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Demerit-Official Letters

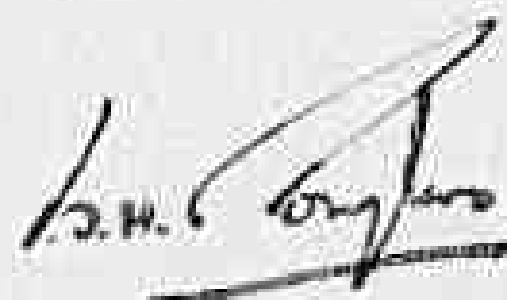
Feb 13, 1945 - Nov 16, 1945

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Subject: Transfers,52 British Liaison Unit,
CIP.16 Nov 45.W/S/S/MS.Officer I/S,
Infantry Records,
PIMM.2318946 Pte DUFF J. Lovat Scouts.*Ref your P/305/MS.*

As Pte DUFF proceeded to UK on release in A/S Q 21,
it would be appreciated if you could effect his transfer
to the Seaforth Highlanders.



Lieut-Col.
CS.

JHD/MS

Copy to: Pte J. I. DUFF,
11, Green Street,
Rotham, Northamptonshire.

C.B.S.

Subject: Transfer .

P/13 /45 63/82

Officer Commanding,
52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

BY AIR MAIL

2818946 Pte. J. DUFF - Lovat Scouts.

Reference your DO/G/63/80 of 27 Oct 45.

This office has no objection to his transfer to the Seaforths but immediate action should be taken by you with O2E C.M.F. to have this transfer effected.

It is pointed out, however, that should he have already embarked for U.K. pending release it will not be possible to effect transfer as all his release documents will have been prepared as a Lovat Scout.

No notification will be received in this office of his arrival in U.K. until he has actually proceeded on release leave.

L. J. ...

Lt. Col.
2IC Infantry Records.

PERTH
8 NOV 45
JDR

8055

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.F.
DO/C/63/81.

Dear *Rich.*

11 Nov 45.

I have sent the top copy of this letter to MIA through the normal channels, but am sending you the enclosed 2 copies so as to ensure that the information gets to the various branches concerned.

I would be most grateful if you could let 'A' Branch have one copy to keep them in the picture regarding my officer situation (para 5).

I hope Peter Lucock has reached you by now.

Regards.

Yours

John Douglas

To: Lieut-Col. A.R.C. SOUTHEY,
G1(SD), MIA.

8085

SUBJECT:- Operational Move

SECRET & URGENT

52 British Liaison Unit
CNP.

10 Nov 45

5/52/12

Land Forces Sub-Comm A.C.
(MIA)

Ref your HQ D/O Letter A.010/2 dated 30 Oct 45. I have the following observations to make:-

11 Ref para 6 I have just returned from UHINE where I have been carrying out a preliminary reconnaissance with my G.II. On visiting 5th Territorial HQ I was informed by the Deputy General, in the absence of duty in Rome of the General himself, that acting on instructions from 13 Corps he had been positively forbidden to carry out any recess. One of the lines of the River FLAVA with a view to deciding on the future locations of intended F.I.Gs, Schools and Installations. His plans in this connection are well advanced but until reconnaissance of the area is authorised no progress whatsoever can be made.

In view of the seriousness of the situation I therefore visited 13 Corps myself and they confirmed their previous instructions to 5 Territorial HQ. It is clear that they do not wish to have Italian troops in the vicinity of UHINE as it is so close to the MORGON LINE: the situation there being what it is at the moment it is essential that they have the maximum Allied Force available in the vicinity, let alone accommodation required for additional troops which might be brought up, while owing to the delicate situation it appears that it is most inappropriate for Italian troops to concentrate for training in that area.

13 Corps inform me that they have written to AFHQ to this effect and their ruling is awaited: in the event of the AFHQ ruling being unfavourable to Italian Territorial HQ requirements

In view of the seriousness of the situation I therefore visited 13 Corps myself and they confirmed their previous instructions to 5 Territorial HQ. It is clear that they do not wish to have Italian troops in the vicinity of UDINA as it is so close to the MONTE LATE. The situation there being what it is at the moment it is essential that they have the maximum Allied force available in the vicinity, let alone accommodation required for additional troops which might be brought up, while owing to the delicate situation it appears that it is most inappropriate for Italian troops to concentrate for training in that area.

13 Corps inform me that they have written to AFHQ to this effect and their ruling is awaited. In the event of the AFHQ ruling being unfavourable to Italian Territorial HQ requirements it would appear to be necessary to select an entirely new location for the Territorial HQ activities i.e. T.F.O's etc. I am informed that admirable facilities exist at VECONA which is however I understand in the BOULANO Territorial Area. I have not explicitly them, but I understand that it would be necessary to evict Allied troops from certain of their present locations. A decision of a definite location is an urgent necessity, as until that is arrived at no preparations can be made for the reception of the initial intake etc.

2. Accommodation

(1) The present area proposed by 5 Territorial HQ for the locations of schools, installations etc is POMERONE (B.9709) - SACIUS (B.8408) - CONSELLIANO (2.6802) - VITTORIO VENETIO (B.6812). At present this is entirely occupied by Allied troops, 6 LLOYD BEE (POLISH CORPS) being located in and around CONSELLIANO, and 5 Field Regt (POLISH) being located at FORD HOMS. Even if the accommodation were available it is within the area vetoed by 13 Corps.

SHEET 2.

(ii) In UDINE itself the accommodation problem is very acute: I have visited Comd 201 sub-area (UDINE) and the POWN MAJOR (UDINE): accommodation for any large bodies of tps is out of the question, and though they are most anxious to be co-operative both to the Italian authorities and ourselves the best thing they can hold out any hope for is to locate a small unit like the ELU in some neighbouring villages. The shortage of accommodation in UDINE is due to the following causes:-

- (a) 1/3rd of the total inhabitable houses were destroyed by bombing.
- (b) UDINE is a terminus on the MEDLOCK route.
- (c) vast numbers of refugees from North and East due to the proximity of UDINE to the frontiers.
- (d) H.Q., D.A.F. is located here and a large encampment in addition.
- (e) Considerable accommodation is required for Railway Operating Maintenance Coye who have to be located in this area in case they are required to take over in the event of a civilian strike, necessitated by the tremendous importance of UDINE as a Railway Junction.

None of these conditions seem likely to improve for a considerable time. It seems therefore that we cannot expect to achieve much more by the 15th of this month, unless the local British authorities receive some definite instructions from AFHQ regarding our requirements which will overrule all instructions at present enforced.

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3. Liaison.

Major Selby, whom you have appointed as my DAMASCUS is at present on leave and Major Thrupp who is here to answer for him in his absence is due to proceed to GENOA almost immediately. As there seems little prospect of getting the whole BLU instilled here by the 15th of the month, I propose to attach at least one officer to 5 Territorial HQ for liaison duties pending provision of suitable accommodation in this area for the BLU.

4. Affiliation.

Ref para 3(c) it is presumed that it is appreciated that the ~~affiliation~~ of this BLU to the BLU at BARI presents considerable difficulties. An air-service exists between the two locations, but this does not appear to be a satisfactory means of conducting an affiliation of this nature.

5. Officer Situation.

As requested at MILAN Conference and reference para 3(a),(b),(c) herewith the officer situation:-

AVAILABLE.

REMARKS.

See sheet 3.

SHEET 3.

	<u>AVAILABLE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
G.I. Lieut Col JAR DOUGLAS	Yes	
G.II. Major TF LUCKOCK (Surplus)	No	Posted to ROME
G.II. Major HIRSH JOHNSTONE	Yes	
G.III. Capt DC TAYLOR	?	Posting orders rec'd to proceed to AOME LIAP and thence to FLORENCE.
Reg Inst. Major SEAT HILL	NO	Posted to BARI
DAADONG. Major HAR PABNO	NO	Posted to FLORENCE
Staff Capt. Capt R DOWRING	NO	pending Hill's return.
Capt RACC. Capt WL BECKETT	No	Posted away
Capt RACC. Capt BEJ SMITH	Yes	
Capt RENE. Capt PH WELSON	Yes	
DAADONG. Major SELBY	No	Absent on leave
()	?	Not Known.
Capt RACC. Capt THELVAN		

It will be appreciated that the "dividing up" of a unit involves considerable administration and documentation in connection with the disposal of the O.N.s, and it is therefore considered essential to retain one junior combatant officer until completion of the moves. It is requested therefore that the posting of Capt Taylor (G.III) may be temporarily postponed as requested by Hq 2 District.

6. Personnel Situation.

Attached herewith is a report and recommendations from my Staff Capt RENE., which are forwarded for your consideration.

It will be appreciated that the "dividing up" of a unit involves considerable administration and documentation in connection with the disposal of the O.Rs, and it is therefore considered essential to retain one junior combatant officer until completion of the moves. It is requested therefore that the posting of Capt Taylor (C.III) may be temporarily postponed as requested by H-2 District.

6. Personnel Situation.

Attached herewith is a report and recommendations from my Staff Capt REEB., which are forwarded for your consideration.

(REME Report as to original copy they.)

2063

J.S.H. Douglas

(JSH DOUGLAS) Lieut. Col.
C.S.

JSHD/WN.

COPY

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Scaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CAF.

27 Oct 45.

DO/C/63/80

Dear Coland.

You may remember that when I relinquished command of the 9th Scaforth to assume command of the Lovat Scouts, I applied for my driver 2818946 Pte DUFF J. to be transferred from the Scaforth Highlanders to the Lovat Scouts.

Pte Duff is now due for release in A/S Group 21, and is anxious to be transferred back to the Scaforth Highlanders as he is a pre war territorial of the 6th Bn, his home being in Rothes, Morayshire, in their territorial area. I enclose a certificate from OC Lovat Scouts to confirm that he has no objection to the transfer.

Particulars required by GRO 136/44

Number	2818946
Rank	Tpr
Name	DUFF J.I.
Present Unit	Att 52 BLU
Parent Unit	Lovat Scouts
Length of service in parent unit	15 months

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas.

To: Officer I/C
Inf Records,
PERTH, Scotland.

Copy to: OC Lovat Scouts.

8062

SUBJECT:- Postings.

FILE
L.S.2

8 Sep 45.

Lieut.-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

14209297 Mtnr. VICKERS J.

1. Ref your DO/G/62 dated 21 Aug 45.
2. I confirm that I have no objection and agree to the posting of Mtnr. Vickers to 52 BLU.

C.M.F.

G. P. ...
Major,
Officer Commanding,
The Lovat Scouts.

I trust that you will accept the true appreciation and gratitude of us all, to which I add my personal thanks and greetings.

Yours very sincerely,

Ed Taylor.

To: General UMBERTO UTILI,
Il Generale Comandante,
Gruppo di Combattimento "TEGHIANO".

2060

From: Lieut-Col J. E. H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.I.F.
25 Oct '45.

DD/C/53/72

Dear General,

It is a real pleasure to me and the Officers and other ranks under my command to accept the medal of the Legnano Group as a souvenir of the comradeship that has existed between us for the common cause at stake - the defeat of Nazi tyranny and the liberation of your country.

It has indeed been an honour to all of us to serve under your command with the Legnano Group who have justly earned such fame both in battle and in peace: anything that we may have achieved to your benefit has, I can assure you, given us equal satisfaction, and I therefore look forward to giving you that same support in the future which we have attempted to do in the past.

.....2

8061

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "LEGNANO,"

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE

Bergamo li 22 ottobre 1945.-

Dear Colonel,

I hope you will be glad to receive this medal of the "LEGNANO" Group as a souvenir of a loyal soldiering comradeship been honoured by blood.-

This present may be modest but it the symbol of our thankfulness for all you have achieved for us.

General Umberto Utili

Utili

Utili

Ten. Col. I.S.H. DOUGLAS

The Lovat Scouts

Comandante 52° B. L. U.-

B E R G A M O

2059

INTERNAL & CONFIDENTIAL

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DUFFLES,
The 300th Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
 CEF.

21 Oct 45.

DD/C/63/76

Dear *General*,

Herewith a further report on the LEGNANO Inf Division.

1. Locations.

Location statement of LEGNANO Units and units of 11th Inf Regt MANNOVA, as at 22 Oct 45, is attached.

2. General.

(a) As there is not much news to report from an operational aspect, it may be of interest therefore, to include a few points that have cropped up in connection with welfare and administration, and the attached report submitted by GII (Inf) as a result of a recent visit to Comd 68 Inf Regt may be of interest: these visits have since been supported by Comd 11 Arty Regt.

(b) It is of interest also, that Comd 11 Arty Regt recently expressed to me a hope that we would be attaching a British Artillery officer to his unit again: alas, the SORA is one of the valuable team of specialists who has been excluded on the new WF, and so we are unable to comply with his request.

(c) The attached report (AO/17/112 dated 13 Oct) on the condition of reinforcements is the result of a walk from CG 11 Arty Regt; it is very well justified, but I realize it is nobody's fault: I feel however, that it should be appreciated in Allied circles that these re-

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(b) It is of interest also, that Card 11 Arty Regt recently expressed to me a hope that we would be attaching a British Artillery officer to his unit again: alas, the SOBA is one of the valuable team of specialists who has been excluded on the new WII, and so we are unable to comply with his request.

(c) The attached report (NO/17/112 dated 13 Oct) on the condition of reinforcements is the result of a walk from Card 11 Arty Regt: it is very well justified, but I realize it is nobody's fault: I feel however, that it should be appreciated in Allied circles that these reinforcements will be the fragment of the Italian Army when the first properly trained batch of reinforcements arrive from Cassino, etc, in February, having completed basic and advanced training.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

D. H. Taylor

2058

To: Major-General J. BURNING CB, CDS, MB,
Land Forces Sub Comd AF (MIA).

