in the necessity of convincing the Italians of the correct employment of their personnel, and also in the provision of the necessary equipment.
- Total R.H.Q. increase WE by 2 Officers and 2 O.R.'s.

fr per Bty =
frs.

1. It is considered that 7 Medical Officers per Regt is excessive. It is proposed to leave an M.O. at R.H.Q. and an M.O. at Anti Tank and at A.A. Bty H.Q. who may be detached according to necessity.

range

1. To bring into line with British W.E.

Serial No.	Proposal.	Overall effect.	Reasons
6.	<u>OTHER RANKS.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Clerk. 6 Dvr Operators. 6 Survey personnel. 1 Trumpeter. 6 W/T operators. 5 Signallers. 6 General duty men. <u>TOTAL 31.</u> <u>Add.</u> 3 Veh Mechanics. 1 Driver Mechanic. 5 Drivers. 4 C.P.O.A's. 1 O.P.A. 1 Storeman. 3 Batmen. 1 Water duty man. 1 San duty man. 2 Cooks. 1 Eqpt Repairer. 1 Boot repairer. <u>TOTAL 24.</u>	- 7 men per Bty = - 28 men.	1. This is considered 2. It also clarifies HQ.
7.	<u>Fd Troop.</u> <u>Officers.</u> - No change.		
8.	<u>W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 M.T. Sgt. <u>Add</u> 1 Sgt Major 1 Sgt (No.1).	+ 1 NCO = + 8 NCO's.	1. It is considered a senior NCO is added to the Troop. 2. All Nos. 1 with
9.	<u>OTHER RANKS.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Arm Storeman. 1 Motor cyclist 4 Dvrs IC. 3 Gen duty men. 3 Gun Nos 1. 4 gun Nos. 1 Medical orderly. 4 W/T Operators. <u>TOTAL 21.</u> <u>Add</u> 1 Veh Mechanic. 4 Dvr Mechanics. 1 Batman. 2 Cooks. <u>TOTAL 6.</u>	- 13 men = - 104 men.	1. This change is in the Troop in action
10.	<u>A TK BTY.</u> <u>Officers</u> No change.		
11.	<u>W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s</u> No change.		
12.	<u>OTHER RANKS.</u> <u>Delete.</u> 2 Motor cyclists. 2 Dvrs. 6 Gen duty men. 1 Trumpeter. 4 W/P Operators. <u>TOTAL 15.</u> <u>Add</u> 2 Veh Mechs. 1 Dvr Mech. 1 Clerk. 1 Eqpt Rep. 1 Storeman. 1 Boot repairer 3 Batmen. 1 Butcher. 1 San Duty man. 1 Water duty man. <u>TOTAL 13.</u>	- 2 men.	1. This is believed to be Bty H.Q. 2. The change will be of their personnel

Overall effect.Reasons, Remarks.

1. This ~~is~~ considered a more satisfactory distribution of personnel.
2. It also clarifies the correct employment of the manpower at Bty HQ.

- 7 men per Bty
= - 28 men.

+ 1 NCO
= + 8 NCO's.

1. It is considered that although the Italians have an extra Officer, a senior NCO is also essential for discipline and man duties within the Troop.
2. All Nos. 1 without exception should be Sgts.

- 13 men =
- 10⁴ men.

1. This change is believed to correspond with the actual needs of the Troop in action.

- 2 men.

1. This is believed to correspond with the needs of an Italian A Tk Bty H.Q.
2. The change will assist the Italians in the correct employment of their personnel.

Serial No.	Proposal.	Overall Effect.	Reason
13	<u>A. TK. TP.</u> <u>Officers</u> No change.		
14	<u>N.C.O's.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Signal Sgt. <u>Add</u> 2 Sgts (Nos. 1)	+ 1 N.C.O. per Tp. = + 2 N.C.O's.	1. Not on Dp See Serial
15	<u>OTHER RANKS.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Ann. Steward, 3 Nos. 1., 2 Drivers i/c, 4 General Dutymen, 2 L.M.G. Nos., 2 W/T Operators, 4 Signallers. <u>TOTAL 10.</u> <u>Add</u> 1 Veh Mech., 1 Driver Mech., 2 Cooks, 1 Batman, 1 Motor Cyclist. <u>TOTAL 6.</u>	- 12 men per Tp. = 24 men.	1. Including than the equi
16	<u>LAA BTY. HQ.</u> <u>Officers.</u> - No Change.		
17	<u>W.O. & N.C.O's.</u> <u>Add</u> EQMS.	+ 1 N.C.O.	1. A Senior the admin wor
18	<u>Other Ranks.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 Dvr., 5 Gen. Dutymen, 1 Trumpeter, 4 W/T Operators. <u>TOTAL 11.</u> <u>Add</u> 1 Veh. Mech., 1 Dvr. Mech., 1 Butcher, 2 Cooks, 1 Sen. Dutymen, 1 Egpt Rep, 1 Boot Rep, 3 Batmen, <u>TOTAL 11.</u>	No Change.	1. This is personnel.
19	<u>LAL TROOP HQ.</u> <u>Delete</u> 1 MT Sgt, <u>Add</u> 1 Duty Sgt, 3 Detachment Sgts.	= 3 Sgts per Tp = + 6 Sgts.	1. It is co
20	<u>Other Ranks.</u> <u>Delete</u> 2 Motor Cyclists, 2 Fitters Gun, 5 Gen Dutymen, 3 Gun Nos. 1, 6 Gun Nos, 1 Medical Orderly, 1 Trumpeter, 2 W/T Operators. <u>TOTAL 22.</u> <u>Add</u> 7 Cooks, 1 Veh Mech, 2 Dvr. Mechs, 2 Batmen. <u>TOTAL 12.</u>	- 10 Men per Tp = - 20 men.	1. This sea 2. Total po

Overall Effect.Reasons, Remarks.

+ 1 N.C.O. per Tp.
= + 2 N.C.O's.

1. Not on British W.E. Not considered necessary on Italian W.E.
See Serial 6 above.

- 12 men per Tp.
= 24 men.

1. Including this reduction, the A.Tk.Tp. has still 8 men more than the equivalent British unit.

+ 1 N.C.O.

1. A Senior and trustworthy Q N.C.O. is invariably necessary for the admin work of a Battery.
1. This is considered a more satisfactory distribution of personnel.

11. No Change.
er,
,

= 3 Sgts per Tp
= + 6 Sgts.

1. It is considered that all detachment commanders should be Sgts

1. This scale of personnel is considered adequate.
2. Total per Tp exceeds British W.E. by 3 men.

n Gun,
Nos, - 10 Men per Tp
= - 20 men

echs,

7217

S U M M A R Y O F P R O P O S A L S.

	<u>R.H.Q.</u>	<u>Fd Btys.</u>	<u>A Tk Bty.</u>	<u>L.A.A. Bty</u>
Officers.	+ 2	- 4	-	-
W.O.'s and Sgts.	-	+ 8	+ 2	+ 7
Other ranks.	+ 2	- 132	- 26	- 20
ALL RANKS	+ 4	- 128	- 24	- 13

7217

OF PROPOSALS.

<u>Fd Dty.</u>	<u>A Tk Dty.</u>	<u>L.A.A. Dty</u>	<u>Total.</u>
- 4	-	-	- 2
+ 8	+ 2	+ 7	+ 17
- 132	- 26	- 20	- 176
- 128	- 24	- 13	- 161.

Subject: Interpreters

To:- Main HQ 13 Corps

53 B.L.U.
Ref G1/1
27 Mar 45

443

Reference conversation BGS - GSO I this HQ of 24 Mar.

1. It is confirmed that a shorthand-typist will meet the present situation at this HQ and will speed up the transmission of orders and correspondence between HQ Combat Group and HQ 13 Corps. This typist should be provided with his own typewriter otherwise there will still be a bottleneck.
2. The reasons for this requirement which is not included in WE of a BLU are as follows
 - (a) Only two British HGO interpreters are allowed on WE. Although both of them are present with the unit, they are both very slow and are low-grade interpreters and at the best can only do very literal translations and have little knowledge of military terms. Interpreters even of this class are in short supply. One of these interpreters is essential to our rear HQ for Ordnance and S & T matters, and therefore only one is available for the Ops and ^{English speaking} matters.
 - (b) One Italian officer and two Italian other ranks are on the strength of the Italian increment of the BLU but they are quite useless for any office work and in any case they are provided on WE to deal with the internal administration of the BLU and are fully occupied.
 - (c) Although 3 Maltese officers are attached, their duties are laid down as liaison and not solely interpretation and they volunteered for service out of MALTA on this understanding. In addition to this, few or none of them speak Italian well enough or can express themselves well enough on paper in idiomatic English to be of much use.
3. If the MALIA LO, Major Monaco, is withdrawn, this HQ will need a first-class interpreter in addition to the shorthand-typist. Even the highest grade interpreter will not meet the situation as the position calls for more than interpretation and he not only must have sufficient military experience and knowledge to take his part in high level planning conferences, but must also possess the necessary standing to pass on to the Italian Commanding General adverse comments from British higher formations, without upsetting Italian dignity, which is very touchy.
4. At the present moment this HQ is fortunate to possess a GSO II, Major Markes, who is a fluent Italian speaker. He, in addition to the MALIA LO, can make very good use of a shorthand-typist.

7213

E. H. Markes

Lt. Col.
G.S.

ARMY FORM C2136 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date - Time of Origin

Office

For Action

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

OR

Originator's No.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF THERE IS TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

SIGNED

Time

System

Op.

THI or TOR

Time cleared

7212

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large) **MESSAGE FORM**

Register No.

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

378

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

Office Date Stamp

FROM

(A)

53 BLU

Originator

Date-Time of Origin.

22 1715 A

For Action.

LR. MIMIA.

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions.

GR

Originator's No.

51/4 O CONFIDENTIAL O Follow up urgent message forwarded by FORGORE Group HQ
O Ref No 1221/RU of 22 Mar add rd
GUERRA UFFICIALE O Please arrange posting elsewhere of Inf Major SPE SPAZIANI GIULIO as not suitable for employment with NEMBO
Ref O Letter follows O Please send immediately in his place Inf Major SPE GIUSTINO
KATFABLE already assigned to this group in message ref 1/08376/MOV of 3 Mar O
Signed MORRIS message under O Please pass quickest means

7211

GUERRA UFFICIALI O Please arrange posting
 elsewhere of Inf Major SPE SPAZIANI GIULIO
 as not suitable for Inf Major with NEMBO
 Repl O Letter follows O Please send immediately
 in his place Inf Major SPE GIUSTINO
 RAFFAEL already assigned to this group
 in message ref 1/08376/NOV of 3 Mar O
 Signed MORRIS message under O Please pass
 quickest means

7211

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except } WIRELESS.	If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent IN CIPHER.		Time	System	Op.
	Originator's Instructions. Degree of Priority.		THI or TOR		
Signed.	Signed. <i>Elkhart</i> <i>Mar 1941</i>		Time Cleared		

FONOGRAMMA URGENTE

DA COMANDO ITALGRUPPO FOLGORE
AT GUERRA UFFICIALI

PM 3800



N 1221/RU DATA 22 MARZO ALT PREGO DISPORRE ASSEGNAZIONE
ALTRO ENTE MAGGIORE FTR SPE SPAZIANI GIULIO
RISULTATO NON ATTO IMPIEGO PRESSO RGT NEMBO
ALT SEGUE LETTERA ALT SUA SOSTITUZIONE PREGO
EFFETTUARE INVIO IMMEDIATO MAGGIORE FTR SPE
GIUSTINO RAFFAELE GIA' ASSEGNATO QUESTO GRUPPO
CON MESSAGGIO 1/08376/MOV DEL 3 CORRENTE ALT
GENERALE MORIGI



7219

Subject:- Formation of New Units - Italian Army.

2 copies passed

to A/Q. to G. Harkins

1599/61.
21

Uth

21/3

Main HQ 13 Corps.
1358/15/A.
20 Mar 45.

53 B.T.U.

COPY to:- 2(3B)

1538/61.

Ref this HQ letter of even number dated 4 Mar 45.

The attached SE CM/689/1 is forwarded.

TS.

Alfred S. Williams
Brigadier,
DAS QMG.

7209

MESSAGE FORM

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

Register No.

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

158

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

FROM

(A) 53 BLU

Originator

Date-Time of Origin.

171607A

Office Date Stamp

For Action.

AD. I.C.G. FOLGORE
MAIN 13 CORPS.

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

A/R.

Message Instructions.

GR

Originator's No.

G1/30 O SECRET O Ref War Establishment of cars
5' car 4x4 (Jeeps) O ONE O MANUFACTURED A.F.H.Q.
Letter No AFHQ/6520/15/Q(AE) (Staff Table for I.C.G.)
Serial No 6038/00 shows entitlement of I.C.G.
to eleven Jeeps as follows O Ad. Eng Bn one O
two Eng Fd Coys two each O ORD Fd PK three O
Mech Eng Workshops three O TWO O MAIN 8 ARMY
Letter M 13680/SD 2 of 16 FEB states that pending
further investigation of I.C.G. W.E'S authority
is given to equip I.C.G. with up to a maximum
holding of fifty Jeeps as follows O Fifty per
cent entitlement of cars 2-seater light
utility O Six Ambulances Jeeps for Sigs O present
entitlement of eleven Jeeps O Total fifty O
Please report by 21 Mar latest what this situation
of these vehicles is recommended for
operational purposes and what needs

Serial No 6038/00 shows entitlement of 1 C.G. to eleven Teeps as follows: 1. Hq. Eng Bn one 1. Two Eng Fd Coys two each 1. ORd Fd PK three 1. Mech Eng Workshops three 1. TWO 1. MAIN 8 ARMY letter M 13680/SD 2 of 16 FEB states that pending further investigation of 1 C.G. W.E.'s authority is given to equip 1 C.G. with up to a maximum holding of fifty Teeps as follows: 1. Fifty per cent entitlement of cars 2. Sealer light utility 1. Six Amphib Teeps for Ligs 1. present entitlement of eleven Teeps 1. Total fifty 1. Please report by 21 Jan latest what this distribution of these vehicles is recommended for operational purposes and what units you consider MUST have additional cars 5 out 4x4 in lieu of cars 2-sealer light utility in order to enable them to operate 1. It is considered improbable that amendments to include any appreciable number of additional Teeps would be considered by Higher Authority 1. THREE 1. When forwarding above recommendations please state the detailed distribution of your present holding of Teeps

This message may be sent
AS WRITTEN by any means
except

WIRELESS

If liable to be intercepted or to fall
into enemy hands this message must
be sent IN CIPHER

Originator's Instructions,
Degree of Priority.

Time

THI or TOR

System

Op.

Signed

Signed

Col Marked

Major

Time Cleared

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 1543

Transmission Instructions

Call Ssl. No. Priority

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

FRCT

(A)

Originator

53 BLU

Date-Time of Origin.

140935A

Office Date Stamp

For Action.

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions. GR

MAIN 13 CORPS

Originator's No.

61/280 CONFIDENTIAL O Your SD 994 of 12
 Man O ONE O Agreed O TWO O Two Mayors two
 cap'tains four subalterns O THREE O NO

7207

cap'tain's four subalterns @ THREE @ NO

1207

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except	If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent IN CIPHER	Originator's Instructions, Degree of Priority.	Time	System Op.
			Time of TOR	Time Cleared
Signed: <i>Admiral</i> <i>Maya</i>				

15-42/61
13 MAR 1945

13 MAR 1945

14 MAR 1945

[illegible]

Eq. (2.9)

Unit 10

For Action

03 JUL

For Γ_{LTP}

G(0.05)	F4	F4	F50	F4
---------	----	----	-----	----

Bill No. Ord. 1111

60.99% (.) CONFIDENTIAL (.)

subject assessment relative to the (.)

and (•) views on following proposed goals required support

- (A) $G_2 \cong U_2$ - two
(B) each Int Rest - one
(C) $S_3 \cong U_3$ - one
(D) Antisym - none

Total = 51.44

205

Two (.) recommendations will state funds required within 1/2 of Pol which allows

(c) Letter dated 17/10/2005 and dated 25/10/2005 of the Secy, M.T. and dated 27/10/2005 of the Secy, P.W.D.

subject attachment Maltese office to ML (.)

CRB (.) views on following proposed scale required support

(A) G2 E4 - two

(B) each Inf Regt - one

(C) Army HQ - one

(D) Army HQ - four

Total - eight

(.)

TRC (.) recommendation will state ranks required within MA of Po.1 which allows

total 11 jobs for CRBs (total ranks thirty (.)

CRB (.) request also state whether need exists for Maltese office for auxiliary

units

CRB (.)

CRB (.)

24 hours

23 Captains

450 Subalterns

agreed to Establishment

7205

DE/Zw.-

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "FOLGORE"

Comando Tattico e Sezione Operazioni *ccno*00000

N° 720/S.M. di prot.

P.M. 146 li, 15/3/45

OGGETTO : indumenti di vestiario occorrenti per compagnia partigiani "Bianconcini Folgore".-

A L 5 3 0

B. L. U.

B E D E

Il comando compagnia partigiani "Bianconcini Folgore"

segnala la deficienza di :

- scarpe p.	n° 80
- impermeabili	" 60
- pullover	" 61
- camicie flanella	" 64
- calze p.	" 60
- maglie di lana	" 64
- mutande p.	" 66
- coperte	" 55

7205

Si interessa codesto B. L. U. per l'urgente assegnazione degli oggetti suaccennati.-

Il comando compagnia partigiani "Bianconcini Folgo-

re" segnala la deficienza di :

- scarpe p.	n° 80
- impermeabili	" 60
- pullower	" 61
- camicie flanella	" 64
- calze p.	" 60
- maglie di lana	" 64
- mutande p.	" 66
- coperte	" 55

7205

Si interessa codesto S. L. U. per l'urgente asse-

gnazione degli oggetti suaccennati.--



IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Ten. Col. Umberto De Martino)

U. De Martino

5 Rem
2 2° 13
2 Part
16 1/2

Subject:- Interpreters.

File GI
Main HQ 13 Corps.
Ref : 50/1/GSI.

4 Mar 45.

53 BLU.

Copy to:- AFHQ Pool of Interpreters, NA
(Eighth Army)
SSM Gruppo Combattimento FOLGORE

11/3
2152757 L/Cpl EMANUELE J. - BORGOSAN LORENZO.
60192 L/Cpl MULA R.J. - CASOLFI.

The a/n NCOs will be attached to 53 BLU v.e.f. date of this letter, for duties with SSM, Gruppo Combattimento FOLGORE.

PLDF/jdg

Di Giovanni Captain
Major,
G.S.

