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AUG. 1946

HQ ALPINI REGT.

No. 222

21/8/46

SUBJECT: Training of Recruits called up from 15 and 31 March 1946.

TO :- HQ, Infantry of FUC UDINE.

Ref letter No. 734/3/AD/A/2 dated 3/7/46.

There is no distinct difference in the quality and training of the recruits supplied by CARs/SABIE, MONTEKIO-VERONESE, and ORVIEIO/ and allotted to this Regt.

1. General Training.

The individual and squad drill training is insufficient.

Generally speaking the soldiers have not a soldierly appearance and they are embarrassed.

There is, of course, a considerable difference in method especially in the drill which are not as stated in volume I of "Manuale della Fanteria" (H of W 900 dated 15 Apr 46).

The soldiers do not know how to salute their Officers, (with or without cap). They do not know how to approach an Officer.

May be it is due to the lack of detailed training.

2. Physical Training.

As reported from the Battalion Commanders and, as I myself have seen, there is not much care in mass training, whilst a remarkable importance appears to have been given to the training of small part of selected soldiers, already with a good athletic preparation.

Also in this matter almost all the recruits show themselves lazy and not well trained.

3. Marking.

It is as yet impossible to express judgment on this matter, because the British reports have just arrived and are going to be distributed.

But as the soldiers' records state, and as reported by Officer observers sent to the CARs in the last period of the course, the training with the Enfield, Bren and in some cases Thompson Sub-Machine Guns, is satisfactory, while there is not much care in the training with PIAT and 2 inch mortar.

The number of the lessons is not same in the 3 CARs; e.g. at SABIE's CAR, 5 lessons with rifles took place; at ORVIEIO's CAR 6 or 8; 4 to 6 lessons for the Bren; 1 lesson only for other weapons.

As reported from the Battalion Commanders and, as I myself have seen, there is not much care in new training, whilst a remarkable importance appears to have been given to the training of small part of selected soldiers, already with a good athletic preparation. Also in this matter almost all the recruits show themselves lazy and not well trained.

3. Firing.

It is as yet impossible to express judgment on this matter, because the British weapons have just arrived and are going to be distributed. But as the soldiers' records state, and as reported by Officer observers sent to the C&S in the last period of the course, the training with the Rifle, Bren and in cases Thompson Sub-machine Guns, is satisfactory, while there is not much care in the training with PIAT and 2 inch Mortar. The number of the lessons is not same in the 3 C&S; e.g. at SACHIE's C&S, 5 lessons with Rifles took place; at ONVETO's C&S 6 or 8; 4 to 6 lessons for the Bren; 1 lesson only for other weapons.

L'AKJILA Bn, equipped with British weapons, is going to complete the firing lessons; but has noticed that only a few recruits (5-6%) got the half of the maximum score.

4. Battle Drill.

The individual training is pretty good - The squad training is rough. The standard training received by the recruits from SACHIE C&S is slightly advanced.

5. Marching Training.

No C&S has taken care of the Marching Training; the soldiers have marched only 5 - 6 Km on ordinary roads and with incomplete equipment.

6. DISCIPLINE AND MORALE.

There is not much care in moral preparation of Recruits of all C&S. Generally speaking all the recruits allotted have good knowledge of their rights, but little knowledge of their duty; they have a rather elastic opinion about military discipline, but as reported in monthly reports, I have the impression that the majority of recruits are not bad and that they are amenable.

As well disciplined and drilled recruits say: "at the C&S the discipline is mild and sometimes weak and imperfect". As reported by Bn Commanders and as I myself have seen at every detachment the standard of training reached in 3 months of the first period is rather meagre. It is my opinion that the deficiencies of this first experiment are not due to the system or to the men but to the difficulties of the present moment.

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TRANSLATION (contd.)Sheet 2

1. The equipment of the CARs at the beginning of the course was not complete because of the lack of training manuals, arrangement of the barracks, etc., and by this the initial start of the training was delayed.
2. Officers and NCOs just arrived and on the way to the CARs were not completely accustomed with new methods of tactical and technical training.
3. The particular political situation of the moment when the Party Debates were still strong and when the central authority had heavily doubted as to the success of this first call up, have perhaps imposed the Commanders and Officers of CARs to follow a disciplinary method aiming at avoiding dissensions amongst Officers and soldiers. It is my opinion that only at the end of courses now on at the CARs, will it be possible to give a concrete judgement if it is convenient to follow the present system or the one previously adopted in Italy.

But above all, it is absolutely necessary that the recruits arriving at the CARs find, besides a comfortable place, also a firm discipline, and a place where the meaning of authority, subordination, and obedience, are taught vigorously from the beginning and with affectionate educational action necessary to form a soldier.

Signed: (GALLIANO SCARPA)
Col. Commanding,
8 Alpini Regt.

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