Copy to: Major-General G. A. BURNING CB, MB,
Card 2 District.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

From: Lieut-Col J.S.M. DOUGLAS,
The Bedford Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMB.
6 Oct 45.

10/9/63/II

Dear General,

I am sending you herewith a further report on the activities of
LEGHANO Gruppo.

1. Locations. The following changes in locations of units have
taken place during the past fortnight:-

- HQ 11 Arty Regt - from BERGAMO to BRENDA.
- I Bty 11 Arty Regt - " MUNTO ARSIZIO J9982 to GARGLIANO R4183.
- III Bty 11 Arty Regt - " MENIRO K7092 to CILANI R2268.
- V Bty 11 Arty Regt - " CERNICHO E1806 to B. ARSIZIO J9982.
- Regt Mortar Coy 69 Inf Regt - " PIATEDA R9537 to SOERIO E8140.
- 102 Coy III Bn 68 Inf Reg - " LOVITE K9599 to MORA K3478.
- 110 Coy III Bn 68 Inf Reg - " PRATEO E2411 to MORA K3478.
- 9 Coy III Bn 114 Inf Regt - " MENDO K2471 to MILAN.
- 10 Coy III Bn 114 Inf Reg - " PAVIA to MILAN.
- 4 Coy I Bn 114 Inf Regt - " VARESE E9905 to BRENO K2471.
- LEGHANO NR Platoon - " CARVAGGIO K6065 to TRIVIGLIO K5688.
- 3 LAD LEGHANO Gruppo - " COMO to BERGAMO.
- 2 LAD MANTOVA Gruppo. - " Gruppo area to COMO.

2. Internal Security. 59 Area Operation Instruction No 4, dealing
with internal security, divides 59 Area (LEGHANO Gruppo Sector) into
8 sectors corresponding with the 8 Provinces of LOMBARDIA and appoints
the Sector Comds for each, as follows :-

SECRET. 03 LII Bn 114 Inf Regt. CMB.

V Bty 11 Arty Regt -
 Regt Mortar Coy 69 Inf Regt -
 102 Coy III Bn 68 Inf Reg -
 110 Coy III Bn 68 Inf Reg -
 9 Coy III Bn 114 Inf Regt -
 10 Coy III Bn 114 Inf Reg -
 4 Coy I Bn 114 Inf Regt -
 LERIANO ME Platoon -
 3 LAD LANCIAO Gruppo -
 2 LAD MANOVA Gruppo -

2. Internal Security. 59 Area Operation Instruction No 4, dealing with internal security, divides 59 Area (LERIANO Gruppo Sector) into 8 sectors corresponding with the 8 Provinces of LOMBARDIA and appoints the Sector Comds for each, as follows :-

SECTOR.	COMD.
MILAN Prov (less MILAN City)	OC III Bn 114 Inf Regt.
VARESE Prov	OC I Bn 114 Inf Regt.
OSHO Prov	Comd 114. Inf Regt.
SONDRIO Prov	Comd 69 (Speciale) Inf Regt.
BERGAMO Prov	Comd 68 Inf Regt.
BRESCIA Prov	Comd 11 Arty Regt.
PAVIA Prov	OC 3 Field Park Coy.
CREMONA Prov	OC II Bn 68 Inf Regt.

Sector Comds are now preparing their Operation Instructions for their sectors, which are to be submitted to HQ 59 Area for final approval. Except for the following, the redeployment of units has been completed :-

- (a) Move of I Devenglieri Boino' Bn 69 Inf Regt from MEDVIO 233 to MILAN, for internal security duties in the city.
- (b) Move of VI Bty 11 Arty Regt from BERGAMO to BASSHERATO P2959 GARDONE RN PAYS.
- - - - - To take place shortly.

2.

3. Training. Acting on MIA letter G/rg/1 dated 11 Sep 45, further impetus has been given to training, and a copy of my instructions to the Gruppo have already been despatched to MIA. I had previously discussed the question at Gruppo HQ, but their reactions were not very favourable: the usual excuses were made that no men were available on account of the large number of dump and frontier guards though at the same time I was assured that it was the General's most ~~serious~~ desire to get training going again on proper lines. Men can of course be made available if we can only prevail upon them to organise their sub-units properly for duties and training, and work a system of relief: this however is almost more than I lamentably reduced training Team (2 Majors) can hope to achieve. I have found in the past that it is more effective to work on unorthodox lines and deal direct with Regt and in some who are only too anxious to co-operate, though of course they are terrified of the consequences of being found out by Gruppo HQ. Gruppo HQ tell me that no instructions have yet been received from the Ministry of War putting effect to your HQ letter G/rg/1 dated 11 Sep 45.

4. Role of HQ's. Now that the War Ministry has assumed control of Gruppo, the position of HQ's is somewhat obscure: it seems that the instructions to British officers selected for Liaison and Training Duties" needs some clarifying, particularly with regard to the extent of our executive powers.

5. MF Maintenance. The General is displaying very considerable interest in this subject. A very strong letter has been sent out to units on the subject of maintenance and discipline, and another one on the subject of silencers on vehicles; whilst the whole supervision and checking of work-tickets has also been tightened up. With these supporting the tremendous drive which has been made for some months now by SC FINE and Training Majors, I feel that in course of time we may really hope for some definite improvement.

6. Conveyance of civilians by WD transport. Instructions were recently received to the effect that it was not proposed to enforce the rule forbidding the carriage of "unauthorised" civilians in WD transport on charge to Italian Units. This causes a certain amount of misunderstanding between Italians (civilians and military, and more particularly the former), who are unaware of the restriction imposed on British drivers and British personnel, and particularly is this so in the case of such units as HQ's who are in such close touch

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7. SUPPANI Case. I hoped that I had heard the last of this ⁵ ~~case~~ ^{behaviour} when we successfully got him removed from the post of Chief of Ops and Intelligence Section: it will be remembered that in his standing-up of the inquiry proceedings the General expressed a wish to be allowed to re-employ him as Command of the Genio, which post he had previously held. Appelled at the very idea, I both signalled and wrote DC to HQ NMA re-questing that every endeavour be made to prevent this.

.....3

3.

A few days ago however I was approached by the Chief of Staff on behalf of the General and as a matter of courtesy to learn what my reactions would be to having Sompoti as Comd of the Genio Div. I told him that I personally was definitely opposed to it, and that I thought that MIA would be too, feeling assured that they would support me in view of my recommendations: I was somewhat non-plussed however when I was thereupon informed that the General had already discussed it with MIA, who had told him that they could see no objection to his re-employment in the Division. My opinion however is still unchanged: I have informed the General accordingly, and I understand that he is disappointed at my reaction: I would most earnestly request however that my recommendation should either be supported, or if not, that I should be informed accordingly: it will, I am sure be appreciated, that I find myself in a somewhat embarrassing position if this course is not adopted. There is nothing personal between me and Sompoti, but knowing as he does that the MIA has been responsible for his removal, it seems to me nothing short of a major catastrophe to bring him back here to embitter others and engender further hate and opposition against the MIA and British authorities in general. We got on very happily indeed with all other officers of the Gruppo, but I consider Major Sompoti completely unwitted to be employed in any capacity with British troops.

8. upkeep and renovation of Italian barracks, etc. Many of the old Italian barracks, billets, etc, are now in a deplorable condition as the result of the war, but were it not for the work done and money spent on them by units of the Gruppo at present occupying them, they would be considerably worse. This does not seem to be fully appreciated by the British authorities. When British units come into an area already occupied by the Gruppo, they are naturally given preference and the Italians have to go elsewhere. An instance did occur recently when a unit of the Gruppo was evicted by MG so that British troops could be put into the building: it so happened that the Italian soldiers had purchased and paid for the electric light fittings, etc, from their own pockets, and prepared other amenities for the winter (ie. constructed stoves; put in window panes, etc): after considerable argument, MG agreed to let them take these away, but not without adding that since they had lost the war they must expect this sort of treatment. This may be reasonable enough with the population in general,

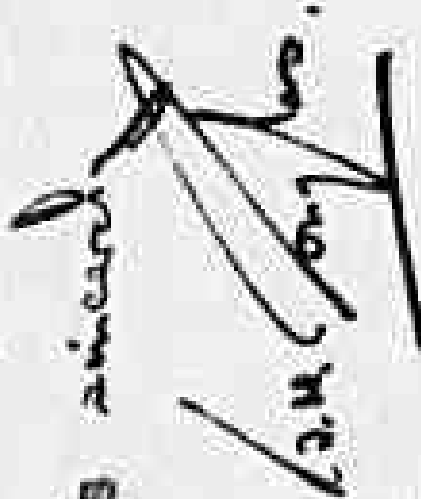
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9. Composition of a Gruppo di Combattimento. Attached is a copy of the suggested amendments to the Composition of a Gruppo di Combattimento as called for recently: it is forwarded to give an idea of the lines on which we are thinking in this IJU.

With kind regards, 2055

Yours sincerely



To: Major-General L. HOSKING CB, OBE, MC,
 Land Forces Sub Comd AC (MIA).

Copy to: Major-General C. A. HENNING CB, MC,
 Comd 2 District.

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.
28 Sep 45.

DO/G/63/76

Dear Southy,

Many thanks for the copy of your recommendations on the subject of revised WE for an Italian Division (Combat Group). I am sorry I didn't send you one of mine before, but I had already sent it off before I got yours: I am, however, sending one now as you might be interested to see what our views are: we seem to be thinking on the same lines which is interesting (ie. with regard to retaining the Group as a self-contained unit, and also re armoured cars and A/Tk guns) though the methods of achieving it may vary slightly.

As regards your para 4 (B) (i) (ii) and (iii), I couldn't agree more: actually I too left a copy of our lengthy recommendations to 8 Army for a revised WE with MIA when we went down to ROME for our abortive conference, as well as my General's comments on their WE, and strongly endorsed his recommendations for the provision of 2 I/Cs and various other individuals.

It will be interesting to see if anything comes of all this, or whether it will be shelved again as it has been in the past.

Yr. ever,
Jack Douglas

To: Lieut-Col. A.R.C. SOUTHY,
50 British Liaison Unit.

8054

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CIP.
20 Sep 45.

FO/G/63/73

Dear Coland,

I am afraid you will be very disappointed in our replies to the various questions in your questionnaire. My CII(Ltg) and I have gone into the whole question very thoroughly and are only recommending what we know to be feasible: we would like to recommend much more, but it is no use suggesting things which just cannot be done owing to the establishments that are imposed upon the Gruppo, existing conditions, and in some cases to the Italian temperament itself.

I am truly sorry for the delay in answering, but owing to their wide dispersion it has been a real struggle to collect and collate the views of the Gruppo. We are all out to give the 213 our maximum support within the bounds of possibility, and you can rely upon us to do so at all times.

Look forward to seeing you here again soon.

Regards.

Yours sincerely

J.S.H. Douglas

To: Colonel L.H. MASON, CBE,
'F' British Liaison & Trg Unit,
ETO. IGP.

8053

G/63

63/74

SUBJECT: Winter Equipment.

HQ 2 District GAF
2019/8 G(Ops)

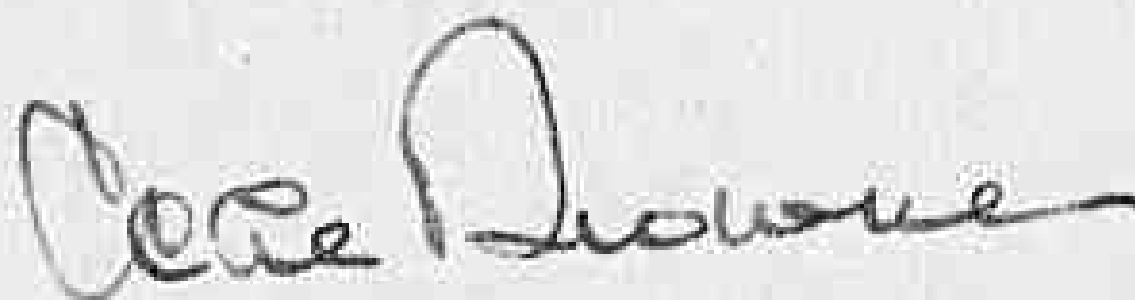
19 Sep 45

52 BLU

Copy to: Ord (ref Maj BARRACLOUGH's note
of 18 Sep)

Ref your DO/G/65/72 of 14 Sep para 6.

Mountain Warfare items are only released by AFHQ. If
you will submit a firm indent of what things you need through
the usual channels application will be made for them.



Lieutenant Colonel
General Staff

/jr

8052

73

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CAF.
16 Sep 45.

DO/G/65/73

Dear Coland.

You will remember that my DADST, Major L.A. PINFOLD, told you some time ago that he would be off on release before long, and you very kindly told me that you would see that I got a good RASC officer replacement when the time came. PINFOLD left for UK last week with Age Group 14.

In actual fact, however, I am in no urgent need of his replacement as there is not much doing here in his line just at the moment: I thought however that I should let you know that I am actually without an RASC representative, in case anything unexpected should crop up.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas

To: Colonel H.E. FINCH MC
DIST, 2 District.

8051

72

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit,
 CAF.
14 Sep 45.

DO/S/63/72.

Dear *General*,

I am sending you a further report on the LIXIANO Gruppo.

1. Locations.

Location Statement of units of LIXIANO Gruppo and 114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo as at 14 Sep 45 is attached.

2. Operational Role.

Remains unchanged. It is proposed to move 'GOINO' (Bersaglieri) Bn to ALLAN, as soon as accommodation is available, to take over internal security duties there from III Bn 114 Inf Regt.