7204

TRANSLATION

Copy passed to
Parliament, L.D.
SECRET (English & Italian)

Combat Group 'Folgore'

Chief of Staff Office - General Staff Office

19 Mar 45

764/S.M.

Subject: Formation of 1st 'Folgore' Partisan Coy.

To :- H.Q. 13 Corps

Info :- 53 B.L.U.
H.Q. 'Nembo' Parachutist Regt
Rear H.Q.

1. In accordance with the intention expressed by the above HQ on Ref. G1/27 of 8 Mar, and having taken into account :-
 - the considerable services rendered to the common cause by the partisan band of BORGO TOSSIGNANO
 - the spirit with which the members of the band are animated;
 - the disciplined bearing shown by the men of this partisan formation; has brought about the decision for its formation into a company under the name of 1st 'Folgore' Partisan Coy - Alessandro Bianconini - incorporating it into the effective strength of the 'Nembo' Parachutist Regt. This is to enable the position of the band to be regularised.
2. Formation and Establishment - as Appx 1, a complete total of 5 officers and 95 ORs.
Provisional administrative orders - as Appx 2.
3. The Ministry of War is concerned with the defining of policies concerning matters of morale, discipline, administration and registering of the a/m unit.
We now propose to the above Command that it would be advantageous to allot to the 1st Partisan Coy the armaments and vehicles deficient to the anticipated W.E. (Appx 3)

(Signed) Umberto De Martino, Lt. Col.

April 1 to 764/3.H.

W.L. 'Wolgore' Partisan Coy.Comprises :-

1 H.Q. Section
2 Bren Platoons
1 - 2" Mortar Platoon
1 Rifle Assault Platoon

Commanding OfficerHQ Section

NOO i/o Section
Despatch Rider
Soldiers for various duties
(cooks, storemen, medical
orderlies)

Total of HQ (Section)'Bren' Gun Platoon

Officer Commanding
HQ Section
1st Bren Section (3)
2nd Bren Section (3)
3rd Bren Section (3)

Total - Bren Gun Platoon2" Mortar Platoon

Officer Commanding (Subaltern)
HQ Section
1st Section (7)
2nd Section (7)
3rd Section (7)
4th Section (7)

Total - 2" Mortar Platoon

Personnel			Armament				Vehicles			
Officers	NOOs	ORs	Pistols	Automatic Rifles	Rifles	Bren Guns	2" Mortars	Couriers	15 cwt	W/OS
1			1							
	(1)1	1		1	1					1
	(2)13				12	1		1	3	(X)
1	1	14	1	1	13	1	-	1	3	1
1			1							
	1	3			4	1				
	1	3			5	1				
	1	5			5	1				
	1	5			5	1				
1	4	18	1		19	3				
1	(4)1	(5)3	1			1(5)				
		3			3		1			
		3			3		1			
		3			3		1			
		3			3		1			
1	1	15	1		15	1	4		1202	

1st - Assault Platoon

'Bren' Gun Platoon

Officer Commenting

MQ Section

1st Exam Section

2nd Item Section

3rd Brain Section

Total - Even Gun Platoon.

2nd Mortar Platoon.

Officer Coming (Subaltern)

TM Section

1st Section (7)

2nd Section (7)

3mi Section 7

7th section

Total - 2nd Mortar Platoon

Rifle Assault Platoon

Officer Comding (Subel torn)

WITNESSES:

1st Section (g)

[illegible]

Total - Risko Assault 17

Summary

Commanding Officer

8 月 20 日

1st Green Platoon

1st Year Flatboat

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NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

1. 4. 2010

2006

[illegible]

APPX 1 (contd.)Notes.

1. Pay Clerk: NCO.
2. 1 barber - 2 ammunition carriers (one of which is not armed carries Bren) -
- 3 stretcher bearers (of which 1 is a ~~med~~ orderly) - 2 cooks - 1 storeman -
- 4 drivers (1 of which is a driver of tracked vehicles).
3. Consists of -
A machine gun sub-section composed of 1 NCO (who is also sub-section leader)
and 2 soldiers. The M.G. carrier is not armed.
- A rifle sub-section composed of 1 junior NCO (i/o sub-section) & 2 soldiers.
(x) 1 of which carries food and fuel, another carries the cookhouse and materials,
and the third carries ammunition.
4. 1 NCO gonometrist.
5. 2 runners - 1 Bren gunner (not armed)
6. For near defence of the platoon.
7. 1 i/o weapon, 1 partisan mortar man, 1 ammunition carrier.
8. Consists of -
Machine gun sub-section composed of 1 NCO (i/o sub-section) and 2 soldiers -
the carrier of the M.G. is unarmed.
Sub-section of riflemen composed of 1 junior NCO and 5 soldiers.

pt 2 to 764/S.M.

Provisional Administrative Orders.

1. Administration of men.

The 'Polgore' Partisan Coy will be part of the 'Membo' Regt W.E. and will therefore be on the effective strength of the unit from 3 Mar 45.

The said unit will arrange to compile the following documents :-

Daily pay accounts
Records of personnel
Pay accounts register
Equipment ledger
Post orderly's receipt books
Leave register.

2. Pay Arrangements.

Until there are new orders in regard to pay, all members of the 'Polgore' Partisan Coy will be considered as partisans - consequently the pay allowances for them will be the same as those of the infantry which are as follows :-

Daily rate of pay	5 lire
Additional front line pay	4 "
Special 'Combat Group' indemnity pay	45 "

The payment of such accounts will be fortnightly, i.e. on the 15th and 30th or 31st of each month.

Accounts will be rendered to the Admin Office, 'Membo' Regt, which will give detailed orders on this subject and in respect of collecting money.

3. Food Rations.

For each member of the 'Polgore' Partisan Coy, is provided the same food ration as distributed to the units of the 'Membo' Regt.

Detailed orders will be given by 'Membo' Regt HQ in respect of this matter.

4. Ration Supplement.

The supplementary ration quota is 20 lire daily. Such a quota is handed over to the HQ 'Membo' Regt.

5. Administration of Stores.

The 'Polgore' Partisan Coy will arrange to compile 2 Books No. 547, one for group 'C' stores and one for group 'B' stores.

In such books must be entered all stores at present on charge to the unit and all successive changes. The 'Membo' Regt in this matter, will arrange to give detailed instructions.

7209

Appx 3 to 764/S.M.

List of Armaments and Vehicles necessary for the 'Folgore' Partisan Coy
to make up the anticipated W.E.

Armaments.

Pistols	5
Bren Guns	4
Mortars 2"	4

Vehicles.

Carriers	1
Trucks 15 cwt	3
M/oa	1

RESTRICTEDSUBJECT :- WESMain HQ 13 Corps
5316/4/G(37)
19 Mar 45

53 BLU att FOLGORE GP ✓

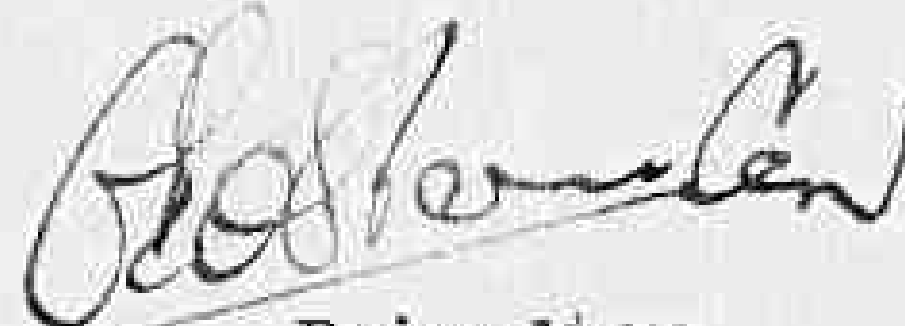
G.(Cam)	Me3
RA	Cr1
RE	EME
OSO	112 Pro Coy
ST	13 Corps Sigs

The enclosed War Establishment(s) are forwarded
for info.

[Signature]
Brigadier,
General Staff.

RESTRICTEDSUBJECT :- WEsMain HQ 13 Corps
5316/4/(1)/G(SD)
23 Mar 4553 BLU att FOLGORE GP

The enclosed War Establishments and amendments are
forwarded for infm.

Brigadier,
N. General Staff.

7198

MESSAGE FORM

FROM : Main 13 Corps

11/19/10 ▲

For Action : 53 BLU ✓

For Infm :

SD 686 (.) RESTRICTED (.)

ref Main EIGHTH Army m 13680 SD2 of 09 (.)

request all proposals reach this HQ not later than

24 Mar
-----*W. H. H. H.*
1910
DLS

FOR :

7197

CA/ZW.-

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "FOLGORE"
Comando Tattico - Sezione Operazioni

_____oo0oo_____

Nº 660/S.M. di prot. P.M. 146 li, 9/3/45

OGGETTO : Organioi compagnia mortai da 3 pollici.-

A L 53º B. L. U.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Seguito foglio 512/S.M. del 12/2/45.-

Lo S.M.R.E. ha comunicato a questo comando che le proposte inerenti le modifiche degli organici della compagnia mortai da 3 pollici inoltrate con foglio cui si fa seguito sono state progettate alla M.M.I.A. su l'opportunità dell'attuazione.-

La M.M.I.A. ha successivamente informato lo S.M.R.E. d'avere interessato codesto B.L.U. perche la questione sia trattata tramite Comando 8ª Armata informando l'Armata stessa che lo S.M.R.E. appoggia le proposte di modifica.-

Pregasi confermare quanto sopra comunicato.-

7195

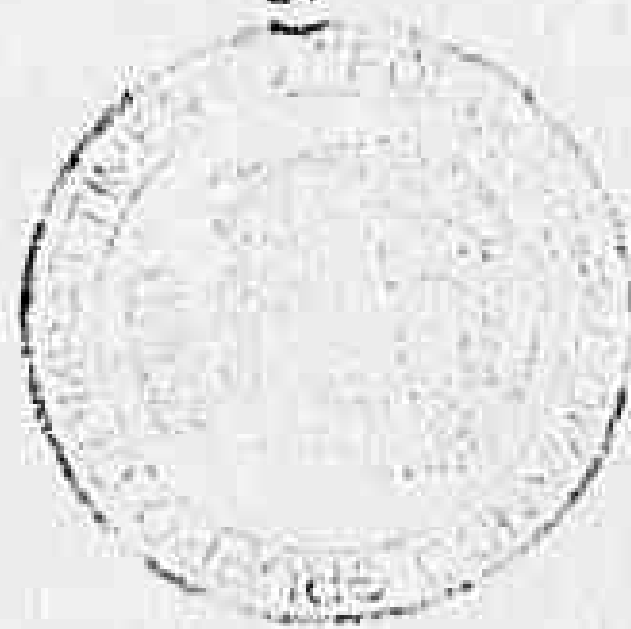
A L 53° B. L. U.

Seguito foglio 512/S.M. del 12/2/45.-

Lo S.M.R.E. ha comunicato a questo comando che le proposte inerenti le modifiche degli organici della compagnia mortai da 3 pollici inoltrate con foglio cui si fa seguito sono state progettate alla M.M.I.A. su l'opportunità dell'attuazione.-

La M.M.I.A. ha successivamente informato lo S.M.R.E. d'avere interessato codesto B.L.U. perche la questione sia trattata tramite Comando 8° Armata informando l'Armata stessa che lo S.M.R.E. appoggia le proposte di modifica.-

Pregasi confermare quanto sopra comunicato.-



IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Ter.Col. Umberto De Martino)

U. De Martino

1196

TRANSLATION1566/61
10 MAR 1945

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore'
Chief of Staff Office

597/Segr

8 Mar 45

Subject: W.E. Division Carabinieri.

To :- Chief of Staff, Royal Army.
H.Q. 13 Corps, via 53 B.L.U.

Copy - G.H.Q. CC.RR. (further to 536/S.M. of 17 Feb)

1. The employment of the Group Carabinieri in accordance with orders given by the Allied authorities Ref 536/S.M. (attached copy for C of S, Royal Army) has shown that it is absolutely essential that another Carabinieri Section be allotted. The extent and complications of the roads controlled by the dependent Sections absorb completely the personnel of at least two of them.

The other duties at the two Group HQs (advanced and rear) and at the Regts must therefore be done by one single section whose effective strength has been lessened by 12 soldiers being used for special duty with the F.S.S.

2. It thus makes it difficult to establish traffic posts on the roads that lead to rear areas well back and especially to FLORENCE.

Besides which, such a service is absolutely essential and cannot be given to elements outside the Group because of the particular necessity of knowing the area and the troops.

I therefore request that there be urgently allotted, another Carabinieri Section to the Combat Group.

3. If it is not possible for the allotment to take the form of an increase in W.E., the required section could be allotted provisionally for such time as the Combat Group holds its present operational role.

The request is of a very urgent nature dealing as it does with an essential police service for controlling the rear boundaries of the Combat Group area.

(Signed)

G. Morigi
Commanding General

7195

TRANSLATION1852/1
MAR 1945

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore'
2 Sec Personale and Segreteria

926/R.U.

Subject: C.O. 'Folgore' Combat Group Carabinieri.

To :- 13 Corps via 53 B.L.U.

Copy to G.H.Q. Provost Branch, (Carabinieri)

As already pointed out to the GHQ 'Carabinieri' Branch on ref 536/R.U. of 17 Feb 45, copy of which is attached, I consider essential the urgent assignment of a Commanding Officer (Captain) who would co-ordinate the work of the Carabinieri sections belonging to this Combat Group.

The delicate nature of his job and the necessity for the new officer to be immediately in a position to fulfil satisfactorily the many exigencies arising during active fighting, demand that the choice be that of an officer already used to the particular characteristics of parachutists.

The Carabinieri GHQ, verbally requested to arrange for the appointment of the commanding officer in subject, signalled that it could not grant the request, without a precise order from the Allied authorities.

I therefore bring the matter to the attention of the above Command so that they may kindly consider giving authority for the a/m appointment.

(Signed)

G. Morigi
Commanding General.

7194

TRANSLATION

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore'
Chief of Staff Office

17 Feb 45

536/S.M.

Subject: Carabinieri H.Q.To :- GHQ Carabinieri Branch, ROME

On the basis of orders given by the Allied Authorities in respect of the future employment of the Group, the 'Carabinieri' of the dependent sections will be divided into three groups -

1 attached to the Combat Group HQ, being more, divided into two parts -
1 for Main HQ
1 for Rear HQ

1 attached to the 'Nembo' Parachute Regt

1 " " " 'San Marco' Marine Regt.

Such a situation makes it absolutely necessary that Carabinieri HQ has a Captain or senior Lieutenant who is known to be capable.

Such an urgent request for the 'Folgore' Combat Group is mainly realised because we are dealing with troops of the type that, due to their exuberant spirits, require effective and energetic police action.

I therefore ask you to consider the urgent assignment to the 'Folgore' Combat Group of a Carabinieri officer who will be up to the standard required for the difficult job proposed.

(Signed) Lt.Col. A. Castrati, for
G. Morigi, Commanding General.

7193

Subject: Alterations W.B. - S & T Coy.
Italian Corps.

S & T 53 B.L.U.
 18 March 45.

To: DAGSOM,
53 B.L.U.

1. Ref Main 8 Army letter H.13680.3D2 dated 9/3/45, herewith comments on proposed amendment to W.E. of S & T Coy.
2. Proposal: "Add 3 m/cs. and motor-cyclists to each Tpt. Pl."
Comment: Not considered necessary as the tpt. of the Coy. seldom moves in more than blocks of 20 vehicles. Sufficient m/cs. are held by the Coy. for conveyance of this size, and drivers soon become familiar with the area in which they are operating. Difficulties of traffic control is thought to be caused chiefly by language difficulties.

Proposal: "Add 3-ton 4 x 2 G3 - 3 and 3 dtrs. to each Tpt. Pl."
Comment: Considered absolutely essential to have 100 square vehicles. This is being done at present by making working strength of platoon 28 task vehicles which is not satisfactory.

Proposal: "Add 5 dtrs. to each R.D.I."
Comment: Additional drivers are considered necessary for relief and for loading duties. Strongly recommended.

Proposal: "Add 1 Electrician and 1 Fitters to Mech. Eng. Pl."
Comments: Addition of one electrician is recommended. So far the Mech. Eng. Pl. have been able to fulfil its commitments with its present W.E. of fitters. All vehicles are, however, Class I, and it is considered that when top overhauls, etc., have to be carried out the addition of four fitters will be necessary. Owing to the lower standard of maintenance in an Italian Coy. the four additional fitters could be usefully employed to assist maintenance within the platoons.

Proposal: "Add 3-ton 4 x 2 Stores Lorry."
Comment: It is understood that this addition has already been agreed to.

Proposal: "Add one Aircraft Shelter."
Comment: Not considered necessary.

7192

A. Lawrence

MAJOR, RASC,
 DADST.

Copy to: S & T. 13 Corps.

RESTRICTEDSUBJECT :- Minutes of WEC Meetings

1598
Main HQ 13 Corps
5316/4/(iii)/G(SD)
20 Mar 45

53 BLU att FOLGORE GP

Copy to : 112 Pro Coy

The following extracts from minutes of AFHQ WEC Meetings
are forwarded for infm :-

Meeting No 178 held on 21 Feb 45Serial Number

1912

A PROVOST SECTION (CCRR) FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GP
CM/524/1

The addition of the following transport, which is designed
to enable this unit to undertake certain field security
functions was approved wef 21 Feb 45 :-

Motor-cycles, solo	-	3
Truck 15-cwt 4 x 2 GS	-	1

The provision of a car 5-cwt 4 x 4, which is only to be
implemented in respect of every two sections, was also
agreed.

Will be promulgated as amendment No 2

Meeting No 179 held on 23 Feb 45Serial Number

1924

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT - CM/508/1
(for Gruppo di Combattimenti)

1191

The addition of the following personnel was approved

The addition of the following transport, which is designed to enable this unit to undertake certain field security functions was approved wef 21 Feb 45 :-

Motor-cycles, solo	-	3
Truck 15-cwt 4 x 2 GS	-	1

The provision of a car 5-cwt 4 x 4, which is only to be implemented in respect of every two sections, was also agreed.

Will be promulgated as amendment No 2

-----oOo-----
Meeting No 179 held on 23 Feb 45

Serial Number
1924

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT - CM/508/1
(for Gruppo di Combattimenti)

7191

The addition of the following personnel was approved wef 23 Feb 45 :-

Arty Instructors (Capts or Lieuts)	-	6
Arty Instructors (WOs II/Sjts)	-	6
Batmen orderlies	-	6
Ordinance Officer (Capt)	-	1
Clerks RAOC duties (Cpl)	-	1
(Pte)	-	1
Storemen RAOC (Ptes)	-	2
Amn examiner (S/Sjt)	-	1

Will be promulgated as amendment No 5

-----oOo-----


Brigadier,
General Staff.