3. Training.

Col I.H. MACKAY, 'P' BLMU, visited this MU on 3 Sep 45 in connection with the training of reinforcements, schedule of courses, and provision of instructors. I took him to see General UTILLI and we were able to discuss the whole matter there and then.

4. Appointments.

- (a) LIXIANO Gruppo.
- Brig-Gen LAFERLALI has been relieved by Brig-Gen BAUDINO.
 - Lieut-Col ZANI has relieved Lieut-Col BESSANI.
 - Lieut-Col TRIVANI has relieved Major MURGO.
 - Lieut-Col CHIAPPINELLI will be replacing Col BOSCHETTI (promoted full Colonel).

Col L.H. KACKAY, 'P' ELSTU, visited this HQ on 3 Sep 45 in connection with the training of reinforcements, schedule of courses, and provision of instructors. I took him to see General UHLLI and we were able to discuss the whole matter there and then.

4. Appointments.

- (a) LIRIANO Gruppo.
- Gruppo 2nd-In-Comm. - Brig-Gen IRRILLI has been relieved by Brig-Gen BAUDINO.
 - 2 IC 68 Inf Regt HQ. - Lieut-Col ZARI has relieved Lieut-Col RISSANI.
 - CC II Bn 68 Inf Regt. - Lieut-Col TROVATI has relieved Major MANGO.
 - CC III Bn 68 Inf Regt. - Lieut-Col CHIARENINI will be replacing Col BOSCHETTI (promoted full Colonel).
- (b) MMU.
- DAVET - Major FIMFOLD - Proceeded on Release.
 - DAARAG - Major LEMIN)
 - DADES - Major GORDON)
 - SORSIJA - Capt GOULD-ADAMS - Proceeding on Release 5th week.
 - SCRA - Major AGHUNNY - Posted to SIG Section AMR.
 - Trs Major - Major HAMILTON - Posted to Regtl Duty.
 - SORS - Capt DAVIES - Appointment with Civil Affairs.
 - Ord Officer - Capt SMITH - Posted to 'B' HQ, GPROR.
 - Comp Comd - Lieut DOWNING - On LIAP.
 - Proceeding on LIAP next week.

All signal personnel surplus to new MT have been posted.

5. Alleged misuse of MT.

A letter was recently received from HQ MMIA categorically affirming that alleged misuse had been made of military transport by the LIRIANO Gruppo on a specific occasion, and ordering that disciplinary action be taken against those responsible. My investigations however, revealed no misuse of MT on the occasion referred to: it would seem appropriate therefore if this HQ were directed to enquire into such cases and obtain the true story before condemning the Gruppo out of hand and initiating disciplinary action against them. Forwarded with this letter was a copy of the original report submitted by a junior liaison officer (a captain) of MMIA, of which the following is an extract.

2.

"May the urgent attention of HQU's please be drawn to this matter. I should not imagine they are so overworked as not to be able to ensure compliance with orders or exercise a little control to prevent such flagrant misuse of transport and Allied petrol."

This correspondence was not classified as confidential and therefore passed through the various branches at this HQ, and I need hardly say that one and all took the greatest exception to the comments of this junior officer: if such criticism is warranted, it is felt that it should come from a higher level.

I have already taken up the matter with HQ MIA who will no doubt take appropriate action, and in the interests of all concerned it may be best now to let the matter drop. My sole reason for bringing this to your notice at all is that when originally I took over this job you asked me to let you know of any such cases: I am reluctant to do so now, but as unjust criticism of this nature can only do irretrievable damage, I feel it my duty to inform you of the facts as it is so essential that HQU's and MIA should work together in complete harmony.

6. Requirements of Mountain Kit for fulfilment of operational role.

In order to carry out their role throughout the winter it is essential that the battalions guarding the Italo-Swiss Frontier be provided with skis, ski-boots, mountain clothing and equipment. These battalions are Alpini Bas, and as such are expert skiers: at the present time we have only approximately 50 sets which were acquired through British Increment, 5th Army, in order to run the summer ski-ing school: this number is of course quite inadequate for the operational role contemplated throughout the winter months. It is possible that there may be some mountain kit amongst the dumps of captured enemy material, and it would be appreciated if arrangements could be made for such stores to be released and priority given to requirements for operational necessity over those for recreational purposes.

7. Morale, etc, of the Gruppo.

On request from HQ 2 District, I provided certain information for AMHQ, about this Gruppo, and the following is the gist of Gen ULLI's

Alpini Bus, and as such are expert skiers: at the present time we have only approximately 50 sets which were acquired through British Increment, 5th Army, in order to run the summer ski-ing school: this number is of course quite inadequate for the operational role contemplated throughout the winter months. It is possible that there may be some mountain kit amongst the dumps of captured enemy material, and it would be appreciated if arrangements could be made for such stores to be released and priority given to requirements for operational necessity over those for recreational purposes.

7. Morale, etc, of the Gruppo.

On request from HQ 2 District, I provided certain information for AFHQ, about this Gruppo, and the following is the gist of Gen UTILLI's reactions to the questionnaire :-

(a) Question: The reliability of the Gruppo for internal security. Would they open fire on a mob if ordered to do so, and would those orders be given? CU'Y

Answer: As far as the protection of installations, dumps, etc, against criminal interference is concerned, the troops can be fully relied upon to carry out their duties. On the other hand, however, in the case of serious disorders with a political basis, the General has grave apprehensions and can only refer to what he has already pointed out in his letter 01/2479 which I forwarded to 59 Area with a copy to General NARIS. *and yourself*

(b) Question: Any definite political trends amongst the men, and have there been distinct changes in outlook since the end of the war.

Answer: The political tendencies of the troops reflect the multi-coloured Italian political scene of the present: it is true that a strong feeling of 'esprit de corps' exists throughout the men, but this spirit is gradually being thinned out as the older men get released and others take their places - and this spirit also shows traces of the many sources of discontent which I refer to in para (d).

.....3

3.

(c) Question: Will the morale and reliability of the Gruppi improve or decline if and when the Gruppi pass from British to Italian command?

Answer: So long as the British are in control the military feel that they will always get support, but if Gruppi pass to Italian command their future will depend entirely on the views of the political party in power at the time; it is impossible, therefore, to make a forecast of the ultimate effect on the morale and reliability of Gruppi.

(d) Question: How bad an effect on morale do you consider that the proposed reduction in the men's pay will have?

Answer: Without doubt the reduction in the men's pay will have very serious effects: morale has already suffered a severe reverse due to the absence of a pre-arranged demobilisation plan, insufficient appreciation of the contribution of the regular forces and certain press campaigns directed at systematically discrediting the hierarchy and compromising all sense of discipline; this reduction of pay, therefore, has been inflicted on the men at a most inopportune moment.

With kind regards

Yours

L. M. S. P. J.

the hierarchy and compromising all sense of discipline; this reduction of pay, therefore, has been inflicted on the men at a most inopportune moment.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

L.M. Baynes

Major-General I. HAWNING CB, OBE, MC,
Land Forces Sub Comd AC (MIA).

To:

Copy to: Major Gen C.A. HENDERMAN CB, MC,
Comd 2 District.

71

From : Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMBF.

13 Sep 45.

DO/G/63/71.

Dear Colonel,

I am sorry for the delay in returning your proforma, forwarded with your letter C/M/731, but I have kept it back until the return of my C II (Trg) who has just got back from UK. He is at the present visiting the units, and I hope to be able to send off the completed proforma in the course of the next day or two.

Regards.

Yours sincerely

John Douglas

To : Col I.H. MACKAY OBE
'F' British Liaison & Trg Unit,
RHC, ICF.

3048

File 70

From:- Lt-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.
10 Sep 45.

Dear /

The attached application for employment is self-explanatory, and is forwarded to you together with a copy of my testimonial for any action you may wish to take.

Yours *td*
J.S.H. Douglas

To:- PMC, 1st Bn, The Seaforth Highlanders, SEAC.
PMC, 2nd Bn, The Seaforth Highlanders, BLA.
PMC, No. 11 (Seaforth & Cameron) ITC, Elgin,
Morayshire, Scotland.
Secretary, Seaforth Highlanders Regt. Association.
Secretary, Licensed Victuallers Association,
London.
Secretary, Institute of Brewing, Goring Hotel,
Grosvenor Gardens London SW1.
Copy to Sjt Hubbard for information.

6047

P.N.F.
1st Bn. The Seaford Highlanders. ✓
S.E.A.C.

P.N.F.
2nd Bn. The Seaford Highlanders. ✓
B.L.A.

P.N.F.
No. 11 (Seaford & Cameron) I.T.C. ✓
Elgin.
Morayshire. Scotland.

Secretary
Seaford Highlanders Regt. Association.
17th Street Road, Seaford

Secretary ~~Seaford~~ The General Victrola Association ✓
London

Secretary ~~The Institute of Seafaring~~ ~~Officers~~ ~~giving~~ Hotel. General Gordon ✓
London E.C.1.

From: Mr. Col. G.H. Gough.
The Seaford Highlanders.

52 B.L.U.

C.N.F.

10 Sep. 45.

Dear

The attached application for employment is
self explanatory. It is forwarded to you together
with a copy of my testimonial for any action
that you may wish to take.

Yours. —

G. H. Gough

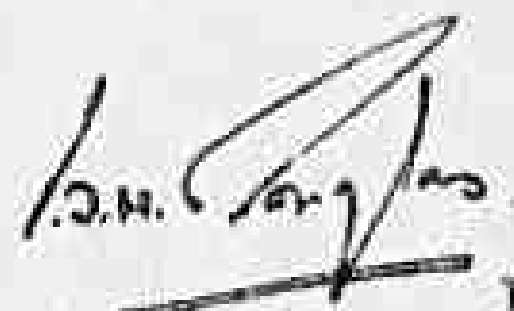
FILE

45117. Sjt A.V.HUBBARD.

Sjt HUBBARD was Officers' Mess Caterer of the Battalion of Seaforth Highlanders under my command throughout 1945. At the end of that year I relinquished command of that battalion to assume command of the Lovat Scouts, and it is sufficient recommendation for his ability as a caterer that I applied for and effected his transfer to the Lovat Scouts to take over Officers' Mess Caterer with that unit, with which he has continued to perform that role throughout active operations in Italy.

War-time restrictions have not been conducive to proving his true merit as a purchaser of wines and spirits, but through his initiative and enterprise he has shown that the ability exists. Cooking appears to be a hobby with him; he is himself a good cook and accordingly his personal supervision of the cuisine is considerable. Strictly sober, he is an excellent organiser, very hard working, loyal and courteous. If proof is required of his initiative and enterprise it is sufficient to say that as a prisoner of war in 1940 he managed to make good his escape and return to UK to continue the fight in active operations for the common cause.

17 Sept 45.
In the Field.


Lieut-Col.
(J.S.H. DOUGLAS).
The Seaforth Highlanders.

6045

Sgt. A. V. Hut rd/45417.

"HQ" Squadron.

Lovat Scouts.

C.M.P.

11th Aug.,

To: - Col. J. S. H. Douglas,

Sir,

Having had the honour to have served under your command both as a Seaforth Highlander and a Scout I beg to make the following request if I may do so.

It is my intention Sir, to go into the Hotel or retail Brewer's line after my discharge from H.M. Forces, hence my reason for taking the liberty of writing to you. Would it be possible for you to give me a letter of recommendation or a Testimonial which would help my entry into the above as my present Commanding Officer, Lt-Col, D, H. Cameron has no knowledge of my experience as a Caterer in a static Mess, and secondly it is not possible to prove my worth as a buyer of wines and spirits etc., outside the U.K.

If Sir, you should know of any one who would be interested in giving employment to me in the above trade and you would be good enough to give me a letter of introduction to any such person, I should be for ever indebted to you.

A last request Sir, is it possible for my name to be put forward as a prospective peace time Mess Caterer to either of the Regular Bns. of The Seaforths when they return to peace time status, if you are unable to help me in any other way.

My age and Service Group No. is 19 and I shall be free by Nov. if not sooner and my age at that time will be 33yrs and I am a married man. My Wife is an ex W.R.E.W. and has a first hand knowledge of Book Keeping and Catering.

Trusting you will not think me too presumptive in writing to you and taking up so much of your valuable time.

I remain your Obedient Servant,

A last request Sir, is it possible for my name to be put forward as a prospective peace time Mess Caterer to either of the Regular Bns. of The Seaforth's when they return to peace time status, if you are unable to help me in any other way.

My age and Service Group No. is 19 and I shall be free by Nov. if not sooner and my age at that time will be 33yrs and I am a married man. My Wife is an ex W.R.E.N. and has a first hand knowledge of Book keeping and Catering.

Trusting you will not think me too presumptive in writing to you and taking up so much of your valuable time.

I remain your Obedient Servant,

Sir,

Field.
thang.

No. 45117. *A. K. Thang* Sgt.

BU45

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

From:- Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit
Camp.

10 Sep 45

BO/G/63/70

Dear *Brome*

I received a D.O. letter of which the attached is a copy, from Nigel Mordaunt prior to his departure to U.K.

The following reply is based on General Utili's reactions at my interview. I also enclose a copy of General Utili's letter to which I refer in para (a): I originally sent a copy of this to General Nares personally.

(a) As far as the protection of installations, dumps etc against criminal interference is concerned, the troops can be fully relied upon to carry out their duties. On the other hand, however, in the case of serious disorders with a political basis the General has grave apprehensions and can only refer to what he has already pointed out in his letter 01/2479 which I forwarded to 59 Area with a copy to General Nares.

(b) The political tendencies of the troops reflect the multi-coloured Italian political scene of the present, it is true that a strong feeling of 'esprit de corps' exists throughout the men, but this spirit is gradually being thinned out as the older men get released and others take their places - and this spirit also shows traces of the many sources of discontent which I refer to in para (d).

(c) So long as the British are in control the military feel that they will always get support, but if Gruppi pass to Italian Command their future will depend entirely on the views of the political party in power at the time: it is impossible therefore to make a forecast of the ultimate effect on the morale and reliability

however, in the case of serious disorders with a political basis, the General has grave apprehensions and can only refer to what he has already pointed out in his letter 01/2479 which I forwarded to 59 Area with a copy to General Nares.

(b) The political tendencies of the troops reflect the multi-coloured Italian political scene of the present, it is true that a strong feeling of 'esprit de corps' exists throughout the men, but this spirit is gradually being whinned out as the older men get released and others take their places - and this spirit also shows traces of the many sources of discontent which I refer to in para (d).

(c) So long as the British are in control the military feel that they will always get support, but if Gruppi pass to Italian Command their future will depend entirely on the views of the political party in power at the time: it is impossible therefore to make a forecast of the ultimate effect on the morale and reliability of Gruppi.

(d) Without doubt the reduction in the men's pay will have very serious effects: morale has already suffered a severe reverse due to the absence of a pre-arranged demobilisation plan, insufficient appreciation of the contribution of the regular forces and certain press campaigns directed at systematically discrediting the hierarchy and compromising all sense of discipline. This reduction of pay therefore has been inflicted on the men at a most inopportune moment.

If in my opinion there is a change at any time to any marked degree I will be sure and let you know.

B. Gardner

Yours sincerely
B. Gardner

Lt. Col. C.C.L. Browne.,
G1., HQ 2 District.
CMF.

CONFIDENTIAL

From : Lt Col Sir N.J. MORDAUNT, Bt.

HQ 2 District GMP

DO/204014 Sep 45

Dear Douglas.

We have been asked by AFHQ to get certain information about the Gruppi, and I am writing to you to get your personal reactions to these questions. There is, I think no harm in putting these questions to the Gruppi Commanders, though the last one is still clouded in mystery, and therefore obviously needs careful approach. The information required is as follows.

- (a) The reliability of the Gruppi for internal security. Would they open fire on a mob if ordered to do so, and would those orders be given?
- (b) Any definite political trends amongst the men, and have there been distinct changes in outlook since the end of the war.
- (c) Will the morale and reliability of the Gruppi improve or decline if and when the Gruppi pass from British to Italian command?
- (d) How bad an effect on morale do you consider that the proposed reduction in the men's pay will have?

I'm sorry to raise these old questions once again, but I have been asked to get the latest opinions on these points, and should be grateful if you would let me know if your opinions change at any time to any marked degree.

Yours sincerely,

*N.J. Mordaunt*Lt Col JSH DOUGLAS
GSO I 52 BLU

8043

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "LEGNANO"

COMANDO

1

Segreteria

P.M. 155, 8 settembre 1945

Caro Colonnello Douglas,

in merito ai quesiti che Lei mi rivolge con lettera DO/G/63/69 del 6 corrente, eccole la mia opinione:

- a) - Finchè si tratta di proteggere impianti, depositi ecc. da aggressioni criminali si può fare sulla truppa pieno assegnamento/- Nel caso invece di gravi di sordini popolari a sfondo politico nutro serie apprensioni e mi richiamo a quanto già ebbi a scrivere alla 59^a Area (tramite 52 BLU) il 21 luglio 1945, con lettera 01/2479.-
- b) - Le tendenze politiche degli uomini di truppa riflettono il panorama molto variopinto del Paese; è vero che su di esse si stende, come una patina comune, un forte spirito di corpo, ma questo va attenuandosi man mano che si congedano gli anziani ed altri li sostituiscono, e, d'altronde esso risente di molteplici cause di malcontento cui accenno al comma d)-.
- c) - La dipendenza d'impiego da autorità inglesi o da autorità italiane può spiritualmente influire in senso contrastante e soprattutto in modo subordinato alla situazione politica del momento.- Non sono in grado di fare previsioni.-
- d)- La diminuzione del trattamento economico avrà indubbiamente effetti assai gravi; come gravi effetti depressivi hanno la mancanza di un piano prestabilito di congedamenti, l'insufficiente valorizzazione del contributo delle forze regolari e certe campagne giornalistiche dirette a screditare sistematicamente le gerarchie ed a compromettere il senso della disciplina.-

Umberto Utili

(Gen. Umberto Utili)

Lt.Col.I.S.H. DOUGLAS
Commanding 52 B.L.U?

Utili

CONFIDENTIAL

From : Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS

52 British Liaison Unit,

CMF

6 Sept 45.
80/4/63/68.

Dear General.

No 2 District have been asked by AFHQ the following information about the Gruppi, and they in turn have asked me for my views. I do not feel that any feelings which I might express would be a true picture, as not being an Italian speaker myself I do not understand the mentality and political outlook of your men in the same way as you would, and therefore I am asking you if you would be kind enough to let me have your views on these various points which AFHQ have raised.

- (a) Reliability generally for duties in connection with internal security. Would the soldiers fire on a mob if ordered to do so, and can one be sure that they would be given these orders if necessity arose?
- (b) Any definite political trends amongst the men, and have there been distinct changes in outlook since the end of the War?
- (c) Will the morale and reliability of the Gruppi improve or decline if and when the Gruppi pass from British to Italian Command?
- (d) What effect on morale will the proposed reduction in the Men's pay have?

As I feel that you may not want to give me the answers to these questions straight away without time to consider them I am sending you this written note by hand of Major FENECH.

I am only so sorry to have to worry you with this.

I enclose at the same time a letter from

Given these orders if necessity arose?

- (b) Any definite political trends amongst the men, and have there been distinct changes in outlook since the end of the war?
- (c) Will the morale and reliability of the Gruppi improve or decline if and when the Gruppi pass from British to Italian Command?
- (d) What effect on morale will the proposed reduction in the men's pay have?

As I feel that you may not want to give me the answers to these questions straight away without time to consider them I am sending you this written note by hand of Major FINECH.

I am only so sorry to have to worry ^{CU} you with this.

I enclose at the same time a letter from Lt Col MORLEY-WITCHER, Provincial Commissioner, BERGAMO Province which has been sent to me ^{by hand from the} ~~for onward transmission~~ to you.

Yours very sincerely,

Jack Conyers

IC: Generale Umberto UTILI,
Il Generale Comandante,
Gruppo di Combattimento 'LEGNANO'.

DO/DMT/17/1/MT.1

FILE

From : Lt Col J. PEDDIE, DSO,
D.M.T. A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Tel : 16872

25 Aug 45

Dear

Douglas

There has been a certain amount of confusion over the postings of officers to the new BLUs due to G-1 (Brit) having an urgent demand to find officers for the Polish Repatriation Camp, which they proceeded to do without consulting us, although we had already asked them not to post officers to or from BLUs without asking us about them.

However, I think our recent letters and signal clarify the position. MS are quite willing to post HOPE-JOHNSTONE as G II Trg and G-1 (Brit) are posting HILL as Trg Major.

HAMILTON called in yesterday afternoon very delighted that he had obtained an appointment with Civil Affairs. This, I suppose, leaves you without a DAA & QMG, but I don't think we should interfere here as our concern is only with the training appointments.

I am relinquishing this appointment in a fortnight's time, but some degree of continuity will be assured by the presence of GREENWOOD, my G II. BUNBURY, of the Dukas, takes over my job.

Yours

Sincerely,

8040

James Peddie.

Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts,
52 British Liaison Unit,
C. M. F.

DE/D/17/11.1

File 100

PERSONAL

From: Brigadier S.H. SIMONDS, DSO, OBE,
D.M.I. A.F.M.S. C.M.F.

Tel: 16950

23rd August 1945

68

My dear Douglas,

Thank you very much for your DC letter dated 21st August. I fully appreciate and understand your feelings, and under the circumstances consider you are absolutely right not to consider the job I suggested.

I was very angry when I heard that Hamilton had been posted. I understand James Poddie has written to you with regard to your staff. If there is anybody you have in mind as a likely D.A. & Q.M. will you let us know his name and we will do our best to get him posted.

I am afraid the question of extra pay for the Training Majors is still under discussion between War Office and AFHQ. It is an infuriating business, but I have great hopes that everything will turn out satisfactorily in the long run. You can assure everybody that we are fighting the matter relentlessly.

Yours ever,

S. H. Simonds

Lt-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS (Levet Scouts),
52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

8039

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

52 British Liaison Unit,
RAF.

22 Aug 47.

D/2/63/67

From: Lieut-Col J. S. H. DAUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit.

Dear General

There has been little of interest during the past fortnight, and this report is rather a short one.

1. Liaison. Liaison statement of units of Logron and 114 Inf Regt Manrova is attached.

2. Operational Role. Remains unchanged. The re-organizing plan, some details of which were given in para 5 of my last letter, is under way though some moves have not yet been possible owing to some difficulties. The frontier between the GAC and the 114 Inf Regt will continue to be the responsibility of 114 Inf Regt, and not of 114 Inf Regt as originally planned.

Lt Col 114 Inf Regt has now relieved Lt Col 68 Inf Regt in MILAN and the latter has been transferred to CUIRINA.

3. Leave.

- (a) The leave situation in the Gruppo is now greatly improved by the raising of restrictions, etc, and they appear to be well satisfied.
- (b) We have received a copy of a report by HQ FASCINE Gruppo to Ministry of War on the subject of the improvement and subsequent disappearance of one of their men - Art GIANNINI BRUCI, of 11 Army Regt, in the MONTI zone. The report is somewhat long and remarkable (copy attached). Any assistance you could give would be greatly appreciated.

4. Notes.

- (a) No improvement in MI areas situation. MIA's are still too lightly loaded and unable to assist with Class II repair work due to this shortage.
- (b) VEN Table.

4 - 10 August.

1st Line. 2nd Line. Total. MAR.

8038

raising of restrictions, etc, and they appear to be well satisfied. We have received a copy of a report by the LUCIANO Group to Ministry of War on the subject of the replacement and subsequent disappearance of one of their men - Art GIANNINI BRIOG, of 11 Army Regt, in the THORNTON zone. The report is somewhat long and remarkable (copy attached). My assistance you could give would be greatly appreciated.

4. REPAIRS.

(A) No improvement in the spaces situation. Units are still too lightly loaded and unable to assist with Class II repair work due to this shortage.

(B) VCR Table.

4 - 10 August.

2038

	1st Line.	2nd Line.	Total.	HR.
Motor cycles	17	78	95	26
Jeeps & Utilities	3	11	14	6
Trucks 15 cwt	15	45	60	3
Trucks 3 ton	25	68	93	7
Carriers	2	28	30	.

11 - 17 August.

Motor cycles	16	61	77	15
Jeeps & Utilities	1	17	18	6
Trucks 15 cwt	10	45	55	3
Trucks 3 ton	13	64	77	2
Carriers	2	29	31	.

Notes re VCR Table.

- (i) HR. PI combined with HR. Wags for 2nd Line figures.
- (ii) Units repaired and waiting collection not included.
- (iii) Units in unit lines awaiting minor repairs not included.

(c) Replacement of HR's 15' Vehicles. The present situation regarding vehicles HR's and not yet replaced is shown in the following table :-

.....2

2.

Motor cycles	-	13
Cars	-	14
Trucks 15 cwt GS	-	24
Trucks 15 cwt Weber	-	3
Trucks 15 cwt Office	-	1
Trucks 3 ton	-	26
Carriers Leyd	-	19
Carriers Universal	-	8
Ambulances Heavy	-	1

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

H.

(Lt Col Douglas absent on duty)

To: Major-General L. BROOKING CB CBE MC,
Land Forces Sub-Comm AC (MFA).

Copy to: (less copy of CLANGHILL report)
Major-General R.P. HARRIS, CBE MC,
Comd 2 District.

8037

2 British Liaison Unit, 66
G.M.F.

23 August 1945.

IL PRIMO AIUTANTE DI CAMPO GENERALE
Generale di Divisione.
(Adolfo Infante).

I feel highly honoured at receiving the
autographed photograph of His Royal Highness
Prince Umberto of Savoy.

I would be very grateful if you would
please convey to His Highness my sincere
thanks and appreciation of his kind gesture.

J.S.H. Douglas

J.S.H. DOUGLAS, LIEUT-COLONEL,
THE SCAPWORTH HIGHLANDERS.

PERSONAL

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DUNGLAS,
The Secretary of the Officers.

52 British Liaison Unit,
RAF.

22 Aug 45.

10/6/63/69

Dear Wally Clark,

Your DO letter of 22 Aug 45 has been handed to me just as I was leaving the office to go on leave, so please forgive a rather hurried answer.

1. I put this up to MIA in 1948 the other day at the 'shortie' conference. They quite agreed that a B.U. as such could no longer exercise any control, but said that its future role would be directly one of trying to help British Training Methods - a somewhat ludicrous task (and I might say impossible) if we have no executive control. I suppose this is the reason for reversing the Tg Increment and taking away the 100s Sigs, RA and RL!

After a struggle I have managed to get even to propose some soldiers to train, and the opposite strength would equal about one km. I have various training areas up in the mountains and also a training school: the trainees in each case are changed over at intervals.

Any excuse is good enough nowadays for the Group to postpone or cancel training, though while actually doing it they are quite keen.

2. We never saw any of those visitors you have mentioned although we are only 40 minutes from Milan.

Philip BERTON, now Major LC MIA has been staying with me for a couple of days - he was of course attached to us for a long time, training and in the line, and with you I believe before that. It was good to see him, and I hope he may come back again in a few days.