To Lt/Col. G.H. Brooks, R. Tanks,
G.I. Commanding
53 B.L.U.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

Reference Main H.Q. 6 Army letter M.13680 SD2 of 9 March, Appendix "g", relating to proposed alterations to the B.L.U. war establishment.

It is respectfully requested that your consideration may be given to the following suggested amendment to the B.L.U. establishment:-

"That the Medical Liaison Officer be of the rank of Captain on appointment to a B.L.U."

The reasons for this request are as follows:-

1. He has to act at times as advisor to the Italian A.D.H.S. also to the other 44 Medical Officers within the Gruppo, many of whom are his senior in rank.

2. He is responsible not only for the smooth evacuation of casualties, but for the equipping of all the medical units, for the hygiene and sanitation, and the malaria precautions of the whole Gruppo. Also in future operations to advise in the siting of R.A.P.s, A.D.S.s, and Field Hospitals.

3. The original request made for a Medical Liaison Officer for the B.L.U.s., was for a D.A.D.H.S., or a D.A.D.H., both of which carry the rank of Major.

4. All other Officers of the B.L.U. liaising with the Gruppo and higher British formations carry the minimum rank of Captain. It is suggested that the Medical Services are no less important than the other services.

5. It is suggested that the rank of Captain would assist greatly in maintaining the respect of the more senior Italian Officers, and would therefore have direct bearing on improving the Medical Services within the Gruppo.

I am Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. H. H. H.

W. H. H. H.

but for the equipment, sanitation, and the malaria precautions of the whole Gruppo. future operations to advise in the siting of R.A.Ps., A.D.Ss, and Field Hospitals.

3. The original request made for a Medical Liaison Officer for the B.L.U.s., was for a D.A.D.H.S., or a D.A.D.H., both of which carry the rank of Major.

4. All other Officers of the B.L.U. liaising with the Gruppo and higher British formations carry the minimum rank of Captain. It is suggested that the Medical Services are no less important than the other services.

5. It is suggested that the rank of Captain would assist greatly in maintaining the respect of the more senior Italian Officers, and would therefore have direct bearing on improving the Medical Services within the Gruppo.

I am Sir,

(19)

Whitcliffe

Lieut, R.A.M.C.,
Medical Liaison Officer, 53 B.L.U.

Field,
19.3.45.
Wk.

SECRET

DES/Pb.-

COMANDO GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "FOLGORE"
Ufficio del Capo di S.M. - Uff. Stato Maggiore

N° 764/S.M. di prot. 2.M. 146, li 19 Marzo 1945

OGGETTO : Costituzione 1ª compagnia partigiani "Folgori".

AL COMANDO MILI C.D'A. BRIT.

e, per conoscenza :

AL 53° B. LI. U.
AL COMANDO RGT. PARACADUTISTI "NEMBO"
AL COMANDO ARRETRATO

- 1°) - In conformità all'intendimento espresso da codesto Comando con foglio G 1/27 in data 8 corrente e tenuto conto :
 - dei notevoli servizi resi alla Causa comune della banda partigiani di Borgo Tossignano;
 - dello spirito di cui sono animati i componenti della banda;
 - del tono disciplinare dimostrato dagli uomini di questa formazione partigiana,
- è stata disposta la sua trasformazione in compagnia, sotto la denominazione di 1ª compagnia partigiani "Folgori" - Alessandro Bianconcini -, immettendola nella forza effettiva del rgt. parac. "Nembo".
- Ciò allo scopo di regolarizzare la posizione della banda.
- 2°) - Formazioni e organici : come da allegato 1, in complessivi 5 ufficiali e 95 sottufficiali e militari di truppa.

AL 53° B. M. U.
AL COMANDO REG. PARACADUTISTI "NEMBO"
AL COMANDO ARRETRATO

- 1°) - In conformità all'intendimento espresso da codesto Comando con foglio G 1/27 in data 8 corrente e tenuto conto:
- dei notevoli servizi resi alla Causa comune della banda partigiani di Borgo Tossignano;
 - dello spirito di cui sono animati i componenti della banda;
 - del tono disciplinare dimostrato dagli uomini di questa formazione partigiana,

è stata disposta la sua trasformazione in compagnia, sotto la denominazione di 1ª compagnia partigiani "Folgore" - Alessandro Bianconcini -, immettendola nella forza effettiva del regt. parac. "Nembo" 133.

Ciò allo scopo di regolarizzare la posizione della banda.-

- 2°) - Normazioni e organici: come da allegato 1, in complessivo 5 ufficiali e 95 sottufficiali e militari di truppa.-

Norme amministrative provvisorie: vedi all. n° 2.-

- 3°) - È stato interessato il Ministero della Guerra per regolarizzare la posizione morale, disciplinare, amministrativa e matricolare del suddetto reparto.-
- Si prospetta ora a codesto Comando l'opportunità di assegnare alla 1ª compagnia partigiani l'armamento e gli automezzi di cui difetta per raggiungere l'organico previsto (all. n° 3).-



d'ordine

IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Ten. Col. Umberto De Martino)

U. De Martino

All. n° 1 al foglio 764/S.M.

ORGANICO COMPAGNIA PARTIGIANI "FOLGORE"

	PERSONALE			ARMAMENTO			AUTOMEZZI		
	Uff.	Isot.	Trup.	Pi.	Fu.	F.	Mor.	Car.	Mo-
		tuf.	pa	stol.	ci.	im.	tail.	ri	to.
		fi.		la.	le.	Bren.	da.	cin.	
		cia.		tan.			2°	gola.	
		li.		tom.				ti	
				me.					
				ti.					
Comandante	1		1	1	1				
Squadra comando									
- Capo squadra		(1)	1		1	1			
- staffette su moto			1		1				
- militari per servizi vari (cucinieri, magazz., inferm. aiutanti di sanità)			13 (2)		12	1		1	3 (x)
Totale comando (squadra)	1	1	14	1	13	1		1	3
Plot. fuc. mitr. "Bren"									
- Comandante	1		1	1					
- Squadra comando		1	3		4				
- 1° sq. fuc. mitragliatore (3)		1	5		5	1			
- 2° " " (3)		1	5		5	1			
- 3° " " (3)		1	5		5	1			
Totale pl. fuc. mitr. "Bren"	1	4	18	1	19	3			
Pl. mortai da 2 pollici									
- Comandante (subalterno)	1		1	1					
- squadra comando		(4)	1	(5)	3	(6)			
- 1° squadra (7)			3		3				
- 2° " (7)			3		3				
- 3° " (7)			3		3				
- 4° " (7)			3		3				
Totale pl. mortai da 2 "	1	1	15	1	15	4			

Plotone assaltatori Squadra

cucinieri, magazz., inferm.
 aiutanti di sanità)
 Totale comando (squadra)

Plot. fuc.mitr. "Bren"
 - Comandante
 - Squadra comando
 - 1° sq. fuc. mitragliatore (3)
 - 2° " " (3)
 - 3° " " (3)
 Totale pl. fuc. mtr. "Bren"

Pl. mortai da 2 pollici
 - Comandante (subalterno)
 - Squadra comando
 - 1° squadra (7)
 - 2° " (7)
 - 3° " (7)
 - 4° " (7)
 Totale pl. mortai da 2 "

Plotone assaltatori fucil.
 - Comandante (subalterno)
 - Staffette a piedi
 - 1° squadra (8)
 - 2° " (8)
 Tot. plot. assaltatori fucil.

R I F P I L O G O
 Comandante
 Squadra comando
 1 pl. f.m. "Bren"
 2° " "
 3° " mortai
 4° " assaltatori fucilieri

T O T A L E

- (2)- (segue all. n° 1 al foglio 754/S.M.)

NOTE :

- (1) - sottufficiale di contabilità.-
- (2) - 1 barbiere, 2 porta munizioni (uno dei quali disarmati - porta f.m. "Bren" - 3 portageriti (di cui 1 aiutante di sanità) - 2 cuccinieri - 1 magazziniere - 4 autieri (di cui un conduttore di carrette cingolate).-
- (3) - costituita :
 - nucleo fuc.mitragliatore composta da 1 sottuff. (che è anche caposquadra) e 2 soldati.- Il porta arma è disarmato;
 - nucleo fucilieri composto da 1 graduato capo nucleo e 2 soldati.-
- (4) - di cui 1 porta viveri e carburanti, 1 porta cucina e materiale, 1 porta munizioni.-
- (5) - 1 sottufficiale goniometrista.-
- (6) - 2 portaordini - 1 porta f.m. "Bren" (disarmato).-
- (7) - per la difesa vicina del plotone.-
- (8) - 1 capo arma, 1 partigiano mortaista, 1 porta munizioni.-
- (8) - Costituita :
 - nucleo f.m. composto di 1 sottuff. (che è anche caposquadra) e 2 soldati.- Il porta arma è disarmato.-
 - nucleo fucilieri composto di 1 graduato e 5 soldati.-

-----00000-----

- nucleo fucilieri composto da 1 graduato capo nucleo e 2 soldati.-

- (x) - di cui 1 porta viveri e carburanti, 1 porta cucina e materiale, 1 porta munizioni.-
- (4) - 1 sottufficiale gonipmetrista.-
- (5) - 2 portaordini - 1 porta f.m. "Bren" (disarmato).-
- (6) - per la difesa vicina del plotone.-
- (7) - 1 capo arma, 1 partigiano mortaista, 1 porta munizioni.-
- (8) - Costituita :
 - nucleo f.m. composto di 1 sottuff. (che è anche caposquadra) e 2 soldati.- Il porta arma è disarmato.-
 - nucleo fucilieri composto di 1 graduato e 5 soldati.-

-----00000-----

1187



All. n° 2 al foglio 764/1.m.

NOME AMMINISTRATIVE PROVVISORIE

- 1°) - Amministrazione uomini.
La cp. partigiani "Folgore" farà parte organica del rgt. paracad. "Nembo" e pertanto passerà nella forza effettiva del rgt. "Nembo" sotto la data 3 marzo 1945.
Il detto reparto provvederà ad impiantare i seguenti documenti:
- giornale di contabilità;
- ruolino tascabile;
- registro quindicine arretrate;
- registro del corredo;
- registro dei vaglia;
- registro delle licenze.
2°) - Trattamento economico.
Fino a nuove disposizioni ai fini amministrativi tutti i componenti la cp. partigiani "Folgore" saranno considerati partigiani. In conseguenza il trattamento economico loro spettante è quello del fante e precisamente:
- paga giornaliera L. 5.00
- soprassoldo operazioni L. 4.00
- indennità speciale combattenti L. 45.00-
Il pagamento di tale assegni dovrà essere effettuato per quindici-
na e cioè al 15 e al 30 o 31 di ogni mese.
La contabilità sarà resa all'ufficio amministrazione del rgt. "Nembo", il quale impartirà dettagliate norme in proposito ed in relazione al prelievo fondi.
3°) - Vettovagliamento.
A ciascun componente la compagnia partigiani "Folgore" spetta la stessa razione viveri distribuita ai reparti del rgt. "Nembo".
Dettagliate norme saranno impartite in proposito dal comando del rgt. "Nembo".
4°) - Miglioramento rancio.
La quota miglioramento rancio è di L. 20.00 per giornata presenza. L'amministrazione di tale quota è devoluta al comando rgt. "Folgore".
5°) - Gestione del materiale.
La cp. partigiani "Folgore" provvederà ad impiantare due quaderni di carico mod. 547; uno per i materiali del gruppo "C" e uno per i materiali del gruppo "B".
L'amministrazione di tutti i materiali st-

2°) - Trattamento economico.

Fino a nuove disposizioni ai fini amministrativi tutti i componenti la cp. partigiani "Polgore" saranno considerati partigiani. In conseguenza il trattamento economico loro spettante è quello del fante e precisamente:

- paga giornaliera L. 5.00
- sopra-costo operazioni L. 4.00
- indennità speciale combattenti L. 45.00-

Il pagamento di tale assegno dovrà essere effettuato per quindici giorni e cioè al 15 e al 30 o 31 di ogni mese.

La contabilità sarà resa all'ufficio amministrazione del rgt. "Nembo", il quale impartirà dettagliate norme in proposito ed in relazione al prelevamento fondi.

3°) - Vettovagliamento.

A ciascun componente la compagnia partigiani "Polgore" spetta la stessa razione vivanda distribuita ai reparti del rgt. "Nembo".
 Dettagliate norme saranno impartite in proposito dal comando del rgt. "Nembo".

4°) - Miglioramento rancio.

La quota miglioramento rancio è di L. 20.00 per giornata presenza. L'amministrazione di tale quota è devoluta al comando rgt. "Nembo".

5°) - Gestione del materiale.

La cp. partigiani "Polgore" provvederà ad impiantare due quaderni di carico mod. 5474 uno per i materiali del gruppo "C" e uno per i materiali del gruppo "B".

In tali registri dovranno essere registrati tutti i materiali attualmente in dotazione al reparto e tutte le variazioni successive. Il reggimento "Nembo" anche in questo campo, provvederà ad impartire dettagliate disposizioni.

-----00000-----



All. n° 3 al foglio 764/1.44

SPECCHIO ARMAMENTO E AUTOMEZZI DI CUI NECESSITA
LA CP. PARTIGIANI "FOLGORI" PER RAGGIUNGERE
L'ORGANICO PREVISTO

-----000-----

ARMAMENTO :

Pistole	5
f.m. "Brep"	4
mortai 2"	4

AUTOMEZZI :

Carretta cingolata	1
Autocarro 15 CWT	3
Motocicletta	1

-----00000-----

mortai 2"

4

AUTOMISZZI :

Carretta cingolata	1
Autocarro 15 CWT	3
Motocicletta	1

-----00000-----

7185



M40735/1444 350M 11/43 M. Ltd. 5J-7553

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

43

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
M13b	217		OUR 2

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

FROM	Originator	Date-Time of Origin.	Office Date Stamp
(A) Mam 8 Army		201730A	

For Action.

13 Corps

AP

TO

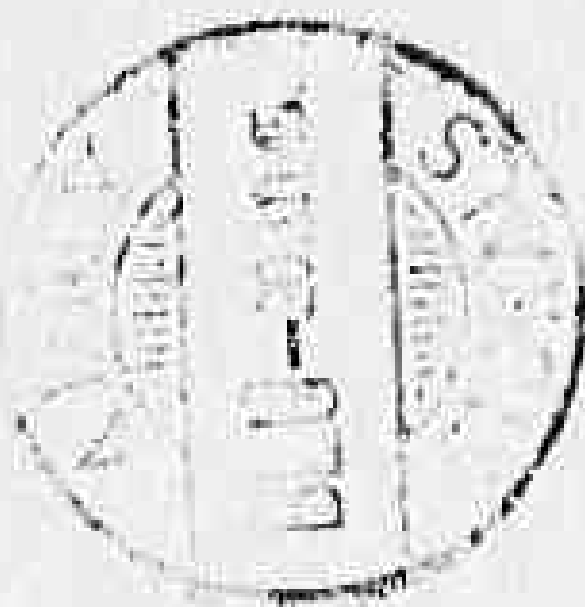
(W) For Information (INFO)

53 BLU 0 rear army

Message Instructions.	GR
	NL

Originator's No.

U518 Confidential Orel your 5614/G
 of 18 mar O following releases for 1184
 partisans authorized O boots qty 80
 pr capes gas qty 60 pullovers qty
 61 shirts flannel qty 64 socks qty 60
 pr vests wollen qty 64 drawers
 qty 68 blankets 55



pr capes gas qty 60 fullovers qty 20
 61 shirts flannel qty 64 socks qty 60
 pr vests woolen qty 64 drawers
 qty 68 blankets 55

53 BLU

2. 48 I.C.G. FOLGORE
 61/1 of 21 Mar

Ref this and 61/28 of 16 Mar 45

Above is forwarded for information and
 necessary action

L. C. G. FOLGORE
 L. C. G. FOLGORE

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except } WIRELESS	If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent IN CIPHER.	Originator's Instructions. Degree of Priority.	
		Time TH1 or TOR 1840	System Op 4: 30
Signed:		Time Cleared	

ARMY FORM C 2136 (3ge)

MESSAGE FOR

Register No.

Transmission Instructions

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

Office Date Stamp

Date-Time of Origin

FROM

(A)

53

BLU

Originator

For Action

MAIN 13 CORPS

TO

(W) For Information (info)

H.Q. I.C.G. FOLGORE

H/Q

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

G1/22 O SECRET O Ref. This HQ G1/27 of 8 km O
 ONE O leader of company expresses willingness
 to operate under command FOLGORE GP but
 retaining identity as a partisan boy as far as
 1940LA is concerned. Situation will again be reviewed O
 TWO O strength and organization as in L.O.'s
 letter forwarded with above - quoted letter O
 THREE O following now urgently required O 80 para
 boots O 60 gas-capes O 61 patch-overs O 64 flannel
 shirts O 60 pairs socks O 64 broken vests O
 66 pairs drawers O 55 blankets O FOUR O
 Requirements in arms to implement new
 re-organization as follows O 5 Bren LMG O
 2 mortars 2-inch O 2 P.A.T O 10 rifles O
 FOLGORE Gampp asked to provide these on
 loan or otherwise put forward operational reasons
 for being impracticable in

1584

15 operate under command FOLGORE 2A but
 retaining identity as a partisan boy as far as
 1MOLA where situation will again be reviewed. $\odot$
 Two $\odot$ strength and organization as in L.O.'s
 letter forwarded with above - quoted letter $\odot$
 THREE $\odot$ Following now urgently required $\odot$ 50 pairs
 boots $\odot$ 60 gas-capes $\odot$ 61 pull-overs $\odot$ 64 flannel
 shirts $\odot$ 60 pairs socks $\odot$ 64 woolen vests $\odot$
 66 pairs drawers $\odot$ 55 blankets $\odot$ FOUR $\odot$
 replacements in arms to implement new
 re-organization as follows $\odot$ 5 Bren LMG $\odot$
 2 mortar 2-inch $\odot$ 2 P.1. A 7 $\odot$ 10 rifles $\odot$
 FOLGORE Gruppe asked to provide these on
 loan or otherwise put forward operational reasons
 for this provision being impracticable in
 reality is a 64.

7183

This message may be sent
 AS WRITTEN by any means
 except

WIRELESS.

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or to fall
 into enemy hands this message must
 be sent IN CIPHER.

Signed

W. H. H. H.
 H. H. H. H.

Originator's Instructions.
 Degree of Priority.

Time

THI or TOR

System

Time Cleared

*Copy sent to 40.**File 61*SUBJECT:- Partisans - Clothing.*A/E to Sec.*SECRET.*This comes from a special
Army pool.*

HQ 13 Corps.