I certainly think the District MIA LO's should get around, and get the Group's views.

3. I am holding out very strongly to keep my MIA team. They are the life and soul of the Group, and without them the Group would become immobile. The workshops are quite the best thing in the Group - all in- speeting GUNN's and such like have had to admit that they are on a par with British workshops, and they certainly have an appalling job on hand

after a struggle I have managed to get each in to produce some soldiers to train, and the corporate strength would equal about one Bn. I have various training areas up in the mountains and also a standing school. The trainees in each case are changed over at intervals. My excuse is good enough nowadays for the groups to postpone or cancel training, though while actually doing it they are quite keen.

2. We never see any of those visitors you have mentioned although we are only 40 minutes from Allah.

PHILIP BARNUM, now senior Lt MIA has been staying with us for a couple of days - he was of course attached to us for a long time, training and in the line, and with you I believe before that. It was good to see him, and I hope he may come back again in a few days.

I certainly think the District MIA LO's should get around, and get the Group's views.

3. I am holding out very strongly to keep my Khasi team. They are the life and soul of the Group, and without them the Group would become immobile. The workshops are quite the best thing in the Group - all inspecting GIB's and such like have had to admit that they are on a par with British workshops, and they certainly have an appalling job on hand trying to keep pace with the rate the Group smash up vehicles, etc. They have and are absorbing British methods to a marked degree, both technical and with documentation, - perhaps I am lucky in having two excellent Italian officers in charge - the equivalent to the CME's and the CO for Workshops.

4. I wrote in to MIA last month about the cut in combat pay: quite insignificant.

5. I gather General FROTHINGHAM is pressing hard for a relaxation to the existing orders which forbid the award of British decorations to Italians on the occasion of Italian decorations by British. I am told the Americans played a fast one over this, and haven't missed by their conduct. How that so-called 'peace reigns we may see an answer, or perhaps they are waiting for the reaction to the andalouse teams when they ultimately come out.

I certainly agree that if BJI's are to remain they must have executive control

.....2

2.

I was talking to Brig SMOOSMITH, DMC, a few days ago and he seemed to imply that the whole future rests with training, hence a C1 Training at MEIA.

I doubt whether those in high places realize that all training was organized by the British - as no doubt you discovered if you ever tried to leave it to the Italians they only started to make up their schemes when they arrived out on the ground with the troops.

I am afraid I have not had time to give much thought to these replies, so forgive such an incomplete answer to your letter.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely
Col. Langley.

To: Lieut-Col R. W. WEBB CARTER DSO
51 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

8035

62/64

Lieut Colonel B W Webb Carter
51 British Liaison Unit
C M F

22 AUG 45

PERSONAL

Dear *Douglas*,

In case MMIA actually hold a conference the next time we are all called down to ROME I would like to have your ideas on a few subjects.

1 What is our role from 1st Oct on ? I gather the Gruppi come under Italian comd from that date and I am at a loss as to who I liaise with from that moment. Presumably if a Gruppo is called out in aid of the Civil Power by the local Prefect the Gruppo turns out and fires or doesn't fire as the case may be while the BIU remain as interested spectators in a sea of milling Wops of every political flavour.

I think it is a most invidious position to be with Italian troops but NOT to be in the position of giving or passing on orders.

I think AFHQ, MMIA, the Chiefs of Staff Sub Committee and all the other exotic boards which fail so dismally to run the Italian Army think we are going to supervise trg. Is your Gruppo doing much trg ? Mine is doing very little and takes no interest in it. Actually we are fairly extended on frontier guards, parties to supervise threshing machines, stopping trains to look for Black Marketeers and other purely police functions which the miserable AMG Police are too cowed to attempt.

My view is that when the Gruppi go back to Italian control the BIUs should be withdrawn and replaced possibly by a MMIA IO. Do you agree ?

I have that General BROWNING.

Italian troops but NOT to be in the position of giving or passing on orders.

I think AFHQ, MMIA, the Chiefs of Staff Sub Committee and all the other exotic boards which fall so dismally to run the Italian Army think we are going to supervise trg. Is your Gruppo doing much trg? Mine is doing very little and takes no interest in it. Actually we are fairly extended on frontier guards, parties to supervise threshing machines, stopping trains to look for Black Marketeers and other purely police functions which the miserable AMG Police are too cowed to attempt.

My view is that when the Gruppi go back to Italian control the BIUs should be withdrawn and replaced possibly by a MMIA IO. Do you agree?

2 MMIA visits. At intervals I hear that General BROWNING, INGLEDEN and other MMIA mandarins have been seen in MILAN. They never come near my Gruppo, or my BIU.

There is a superstition that an official called the MMIA IO North Western Italy exists at 2 District Hq. He has shown no sign of life as far as I am concerned.

I think these men should be trotting round us to hear our views and represent our Generale's views to their HQ etc. Do you agree?

3 REME team. My REME team/²⁰³¹has been fading rapidly is utterly Pytho~~n~~-ed next month. Is it going to be replaced? No one knows. Is it worth replacing? My view is that it is too late now to expect a REME team to get any sort of show going with ANY hope of permanent results. I think any results obtained are purely artificial and will disappear as soon as BIUs go. Do you agree?

.../to sheet 2 -

- 2 -

4 Cuts in pay. I hear from my Generale that it is proposed to cut the "Combat Increment" and the Ration Allowance which have been given to troops of the Gruppi. This strikes me as being quite deranged in view of the universal increase in pay to everybody else in Italy. It will knock what little morale there is for six. Do you agree? Of course it may be a deliberate plan on the part of the Italian Govt to give the old Army the coup-de-grace. I wouldn't know.

5 Awards. My Generale is cut to the heart to hear that UTILÈ of LEGNANO has an Order of Merit (USA model) while he has nothing from the Allies. Isn't it time the British did something for the poor old Gruppi who - however incompetent - did make the final offensive possible. Do you agree?

My general point is that as BLUs we must rule or get out and I think it is fatuous to remain as sort of hangers-on of an Italian ~~Army~~ party.

I would be grateful if you could bear to let me know your views on these and other points which you probably have.

Yours

*McCarthy**Brian Wellen*

Field

Lieut Col A R C Southby

and I think it is fathous to remain as sort of hengers-on of an Italian party.

I would be grateful if you could bear to let me know your views on these and other points which you probably have.

Yours *Min Condy*

Brian Webb

Field

- Lieut Col A R C Southby
- 50 B L U
- Lieut Col J S H Douglas
- 52 B L U ✓
- Lieut Col J Taylor MC
- 53 B L U
- Lieut Col A W Gibbon
- 56 B L U

2033

Subject: Sottotenante PELUZZO.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.
23 Aug 45.

G/63/63A

Capt P. NELSON, RME,
52 BLU.

Herewith for your information, copy of reply to your
EME/12A/19 dated 19 July 45.

0033

MSD/NS

RP
Lieut-Col.
GS.

TRANSLATION

Subject: Sottotenante PELUZZO.

HQ LEGGIANO Gruppo
MT Office.
07/3222
20 Aug 45.

To: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS.

In the absence of Col GAROFOLI I am answering on his behalf your DO/G/63/4.7 of 23 July 45, which was forwarded to me from Rome.

I am acquainted with the question of S/Ten PELUZZO, O i/c Workshops Section. He is a war-time officer who has not done very well, essentially because he has been worried about his age and the fact that he has not yet completed his studies, which would assure him of a future in civilian life.

In consideration of this he was sent by this HQ on leave as a university student. In his place was posted an excellent NCO, and a civilian foreman-technician. This solution was only adopted so that the Wkspc would not find itself in difficulties and to ensure that the efficiency of the REME service within the Gruppo was not affected. This is, of course, only a temporary measure, and was done due to the fact that as yet no suitable technician officers have been posted to the Gruppo.

Please accept my kind regards.

Yours,

(signed) Major TERRANOVA.

2031

Sgt. Sottene Peluzzo.

HQ Legnano

MT office 63/63

07/3222

20 Aug '45.

To: Lt Col. Douglas.
- The Local Scouts.
9501 52 BLU

Sir

In the absence of Col. Gasofoli I am answering on his behalf your 20/6/63/475/23 July which was forwarded me from Rome.

I am acquainted with the question of S/ten Peluzzo, O.1c Weapons Section.

He is a 1st year officer who has not done very well, essentially because he has been worried about his age & the fact that he has not yet completed the studies which would enable him to find of a future in civilian life.

In consideration of this this HQ has sent him on leave as a university student.

In his place we posted an excellent NCO & a civilian foreign-technician.

Of course this solution is a makeshift one

This solution was ^{only} adopted so that the officina would not find itself in difficulties - which would also have affected the efficiency of the REME Service within the Gruppo.

Of course this measure is a makeshift one; but it was all this HQ was able to do as it has not yet been possible to obtain have suitable technical officers assigned to the Gruppo.

Please accept my kind regards.

Yrs: G. Terranova. Maj.

3030

mg.

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "IL NANO"
Ufficio Automobilistico

7/22/8

158

N°07/3222 di prot.

P.M.155, li 20 agosto 1945

OGGETTO: Sottotenente PELUZZO.

AL G.S.O. 1 DEL 52 B.L.U. TEN.COL. DOUGLAS
-The Lovat Scouts -C.M.F.

Signor Colonnello,

in assenza del Signor Colonnello Garofoli, rispondo per lui al suo promemoria DO/6/63/47 del 23 luglio u.s. pervenuto-mi da Roma.

Conosco la questione del sottotenente PELUZZO comandante la Sezione Officina.

E' un ufficiale di complemento che ha reso poco, essenzialmente perché preoccupato di essere in avanzata età e di non avere ancora ultimato gli studi onde procacciarsi un avvenire nella vita civile.

Il Comando, in considerazione di ciò, ha inviato in licenza l'ufficiale quale studente universitario.

In sua vece ha posto un ottimo sottufficiale ed un capo - tecnico militarizzato.

Ed è pervenuto a questa soluzione, unicamente perché preoccupato di non mettere in crisi l'Officina e - di conseguenza - il buon andamento del servizio REME del Gruppo di Combattimento.

Certo, l'adottata soluzione è di ripiego; ma è tutto quello che era in potere di fare questo Comando in quanto non è stato ancora possibile ottenere l'assegnazione di ufficiali tecnicamente idonei.

Gradisca, Signor Colonnello, i sensi della mia stima ed ossequio

M. G. Ferrarova

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,

CAF.

21 Aug 45.

DD/G/62

Dear Donald,

Now that the war is over I don't imagine that there is any question of your wanting ex-Lt Col Vickers (14299297) back, and I naturally am very anxious to hold on to him myself. I feel therefore that it would be wise if I were to get him onto the War Establishment of this MU; we are actually in the process of converting to a new reduced WE, but I have a place for him, and if you are willing and would be kind enough to send me a chit to say that you have no objections to his being posted to 52 MU, I can fix it with the appropriate authorities.

Diff unfortunately gets his release in November, and will be a big loss. Being an old 6th Seaforth Territorial he is anxious now to get transferred back to the Regiment (chiefly I think because the 6th are having a reunion party shortly after his return!!): I gather from GHO 156/4 (Reinforcements - Transfer to Parent Regt) that there should be no difficulty in that, but in case I require an 'all clear' from you for that too, perhaps you could send me one at the same time: I think however that it would be better on a separate sheet of paper to Vickers one: incidentally I suppose nothing has yet come through about Duff's Territorial Medal: I have told him to wear it anyway.

Simon Campbell Orde stayed a night with me last week at our villa on Lake Isco: he is still at Padana and in tremendous form and actually I have just this moment been talking to him on the telephone. We are setting off for a 'sven' in Austria together on Friday for about a week (provided my leave is granted!) - it ought to be rather fun and it will be grand to see him again - he gets his release in about three weeks time.

I am terribly sorry to hear from him that the Scouts are being messed about so and deprived of many officers and OFs - how wretched for you all: I wonder what the future holds in store.

Simon showed me your very nice 'Lovat Scout' and '8th Army' shoulder badges: if you have a spare set I would love to have some as a memento.

2 1 8 0

CU28

original Medal; I have told him to wear it anyway.

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Simon showed me your very nice 'Lovat Scout' and '8th Army' shoulder badges: if you have a spare set I would love to have some as a memento.

Regards to all.

Yours ever,

Loch.

CU28

To: OC Lovat Scouts,
CUP.

From : Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts

22 British Liaison Unit

CMF

21 Aug 45

DO/G/53/61

Dear *Peddie,*

I am so sorry I have not answered your letter of 6th Aug., but as I was seeing Brigadier Shoosmith at HQ 2 District a few days later (letters take an age to reach here) I took it that the decisions we arrived at would be passed on to you before you took any action. It seems however that you must have acted before his return, as Hamilton has just been posted away from me.

I have written to Brigadier Shoosmith so he is in the picture about it all, but I have told Hamilton to come and see you en route to CERVINARA to explain the whole situation.

I have only 2 Training Majors now, Hamilton and Hill (Evans has just left on Python) and I am anxious to keep them both as G II (Trg) and Training Major respectively on the new WE.

Very many thanks for giving me the details about the new WE we are already in the process of converting to it.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas

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I have only 2 Training Majors now, Hamilton and Hill (Evans has just left on Python) and I am anxious to keep them both as G II (Trg) and Training Major respectively on the new WE.

Very many thanks for giving me the details about the new WE we are already in the process of converting to it.

W.A. Smith regards.

Yours sincerely

L.M. Taylor

2027

To : Lieut-Col J Peddie DSO
D.M.T.
A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

From:- Lt Col J.S.H. Douglas.
Lovat Scouts

52 British Liaison Unit
CMF.

21 Aug 45

DO/G/63/60

Dear Brigadier.

I am writing in confirmation of my signal to explain my reasons for throwing up your very kind suggestion that I should take on the job of G.I.(Trng) at M.M.I.A.

I have now served overseas continuously for 12 years (i.e. since Dec 1933) with only 18 months break in U.K., and I feel therefore perhaps justified in not wanting to start off on a new appointment in this theatre.

I am essentially a regimental soldier but having attended the Staff School, I appreciate that I am committed to serve a certain amount on the Staff: I have however served a fairly good sentence, and am hoping that before long I may get a reprieve to regimental soldiering; on the other hand I feel that my present job is the nearest thing to it as one does at least have contact with the soldiers even though they are of another nationality. After due consideration therefore, I feel that I would sooner stay where I am, though I appreciate very much your kind offer.

I have today received posting orders for Major H.W. Hamilton (165598) The Buffs, to report forthwith to "A" British Cadre to a Polish Repatriation Camp forming at B.R.D. Cervinara: as the instructions say that he is to report not later than 23rd I have no alternative but to despatch him forthwith: I can't

fairly good sentence, and am hoping that before long I may get a reprieve to regimental soldiering; on the other hand I feel that my present job is the nearest thing to it as one does at least have contact with the soldiers even though they are of another nationality. After due consideration therefore, I feel that I would sooner stay where I am, though I appreciate very much your kind offer.

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It may be that Peddie has acted on the suggestion in his D.O. letter of 6th August, but I am afraid I took it that these would be counteracted when you got back. Hamilton has been acting as G.II (Trg) since Hope-Johnstone went home to U.K. on 7th May 45 on Compassionate Posting: he has asked me whether he is entitled to any extra pay during this period, but I have told him that he will have to refer this to D.M.T. as up till 4 Aug the 'C' Trng Increment were not on my W.E.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



To:- Brigadier S.N. SHOOSMITH, DSO, OBE.
Directorate of Military Training,
AFHQ. CMF.

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

ARMY FORM C2136 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 63/50

Call	Sel. No.	Priority

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	Originator 52 DIV For Action	Date, Time of Origin 161150 Z
TO	DEST AFHQ (W) For Information (INFD)	Message Instructions

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(CV 495) Wt. 1000 367 990,000 P-14, P-14, B. & S. LAL-42344

Originator's No.

68/63 (.) Unclassified (.) For Brig SMOBETH from Lt Col DOUGLAS (.)
Magg thanks for offer of appointment (.) After due consideration have
decided would prefer to remain with present unit (.) Letter follows

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

L. H. Taylor, Lt. Col.

SIGNED

SIGNED

CLASS	SYSTEM
23	
FOR	
Time cleared	

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.I.F.

14 Aug 45.

DO/G/63/58.

Dear Clad.

There will shortly be a vacancy for a DAMSONG on the staff of 52 BUJ as my present DAMSONG, 40667 Major H.D.LESLIE, RA, is due to leave Italy for release early in September. I understand that the future War Establishment for a British Liaison Unit to a Combat Group (CI/508/2) still includes a DAMSONG. I consider it very important at this juncture and in view of what the future holds in store for Gruppi, that someone with previous experience with this Group should be appointed; and I would like to recommend 66102 Major H.I.M.HOPE JOHNSTONE, The Royal Fusiliers, whom I consider to be the ideal man for the job.

He used to be my GII(Trg) in this Gruppo (LIGNANO) until he was posted to UK on compassionate grounds on 7th May of this year. He is now most anxious to come abroad again, so I have written to MS Branch at the War Office to ask if they can arrange it. I have just heard from him again and I gather that they are in full agreement provided that AFHQ(MS) concur, and I gather that they have wired to you to that effect.

I would like to get him here by the end of this month to take over from LESLIE: he was a tremendous success with the Italians who liked him very much, and in consequence he taught them a lot, and I know that they and I would be more than happy to have him back while he himself is anxious to return, which is more than half the battle: he is a regular soldier so the question of release does not crop up.

for the job.

He used to be my GII (Trg) in this Gruppo (LIBENARO) until he was posted to UK on compassionate grounds on 7th May of this year. He is now most anxious to come abroad again, so I have written to NS Branch at the War Office to ask if they can arrange it. I have just heard from him again and I gather that they are in full agreement provided that AFHQ (MS) concur, and I gather that they have wired to you to that effect.

I would like to get him here by the end of this month to take over from LEXLIE; he was a tremendous success with the Italians -oo liked him very much, and in consequence he taught them a lot, and I know that they and I would be more than happy to have him back while he himself is anxious to return, which is more than half the battle; he is a regular soldier so the question of release does not crop up.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Clayton

CUZ!

To: Colonel G.H. HUNT, OBE,
NS Branch, AFHQ, CEF.

Subject: D.O. Letters.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

13 Aug 45.

C/63/57

Land Forces Sub-Comm AC
(MMIA), CMF.

Ref your signal DO/2 of 6 Aug 45.

1. Gen BROWNING's letter DO/2 dated 31 July 45 has not been received at this HQ.
2. Please forward a copy.

TPL/NS

dl
Lieut-Col.
GS.

8023

52 BLU

56

G/60

MESSAGE FORM.

DATE/TIME : 06 1300B

FROM : H M I A

TO : A F H Q

REF: DO/2.

AK

UNCLASSIFIED (:) FOR CHIEF OF STAFF AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (:)
REFERENCE GENERAL BROWNING'S LETTER DO/2 DATED 31 JULY (:) IN PARA 23(b)
iii FOR "LIGHTENING" READ "TIGHTENING"

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

AUTHENTICATED

S. M. T. [Signature]
It-Col.

INTERNAL :- ALL B.L.U. COMMANDERS.
ALL IMIA LIAISON OFFICERS
CHIEF OF STAFF, IMIA
G
A
Q

Sir
Do you want to write for a copy.

1. I have now received the letter *EU22*
2. Can I see a copy of the letter to General Browning?

See 55
See 120
AK

45

[Handwritten signature]

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DEVLIN,
52 British Machine Unit,

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

52 British Machine Unit,
OP,
7 AUG 45.

DO/O/63/52

Dear General

Herewith a further report on the activities of the LEGION Group during the last fortnight.

1. Locations.

(a) The following move has taken place :-

103 Tech Unit Section, from BURMIA 10560 to CHANDIE K+18+, for work under 14 L of C Signals.

Otherwise, no changes in locations.

(b) The following locations, omitted from previous location statements, are notified :-

- LEPHARO ME WHIP PL - QALAYAGGIO 16065
- 1 LAD - BECCANO 16338
- 2 LAD - SORRETO 16140
- 3 LAD - CAHO 14806
- 4 LAD - INTEGRO 16338
- 5 LAD - PAVIA 12022
- 6 LAD - BECCANO 16338

2. Guards on Duty.

- (a) Dump guards at PAVIA 1193A and VIGNANO 39943 supplied by 51 Regt RA, were taken over by 503 Italian Guard RA on 6 Aug 45.
- (b) 118 Med Regt RA relieved the guard found by 11 Army Regt on dump at ALBER CASINELLO 335610 on 1 Aug 45.

[Handwritten notes]

Otherwise, no changes in locations.

(b) The following locations, omitted from previous location statements, are notified :-

LEGNANO NE WEG 121 - CARAVAGGIO K6065
 1 LAD - LEGNANO K6395
 2 LAD - VERGATE K6160
 3 LAD - CILLO K4326
 4 LAD - LEGNANO K6383
 5 LAD - PAVIA K2053
 6 LAD - BRUGNO K6328

2. Guards on Line.

- (a) Day guards at PAVIA K193A and VIGNANO 3999 supplied by 51 Engr Bn, were taken over by 503 Italian Guard Bn on 6 Aug 45.
- (b) 118 Med Regt RA relieved the guard found by IV Div 11 Arty Regt on camp at ALBER CASTELLO 3355610 on 1 Aug 45.
- (c) 114 Inf Regt MANTOVA Gruppo relieved I and II Regts 11 Arty Div of guards on camp at FROSINANO and IRO (K050810, K030810, K160692 and K135700), and ANNA LOREANA 3800907 waf 23 July 45.
- (d) At 1700 hrs 5 Aug 45, approx 300 German shells exploded in camp at UNGHERO K6677. Cause unknown. No damage to persons or materials.

3. Command.

~~Command~~ MANTOVA Gruppo came under op cmd of LEGNANO Gruppo waf 1800 hrs 21 July 45.

4. Operational Role.

Remains unchanged, namely guarding and patrolling of Italo-German frontier, guarding of camps of captured enemy material, and internal security duties.

.....2

2.

5. Plan for re-organizing of units.

Consequent on 114 Inf Regt MARINIA Gruppo coming under control of LOMBARD Gruppo, the arrival of 503 Italian Guard Bn in PAVIA Province to take over LOMBARD commitments there, and the 59 Area order that units available for internal security duties are located in MILAN, BERGAMO, MONZA and GORIZIA, GOC LOMBARD Gruppo has submitted to 59 Area a plan for re-organizing of units, details of which are as follows :-

(a) Province zone - between SERAVIO Pass and Lake MACHIGNONE. Responsibility of 69 Inf Regt - from EAST to WEST, "L'Aquila Inf" "Piccinato" Bn, "Galea" Bn. "L'Aquila" and "Piccinato" Bns not affected. "Galea" Bn to extend westwards and take over frontier. Commitments between Lake CERIO and Lake MACHIGNONE at present held by 114 Inf Regt.

(b) Remainder of LOMBARD Sector - to be sub-divided from EAST to WEST into 3 sub-sectors as under :-

(i) Eastern Sub-sector - present sector of 114 Inf Regt and to include MILAN. Responsibility of 114 Inf Regt.

(are Bn of 114 Inf Regt to relieve II Bn 68 Inf Regt in MILAN.

(ii) Central Sub-sector - Provinces of BERGAMO and CREMONA.

Responsibility of 68 Inf Regt.

I and III Bns of 68 Inf Regt not affected. On relief in MILAN, II Bn to be transferred to GORIZIA.

(iii) Western Sub-sector - Province of MONZA. Responsibility of 11 Army Regt.

Regt III and I, II (when relieved of duties at Refugee Inward Centre at TURIEN by GORIZIA Gruppo); III and IV Bns to be transferred to MONZA and district.

(c) 54 Bn to be freed from duty guard duties to allow it to carry out maintenance work on all Bailey and improvised bridges on ATIQ routes in LOMBARDIA and in Provinces of PAVIA and BERGAMO (as ordered by CE HQ 2 District).

It to be redeployed as under :-

One Bn of 114 Inf Regt to relieve II Bn 68 Inf Regt in MILAN.

(11) Central sub-sector - Provinces of BERGAMO and CREMONA. Responsibility of 68 Inf Regt. On relief in MILAN, II Bn to be transferred to CREMONA.

(12) Eastern sub-sector - Province of BRESCIA. Responsibility of 11 Arty Regt. Regt III and I, II (then relieved of duties at Refugee Transit Centro at TRENTO by GERONA Gruppo); III and IV Bns to be transferred to BRESCIA and district.

(c) 54 Regt III to be freed from camp guard duties to allow it to carry out maintenance work on all Bailey and improvised bridges on ARNO routes in LOMBARDIA and in Provinces of PAVIA and FIABRIZIA (as ordered by CE HQ 2 District).
It to be redeployed as under :-

- 11 III - BERGAMO
- 3 Field Coy - BERGAMO
- 54 Field Coy - PAVIA
- 3 Field Park Coy - BERGAMO.

2029

This plan has been approved by HQ 59 Area, and will be put into effect as soon as accommodation at BERGAMO, BRESCIA and CREMONA is arranged.

6. Training.

The attached Appendix 'A', which is the Training Programme for the Rifle Coys of "Vincenzo" Alpi. HQ for period 1-14 Aug 45, is an example of the training now being carried out by units of 69 Inf Regt.

7. II Administration.

The drive on III discipline and unit maintenance is now proceeding satisfactorily. To assist HQ with this work, I have arranged that one of my Maltese Liaison Officers (Major) acts as an inspecting HQ and tours units to give assistance and instruction in unit maintenance.

.....3

3.

6. NUT.

Repair work is still seriously impeded by lack of ME spares.
 ME Tables as at 3 Aug 45 is as follows:-

<u>Equipment.</u>	<u>1st Line</u>	<u>2nd Line</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>BR</u>
Motor-cycles	21	60	81	26
Jeeps & Utilities	3	11	14	6
Trucks 15 out	13	49	62	8
Landies 3-ton	15	69	84	7
Cannons	2	27	29	-
Recovery Vets	-	1	1	-

9. MISCELLANEOUS.

- (a) On 5 Aug 45 there was trouble in MURRILL CANTONMENT (700709) between civilians and the local Carabinieri. In the encounter 4 Carabinieri and 1 civilian were killed. One ally and 20 men of 68 Inf Regt were sent to help the Carabinieri in securing the surrounding area, but with negative results.
- (b) Personnel of MARNOVA Gruppo took over GARDIA from LIGNANI Gruppo at the Centro Alloggio di GUYA on 3 Aug 45.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely

Albusch

(told Dwyer about on duty)

searching the surrounding area, but with negative results.

(b) Personnel of MATROVA Grupo took over duties from MATROVA Grupo at the Centro Alloggio at GEMA on 3 Aug 45.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely

Hutchcock

(LTC Douglas about on duty)

To: Maj-Gen J. B. BOWLING CG USAF MC
Land Forces Sub-Com AC (MFA).