5614/C.

*ck**9/3*

18 Mar 45.

MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY53 MLURef para 4(c) of EIGHTH ARMY AGO Instr No. 37 dated
22 Feb 45.

Authority to draw the following issues is requested for partisans -
total strength 100 - operating in BORGO TOSSIGNANO area 0723 under cond of
FOLGORE GRUPPO.

80 pr boots
 60 gas capes
 61 pullovers
 64 flannel shirts
 60 prs socks
 64 woollen vests
 66 prs drawers
 55 blankets

19 MAR 1945

B. Hunter
 Lt. Gen.:
 Comd.
182

ARMY FORM C 2136 (rge)

MESSAGE FOR

Register No. 9 MAR 1945

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

Office Date Stamp

FROM

(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin.

53 BLU

082130A

For Action.

MAIN 13 CORPS

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions.

GR

HQ 1.C.G FOLGORE

Originator's No

G1/27 O SECRET O Men with two copies of
letter dated 7 Mar 45 from LT. HALLETT
Partisan Division Officer Lexington
proposals for the reorganization and
equipment of partisan forces at present
operating under command FOLGORE 1.C.G
and for their incorporation as an integral
part of this Group. This BLU ~~is~~
recommends these proposals and it is
requested that authority be given earliest
for their implementation. Further details
concerning pay, administration as he been
will subsequently be arranged as he been
S.M.R.E. and M.M.I.A. O Proposals for these
will be forwarded earliest by HQ 1.C.G
FOLGORE

1181

Parkson Division after considering proposals for the reorganization and equipment of parkson forces at present operating under command FOLGORE 1.C.G. and for their incorporation as an integral part of this group. This BLV ~~is~~ recommends that these proposals and it is requested that authority be given earliest for their implementation. Further details concerning pay, administration the with Subsequently be arranged as between S.M.R.E. and M.M.I.A. O Proposals for West will be forwarded in list by HQ 1.C.G. FOLGORE

1181

This message may be sent
AS WRITTEN by any means
except } WIRELESS.

Signed.

If liable to be intercepted or to fall
into enemy hands this message must
be sent IN CIPHER.

Signed.

C. H. Archer

H. H. H.

Originator's Instructions.
Degree of Priority.

Time System Cp.

Till of TOR

Time Cleared

5345a, GPO 7-44

ARMY FORM C-1136 (Rev. 5-54)

MESSAGE FORM

Call	Sgt. No.	Priority
	13	R

Transmission Instructions

Register No.

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

Date-Time of Origin

051200

Off. Date Stamp

FROM

HQ Folgore

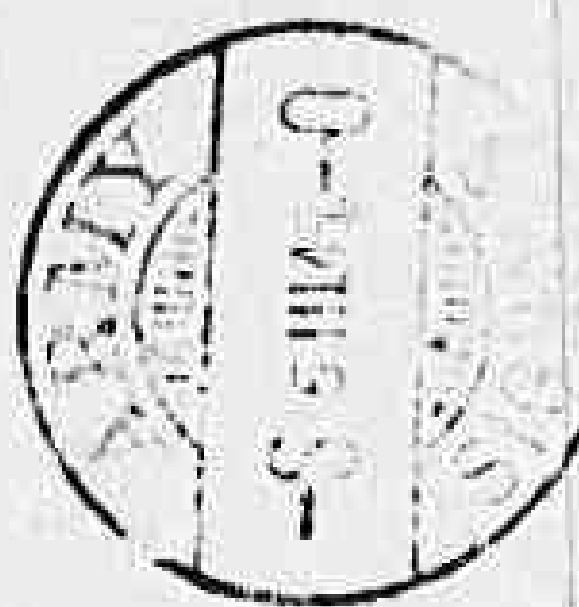
Reggimento Mombro

TO

(U) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

G.R.



52 BLU ufficio personale

204/op. Il sottotenente assimilato Di Benedetto

è assegnato temporaneamente a questo comando
 quale ufficiale interprete, in sostituzione ufficiale
 maltese destinato altrove (.) quest'ultimo a sostituzione
 avvenuta dovrà presentarsi al 53 BLU (.)

Ordine Capomaggiore De Martino

è assegnato temporaneamente a questo comando
 quale ufficiale interprete, in sostituzione ufficiale
 mattese destinato altrove. Quest'ultimo a sostituzione
 avvenuta dovrà presentarsi al 53 BLU (?)

Ordine Capomaggiore De Martino

0817

This message may be sent
 AS WRITTEN or by means
 of other

WIRELESS

Signed

If unable to be interpreted or to full into
 many hands this message may be sent in
 OTHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
 Degree of Priority

Normal

Time

System

TH or FOR

15.40

Time Cleared

53. BLV

REPORT.

To:-

A.F.M.,
IC, CORPS.

Sir, On the 6th. FEB. 1945, SGT. A. WHITE and two Lance corporals were sent to ASCOLI PICENO for the purpose of training Carabinieri attached to the FULGORE GRUPPO and organising them into the equivalent of a British Provost Company. Of this company twenty N.C.Os. had already completed a course at the C.M.-POLICE TRAINING DEPOT, OTTAVIANO.

Training commenced on the 7th. FEB. 1945. and included both the theory and practice of traffic control. During the course the Carabinieri Company were issued with the following, in Italian:-

1. Standing Orders as laid down for IIS, PROVOST COY.
2. Road Sector Standing Orders.
3. Guide to section Cgts. duties on being attached to Regiments.
4. Duties of a Carabinieri section attached to Regiments.
5. Bridge classification sheets (One to each man.)

I joined Sgt White on the 12th. FEB. 1945. and my duty was to advise and supervise during the transformation. On arrival I visited the Carabinieri Company and found nothing but chaos. The organisation which Sgt. White had submitted to the C.O. Company and which had previously been agreed to by the Italian Chief of Staff, was being completely ignored. Stores which had been drawn from H.Q. GRUPPO D.A.F.C.S. were not being reissued to the men, and no attempt had been made to paint vehicles according to regulations laid down. The reason for all this being the absence of officers, all being away on courses or leave, and no N.C.O. who would take the responsibility for issuing orders to the company.

On the 22ND. FEB. 1945, Lt. PILTRAFORTE arrived as a copy of the company subalterns, so I called a conference which included himself and the N.Os. I went through and explained the organisation and stores discipline.

Regiments.

4. Duties of a Carabinieri section attached to Regiments.
5. Bridge classification sheets (One to each man.)

I joined Sgt White on the 10TH. FEB. 1945, and my duty was to advise and supervise during the transformation. On arrival I visited the Carabinieri Company and found nothing but chaos. The organisation which Sgt. White had submitted to the O.C. Company and which had previously been agreed to by the Italian Chief of Staff, was being completely ignored. Stores which had been drawn from H.Q. GRUPPO C.A.D.O.S. were not being reissued to the men, and no attempt had been made to paint vehicles according to regulations laid down. The reason for all this being the absence of officers, all being away on courses or leave, and no N.C.O. who would take the responsibility for issuing orders to the company.

On the 22ND. FEB. 1945, Lt. PIETRAFORTE arrived ~~along~~ of the company subalterns, so I called a conference which included himself and the W.Os. I went through and explained the organisation of a Provost Company, operational duties, and G.I.O.S. Stores, discipline etc. Lt. PIETRAFORTE promised to put all my orders into force at once, and as time was drawing close for departure, I gave him four days to do so.

On the 25TH. FEB. 1945 another officer arrived, Lt. DIANA, who was to take over command of the company ~~XXXXXX~~ pending the arrival of the O.C. who was in ROME. I went to interview this officer, and find out if he was in the picture, before I could contact him, he was given certain orders by the Italian Chief of Staff that could not be carried out by a company organised on British Provost lines. I pointed this out to him, and he told me that at the moment the company was not organised according to plan submitted. I immediately went to the Italian Chief of Staff for an explanation as to why the reorganisation of the company had not taken place. This interview was not very successful, as he made many excuses about the company not having an O.C., and that the other officer could do nothing without his O.Cs. approval. However I did extract a promise from him that the company would be immediately reorganised, and to show his good faith he sent for Lt. DIANA, and told him to put our plan into operation at once.

Sheet 2.

The company moves up to the forward area on the 26TH. and 27TH. FEB. 1945 and I can only await it's arrival before ascertaining whether or not they are working according to our organization.

May I respectfully submit the following points which would help in the reorganizing of Carabinieri Companies.

- I. War Estabs. should be submitted in Italian, and not in English.
2. A more simplified method of indenting for stores should be used.
3. A greater interest should be taken in the Carabinieri by the GRUPPO H.Q.
4. When Carabinieri Companies are posted to Groppos, an officer should be promoted C.O., who can remain with his company throughout the training period.
5. Carabinieri should be given priority in the issue of the following stores:- Paint, Maps, lamps. In the case of this company they were completely ignored, until I brought the matter up with the authorities concerned.

26TH. FEB. 1945.
FIELD.

J. W. Verlen
LT.
115, PROVOST COMPANY,
ATTACHED 53, B.L.M.

J. J. Werlen
LT.
115, HAGVOST COMPANY,
ATTACHED 53, B.L.U.

1178

26TH. FEB. 1945.
FIELD.

1497
19 FEB 1945CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT :- RE Italian Gruppi.

Main HQ 10 Corps

G101/1 SD

18 Feb 45

53 BLU (2)

Further to this HQ G 101/1 SD dated 28 Jan 45.

1. Herewith copy of Main Eighth Army letter M 13680 SD2 dated 16 Feb.

2. Appx "A" to your letter G22-1 dated 12 Feb shows that POLICORE COMBAT GP was holding 45 Cars 5 cwt 434 as at 8 Feb. A further 7 cars 5 cwt 434 were released under this HQ signal LSD 830 dated 17 Feb, thus making the total holding up to 50 as authorized in the attached letter.

2774
46

Capitain
Brigadier,
GENERAL STAFF.

L.A.B.

7177

Subject : Organi ation of Provost Coy.

19 Feb 45.

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

File 61

1. Attached herewith is a copy of the re-organisation of the Provost Coy of the Combat Group FOLCORE.
2. The re-organisation consists of making four sections in place of three for operational purposes.



Sgt,
CMP 175

ORGANICO DI UNA COMPAGNIA DI POLIZIA (CC.RR.) PER OPERAZIONI, COMPOSTA DI 4 SEZIONI PER UN GRUPPO COMBATTENTE ITALIANO.

I SEZIONE COMANDO ADDETTA AL COMANDO DI DIVISIONE
 I SEZIONE ADDETTA AL COMANDO DI DIVISIONE (RETROGUARDIA)
 I-SEZIONE PER OGNI REGGIMENTO (2 REGG)

SEZIONE COMANDO DI COMPAGNIA

Capitano Com. di Comp.	1	Trasporti:	
Subalterno		Motociclette	2
Marescialli	2	Jeeps	2
Sergenti addetti servizio paga	3	Autocarri 15 cwt	2
Sergenti com. di Squadra	2	Autocarri 3 ton.	3
Caporali	6	Totale	9
Truppa	46		
Totale:	64		

SEZIONE ADDETTA AL COMANDO DI DIVISIONE (ARRETRATO)

Maresciallo	2	Trasporti:	
Sergenti comandanti di squadra	3	Motociclette	10
Caporali	25	Jeeps	1
Truppa		Autocarri 15 cwt	2
Totale	31	Totale	13

SEZIONE ADDETTA AL 1° REGGIMENTO

Sergenti Comandanti di squadra	2	Trasporti:	
Caporali	3	Motociclette	15
Truppa	25	Autocarri 15 cwt	2
Totale	30	Totale	17

Sergenti comandanti di squadra	2	Trasporti:	IO
Caporali	3	Motociclette	I
Truppa	25	Jeeps	2
		Autocarri 15 cwt	
Totale	31	Totale	13

SEZIONE ADDETTA AL 1° REGGIMENTO

Sergenti Comandanti di squadra	2	Trasporti:	
Caporali	3	Motociclette	15
Truppa	25	Autocarri 15 cwt	2
Totale	30	Totale	17

7175

SEZIONE ADDETTA AL 2° REGGIMENTO

Sergenti comandanti di squadra	2	Trasporti:	
Caporali	3	Motociclette	15
truppa	25	Autocarri 15 cwt	2
Totale	30	Totale	17

Forza totale della Compagnia	155	Forza totale veicoli	56
------------------------------	-----	----------------------	----

m/c	42	2x14
Jeeps	3	3x1
15 cwt	8	3x3
3-ton	3	3x1
	1	

ARMY FORM C2136 (Sema.

MESSAGE FOR

1476

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

Register No.

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

53 BLU

Originator

Date - Time of Origin

161630A

OFFICE DATE STAMP

For Action

M M 1A

TO

(W) For Information (INFC)

HQ FOLLOWER Group

Message Instructions

GR

Original No.

62/22

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref from

C/1637

of 5 FEB 0

FOLLOWER Group has received that two officers are
 scheduled to arrive on ground staff at the present
 time. The officers are to be met and escorted to the
 mess hall. It is NOT possible for the duties to be done
 as usual.

7174

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF LIKELY TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Time

System

Op.

THI or TOR

Time cleared

SIGNED

TRANSLATION.

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore'
Chief of Staff Office

500/S.M.

Subject: German speaking officers.

To:- 53 B.L.U. (Ref.GI/2 - 1)* - 87.

12 Feb 45

110
13 FEB 1945

*(Attached translated for S.I.M.)

This HQ has already at its disposal, two officer interpreters of the German and English languages. They are -

Major ANGLE Romano
Lt PRESCHERN Carlo

who will be able quite well to provide for the interrogation of German prisoners.

Therefore, we ask you to inform the Authorities concerned, so that another officer is not assigned, who besides being extra, could not be found a post in the W.E. of the Command.

173

Signed - U. De Martino.

H.Q. Combat Group FOLGORE
Chief of Staff Office

512/S.M.

Subject: W.Es. of the 3" Mortar Coys.

To:- Chief of Staff, Royal Army
53 B.L.U.

12 Feb 45

146/545
13 FEB 1945

Ref this HQ 2290/S.M. of 2 Dec 44 (addressed to SLFE) and 53 BLU's letters G1 - 15 of 23 Dec 44 and G1 - 17 of 28 Dec 44 addressed to MIA.

At the beginning of last December, a conference was held between representatives of this HQ and 53 BLU in which questions of WEs were treated, the more important of which have again come to light, during a preliminary examination of WEs laid down for the Combat Group units.

As agreement was reached on almost all the questions dealt with, and the relative proposals of modifications were sent on above ref nos. Up to the present moment, none of the essential questions proposed has received a decision from the responsible authorities.

As the employment of the Combat Group is imminent and in the light of experience obtained during the training period, I think it is time to point out, and I consider it urgent and essential, that to obtain the desired complete fighting efficiency of the units, the modifications be carried out.

I consider the prompt solution of the problem of the WEs of the 3" Mortar Coys particularly important. This was mentioned at that time and I summarise it again.-

It was assumed, that in order to be able to be employed according to the ideas laid down by British orders in respect of the characteristics of the 3" Mortar, the WE of the company must be somewhere between that of a British platoon and a double WE. In comparison -

Whilst a British mortar pl has at its disposal, 13 radio sets Mod 38 and 8 telephones, the Regt Mortar Coy according to WE 01/14/526 has at its disposal, only 3 radio sets Mod 38 and 2 telephones.

The HQ of the platoon are without carriers.

Whilst a British mortar platoon has at its disposal 3 - 15 cwt trucks for transporting ammunition (1 to every 2 mortars), the company has no such vehicles for this purpose.

Whilst the British mortar platoon has at its disposal 1 range-taker who can be very usefully employed on the telemeter, the mortar coy has in its WE 1 goniometrist without a relative goniometer which would in any case be an absolutely useless and inadequate instrument for the purposes of the 3" Mortar Coy.

It is evident that under these conditions, it is not possible to expect a high degree of efficiency in the work of the Mortar Coy.

This does not apply to the mortar platoon of the 4th Coy as its WE was based on the same standards as British WEs, which was not done in the case of the Regt Mortar Coy. The present WE would be sufficient, only if, instead of 38 mortars

Coy's particularly important. This was mentioned at that time and I summarise it again.-

It was assumed, that in order to be able to be employed according to the ideas laid down by British orders in respect of the characteristics of the 3" Mortar, the WE of the company must be somewhere between that of a British platoon and a double WE. In comparison -

Whilst a British mortar pl has at its disposal, 13 radio sets Mod 38 and 8 telephones, the Regt Mortar Coy according to WE 01/NA/526 has at its disposal, only 3 radio sets Mod 38 and 2 telephones.

The HQ of the platoon are without carriers.

Whilst a British mortar platoon has at its disposal 3 - 15 cwt trucks for transporting ammunition (1 to every 2 mortars), the company has no such vehicles for this purpose. (1 per M + 2 per WE)

Whilst the British mortar platoon has at its disposal 1 range-taker who can be very usefully employed on the telemeter, the mortar coy has in its WE 1 goniometrist without a relative goniometer which would in any case be an absolutely useless and inadequate instrument for the purposes of the 3" Mortar Coy.

It is evident that under these conditions, it is not possible to expect a high degree of efficiency in the work of the Mortar Coy.

This does not apply to the mortar platoon of the AA Coy as its WE was based on the same standards as British WEs, which was not done in the case of the Regt Mortar Coy. The present WE would be sufficient, only if, instead of 3" mortars, the coy was allotted No. 81 mortars of an Italian type whose characteristics and larger arm allow standards of use substantially different.

I consider it essentially important that at least the following provisions be made -

Increase of telephone allotment from 2 to 10

Issue of two tractors for the platoon HQ

Issue of four 15 cwt trucks for ammunition transport

~~Issue~~ of two rangetakers with respective telemeters.

Signed - G. Morigi.

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

Originator

Date-Time of Origin.

Office Date Stamp

FROM

(A)

For Action.