Copy to:

Maj-Gen E. F. HAYES CG USAF MC
Comd 2 Dist.

8019

"PIEMONTE" AREA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DEPART FROM</u>	<u>AREA OF OPERATIONS</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
1 Aug 45.	1 Coy	S MARTINO	FREDAROSSA - ANTERO → SONERIO.	13 hrs	Tr
"	2 Coy	MADESIMO	VAL ODERA - CHIAVERIA - ANTERO.	14 hrs	
"	3 Coy	CHIESA	SONERIO - CHIAVERIA	4 hrs	Tr
2 Aug	All Coys	----- Organization in the new areas -----			
3 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	R PALERIO	8 hrs	PE
"	2 Coy	S MARTINO	CAPANIA - V SOCCO	9 hrs	Re
"	3 Coy	MADESIMO	PIZZO D'ARBE	10 hrs	Co
4 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	ALFA MULLA	8 hrs	Tr
"	2 Coy	S MARTINO	VAL PUGNOLLEZO	4 hrs	Re
"	3 Coy	MADESIMO	LAGO AZZURRO - COLTIBERA	5 hrs	Co
5 Aug	All Coys	----- Rest in area -----			
6 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	CHIESA area	8 hrs	Co
"	2 Coy	CAP BADELLE	PIZZO BADELLE	10 hrs	A
"	3 Coys EUTB	MADESIMO	PASSO STELLA	9 hrs	Re

ANNEX 'A'"PILGRIM" ALPINE BTL

<u>AREA OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT OF EXERCISES.</u>	<u>ARRIVE AT.</u>
AREA - ARONDO + BOVERIO.	13 hrs	Transfer, and patrols in mountains en route.	CHIESA
AREA - CHIAVISTIA - ASSUNTO.	14 hrs	- do -	S MARTINO
- CHIAVISTIA	4 hrs	Transfer	MADONNA
<hr/>			
Organisation in the new areas			
	8 hrs	Pl attack on a peak.	CHIESA
- V SOCCO	9 hrs	Recon patrols	S MARTINO
AREA	10 hrs	Occupation and def of a strong pt.	MADONNA
AREA	8 hrs	Tactical march in high area.	CHIESA
AREA	4 hrs	Recon patrols	CAP BIANCO
AREA - COSSERIA	5 hrs	Org of an isolated strong pt.	MADONNA
<hr/>			
Rest in area			
AREA	8 hrs	Org of an isolated strong pt.	CHIESA
AREA	10 hrs	Alpine training march	S MARTINO
AREA	9 hrs	Pl in rearward action.	MADONNA

2.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>DEPART FROM</u>	<u>AREA OF EXERCISES</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
7 Aug	1 Coy	CHIESA	SOFERIO - CHILAVENNA	4 hrs
"	2 Coy	S MARTINO	PIESANONSA - ABBONDIO - SOFERIO	13 hrs
"	3 Coy	MAJESINO	VAL CORRA - CHILAVENNA - ABBONDIO	10 hrs
8 Aug	All Coys	----- Organisation in the new areas -----		
9 Aug	All Coys	----- Rest in area -----		
10 Aug	1 Coy	MAJESINO	PISSO D'HERY	10 hrs
"	2 Coy	CHIESA	ALPE MURGLA	8 hrs
"	3 Coy	S MARTINO	VAL POMEROLLO	4 hrs
11 Aug	1 Coy	MAJESINO	LAGO NYEO	6 hrs
"	2 Coy	CHIESA	CHIESA area	10 hrs
"	3 Coy	CAP BARDILE	PISSO BARDILE	10 hrs
12 Aug	All Coys	----- Rest in area -----		
13 Aug 45	1 Coy	MAJESINO	PASSO STELLA	6 hrs
"	2 Coy	CHIESA	ALPE PELLARIA	7 hrs
"	3 Coy	S MARTINO	TRENTATA VAL DEL PRINCO	6 hrs

2017

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APPENDIX 'A' (Contd)

<u>OF EXECUTION.</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>TYPE & OBJECT OF EXERCISE</u>	<u>ARRIVE AT</u>
CHIAPARRA	4 hrs	Transfer	MADRID
AMERINO - BORDO	13 hrs	Transfer, and patrols in high mountains en route.	CHUSA
CHIAPARRA - AMERINO.	10 hrs	- do -	S MARTIN
in the new areas -----			
in area -----			
CHIAPARRA	10 hrs	Alpine training march	MADRID
CHIAPARRA	8 hrs	- do -	CHUSA
CHIAPARRA	4 hrs	Recon patrols	CAP BARRIL
	6 hrs	Op in the attack.	MADRID
	10 hrs	Alpine training	CHUSA
	10 hrs	- do -	S MARTIN
in area -----			
CHIAPARRA	6 hrs	Recon patrols	MADRID
CHIAPARRA	7 hrs	Op in the attack	CHUSA
VAL DEL FERRO	6 hrs	- do -	S MARTIN

.....3

3.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>UNIT.</u>	<u>DEPART FROM</u>	<u>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
14 Aug	1 Coy	MADRIDINO	CELAVITELA - ABERNED	4 hrs
"	2 Coy	CHILSA	SORDRIO - CELAVITELA	4 hrs
"	3 Coy	S MARTINE	ABERNED - SORDRIO	3 hrs

2016

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APPENDIX 'A' (Contd)

<u>AREA OF EXERCISE.</u>	<u>DURATION.</u>	<u>TYPE & CONTENT OF EXERCISE.</u>	<u>ARRIVE AT</u>
AFRICA - ALGERIA	4 hrs	} Return to original areas.	S MASTED
AFRICA - CHAD	4 hrs		MAUSIDRO
AFRICA - SOMALIA	3 hrs		CHILSA

From: Lieut-Col J. S. I. DUNGLAS,
1st Lt Col Scouts.

52 British Indian Unit's,

CIP.

4 Aug 45.

9/63/23

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear *Peddie,*

Many thanks for your SO letter of 26 July 45.

I only have three Training Majors left now with this Unit:
 they are 1-

MAJOR H. W. JAMILLON
 MAJOR M. C. A. T. HILL
 MAJOR R. P. WAIN

Ruffs

Commandos

Worcester Regt.

Prison

Of these, WAIN is due for release in the new future, which will leave me with only HILL and HILL. Both these officers are excellent at their job as training majors, but neither would make a CII training, nor have they got the necessary qualifications. It seems therefore, that I shall require a CII Trg; I should very much like to avail HILL and HILL as my training majors in that priority.

My CII Trg used to be Ian Hope THURGOOD, R. Buffs, until he went home on compassionate grounds: I believe he is keen to get back to UNIT and I have written to a friend of mine in high quarters in HQ Staff at the War Office, to try and arrange to get him sent out here on my behalf - a forlorn hope I am afraid, but if you don't ask you don't get! If I do succeed in getting him out here he would make me a far better CII Trg than HILL: I will keep you informed as to developments. I have no further details to add to my previous reports on the Training Majors - they have all done a very good job.

Yours sincerely,

8015

Or these, I would be one for ~~return~~ in the near future, which will leave me with only HULLMAN and HILL. Both these officers are excellent at their job as training majors, but neither would make a GIL training, nor have they got the necessary qualifications. It seems therefore, that I shall require a GIL TRF. I should very much like to include HILL and HULLMAN as my training majors in that priority.

My GIL TRF used to be Les Hope WASHINGTON, a cadet, until he went home on compassionate grounds. I believe he is keen to get back to TRF and I have written to a friend of mine in high quarters in the Branch at the War Office, to try and arrange to get him sent out here on my behalf - a forlorn hope I am afraid, but if you don't call you don't get! If I do succeed in getting him out here he would make me a far better GIL TRF than HULLMAN. I will keep you informed as to developments. I have no further details to add to my previous reports on the Training Majors - they have all done a very good job.

8015

Yours sincerely,


For: Lieut-Col J. WASHINGTON TRF
 HQ AFHQ, CEF.

CONFIDENTIAL

From Lt Col J. PENNELL, DSO,
D.M.S. A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Tel : 16372

28th July 1945

Dear *Doyles*

As you probably know the question of the immediate future shape and size of the BLU is under discussion at the moment. It is likely that a proposal will be made that the BLU goes onto the new War Establishment but has incorporated into it a proportion of the present training increment. The R.E.M.E. increment is likely to be kept either as an integral part of the BLU or in approximately its present form.

As regards the trg proportion of the BLU it is hoped that this will consist of a G II Trg and two Trg Majors, but this is by no means certain. If a G II Trg is approved, the G III on the new W.E. is likely to be cancelled. On the other hand the proposal may take the form of a recommendation that the G III remains and two Trg Majors only are added to the new W.E.

I should like to know, therefore, so as to be fore-armed, your confidential recommendations from the officers at present with your BLU or Trg Increment for the following appointments :-

1. G II Trg (Preferably staff trained and not necessarily either your present G II or G II Trg Increment).
2. Trg Majors - 2 (In order of priority).

Will you please also say whether you would be willing to recommend the officer recommended as G II Trg, alternatively as a Trg Major, if the G II Trg appointment is not approved?

In this connection, I am afraid we have not yet been able to get an answer from the War Office authorising instructors pay at the rate of 5/- a day for Trg Majors to date. The proposal for the addition of two Trg Majors will be put up on the condition that they receive instructors pay, but I am unable to say definitely that this will be granted, either in the

I should like to know, therefore, so as to be fore-armed, your confidential recommendations from the officers at present with your EIU or Trg Increment for the following appointments :-

1. G II Trg (Preferably staff trained and not necessarily either your present G II or G II Trg Increment).
2. Trg Majors - 2 (In order of priority).

Will you please also say whether you would be willing to recommend the officer recommended as G II Trg, alternatively as a Trg Major, if the G II Trg appointment is not approved?

In this connection, I am afraid we have not yet been able to get an answer from the War Office authorising instructors pay at the rate of 5/- a day for Trg Majors to date. The proposal for the addition of two Trg Majors will be put up on the condition that they receive instructors pay, but it is impossible to say definitely that this will be granted, either in the future or retrospectively.

As this whole matter is at present being dealt with on a high level and has not reached the stage of firm proposals, will you please treat it as confidential.

Any further information you may be able to furnish about choices of Trg Majors for future employment, other than we have got already or suggestions as to suitability for certain jobs, will be gratefully received.

Yours sincerely,

James Ritchie

Lt Col J. S. F. DOUGLAS,
199 52 EIU,
D.S.O.

347

52 Protocol Liaison Unit,
CIR.
2. 10/15/45
2. 10/15/45

Subject: Patients - (MILITARY) (Continued)

SEC. LINDANO CASES.

Reference to letters 4/62/36 dated 4 July 45 and 6/62/30 dated 13 July 45. I forwarded you letter 4/62/36 & further letter 20th Mail, No 2 District.

Everything possible has now been done to obtain publicity for these unwarmed patients, but so far as now as any ruling as well data from the attached letters, I very much regret that there is nothing further that I can do to help in this direction. It is very disappointing that I am sorry that my contacts have not proved more successful.

Wm. S. Taylor
10/15/45
(10)

10/15/45

Copy to: Col. G. S. ...
Major ...

10/15

Collected 10/15/45

W.H. Boylston
13301-100
100

Copy to: Col. Donald D. Smith
Major FURNESS, 52 Hqs.
Major STEVENSON, 52 Hqs.

2001

Colonel D. D. Smith
HQ HQ 2 Division
CUIJ

26 July 40.

Dear Douglas,

Re: your letter 6/27/40 dated 4 July. As I promised, I put your case for an immediate relief for Scout troops operating at a high altitude to be met and it duly went to file. I am sorry to say that by signal dated 25 July the explanation was turned down by HQ on medical grounds that provided the troops are suitably clothed the additional problems are not involved.

I am afraid there is no more that I can do.

Yours

(signed) W. H. BOYLSTON (Colonel)

Lt-Col G. H. H. Douglas,
Lead Scouts,
52 Hqs, CUIJ.

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovet Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.P.F.
2 Aug 45.

G/63/51

Dear *Colonel*,

I have received your IO letter of 28 July 45 and fully appreciate that you have done everything possible for us: I know it was a forlorn hope, but felt it was worth putting up on the principle of 'if you don't ask you don't get'!

Very many thanks indeed for all the trouble you have taken, and I know that the Gruppo are very appreciative of your efforts on their behalf.

Many thanks for bearing in mind the question of a suitable replacement for Pinfold, my D.M.S.T.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas

To: Colonel H.B. FINCH MC
R.D.S.T., HQ 2 District,
C.P.F.

8012

50 A

Colonel H.B. Finch, M.C.,

D.D.S.T.,

H.Q. No 2 District,

C.M.F.

28th July 45.

Dear

Douglas

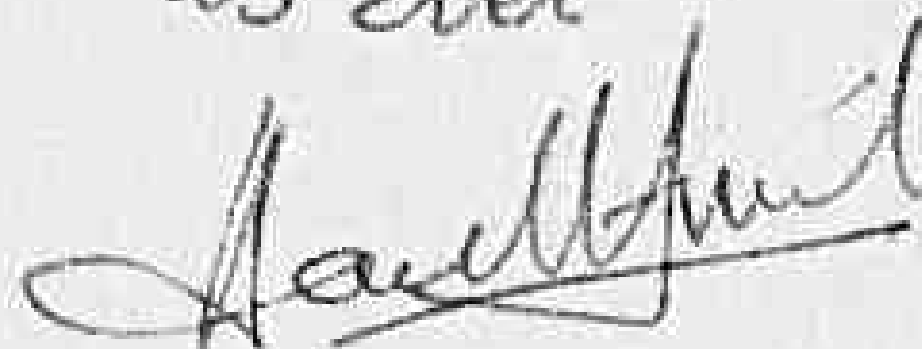
Ref your letter Q/65/56 dated 4 July. As I promised, I put your case for an increased ration for Italian troops operating at a high altitude to 'Q' here and it duly went to AMHQ. I am sorry to say that by signal dated 25 Jul the application was turned down by AMHQ on medical opinion that provided the troops are suitably clothed the additional rations are not required.