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

0 1530 0 1530 0 1530 0

1. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z) (aa) (ab) (ac) (ad) (ae) (af) (ag) (ah) (ai) (aj) (ak) (al) (am) (an) (ao) (ap) (aq) (ar) (as) (at) (au) (av) (aw) (ax) (ay) (az) (ba) (bb) (bc) (bd) (be) (bf) (bg) (bh) (bi) (bj) (bk) (bl) (bm) (bn) (bo) (bp) (bq) (br) (bs) (bt) (bu) (bv) (bw) (bx) (by) (bz) (ca) (cb) (cc) (cd) (ce) (cf) (cg) (ch) (ci) (cj) (ck) (cl) (cm) (cn) (co) (cp) (cq) (cr) (cs) (ct) (cu) (cv) (cw) (cx) (cy) (cz) (da) (db) (dc) (dd) (de) (df) (dg) (dh) (di) (dj) (dk) (dl) (dm) (dn) (do) (dp) (dq) (dr) (ds) (dt) (du) (dv) (dw) (dx) (dy) (dz) (ea) (eb) (ec) (ed) (ee) (ef) (eg) (eh) (ei) (ej) (ek) (el) (em) (en) (eo) (ep) (eq) (er) (es) (et) (eu) (ev) (ew) (ex) (ey) (ez) (fa) (fb) (fc) (fd) (fe) (ff) (fg) (fh) (fi) (fj) (fk) (fl) (fm) (fn) (fo) (fp) (fq) (fr) (fs) (ft) (fu) (fv) (fw) (fx) (fy) (fz) (ga) (gb) (gc) (gd) (ge) (gf) (gg) (gh) (gi) (gj) (gk) (gl) (gm) (gn) (go) (gp) (gq) (gr) (gs) (gt) (gu) (gv) (gw) (gx) (gy) (gz) (ha) (hb) (hc) (hd) (he) (hf) (hg) (hh) (hi) (hj) (hk) (hl) (hm) (hn) (ho) (hp) (hq) (hr) (hs) (ht) (hu) (hv) (hw) (hx) (hy) (hz) (ia) (ib) (ic) (id) (ie) (if) (ig) (ih) (ii) (ij) (ik) (il) (im) (in) (io) (ip) (iq) (ir) (is) (it) (iu) (iv) (iw) (ix) (iy) (iz) (ja) (jb) (jc) (jd) (je) (jf) (jg) (jh) (ji) (jj) (jk) (jl) (jm) (jn) (jo) (jp) (jq) (jr) (js) (jt) (ju) (jv) (jw) (jx) (jy) (jz) (ka) (kb) (kc) (kd) (ke) (kf) (kg) (kh) (ki) (kj) (kk) (kl) (km) (kn) (ko) (kp) (kq) (kr) (ks) (kt) (ku) (kv) (kw) (kx) (ky) (kz) (la) (lb) (lc) (ld) (le) (lf) (lg) (lh) (li) (lj) (lk) (ll) (lm) (ln) (lo) (lp) (lq) (lr) (ls) (lt) (lu) (lv) (lw) (lx) (ly) (lz) (ma) (mb) (mc) (md) (me) (mf) (mg) (mh) (mi) (mj) (mk) (ml) (mm) (mn) (mo) (mp) (mq) (mr) (ms) (mt) (mu) (mv) (mw) (mx) (my) (mz) (na) (nb) (nc) (nd) (ne) (nf) (ng) (nh) (ni) (nj) (nk) (nl) (nm) (nn) (no) (np) (nq) (nr) (ns) (nt) (nu) (nv) (nw) (nx) (ny) (nz) (oa) (ob) (oc) (od) (oe) (of) (og) (oh) (oi) (oj) (ok) (ol) (om) (on) (oo) (op) (oq) (or) (os) (ot) (ou) (ov) (ow) (ox) (oy) (oz) (pa) (pb) (pc) (pd) (pe) (pf) (pg) (ph) (pi) (pj) (pk) (pl) (pm) (pn) (po) (pp) (pq) (pr) (ps) (pt) (pu) (pv) (pw) (px) (py) (pz) (qa) (qb) (qc) (qd) (qe) (qf) (qg) (qh) (qi) (qj) (qk) (ql) (qm) (qn) (qo) (qp) (qq) (qr) (qs) (qt) (qu) (qv) (qw) (qx) (qy) (qz) (ra) (rb) (rc) (rd) (re) (rf) (rg) (rh) (ri) (rj) (rk) (rl) (rm) (rn) (ro) (rp) (rq) (rr) (rs) (rt) (ru) (rv) (rw) (rx) (ry) (rz) (sa) (sb) (sc) (sd) (se) (sf) (sg) (sh) (si) (sj) (sk) (sl) (sm) (sn) (so) (sp) (sq) (sr) (ss) (st) (su) (sv) (sw) (sx) (sy) (sz) (ta) (tb) (tc) (td) (te) (tf) (tg) (th) (ti) (tj) (tk) (tl) (tm) (tn) (to) (tp) (tq) (tr) (ts) (tt) (tu) (tv) (tw) (tx) (ty) (tz) (ua) (ub) (uc) (ud) (ue) (uf) (ug) (uh) (ui) (uj) (uk) (ul) (um) (un) (uo) (up) (uq) (ur) (us) (ut) (uu) (uv) (uw) (ux) (uy) (uz) (va) (vb) (vc) (vd) (ve) (vf) (vg) (vh) (vi) (vj) (vk) (vl) (vm) (vn) (vo) (vp) (vq) (vr) (vs) (vt) (vu) (vv) (vw) (vx) (vy) (vz) (wa) (wb) (wc) (wd) (we) (wf) (wg) (wh) (wi) (wj) (wk) (wl) (wm) (wn) (wo) (wp) (wq) (wr) (ws) (wt) (wu) (wv) (ww) (wx) (wy) (wz) (xa) (xb) (xc) (xd) (xe) (xf) (xg) (xh) (xi) (xj) (xk) (xl) (xm) (xn) (xo) (xp) (xq) (xr) (xs) (xt) (xu) (xv) (xw) (xx) (xy) (xz) (ya) (yb) (yc) (yd) (ye) (yf) (yg) (yh) (yi) (yj) (yk) (yl) (ym) (yn) (yo) (yp) (yq) (yr) (ys) (yt) (yu) (yv) (yw) (yx) (yy) (yz) (za) (zb) (zc) (zd) (ze) (zf) (zg) (zh) (zi) (zj) (zk) (zl) (zm) (zn) (zo) (zp) (zq) (zr) (zs) (zt) (zu) (zv) (zw) (zx) (zy) (zz)

Subject: Interrogation in Offrs - German PW's

To :- HQ Combat Group POLCORE

53 B.L.U.
Ref GI/2 - 1
8 Feb 45

The following is passed to your HQ for information.

One German - English speaking offr selected by SIA will be posted to each Gp for interrogation German PW's. Offrs for FRIULI and CINEMA to be despatched forthwith CMA, remainder as soon as available.

Lt. Col.

G.S.

1173

Both letters - Ref to G1
 SUBJECT:- WE Comm ee Meeting

53 BLU
 56 BLU
 NMIA LO

1432
RESTRICTED *74*

3 District
 Ext 5
 802/G

25 Jan 45

The following extracts from Minutes of AFHQ War Establishments Committee Meeting No 162 held on Jan 1, are forwarded for information.

1757 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
(for Gruppe di Combattimenti)

(NA/508/1)

The following additions were approved w.e.f. 1 Jan 45:-

General Staff Officer, 3rd Grade (intelligence)	1
Captain or Lieutenant R.A.M.C. (non-medical)	1
Motor-cycle	1

In view of the recent addition of the Camp Commandant (vide AAI WEC Minute 398 dated 24 Nov 44), who is intended to relieve the D.A.D. & Q.M.G. of all unit administrative responsibilities, the proposal to add a Staff Capt 'Q' was not agreed.
 Will be promulgated as Amendment No 3
 File 758/org-3

JP Watson
 (JP WATSON) Major
 for Lt Col
 G S

25 JAN 1945

RESTRICTED

13

SUBJECT:- WE Committee Meeting227 187
230 Div
53 BLU
56 BLU3 District
Ext 5
802/G

25 Jan 45

MMIA LO
227 Div LO

The following extracts from Minutes of AFHQ War Establishments
Committee Meeting No 162 held on 1 Jan, are forwarded for information.

Addition to minutes of meeting No. 1391510 AN ITALIAN FIELD HOSPITALDeleteLorry, 3-ton, 4 x 2 Disinfester
type (from Italian resources)

- 1

Will be promulgated as Amendment No 1 w.e.f. 6 Jan 45.

File: 758/Org-3

Watson
(JP WATSON) Major
for Lt Col
G S

28 JAN 1945

JCO V MWRO NR 6/27 QVR 5

FROM NHIA 051745A

TO MINISTRY OF AIR

INFO 50 51 52 53 56 BLU'S

BT

~~BT~~
O 067 CONFIDENTIAL

REF SELBY - CIL FERRARI SPOKEC.) (ONE GERMAN - ENGLISH
SPEAKING OFFER SELECTED BY SIM WILL BE POSTED TO EACH GP FOR
INTERROGATION GERMAN PW'S (.) OFFERS FOR FRUITI AND CREMONA
TO BE DESPATCHED FORTHWITH CNA REMAINDER AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.)

REQUEST YOU SIGNAL NAMES AND E T A THIS HQ SOONEST

BT

~~REPTNS 27 5 051745 50 51 52 53 56 O 067 CIL FERRARI SIM~~

~~GP PW'S FRUITI CREMONA CNA E T A~~

SENT AR 61 K

NO REP AR K

Re Register GI File

✓ 89

67

1435

*1481952
FEB 1948*

*Copy text, included in
brackets, to Sp, for
information*

date 7/2

7168

53 BLU

Route
0687

(10) //

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore
Chief of Staff Office

14-29.
 9 FEB 1945

474/S.M.

9 Feb 45

Subject: Maltese Officers.

To :- 53 B.L.U.

The u/m Maltese officers, sent to the Combat Group for the functions of Liaison Officers and Interpreters, have been assigned by me as follows :-

Artillery	Major	MERCIEGA	HQ Group
"	Capt	WIRTH	Arty Regt
"	Lt	MIFSUD	Eng Bn
Infantry	Capt	PARLATO	HQ Group
"	Lt	GINIES	Nembo Regt
"	Lt	MIZZI	San Marco Regt

7167

Signed - G.Morigi

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgore'

1 Sec. Op. Inf. Serv.

L. 6/S.M.

Subject: Modifications of W.E. of 3" Mortar Coy
& 6 pr Gun Coy of the Inf Regt of the Combat Gp.

To :- All units.

Inf - 53 B.L.U.

8 Feb 45

1431/G1
9 FEB 1945

Herewith copy of General Staff, Royal Army letter Ref.10263/Ord of 25 Jan 45

In respect of the W.Es. of the Coys in subject, there has been established an increase of :-

- 2 Cooks in HQ section of 3" Mortar Coy, and
- 4 Cooks in the services section of the 6 pr Gun Coy.

You are asked also to make the following changes in the "Copy of Formation and Provisional War Establishments of the Combat Groups" Ed. Sept 1944.

Page 26, Note (4) - Amend '1 Driver' to read '1 Driver Mechanic'

Page 27, Note (4) - Amend the words between parentheses "(1 Armourer Mechanic)" to read "(1 Driver Mechanic)"

Signed - Alessandro Senti.

IL GENERALE ADDETTO

7166

Signed - Umberto De Martino.

SUBJECT :- Am. sent to HQ.1426
9 FEB 1945

Main HQ 10 0000

Notified to HQ 6 123 30

A/O, S.T., and 8 200 35

10/12

DD HQ ✓

Forwarded two copies of document No. 1 to 2374/527/1, an
 Infantry Bn. Forwarded under Main Eighth Army letter M. 14222/1. 202
 dated 26 Nov 44.

7115
 J. H. H. H.
 J. H. H. H.
 J. H. H. H.

Attachment No. 1 to Jt Ma/527/3 An Infantry Co.

- (a) Delete Scouts Pl. - 42
- (b) Under Bn Pl, add 1 truck, 12 cwt (for H.Q.) and 3 drivers, I.C. (Ptes) + 3
- (c) Insert in place of Scouts Pl.:-
- (1) Sniper Section, comprising 1 Sgt, and 6 Ptes. +7
 - (2) Intelligence Section, comprising 1 Sgt, 1 Gpl and 6 Ptes. +10
- (d) Under 3" Mortar Pl add 1 carrier mortar, 1 pte and 3 drivers I.C. (Ptes). +4
- (e) Under Carrier Pl, add 2 motorcyclists and 1 pte. +3
- (f) Under Pioneer Pl, add two Assault Pl teams, each comprising 1 Sgt and 4 Pioneers (Ptes). +11

- 42

+ 18

7104

ARMY FORM C27 (small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Srt. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	53 BLU	Originator	Date - Time of Origin	06 1545 A	OFFICE DATE STAMP
For Action					
HQ FOLGORE Gp					
TO	(W) For Information (INFO)		Message Instructions GR		
A/R					

3637/GHQP

Originator's No.

SD/GI/5 O Ref this HQ G1-22 of 27 JAN O 6 Maltese officers & interpreters and 6 batmen arrive here after noon 7 FEB. O Please make appropriate arrangements as in above letter O Transport has already been arranged for their collection

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

SIGNED

Charles
Maya

SIGNED

7163		
Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR		
Time cleared		

ARMY FORM C7136 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Call	S. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions
		OP	

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	Originator	Date & Time of Origin
	REAR to CERS	061035
TO	For Action	
	53 BLU	
	(W) For Information (INFO)	
		Message Instructions
		GR

Originator's No.

Restriction 801 AS @ Your SD/9/24 of 5th @ please collect
6 officers in inspection and 6 batmen from 2 transit camps
for us R S 5447 AM 7th Feb.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

IMMEDIATE

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR	162	
Time cleared		

ARMY FORM 62 (Small)			MESSAGE FORM		Regimes No.
Call	No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions		
1406 file					
ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY					
FROM (A) 53 BLV			Date - Time of Origin 051520A		Office Date - Time
TO (W) For Information (INFO)			For Action		Storage Instructions - CR
Run to Corps			D. Trg Inc.		
Originator's No. SD/6104 O Restructured O Your 801 A.S. O FIRST O Interpretation NOT yet arrived O SECOND O confirmed that one further Training Major still required.					
THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT WIRELESS			IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES- SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER		ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY
SIGNED			SIGNED <i>W. Harker</i> <i>Major</i>		IMPORTANT
Time			System		Op.
THI or TOR			Time cleared		

SIGNALS FORM 0-27a Small

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

133

Class

Srl No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

1403/7
5 FEB 1945

Office Date Stamp

FROM

New 10 Corps

Destination or Origin

041740A

For Action

53 BLU

(W) For information (INFO)

Message Instructions GB

Originator's No.

801 AS Stop RESTRICTED Stop FIRST Stop please share
 whether interpreters dispatched per CMTC on 26 Jan for
 you have arrived yet Stop SECOND Stop understand you
 are one msg may deficient in msg team Stop please
 confirm as 9501 (Tng) 8 Army has suitable gear
 available

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IT IS NOT TO BE INTERFERED WITH OR
 FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS. THIS MESSAGE
 MUST BE SENT IN CODEFIELD NO. OR INSTITUTION
 ORIGIN OF PRIORITY

1 B Lushky

SIGNED

IMPORTANT

Time	System	Op
(H) or (OR)		160
Time cleared		

RECEIVED

1346
61

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT :- Italian Grappi

29/

Main Hq 10 Corps

G 10/1 SD

28 Jan 45

53 Hq

Copy to : 2

Reference the attached copy of Main Eighth Army letter # 43580 302 dated 26 Jan 45.

Proposals for amendments to the AG of Italian Grappi or attached AG will NOT be forwarded to this Hq until further notice.

W. J. M. Wright
for Brigadier,
General Staff.

1159

W. J. M. Wright

(Handwritten note: *Handwritten note: noted in House Report*)

1347 GI.

SUBJECT :- Army Meetings.

File

RESTRICTED

GI

to be sent

Main HQ 10 Corps

G 101/5 SD

4/2

ad

PLS

27 Jan 45

J. T. O.

L. O.

Separate letter sent

Ltr. 29.1

w/c

Herewith for information copy of Main HQ Eighth Army
Letter 1: 13370 SD2 dated 25 Jan 45.

(Signature)
Brigadier,
GENERAL STAFF.

Subject: Interpreters - Maltese.

H.Q. Combat Group PIRGOS

Copy

G Try

Q (WH NE File)

55 B.I.U.
Ref. G1 - 22
27 Jan 65

1343

Seven Maltese officer interpreters are expected to arrive at the end of this month. Will you please arrange for their accommodation and feeding.

It is suggested that these officers, whose duty will be the interpretation and explanation of British orders, should be attached to HQ as follows.

(a) Combat Gp HQ - three officers. Some of these officers may be detached as required during operations i.e. if only one regiment is in the line and the other in reserve, the regiment in the line would be reinforced by extra interpreters as required.

(b) Base, San Marco. Artillery Regts and Engineer Bn, one officer to each.

L. H. B.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

7158

Subject :- Sign Equipment - Inf Bn I.C.G.

To :- Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (MIA)

Cory to :- H.Q. Combat Op MIA
SO Riga
612 Pilo

53 D.L.U.
 Ref. G1 - 21
 20 Jan 45.

1247

G1

1. Further to this IS: G1-17 of 28 Dec 44.

2. The normal distribution of wireless sets within the Inf Bn (total 15 No 48 or No 18 sets) and the scarcity of Telephones within the Inf Regt would appear to provide little or no means of intercommunication within the three Rifle Coys (except for 3 Flags Sig which are more likely to be a menace than a boon).

3. As the Rifle Coys may (especially in a holding or defensive role) be in tactical positions which demand direct communication to isolated pin if not zone, it is now recommended that an allotment of large signalling daylight should be made to compensate partially for the existing lack of other means.

4. SO & Sig of this Bn strongly recommends this proposal: the scale requested is on the basis of 5 lamps per Rifle Coy (15 per Bn, 90 per Gp). It is believed that this type of equipment might be available in this theatre.

7157

C. Markes

Lt. Col.
 G.S.

SUBJECT:- Formation of New Units- Italian Army

RESTRICTED

53 BLU

230 and 232 Italian Fd Hospitals

Ref this HQ letter A40/2/44 dated 31 Dec 44.

1. Herewith copy of WE MA/574/1.
2. Please acknowledge.

In the Field
16 Jan 45

A. Saylor - May 4
/sv Lt. Col
AA & QMG
HQ 56 Area

1155

1264/61

A40/2/44

1155/61

Subject :- WE - Pd Coy Eng.

53 D.L.U.
Ref. G1 - 20
20 Jan 45

To :- E. & Combat Gp FOLGORE
Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (MIA) (less copy of WE)

Copy to :- A/S
SORE (see para 4 below)
ST (to note alteration in Tpt)
Ord (" " " " personnel)

1. Attached is ~~one~~ copy of WE RA/529/2, a Pd Coy for Italian Combat Gp.
2. This new WE has been received from MIA under their RE 18/1 of 12 Jan 45.
3. No forecast of this new WE has been received since the non-approval of the proposed new WE notified to your HQ under 53 DLU letter G1-7 of 27 Nov 44 (MIA letter No S.C./29/20 of 23 Nov 44).
4. SORE of this DLU has been instructed, in co-operation with OC Eng Bn, to forward any comments or difficulties involved in the implementation of this new WE.

2155
Charles
Lt. Col.
G.S.

1 GFL
Subject: - Formation of New Units - Italian

110/2/43
RESTRICTED

110/2/43
 1224
 14 JAN 1945

53 BLN ✓

1152/61
 1 Italian HAC.

Ref this HQ APO/2/43 dated 1 Jan 45.

Herewith two copies of WE VI/719/1.

In the Field
 11 Jan 45

1152/61
110/2/43
14/1
 Lt. Col.
 AA & QG,
 HQ 56 Area.

Return to file in
File 1152/61
 Please amend memo (on Jan 45)
 as attached at back of WE

Amendments made
 15 Jan 45

1152/61
14/1
 7152

Subject: Formation of New Units

53 HLU ✓

1155
Italian Army
1 Italian MAC

Ref this HQ A 40/2/43 dated 1 Jan 45.

Herewith copy of 3 District 656/15/20 dated 1 Jan 45 for necessary action.

In the Field
6 Jan 45.

Copy to Gfd.

/AD

1 Lt Col,
HQ 50 Area.

6 JAN 1945

715

Subject: Formation of New Units

53 BLU ✓

1155
230 and 232 Italian MA Hospitals

Ref this HQ A 40/2/44. Dated 31 Dec 44.

Herewith 2 copies of 3 District 656/15/34 dated 1 Jan 45 for necessary action.

In the Field
4 Jan 45.

Copy to /ra.

/42

85 } Let me know
000 } again
17 Jan 45
Hearlinsburyman
Lt Col,
AA & QG,
HQ 56 Arson.

6 JAN 1945

7152

129.

SUBJECT: Formation of New Units-Italian Army

SECRET

NO/2/45

1155
13 JAN 1945

33 BLU

1 Italian A.A. Co.

1. The a/a unit will be formed in accordance with AFHQ letter CR/1116/Q-1(Br)(Ser 1246) dated 12 Dec 44, attached.
2. Relevant WE will be forwarded as soon as received by this HQ. On receipt please take the following action:
 - (a) Submit necessary indents (less indents for vehicles and controlled stores, with regard to which further instructions will be issued by Q (AS) 3 District.)
 - (b) Render field strength return to CSE.
3. When formation is complete, please forward completion report in quadruplicate to this HQ.
4. Please acknowledge.

Dine Bly

In the Field
1 Jan 45Copy to: Orl (with copy of AFHQ letter)
'Q'
RIA 3 District.

Hore (with letter)

Lt. Col
Ad & GSC
HQ 31 Area

7151

SUBJECT:- Formation of New Units- Italian Army

1155
SECRET

3 JAN 1945

A.O. 2/44

53 PLU ✓

236 and 232 Italian FM Hospitals

1. The a/m units will be formed in accordance with AFHQ letter CE/1416/G1 (Br) (Ser 1274) dated 22 Dec 44, attached.

2. Relevant MI will be forwarded as soon as received by this HQ. On receipt please take the following action:

- (a) Submit necessary indents (less indents for vehicles and controlled stores, with regard to which further instructions will be issued by G (AF) 3 District.)
- (b) Reader field strength return to G2E.

3. When formation is complete, please forward completion report in quadruplicate to this HQ.

4. Please acknowledge.

Done P. H. J.

In the Field
31 Dec 44

Copy to: ~~CR~~ (with copy of AFHQ letter)

MEMA 3 District.

15/15/44
HCR (Ludlowhampton)
Lt. Col
AFHQ 3 Area

1158
4 JAN 1945

53 B.L.U.
Ref. G1 - 18
3 Jan 45

Subject: Amendments to W.Es.

To :- H.Q. Combat Group FOLGORE

Land Forces Sub Comd A.C. (IMLA) (please comment
on queries raised below)

C. in the

SCB

1. Ref your HQ 2592/S.M. of 27 Dec 44, in which certain S.M.R.E. letters are quoted as authority for amendments in W.E.

2. Certain of these amendments (as detailed below) do not appear to be in accordance with amendments notified to this B.L.U. by HQ IMLA.

3. HQ Italian Combat Gp (W.E. No. NA/523/1)

(a) The addition to Gp HQ of 2 offrs (Welfare and MT) and 6 ORs (for Welfare, MT and Post Office duties) has already been notified to this HQ by IMLA in their letter S/G/29/20 of 23 Nov 44 copy to your HQ under 53 BLU G1 - 7 of 27 Nov 44.

(b) confirmation is now awaited from IMLA as to the addition, also, of one OR. Complaint: this would increase the W.E. as stated in your letter, viz

former W.E.	: 28 offrs	113 ORs
amended W.E.	: 31 "	119 "

4. HQ Bn: (W.E. NA/527/1)

(a) The present org and W.E. of the inf bn has been based on proposals originally put forward by 50 BLU ("FRULI" Gp) and amended, as to certain minor details, from time to time. This org was notified to you under 53 BLU letter G3 - 8 of 11 Nov 44 (with subsequent minor adjustments.)

(b) since this bn org was ordered to be implemented, HQ IMLA, in the letter quoted in para 3 (c) above, has notified those changes in W.E. which have been finally approved by A.A.I.

(c) these changes were as follows :-

Plus	Minus
3 ORs	42 ORs
7 ORs	
10 ORs	

Serial 1 Delete Scout Platoon

" 7 Add 3 dvrs to HQ Coy

" 8 (See serial 11)

" 9 Add Sniper Section

10 Add 1st Coy

Chaplain: this would increase the W.E. as stated in your letter, viz

former W.E. : 28 offrs 113 ORs

amended W.E. : 31 " 119 "

4. Inf Bn: (W.E. NA/527/1)

(a) The present org and W.E. of the inf bn has been based on proposals originally put forward by 50 BLU ("FRUIT" Co) and amended, as to certain minor details, from time to time. This org was notified to you under 53 BLU letter G3 - 8 of 14 Nov 44 (with subsequent minor adjustments.)

(b) since this bn org was ordered to be implemented, HQ MMLA, in the letter quoted in para 3 (a) above, has notified those changes in W.E. which have been finally approved by A.A.I.

(c) these changes were as follows :-

	Plus	Minus
Serial 1 Delete Scout Platoon		42 ORs
" 7 Add 3 dvrs to HQ Coy	3 ORs	
" 9 (See serial 11)		
" 5 Add Sniper Section	7 ORs	
Add Intelligence Section	10 ORs	
" 11 Add 3 dvrs and 1 Pte to Mortar Pl	4 ORs	
" 12, 13 Add 2 D.Rs and 1 Pte to Carrier Pl	3 ORs	
+ Serial 14 Add 2 Assault Pnr Secs	11 ORs	
	38 ORs	42 ORs
		149

+ (N.B. Addition of 2 assault pnr secs represents an increase of 10 ORs on the former pnr pl W.E. which was 21 ORs. There is now, however, an extra Sgt in pl HQ - total increase = 11 ORs.)

(d) The reduction of one offer is presumably effected by the abolition of the Scout Pl comd. It is pointed out, however, that in the org of the inf bn, as referred to in para 4 (a) above, the second M.O. has been recommended as supportous. A decision on this, and also on the recommended retention of the former Scout Pl comd as liaison officer to Regt HQ, is now awaited from HQ MMLA.

Meanwhile, the only official amendments to W.Es notified to this HQ hvo effected a reduction of 1 offer (Scout Pl comd) and 4 ORs.

former W.E. : 31 offrs 742 ORs

amended W.E. : 30 offrs 738 ORs

.../3. Mixed Bn Engrs.

"2"

738 ORs/...

5. Mixed Bn Engineers (W.Es. NA/528/1 and NA/529/1)

(a) Your HQ above-quoted letter shows an increase in W.E. of 2 offrs, 10 ORs, as follows :-

former W.E. :	23 offrs	797 ORs
amended W.E. :	25 offrs	807 ORs

(b) MIA letter quoted in para 3 (a) above notifies approval by HQ AAI of an increase of 6 ORs in the HQ Eng Bn ; as follows :-

Serial 19	Add 1 Cpl Dvr Mechanic	1 OR
" 20	" 1 Dvr	1 OR
" 21	" 2 cooks	2 ORs
" 22	" 2 orderlies	2 ORs
	Total	6 ORs

(c) para 4 of above MIA letter states that the proposed new W.E. for the Eng Bn Coy is NOT approved. This proposed W.E. involved an increase of 1 offr and 2 ORs in each Bn Coy (2). It would appear, therefore, that SAME has notified this further increase of 2 offrs and 4 ORs in the Mixed Eng Bn, although this BLU has as yet received no such authority from MIA.

(d) HQ MIA is now requested to confirm this amendment.

6. Provost Sec CCR (W.E. NA/524/1)

(a) Above-quoted MIA letter notifies approval by HQ AAI of the proposed amendment, as follows :-

Serial 2	Delete 1 Subaltern
	substitute 1 warrant officer.

(b) Your HQ a/q letter notifies the amended W.E. as follows :-

former W.E. :	2 offrs	50 ORs
amended W.E.	1 offr	50 ORs

(c) in view of the fact that the W.O. is substituted for the offr the new W.E. should read as follows :-

amended W.E. :	1 offr	51 ORs
----------------	--------	--------

(c) para 4 of above MIA letter states that the proposed new W.E. for the Eng Fd Coy is NOT approved. This proposed W.E. involved an increase of 1 offr and 2 ORs in each Fd Coy (2). It would appear, therefore, that SIME has notified this further increase of 2 offr and 4 ORs in the Mixed Eng Bn, although this BLU has as yet received no such authority from MIA.

(d) HQ MIA is now requested to confirm this amendment.

6. 317 Provost Sec CORR (W.E. NI/524/1)

(a) Above-quoted MIA letter notifies approval by HQ MIA of the proposed amendment, as follows :-

Serial 2 Delete 1 Subaltern

substitute 1 warrant officer.

(b) Your HQ a/q letter notifies the amended W.E. as follows :-

former W.E. : 2 offr 50 ORs

amended W.E. : 1 offr 50 ORs

(c) in view of the fact that the W.O. is substituted for the offr the new W.E. should read as follows :-

amended W.E. : 1 offr 51 ORs

7. Confirmation is now requested from HQ MIA regarding further increases in W.Es, as noted in your a/q letter, as follows :-

(a)

HQ Motor Ambulance Unit

former W.E. : 3 offr 22 ORs

amended W.E. : 3 offr 24 ORs

(b)

1st Motor Ambulance Pl

former W.E. : 1 Offr 45 ORs

amended W.E. : 1 offr 47 ORs

Charles Kern
Lt. Col.
G.S.
for

7148

H.Q. Combat Group 'Folgor'
1 Sec. Op. Inf. Serv.

28 DEC 1944 1132

2592/S.H.

27 Dec 44

Subject: War Establishment of Combat Gr.

To :- 55 B.L.U.

File 60/2

UN

The W.E. of the different units of the Combat Group have been changed by S.M.E.

Copy sent to HLU, to ^{provide military} take note of arms ~~and equipment~~ ^{clothing}

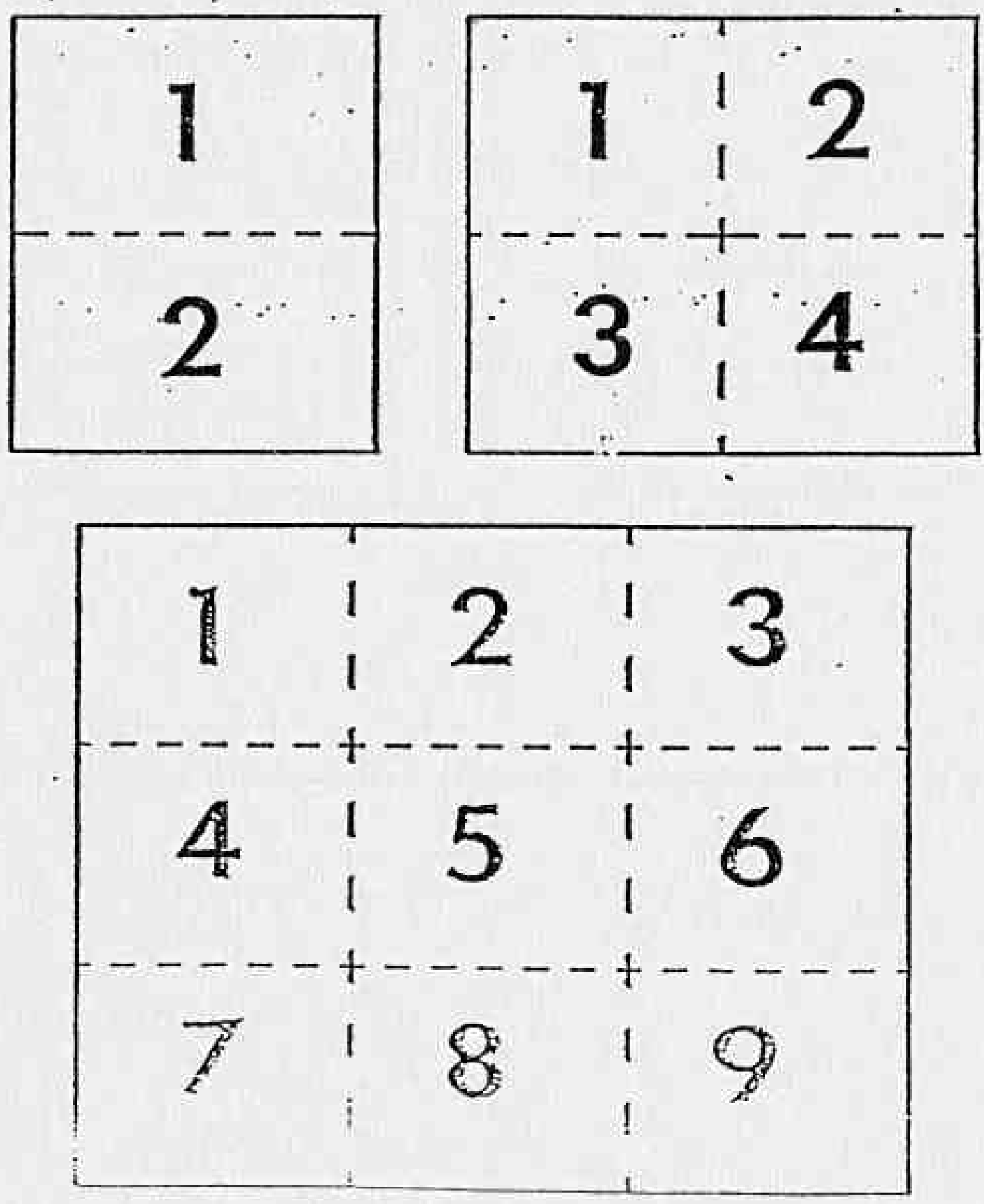
& Equipment

Signed - G.F. Gangini

7146

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Allegato al foglio 2592/S.M.

SPERCHIO VARIANTI ORGANICI DEL

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO " FOLGORE "

Reparto	Organico precedente	Organico attuale	N o t e
---------	---------------------	------------------	---------

Quartiere Gen.	28	113	31	119	gli aumenti sono dovuti a : 1) - costituzione 3 ^a sezione assistenza (foglio 9050/Ord. del 2 dic. S.M.R.E.): - 1 Capo sezione (Ten. Col. o magg.) - 1 scrivania - 1 autiere
					2) - costituzione ufficio automobilistico (S.M.R.E. foglio 7996/Ord. del 26 ott.): - 1 uff. sup. del corpo automobilistico o ftr. carista - capo ufficio - 1 sottuff. (serg. magg. o maresciallo) - 1 sottuff. dattilografo
					3) - (foglio 8212/Ord. del 29 ott. dello S.M.R.E.) aggiunta all'organico di : - 1 Cappellano
					4) - 2 militari aggiunti per i servizi vari (foglio 9114/Ord. del 5 dic.) -

Btg. di ftr. 31 742 30 738
Lo S.M.R.E. con foglio 9114/Ord. del 5 dic. ha ordinato le seguenti modifiche al btg. di ftr. in seguito alle quali l'organico delle stesse risulta come indicato :

- cp. comando di btg. :- nella seconda comando
- aumento di 1 autiere e di 3 autieri nella sq. comando e di 3 autieri nella sq. automobili del pl. comando.

delle stesse risulta come indicato :

- cp. comando di btg. : *nella seconda comando*
- aumento di 1 autier *da 3 autieri*
- nella sq. comando *e di 3 autieri nel-*
- la sq. autier *comando* del pl. comando
- assegnazione di una sq. tiratori scelti
- e di una sq. informatori al pl. com/do-
- soppressione del pl. esploratori - gua-
- statori-
- assegnazione di un plotone-pionieri su
- una sq. specializzati e due sq. d'as-
- salto.-
- cp. fuciliari :
- aumento del nucleo fuciliari da 5 a 7
- e conseguente diminuzione del nucleo
- fucili mitragliatori da 5 a 3 nella
- sq. fuciliari.-

cp. armi accompagnamento :

- soppressione del plotone pionieri che vie-
- ne trasferito alla cp. comando di btg. -
- aumento di 4 militari nel plotone car-
- rette cingolate che viene organizzato su
- 4 squadre-
- aumento di 3 militari al pl. mortai da
- 76-
- lo S.M.R.E. con foglio 8400/Ord. del 5
- novembre ha ordinato le seguenti modi-
- fiche nell'organico della cp. artieri :
- soppressione del plotone operai
- soppressione del pl. ^{fu}artieri arrestato
- costituzione di un ^{fu}plotone artieri
- complessivamente aumenti nella forza
- organica della cp. artieri di :
- 1 ufficiale
- 2 sottufficiali e militari di truppa.-
- Lo stesso S.M.R.E. con foglio 9114/Ord

Btg. Misto Gen.

23

797

25

807



complessivamente aumenti nella forza organica della cp. artieri di :

- 1 ufficiale.
- 2 sottufficiali e militari di truppa.-
- Lo stesso S.M.R.E. con foglio 9114/Ord del 5 dicembre - ha ordinato l'aumento di 6 militari di truppa nella forza organica del comando di btg.

Riepilogo organici dei reparti del gruppo di combattimento

Quartiere Gen.	28	113	31	119
due Rgt. ftr?	234	5108	228	5144
Rgt. Artigliar.	93	1433	93	1433
Btg. Misto Genio	25	797	25	807
Sez. Sanità (com presi 2 osp.c.)	20	325	20	325
Rep. trasp. rifor.	13	294	13	294
Parco mob. A.G.A.	4	69	4	69
Officine mecc.	7	279	7	279
Totale Gruppo di Combattimento	428	8478	427	8470
2 Sez. CC.RR.	4	100	2	100
Esiste inoltre il r. complet. inglesi	1	28	1	28

Le S.M.R.E. con foglio 8777/Ord. del 21 nov. ha stabilito che l'organico delle sezioni CC.RR. deve essere :

- 1 ufficiale
- 50 sottufficiali e truppa.-

- in forza al Quartiere Generale del Gruppo di Combattimento

2 Sez. CC.RR.	4	100	2	100	21 nov.
Esiste inoltre il r. complen. inglesi	1	28	1	28	Lo S.M.R.E. con foglio 8777/Ord. del 21 nov. ha stabilito che l'organico delle sezioni CC.RR. deve essere:
					- 1 ufficiale
					- 50 sottufficiali e truppa.
					- in forza al Quartiere Generale del Gruppo di Combattimento

Unità ausiliarie

317° Sez. CC.RR.	2	50	1	50	51	modifica apportata in seguito a disposi- zioni dello S.M.R.E. foglio 8777/Ord. del 21 novembre.
2° cp. Parco c.	5	129	5	129	50	foglio 7865/Ord. del 10 ott. S.M.R.E.
2° sq. panett.	1	31	1	31	31	foglio 7185/Ord. del 24 sett. S.M.R.E.
230° O.C.	7	58	7	58	58	foglio 8248/Ord. del 30 ott. S.M.R.E.
232° O.C.	7	58	7	58	58	" " " " " "
522° O.C.	7	58	7	58	58	" " " " " "
866° O.C.	7	58	7	58	58	" " " " " "
131° Nucleo C.	3	23	3	23	23	" " " " " "
114° Autoambul. odontoiat.	1	3	1	3	3	" " " " " "
Com/do 1 Reparto autoambulanze	3	22	3	24	24	} modifica apportata in seguito a dispo- sizioni impartite dallo S.M.R.E. con foglio 9133/Ord. del 6 dic.
1° pl. autoamb.	1	45	1	47	47	

1126

Subject: Sigs Comms of Combat Group;
Modifications in W.E.

53 B.L.U.
Ref G1 - 17
28 Dec 44

To :- Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA) 5 copies.

Copy - HQ Combat Group FOLGORE

S.O. R.A.
S.O. R.E.
S.O. R.Sigs
G12 File

Ref this HQ G1 - 16 of 15 Dec 44, forwarding copy of proposed modifications in W.E.s (under this HQ ref G1 - 15 of 14 Dec 44).

2. At Appendix 'A' herewith are proposed modifications in Signals organisation and equipment, involving certain changes in W.E.s.

3. These proposals are the result of careful consideration by specialist officers concerned, and are forwarded for your examination and approval.

4. It is realised that actual experience gained in the field by the first Combat Groups into action will have a practical and useful bearing on signals communications within the Combat Group.

7143

W. H. H. H. H. H.
h. Lt. Col.
G.S.

Ref G1 - 17 of 53 HUJ Letter
Dec 44.

Serial Proposed Modifications, with Reasons etc. Overall effect
on Combat Group.

1. Swivaboard Operators

(a) Present W.E. of Sigs Coy is: Gp HQ Fl 5
Inf Regt Sigs Fls(2) 6 (3 each)
Arty Regt Fl 4
Total 15

(b) Above W.E. is evidently based on assumption that there will be only 1 Exchange at Gp HQ. In fact there will always be a second Exchange at Eng Bn HQ (serving the Sigs Coy, two Rd Coys, and Rd Pk Coy).

(c) It is likely, Gp HQ is required to divide into Main and Rear, a third Exchange will be necessary for Rear (local circumstances may at times even demand a fourth).

(d) The Arty Regt HQ will almost invariably have to maintain a second (auxiliary) Exchange.

(e) Phonogram Operators. Above W.E. makes no allowance for these. One of these will have to be continually on duty at Gp, Arty, and Inf Regt HQs.

(f) Proposed increases in Personnel are therefore made up as follows :-

For Gp HQ Sigs Office	3 ORs (phonogram - ops)	}	Add 1 NCO 9 ORs
" Eng Bn SW/ED	3 "		
" Rear Gp HQ	4 " (incl 1 NCO and phonogram - ops)		
" Inf Regt HQs (2)	4 " (2 phonogram - ops each)	}	Add 4 ORs 4 ORs
" Arty Regt HQ	4 " (SW/ED and phonogram)		

Signal Office Personnel

(a) Present W.E. makes no allowance for superintending and clerical staff of Signal offices at Gp, Arty, and Inf Regt HQs. At least 1 NCO superintendant and 1 counter - clerk is required to be permanently on duty at each of these Sigs offices. In addition, Gp HQ requires 1 NCO per W.E. duties.

(c) Telephone Operators. Above W.E. makes no allowance for these, one of these will have to be continually on duty at Gp, Arty, and Inf Regt Hqs.

(f) Proposed increases in Personnel are therefore made up as follows :-

For Gp HQ Sigs Office	3 ORs (phonogram - ops)	}	<u>Add 1 NCO</u> <u>9 ORs</u>
" Eng Bn SW/ED	3 "		
" Rear Gp HQ	4 " (incl 1 NCO and phonogram - ops)		
" Inf Regt Hqs (2)	4 " (2 phonogram - ops each)	}	<u>Add 4 ORs</u> <u>Add 4 ORs</u>
" Arty Regt HQ	4 " (SW/ED and phonogram)		

Signal Office Personnel

(a) Present W.E. makes no allowance for superintending and clerical staff of Signal offices at Gp, Arty, and Inf Regt Hqs. At least 1 NCO superintendant and 1 counter - clerk is required to be permanently on duty at each of these Sigs offices. In addition, Gp HQ requires 1 NCO for ELS duties.

(b) It is intended to provide majority of personnel for above duties from existing resources (i.e. Fuller-phone cps). However 3 additional ORs to form a counter-clerk relief at Gp HQ are considered indispensable.

3

Clerks

(c) Present W.E. is

NCO	1
ORs	1
Total	2

Add 3 ORs

(d) Above considered inadequate for the large amount of administrative and paper - work required within Sigs Coy.

(e) Addition of 2 OR clerks is therefore proposed.

Add 2 ORs

4

Stores

(a) These are not provided for in W.E., in spite of the large amount of technical and G.1098 equipment held by the Sigs Coy.

(b) In addition to above, the Sigs Coy must in future maintain its own Petrol Point.

7142

Form 100-100000

"2"

Overall effect
on Combat Group

4 (cont'd) (c) Proposed additions therefore are

WFO	1
OR	1
NOO	1
Total	3

NOO's

Add 2 NOO's
1 OR

5. Drivers:

(a) Present W.E. provides 59 Drivers and 2 Batmen-Drivers for a total of 60 vehicles.

(b) The normal British Army practice of having a 30% reserve of drivers in a unit seems quite impracticable in the Italian Army, mainly owing to their low percentage of driving experience in civil life.

(c) It is considered essential that at least the equals of the Arty and Inf Regt (2) Sigs Pls should have each an OR available to act as Batmen - spare Driver.

Add 3 ORs (Batmen-drivers)

Total increase in Personnel as above : Add 3 NOO's
26 ORs

6. Equipment

(a) P & F SW/ED. Only one now allotted to Gp HQ, thus allowing for no reserve in case of breakdown. One extra is considered essential.

Add 1 P & F SW/ED

(b) U.C. 10 Line SW/EDs

(1) Present allotment is

Inf Bns (6)	6
Art'y Bys (6)	6
Sigs Coy	8
(BLJ)	1

(ii) Thus an Inf bn and arty bty has no reserve of SW/EDs.

(iii) Sigs Coy normally operates 1 SW/ED at each Inf

7141

Total increase in Personnel as above : Add 3 NOOs
26 ORs

6.

Equipment

(a) F & F SW/BD. Only one now allotted to Gp HQ, thus allowing for no reserve in case of breakdown. One extra is considered essential.

Add 1 F & F SW/BD

(b) U.C. 10 Line SW/BDs

(i) Present allotment is

Inf Bns (6)	6
Arty Btys (6)	6
Sigs Coy	8
(BLJ)	1)

(ii) Thus an inf bn and arty bty has no reserve

of SW/BDs.

(iii) Sigs Coy normally operates 1 SW/BD at each Inf and Arty Regt HQ, Eng Bn HQ, and Rear Gp HQ, total 5, leaving over only 3 reserve SW/BDs for the entire Gp.

(iv) It is emphasised that these instruments are delicate and liable to break - down, therefore spares should be readily available if communications are not to break - down also.

(v) In certain tactical situations, especially in defensive or holding role, both Arty and Inf may require such an extent of line communications as to demand a wider distribution of SW/BDs (C.G. down to certain coys, batteries etc.) than is possible with existing equipment. Similarly, an Arty Bty may often require a second exchange; while the rear, lateral and local lines of an Inf Regt HQ may demand the joint use of two U.C. 10 SW/BDs. (Note. These observations are supported by the practical experiences, in action, of the C.I.L. in such sectors as MONTE MARONE and FIOTTRANO.)

...../6. (contd.)
(vi) The present

7141

PILOT/TRANC) /.....

"3"

Appx 'A' (contd)

Serial	Proposed Modifications, with reasons etc.	Overall effect on Combat Group.
--------	---	---------------------------------

6. (vi) The present allotment of U.C. 10 S/HDS, therefore, not only provides inadequate reserves for a basic minimum of communications, but is inadequate excluding reserves for even the most probable operational commitments.

(vii) An additional 9 U.C. 10 S/HDS are considered the minimum necessary to ensure satisfactory communications. Add 9 U.C. 10 S/HDS

(c) Telephones Data V.

(i) Present allotment is

Inf Regt	43
Arty Regt HQ	18
Inf Arty Btys (each)	10
Sigs Coy	56
(B.L.U.)	8)

(ii) The factors noted in serial 6 (b) above apply equally to telephones.

(iii) The allotment to Inf Bns must normally be less than 8 each in Regt HQ is also to be provided for. In a defensive or holding role, probably with certain platoons in isolated and widely dispersed localities, an Inf Bn may well require more than 8 telephones; and this does not take into account the requirements of the Inf Mortar Pl which, lacking Sound - Power telephones and No. 38 wireless sets, requires a minimum of 2 telephones to link O.P. and mortar posns.

(iv) Additional 4 telephones per bn considered essential. Add 24 Tele MC.V

(v) The normal distribution of telephones in a 25 pdr bty is as follows :-

Command Post	4
Tr gun posns (2)	3 each
Tr O.P.'s (2)	2 each
Qty comm's truck	2

Total 16

(iii) The allotment to Inf Bn must normally be less than 8 each if Regt Hq is also to be provided for. In a defensive or holding role, probably within certain platoons in isolated and widely dispersed localities, an Inf Bn may well require more than 8 telephones; and this does not take into account the requirements of the Inf Mortar Pl which, lacking Sound - Power telephones and No. 38 wireless sets, requires a minimum of 2 telephones to link O.P. and mortar posns.

(iv) Additional 4 telephones per bn considered essential. Add 24 Tolo D Mk.V

(v) The normal distribution of telephones in a 25 pdr bty is as follows :-

Command Post	4
Tp gun posns (2)	3 each
Tp O.P.'s (2)	2 each
Bty comm's truck	2
Total	16

14

(vi) Requirements are often greater than above, but rarely less.

(vii) To provide for 4 btys on above scale, therefore, an additional 6 telephones per bty are required. Add 24 Tolo D Mk.V

(a) Telephones L (Linearm)

(i) Present allotment is

Arty Regt	12
Sigs Coy	10
Inf Bns	NIL

(ii) It is emphasised that the Tolo D Mk.V is unsuitable for line-testing, its buzzer-call being too feeble as compared with the magneto ringing-call of the Tolo L.

(iii) 3 Tolo L's are considered essential to each inf bn. Add 18 Tolo L

(iv) Each of the 4 pls in the Sigs Coy are normally required to maintain several line meters simultaneously, for which purpose it is considered necessary for each to have 5 Tolo L's. (as against present total in coy of 10).

Add 10 Tolo L

...../7. Transport.

Add to Tele L./....

"4."

Appx 'A' (contd)

Serial

Proposed Modifications, with reasons etc.

Overall effect
on Combat Group.7. Transport.

(a) The lack of Jeeps in the Sigs Coy is considered to be a serious defect, although it is realised that these vehicles are difficult to obtain. Not only are they the most suitable means of tpt as between Sigs Coy Comd and his 4 Sigs Pl Comds,

but they provide the most suitable means for line-laying fwd of Regt HQs. (as in British Army). Should Jeeps become available it is proposed that a minimum of 5 Jeeps (one each for Sigs Coy and Pl Comds) should be allotted: a total of 11 would provide for the additional line-laying requirements.

(b) The recent addition of 5 trucks 15 cwt 4 x 4 is welcomed.

Subject: Gen. of Italian Combat Op

Ref: Gen. Forces Sub Com L.O. (2230)

50 MAF

51 MAF

52 MAF

1124/01

53 MAF
Ref. 53 - 15
27 Dec 44

1. Ref this HQ letter 53 - 11 of 22 Nov and comments forwarded under 50 MAF 5/5/44 of 16 Dec 44 and 51 MAF 5/5/44 of 11 Dec 44.

2. 50 MAF Comments

(a) 53 MAF proposals appear to be an advancement to a Combat Op which is "now in an advance state of try" and it is therefore suggested that "a halt must be called upon some time to the re-org of I.O.Ss."

(b) In acknowledging its debt to 50 MAF for the latter's pioneer work in the org of the I.O.S. in Gen, this HQ does not thereby discard its obligation to org and equip the I.O.S. Op so as to give it the maximum chance of success in ops. This, in fact, is the simple intention of such proposals as we say put forward; and it is still hoped to benefit progressively by the experience, own mistakes, of the earlier-formed Combat Ops.

(c) Modifications proposed by this HQ have been the result of consideration and discussion by British and Italian specialist and Staff officers concerned. In this respect we are fortunate in that this Combat Op has already considerable experience of fighting under Allied com.

(d) Important considerations appear to be that the Combat Op as a firm is to go into action

- (i) under British and Italian com
- (ii) to achieve British commitments on the battlefield
- (iii) equipped with British materials and weapons
- (iv) trained under supervision of British personnel and, as far as possible, according to British methods.

At the same time it is realized that within the Op the executive and tactical responsibility must be Italian.

(e) It seems illogical to state categorically that

- (1) "It is immaterial in the case of I.O.S. whether there is one or two." The Italians stress their need for two; the British Gen Com is allotted one. From the Italian standpoint it seems quite material if the supply can meet their demand.
- (2) "The casualty rate among Gen Coms in the Italian Army is not expected to be high." Even if this be a true forecast, it is contrary to British policy to expect a Gen Com to "function adequately" until a replacement is found for a "wither-off" C.O. The I.O.S. system is merely intended to provide speedy replacement of coms in battle by officers who already know their units and are at least in the "big picture" of ops.

(f) It is agreed that the "Gen storage" in Rifle Coy should be readily recovered as Coy 2 1/c.

(g) Grouping of 1st and 4th paratroops (cooks, surgeons, etc.) in two regts (or pls) is aimed at keeping them under the "sphere of influence" of 1st and 4th respectively; a system which has obvious advantages, if only that it is British. The proposal has the support of 50 MAF which seems to have no focus on the aspect of "further misunderstanding and dislike."

...../ J. 51 MAF (Gen Com).

mike/...

3. 21 JAN Consensus.

(a) Letter to Regt 12. Agreed. This Consensus has now received the full W.B. of Corps. The Deputy to Mobile has, in fact, already had this.

(b) Regt 12. The proposal to use the surplus Co 12 Cond as LO to Regt 12 was not notified to this Consensus. It is agreed that this LO is essential, and that the former Co 12 Cond should fill this appointment; and also that an officer already within the Inf in W.S. should NOT be taken away from his assigned job in the Inf to be attached as LO to Regt 12.

4. 22 JAN Consensus.

These are already covered by the remarks above.



Lt. Col.
G.S.

7137

ARMY FORM C2130 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

2041

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

MMIA

101445

For Action

TO

53 BLU

(W) For Information (INFO)

OFFICE DATE STAMP

Seen by GI

18/12

Message Instructions

GR

3632/CHQP/12-43

Originator's No.

Restricted 0 55476 0 24 Jan 51-14 of 10 Dec 0 this refers
to the Welfare Officer 0 200 MMIA 3/G/29/20 of 23 Nov para 50
Station term to a memorandum and under review

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

Signed

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

Signed

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Time System Op

THI or TOR

135

Time cleared

1037

Subject: W.S.'s of Italian Combat GroupTo : Joint Service Sub Commission A.C. (JSSA)Ref. No. 144in 51 (Planning File)53 H.I.U.
Ref 61 - 16
15 Dec 44

1. Copy of this H.I. 61 - 15 of 14 Dec 44 is forwarded herewith for your examination and approval.
2. Separate proposals affecting signals communications within the Group will follow shortly.

Charles Meyer
for Lt. Col.
C.H.

Subject: Assistance and Propaganda Section

Lead Foreign Sub Commission A.C. (MIA)

53 B.L.U.
Ref G1 - 14
10 Dec 44

A letter has been received by this HQ from HQ Combat Group POLARIS that the formation of an Assistance and Propaganda Section has been approved by you and should be added to the W.L. of the Group HQ.

May this HQ be informed

1. If you confirm the increase in W.L.
2. What the duties of this section are.
3. If the transport allotted (i.e. one car 2 seater for the Lt. Colonel, clerk, and driver) is sufficient to carry the section, their kit and their equipment, stationery, and whatever else is needed to enable them to carry out their duties.

L.H.B.

Lt. Col.
C.S.

7134

980

2) B.L.U.
Ref 09 - 13
U Don 14.

Notes: B.L.U. of B.L.U. to Italian Embassy (Cairo)

to: Local Station and Constantinople B.L.U. (M.L.U.)

From: B.L.U.

1/12/42 Milan

1. Ref B.L.U. Station A 1/3 of 12 Nov 42, and 12 of 17 Nov 42.

2. I wish to inform the items of word of B.L.U. as regards the necessity for more British and Italian interpreters within the U.S. and I wish to add a further note, that of having an additional "open/intelligence" element in the B.L.U. as expected during active operations.

3. of transmission with needs are as follows:-

(a) General (1) In view of the B.L.U.'s duties (chiefly the executive role in translation, its duties being mostly confined in the earlier stages to the supervision of translating and administrative, and later, mainly operations, to Italian and German documents) I anticipate in order a transfer on the part of higher formations to trace the B.L.U. as though it were the operational B.L.U. of the Italian Embassy group, and to expect that it is also served by those that might be expected of, say, a technical staff. This is, of course, out of the question unless the present constitution of the B.L.U.

(2) In any case, if the B.L.U. is to continue to work as a 'technical' as before, the British and the Italian formations, the very function of this 'technical' seems to demand a high standard of interpretation and a high standard of proficiency within its staff.

(3) At present the assignment of interpreters allows for only 1 Italian officer and 2 Italian B.L.U. (English - Spanish) on the Italian formation, and the 2 British B.L.U. (Italian - Spanish) on the B.L.U. staff. These Italian personnel are suitable and competent only for the administrative and routine duties within the B.L.U. and the Italian formation; they are quite unsuitable for 'technical' interpretation. The remaining 2 British B.L.U. are not as much interpreted as 'technical', and in neither of these capacities are they suitable or competent for operational needs (e.g. operation orders, messages or verbal).

(4) The other officers of the B.L.U. are not expected to be to be proficient interpreters, although in fact they do obtain very good elements of proficiency. In fact, the B.L.U. B.L.U. is at present the only medium or direct liaison on a high level as between B.L.U. and German B.L.U.

(5) There are few fluent English-speaking Italian officers within the group and these have in any case their normal military functions to

133

cutin = gum = conventional paraffin wax 60%.

(iii) to present the appointment of Interceptors within for only 1 station officer and 2 Interceptors (one (possibly = specialist) on the Italian front, and the 2 others on the Italian front) on the Italian front. These Italian personnel are not only not competent only for the administration and control within the Italian front, but the Italian personnel they are also used solely for 'operational' purposes. The remaining 2 Interceptors are not as much 'Interceptors' as 'Interceptors', and in relation of these capabilities are the, suitable or competent for operational needs (e.g. operational control, within or without).

(5v) The three students of set L_{11} , are not expected times to be prolific contributors, although in fact they do often write in the standards of L_{11} . In fact, the L_{11} do not present the only picture of direct indicators in fact have no between L_{11} , and student 67.

(v) There are few current facilities - especially identified operations within the Group and please have in my case their internal military functions to continue and are not readily available on information.

(b) See page 867 I anticipate that H. J. ... will be fully employed in operating and supervising the activities of ... which started very well during their absence from ... gas condensing period.

(2) I anticipate also an inevitable demand by Higher Education for the continuous meeting of the A. S. C. now laid out by a staff officer, who may be required to provide a "ready, steady, go" as variations, to pass active 5, direct my references 60, and also possibly to deal with other and others. For these duties there are at present only "small" and "big" 11 1/2 and various men of A. S. C. being fully employed - and probably deployed on their respective duties.

(144) If the driving mentioned thereby was to be carried out and effected only and in addition the national paper-union in connection with storage, intelligence gathering, execution, operational orders etc., is to be handled efficiently, I maintain that this is not possible and would only be made really possible and, what is more, expedient at the 1. 1. 1941; that is, if we may forward mentioned words of sense.

 $\Gamma(\frac{d+1}{2}) / (\frac{d+1}{2}!)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

(iv) I consider it inadvisable that the S.E.C. 'C' ops' element should share the same 'one-room' with our opposite numbers in the Italian G.P. the same applies to S.E.C. rear link signals. This being so, the S.E.C. 'C' staff will have to maintain its own 'one-room', with situation maps, log diary, intelligence log, etc., and at the same time maintain personal liaison with 'C' ops of the G.P. and also with Higher Formation G.P.

(v) I repeat that with all the above duties the S.E.C. II and myself are to be involved at S.E.C. II. On the other hand I consider it vital that at least one staff officer should be always mobile, whether it be for personal visits, reconnaissance, especially in forward areas; or for attending conferences, verbal orders by Commanders; or for receiving but necessary ' liaison officer' duties such as the passing of important written or verbal messages, verifying airdrops, locations etc.

I consider that the duties of Commander S.E.C. I of a group, should be such as freedom of movement not only within the G.P. but also between the G.P. and Higher Formation; and that he should therefore be called upon to do the liaison routine and 'paper-work' at S.E.C. II. If this is accepted, then it leaves the S.E.C. II to 'hold the fort' at S.E.C. II without relief; and so too, in my opinion, must be free to go out and see for himself from time to time. An extra 'C' officer would solve this problem.

For above reasons I consider that there is a clear necessity for the addition to the S.E.C. of the S.E.C. of

- (a) one extra qualified interpreter as suggested in above quoted S.E.C. II letter
- (b) a qualified and trained British officer for combined 'I', 'C' ops', and 'liaison' duties. (I understand that a G.P. with Polish Forces has a G.P. (ops and I). This would meet our needs.)
- (c) 2 British G.P. to assist the 'C' staff in 'I' ops' and especially 'I' matters; preferably a trained G.P. and 1 other G.P.

The need for all the above will be aggravated if, when the Combat G.P. goes forward into active operations, the S.E.C. II is withdrawn from G.P. to some location.

U.K.
Lt. Col.
C.I.

Subject: Auxiliary Unit.

To : H.Q. Combat Group FOLGORE

G

Ord.

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q12 - 6
9 Dec. 44

982

1. Authority is now given for the undermentioned unit to be equipped in accordance with W.E. VI/719/1, from British sources.

H.Q. 1 Motor Ambulance Car Coy.

2. Please arrange through service channels for the clothing and equipment to which the above unit is entitled to be drawn as soon as possible.

Robert H. H. F.
Lt. Col.
G.S.

131

Subject: Auxiliary Units.

To :- H.Q. Combat Group POLGORE
G
Ord

53 B.L.U.
Ref. Q12 - 7
9 Dec. 44

983
lin (61)

1. Further to para 3 of this HQ letter Q1 - 38 of 21 Nov. 44.
2. It is confirmed that CQR Sections within the organisation of the Combat Gp will be entitled to the same clothing as other units of the Gp.

Robert H. May Jr.
Lt. Col.
G.S.

TRANSLATION.

H.Q. Combat Group FOLGORE

Sec Op. Inf. Serv.
-----97
29 DEC 1944

2356/S.M. di prot

9 Dec. 44

Subject: Assistance and Propaganda Section
at the H.Qs. of Combat Groups.To :- 53 B.L.U.

1. The S.M.R.E. (General Staff Royal Army) on Ref. 9050/Ord of 2 Dec. has communicated that the NMIA realises the necessity of forming an assistance and propaganda section at each Combat Group, and has decided that such an office will be as follows :-

Name - 3rd Section "Assistance and Propaganda",

Establishment :-

Chief of the Section (Lt.Col. or Major)	1
Clerk (NCO)	1
Driver (Soldier)	1

- to be added to the previous establishment of the G.H.Q.

Transport 1 - 2 seater.

2. The situations that will be forwarded to the above B.L.U., must therefore be considered with such increases of War Establishment.

Signed - G.F.Cangini.

circulate to B.L.U. offices

Noted Hqs. JH.

CCH

9/12

R.P.

R.H.

29 DEC 1944

(Signature)

972

Subject: U.S.'s Combat OpsTo: Hq Combat Gp Italy/COM

DE A.I.U.
Ref G1 - 12
6 Dec 44

Copy to: A/1

A/1

A/1

1. As a result of inquiry addressed to HIA the following is forwarded for
action and necessary action.

2. (a) U.S. for 50-bed Field Hospital within Combat Group is RA/576/1.
(b) U.S. for 200-bed Field Hospital (auxiliary unit) is RA/576/1
originally forwarded to COM as Appendix 'A' to AAI's 1761/23/45/C(S.E.2)
of 25 Sep.

3. Further copies of all U.S.'s for Italian Combat Groups and their auxiliary
units have been applied for.

7129

W. H. Arkes

Major
C.S.

subject: W.E.B Italian Combat Gps

To:- C.C.
No. 10 Publications Depot
Camp

53 B.L.O. 970
Ref G14 - 8 6'
8 Dec 44

1. This HQ is informed by HQ Land Forces sub Commission A.C. (HMA) that copies are available at your Depot of all W.E.'s (numbered and unnumbered) for Italian Combat Gps and their Auxiliary Units.

2. This HQ urgently requires 10 copies of all above mentioned W.E.'s. Could you please despatch as early as possible?

7128
W. H. A. L.
Major
C.C.

WLIC V MEDY NR263 IMPORTANT

QVR2/

FROM CENTRAC 071200A

TO M N IA - 52 B L U - 7Z 53 B L U

QVR 0R21 BT .

(SS2) RESTRICTED (.)

PLEASE ENSURE STUDENTS FOR JUNIOR LEADERS COURSE DO NOT

REPEAT N O T . ARRIVE BEFORE 11 DEC (.) FHL CAMP KIT REQUIRED

BT THI 071210

SENT NR263 LB 07-1315A (AR)

THRS Y

RD NR-263 EJ 07-1315

(AR)

CUL

THRS T U

7121

Registered
G2 file

pan to G5 Tag

101

957

Subject: Trg & G. 1098 Equipment.

55 P.I.C.

Ref. 62 - 20

a. 100.04

To :- E.W. Combat Group KILCOMB.

Copy - E.W. Trg

E.W.

E.W.

E.W.

E.W.

E.W.

E.W.

E.W.

1. Information has now been received from G(11), that releases are now being authorized for entitlement scales of all G(11) controlled stores to KILCOMB and KILCOMB Italian Combat Groups. Collection instructions will be issued by A.W. 5 District.

2. The undermentioned items of equipment have already been released to A.W. 5 District for each Combat Group :-

Rifles No. 4	389
Iron H&S	440
Tras's	45

3. Training scales already held, of these items only, viz

Rifles No. 4	4500
Iron H&S	90
Tras's	2500

7120

with now be taken on change as part of G. 1098 and released against entitlement.

4. All other items of equipment of scales of equipment will be handed over to A.W. 5 District, KILCOMB Combat Group by both KILCOMB and KILCOMB Italian Combat Groups immediately after the G. 1098 equipment has been drawn. Detailed lists of this equipment will be forwarded in due course together with the disposal action.

5. Further orders regarding collection and distribution will be issued later as these concerns.

W. H. L. L.
Lt. Col. L. L.
a. 100.04

ARMY FORM C2136 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

D13

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

P

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

M M 1A

071210 A

For Action

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

53 BLU

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

Restricted 055443 0 ref your SD/6/1-11 of 6 Dec 0 W.E. FN
 50 bed flt hospital within combat group as RA/536/11 0
 W.E. for 200 bed flt hospital is RA/574/1 originally forwarded to
 AFHQ as Appendix A to RA/1'S 1701/23/48/G(522) of 25 Sept 0
 Copies of this and any other numbered W.E.s may be obtained
 by signaling to Publications Dept

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

Signed

E Smith Jr

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Important

Time

System

Op

THI 1025

Time cleared

Signed

H.Q. Combat Group FOLCORE.
1 Sec. Op. Inf. Serv.

2 Dec 1944 409
 1 Dec. 44

2294/S.M. di prot

Subject: 317 Mixed Provost Section.

To :- 53 B.L.U.
 - - - - -

1. The 317 Mixed Provost Section assigned to this HQ as an auxiliary unit arrived today's date from HQ Provost Section Lazio.

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>NCOs & Men.</u>
(a) A.E. Strength	1	50
Effective Strength	1	50
Present Strength	1	46

Deficiency of specialist personnel - None.

2. (1) The section has Italian arms, clothing and equipment. They have no transport.

Signed - G.F. Cangani.

7124

ARMY FORM C-36 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions	Register No.
ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY				435
FROM (A)	Originator	Date-Time of Origin	Office Day Stamp	
53 HLU		061200	G1	
For Action				
TO	HEAD FORCES SUB COM A.C. (HIDA)		Message Instructions	
	(W) For Information (INFO)		GR	
Originator's No.				

SD/C/1/11 RESTRICTED (.) PLEASE NOTIFY WHETHER WAR ESTABLISHMENT FOR FIELD HOSPITAL IS NUMBER HA/536/1 AS FORWARDED UNDER YOUR S/C/29/20 OF 22 OCT 44 OR AS LAID DOWN FOR AUXILIARY UNITS IN APPENDIX A TO 1701/23/48/C(52) DATED 25 SEP 44. FORWARDED UNDER YOUR UNDATED S/C/29/20 OF OCT 44 (.) PRESUME WAR ESTABLISHMENT IS SAME FOR AUXILIARY AND SUPPORTIVE UNITS.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR	1123	
Time cleared		

3632/3-3-OP/12-43

Subject :- W.S. Modifications, Combat Gp.

To :- H.A. Combat Gp. 10/12/44

Copy to :- 'C' Irq Team (Inf)

4/2

53 H.A.B.
Ref. 01 - 10
4 Dec 44.

926
61

1. Ref your ltr 22/7/44, dt prot of 30 Nov 44 and 22/6/44, dt prot of 2 Dec 44.

2. It is emphasised that any proposed modifications to already approved W.S. for Italian Combat Gps, especially those which may call for any increase in personnel or vehicles, are subject, firstly, to approval by A.S.I.A., and finally to approval by A.S.M.C. H.A. Committee.

3. The above process which entails detailed examination of proposals must of necessity take time, and final approval is by no means certain.

4. In view of above, therefore, it is suggested that steps be taken forthwith to fill as many as possible of the existing needs or vacancies in W.S. from resources within the Gp.

5. Priorities in regard to specialists and their Training must be decided by Gp H.A.

6. Meanwhile the proposals put forward in a/q letters are formally presented to A.S.I.A.

4/2
Lt. Col. *4/22*
G.S. *May*

Subject: Artillery Unit - Contact Group 1000000

20. 14
12
100

31 Dec. 44.
 Ref. 01 - 9
 3 Dec. 44.

1. 11. Contact Group 1000000

1. 317 Mixed Artillery (MIA), details as under, arrived in this area 1 Dec. 44.

	Officers	Other Personnel
(a) W.A. strength	1	50
Effective strength	1	50
Present strength	1	45

Deficiency of specialist personnel - None.

(b) The section has Italian arms, clothing and equipment. They have no transport.

2. This is an auxiliary unit assigned to support 1000000 and 1000000 Opa, the former being responsible for supplying, according to orders already issued.

Please take necessary action.

1121
 U. A. - 100
 Major
 G. H.

Subject :- Personnel - 316 Pro Section.

To :- Hq Combat Gp POLGOLF

2 NOV 1944
53 B.L.U.
Ref. A15 - 1
28 Nov 44.

873

1. Ref your 2202/SM of 22 Nov and weekly strength return submitted under letter ref 1202/SM of 26 Nov 44.

2. In your letter first referred to above the position re personnel in 316 Pro Section was stated as follows :-

"No deficiency at present, 14 ORs are taking a training course in Naples"

In the return above referred to the following information is given :-

	316 Pro Section.			
	Offrs	1	ORs	51
W.S.	"	1	"	34
Posted strength	"	-	"	-
Taken on strength during previous 7 days	"	-	"	-
Struck off strength during previous 7 days	"	1	"	34
Strength present with unit				

4. It would appear from the above return that the actual deficiencies in personnel in this unit were 17 ORs during the whole of the period covered by the above correspondence.

5. Kindly inform this Hq of the present strength of this unit and any deficiencies of specialist personnel exist.

Raymond F.

Lt. Col.
G.S.

1120

28 NOV 1944

SD/GI/4 of 20 Nov 6 MMIA,
Copy 3 Dist. AFHQ, also refer.

CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT: 316 Section Carabinieri

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. S/G/29/88
15 Nov 44

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Copy to: AFHQ

AM

65 BLU ✓

80 BLU

1. Gp has made two different reports on 316 CORR recently.
2. One report states "no deficiencies in personnel: another shows shortage of 16 or 34 ORs (17 OR's deficient)
3. A/Q has written for verification.

1. It is understood that 316 Section CC RR has at present a strength of 1 officer and 34 ORs against an establishment of 1 officer and 51 ORs.

2. You will arrange for Carabinieri to be posted to make up this deficiency forthwith.

3. 316 Section CC RR is moving from TELNES to RADDA on 28 November, and the reinforcements concerned should be sent to RADDA. If no other means are available movement should be requested through this HQ in the usual way.

J.P. Dady
Major General
M. M. I. A.

1113

ARMY FORM C2136 (Sm)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

798

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	Originator Q 53 Antitank Liaison Unit	Date-Time of Origin 212200A	Office Date Stamp
TO	For Action Ord 53 BDU	For Information (INFO) 52 53 BDU ✓	Message Instructions 1200 Amb Car PL(a) 866 FA Hosp (b) 522 FA Ling Unit (b) 131 FA Ling Unit (b) 114 Med Dental Sec (b) 317 Pro Sec (b) Car 1200 Amb PL

Originator's No.

AG/41-42 The following units are to be fully equipped by 30 Nov 44 O 866 and 522
 Fed Hospitals 131 Surgical Section 114 Medical Dental Section 317 Pro Section O Antitank
 has already been given to Com let by TOLSON & done clothing and equipment by
 Hqs C of AFHQ (GHE) Adm Ltr No 3 of 17 Sep 44 with the exception of extra clothing in the
 case of 317 Pro Section O Arrange for balance of group 9018 State of equipment to be
 available for these units by 30 Nov O This HQ letter 41-42 of 21 Nov 44 by

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHERORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

SIGNED

SIGNED

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR	1110	
Time cleared		

Subject: Equipment - Clothing.To : Lt. Combat Sp. POLZORE

62 ✓
Ord.53 B.L.U.
Ref. 01 - 38
21 Nov. 44.

797

1. Further to this Hq. letter 01 - 26 of 14 Nov. 44.
2. Authority is given for the undermentioned units, with strengths as shown, to be equipped to G. 1098 scale of clothing as and when it becomes available:

	War Establishments.	
	Officers	O.Ns.
(a) 1200 Ambulance Car Pl.	1	15
866 Md Hospital ✓	7	53
522 Md Hospital.	7	58
151 Fd Surgical Team ✓	3	25
114 Mobile Dental Unit	1	3
317 Section Carabinieri	2	50

3. Instructions have been received that the Carabinieri Sections are not to be equipped with or outer clothing - battle dress, greatcoats etc. It is presumed that this refers to 316 and 317 Sections Carabinieri only and not to the two Carabinieri sections attached to the Combat Sp. Confirmation on this point is being obtained from higher authority.

4. Of the auxiliary units at present authorized by this Hq. to be equipped with or clothing only, 316 Section Carabinieri has so far collected very little or had report. The present stocks of clothing in these depots are sufficient for the issue of 1 pr of pants, 3 prs of socks, athletic wear, and 1 blanket to each man in the Combat Sp. unit and auxiliary units now attached to the group.

5. Kindly arrange through service channels for this clothing to be distributed to units as soon as possible.

Raymond W. L.

Lt. Col. 111

R.S.

1004