I am afraid there is no more that I can do.

OR II [We shall see that you get a good RASC Officer replacement when the time comes.]

Yours

as ever



Lt. Col. J.S.M. Douglas,
Levat Scouts,
52 B.L.U.,
C.M.F.

CU11

50

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Levat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.I.F.
28 July 45.

G/53/50

Dear Clond,

I have received a letter of which a copy is attached herewith from ADAMS, EIGHTH ARMY, in reply to my letter G/63/45 dated 18 July, in connection with the whereabouts of the family of Lt Lodovico LUPPIS.

I hope therefore, that some information may soon be forthcoming.

Yours *very sincerely,*
Bob Taylor.

To: Colonel BRUNELLI,
Command 11 Artillery Regt.
LEGHANO Gruppo.

COPY

Subject: Welfare.

Rear HQ EIGHTH ARMY C.I.F.
R 5582 WEL Tel Ext 204.
28 July 45.

back copy for

To: Colonel BRUNELLI,
Comd 11 Artillery Regt.
LEGGIANO Gruppo.

COPY

Subject: Welfare.

Rear HQ EIGHTH ARMY CCF.
R 5582 WFL Tel Ext 204.
24 July 45.

DADAW'S 13 Corps

52 British Liaison Unit
for Col J.S.K. DOUGLAS.

1. The attached enquiry in respect of the mother of :- **QUINN**
Lt Lodovico MERRIS, 11 Arty Regt, LEGGIANO Gruppo - is forwarded
to you for action as is possible.

2. It is suggested that it may be possible to obtain the necessary
information through International Red Cross Organisation in your area.

(Signed)

??

Lieutenant Colonel,
ADAMS EIGHTH ARMY

Subject:- Welfare

53/49
Rear Hq EIGHTH ARMY, COMF.
R 5582 WEL Tel Ext 204.

24 Jul 45.

DADAW 13 Corps.

52 British Liaison Unit, COMF. ✓
for Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS.

REF
63/45

1. The attached enquiry in respect of the mother of:-

Lt. Lodovico LIPPIS 11 Arty Regt, LEGNANO GRUPPO - is forwarded to you for action as is possible.

2. It is suggested that it may be possible to obtain the necessary information through International Red Cross Organisation in your Area.

Field,
JA/MJ.

James Adams
Lieutenant Colonel
ADAMS EIGHTH ARMY.

let 45

PERSONAL

Subject:- Maintenance of Vehicles.

SC REWE
52 British Liaison Unit
OME
Ref No:- EME/45/71.

GSO 1
52 FLU

Date:- 19 July 45.

1. Attached copy of HQ Legnano letter OL/119/RIS.PERS dated 11 July 45 to CC Special Inf Regt is forwarded for your information.

8008

M. Nelson SC REWE

SUBJECT :- Maintenance of Vehicles

6861 *performed*

THE LIAISON GROUP,
Personnel & Records,
C4/119/RS.7743
14 Jul 45.

1/50

TO CC "Specialist" Inf Regt

Re: your letter 1109/Auto, I don't agree.

I repeat and stress that the efficiency of transport (whether Pack - light animals or vehicles) is the direct responsibility of the Unit Commander.

The com, of course, make allowances for certain error in estimation, that they might make due to their lack of experience, but their ignorance could never justify a complete lack of interest.

The maintenance of vehicles is an indispensable duty, the execution of which need not necessarily be performed by a technician, the same as it does not take a Veterinary Surgeon or a Shoeing-Smith, but simply a conscientious CO to make sure that horses are well kept or re-shod.

This maintenance or control may be carried out well or badly and the CO may temporarily not be a good judge of it; for their very reason the cooperation of technical agents is forecast, but it is always the CO's duty, to insist on their maintenance and not to rest until they have carried out their part.

There is a very neat method of devising maintenance into daily tasks. The CO is to see that these are carried out, that conditions, liable to facilitate their execution are always engendered in order to ensure that they are carried out efficiently, he is to request the assistance of the Specialist Officer of the RI, and finally the CO is to ensure that the entire organization in question is working as correctly in every other way.

Maybe so far there was misunderstanding let con us; but as the least doubt in the matter must disappear.

In this hope, I once more want to be lenient and conclude :

- for the CC Im: severe reprimand

- to each of the Es Os C Coy: 10 days' punishment with the full wing notification.

"As CC Coy, under the pretext of lack of technical competence, he completely failed to take any interest in the maintenance of the vans in his charge, with serious consequences to the efficiency of one of these vans".

I confirm the punishment awarded to the 2 officers in Inf Regt, attached following information to the motivation. As officer in the Regt he neglected the maintenance of the vans, thus rendering himself co-responsible of the fact, that one of the Inf vans on entering 8/3 for repairs was found to be in a very bad condition.

There is a very neat pamphlet devoting maintenance into daily tasks. The CO is to see that these are carried out, that conditions, liable to facilitate their execution are always engendered in order to ensure that they are carried out efficiently. He is to request the assistance of the Principal Officer of the BN, and finally the BN is to ensure that the entire organization in question is working as correctly in very other way.

Maybe so far there was misunderstandings but can be; but no the least doubt in the matter must disappear.

In this hope, I once more want to be lenient and conclude :

- for the CO BN: severe reprimand

- to each of the 2s Gs C Coy: 10 days punishment with the full wing notification: The CO Coy, under the pretext of lack of technical competence, he completely failed to take any interest in the maintenance of the vans on his charge, with serious consequences to the efficiency of one of these vans.

I confirm the punishment awarded to the 2 Gs 1/6 BN Coy, with the following alteration to the motivation: "The 2 Gs 1/6 BN Coy is negligent in the maintenance, thus rendering himself co-responsible of the fact, that one of the 2a vans on entering, W/S for repairs was found to be in a very bad condition.

I further depose that the driving licences are to be withdrawn from the drivers of the vans concerned and I confirm their proposed punishment with the following alteration to the citation "As a 1st 1/6 vehicle is completely neglected its maintenance which has led to serious consequences, thus showing a lack of responsibility incompatible with his employment as a driver".

I am writing for the names of the 2s Gs C Coy who were awarded punishments.

GMC General M.F.F.

FROM: Lt Col J.S.H. DORRIS,
The Lovat Scouts

Doris J. Dorris

47

52 British Liaison Unit,
CICP
DO/G/63/47,
25 Jul 45.

Dear Colonel,

I have received a letter of which the attached is a copy from Capt
NEESON, Staff Captain BENE.

The contents are self-explanatory: I do not myself know anything
about TOM BENE nor have I discussed the question with Capt BURGESS.

I am sending this to you in advance so that we can discuss the
letter when I next come across to see you.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

J.S.H. Dorris

Colonel GARDNER,

10 LEGGIAMO Gruppo di Combattimento.

3006

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Italian MS Wksp Personnel.

SC REME
52 British Liaison Unit
CMF
Ref No:- EME/12A/19.

Date:- 19 July 45.

GSO 1
52 BLU

Ten. PELUZZO - Officer i/c M.P. Shop, ME Workshops.

1. The above officer is most unsatisfactory and in his present position is a considerable hindrance to the smooth and efficient working of the ME Wksp.
2. Apparently he has considerable domestic troubles and is also worried over the difficulties of continuing with his University Education and is anxious to leave the Italian Army as soon as possible.
3. It is felt that it is undesirable for this Officer to remain on the ME Wksp Staff and it is considered that every possible action should be taken to have him posted. (for your information, Capt Borromeo, CG ME Wksp is of a similar opinion).
4. We would appreciate any assistance you could give us in this matter.

P. H. Nelson SC REME

TOP SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

From: Lt-Col J. J. DUNN,
52 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit,

CAF

21 Jul 45DS/O/63/46

Dear General,

Herewith a further report on the activities of the LIGNANO Gruppo during the last fortnight.

1. Locations

Location statement of Units as at 15 Jul 45 is attached at appx 'A'.

2. Command

(a) V.e.f. midnight 15/16 Jul 45 LIGNANO Gruppo ceased to be under Op Card of IV U.S. Corps and came under comd of HQ 59 Area (LOMBARDIA less MAREGNA province). It is naturally somewhat embarrassing for General WILLI, a Corps Commander with the OH, when fighting for the Allies with the 8 Army on the Adriatic, to find himself now under the orders of a Brigadier. Up till now the Gruppo has always been under Corps or Army direct, except for a week or so under Command of 21 Div when they first went into the line. He is, however, very loyal, and so long as the situation is tactfully handled he will not, I am sure, take umbrage, but I do know that he is very conscious of the situation.

(b) 114 Inf Regt MAREGNA Gruppo will assume responsibility for the MAREGNA - DEMO Sector, in relief of 11 Arm Div of 6 S.A. Arm Div. This relief to be completed by 19000 H Jul 45, from which time 114 Inf Regt comes under Op and Adm comd of LIGNANO Gruppo.

3. Operational Note

Security maintained, mainly guarding and patrolling of Italo-veco frontier

of IV U.S. Corps and came under command of HQ 39 Area (ROMANIA less PAVLOVA province). It is naturally somewhat embarrassing for General TRILLI, a Corps Commander with the GU, when fighting for the Allies with the 6 Army on the Adriatic, to find himself now under the orders of a Brigadier. Up till now the Gruppo has always been under Corps or Army direct, except for a week or so under Command of 34 Div when they first went into the line. He is, however, very loyal, and so long as the situation is tactically handled he will not, I am sure, take offence, but I do know that he is very conscious of the situation.

- (b) 114. Inf Regt MAREVA Gruppo will assume responsibility for the PAVLOVA - GUMO sector, in relief of 11 Armal Div of 6 U.S. Army Div. This relief to be completed by 171200 Z Jul 45, from which time 114. Inf Regt comes under op and ad. comd of LIGURIO Gruppo.

3. Operational Role

Remains unchanged, newly guarding and patrolling of Italo-ovian frontier and guarding of dumps of captured enemy material.

As the commitments of the Gruppo still cover a vast area with the inevitable dispersion of units and sub-units and the resultant ill-effects on discipline and control I have asked HQ 2 District if those outside 59 Area, namely :-

- (a) Staffing the Italian Refugee Transit Centres at TRILLI and ~~TRILLI~~ ^{TRILLI}
 - (b) Guarding enemy dumps at ALIBO GARDINO J 555610, may be given up, and I hope that this will be effected during the next 10 days or so.
- We are now concentrating on Internal Security and Duties in aid of the Civil Power, and I am using my Training Majors to conduct TRIPS with the Bus in the British methods employed. I Br 6. Inf Regt has the Internal Security Commitment in MILBY and I have allotted one Training Major to this Br. Other important towns in our Sector are RUMESIA, VANZER, PAVIA, and ~~TRILLI~~ ^{TRILLI}.

4. Guards and Dumps

During the last fortnight, guard duties at 6 enemy dumps in the PAVLOVA area have been taken on by the Gruppo, and during the same period 2 dumps - MAREVA J 7656 and PAVIA 1 1 34 - were given up.

This is still a heavy commitment, but it is hoped that in the near future the number of dumps to be guarded will be much reduced.

5. Engineers

- (a) Repair work carried out during the past 2 weeks - NIL.
- (b) Repair work in hand - assisting in construction and repairs at various Barracks MILAN by platoon of tradesmen formed from 3 and 51 3d Coy's and 3 3d Pl Coy.
- (c) Future work - maintenance of all Bailey and improvised bridges on ADRIAN routes in LIGURIO and province of PAVLOVA and ~~TRILLI~~ ^{TRILLI} (to be carried out as soon as troops are relieved of ad duties on enemy dumps and installations)

6. Training

60 Inf Bn - beginning on 20 Jul 45 for I Bn and III Bn. Going to the
Liberal Security role in which it is not possible for III Bn to carry on
training in the field at present.

- 1st 5 days - 00 hrs - firing of individual weapons -- marking,
- 1st 10 days - 11 hrs - Platoon exercises - patrols - firing of
weapons - marking.
- 1st 15 days - 00: Exercises - marking operations.

The Dr Barker letters, in addition to issuing part in the Coy are also,
will carry out 3 class courses and 2 firing exercises.

Training areas are TABLE A 3746, 3800-4 3350, and TABLE A 0357.

7. In official

Comd 53 Area ordered a parade and inspection of the II Bn 60 Inf Regt for
the afternoon of 20 Jul. The Bn was "tricked" for this as far as our powers of
"Italian" permit, but I have no hesitation in saying that it was the best I could
perform that it has ever been by standards to witness. Though their drill was
stagnant, their march had to be seen to be believed - many of them had several
days growth of beard, buttons were 3 diameters, some had collared-collars and divisional
signs which showed their rank; in many cases shirts were substituted for both legs and
hoes did not appear above the top of the trousers; the head instruments were covered
with vermicelli. A high percentage of the 100 would not start, the majority of whom
had no bulks in their legs and tools were not laid out as ordered. This was their
first inspection by an Allied officer and it proved a revelation - A Bn is not
expected to carry out such inspections.

8. Leave

A large number of enquiries are being received from "Regio" for
permission for Italian soldiers to proceed on leave to places in Trieste, Pola, etc.,
area. We have been advised by IIIA Regt III 8 Bn that certain types of papers have
to be issued for soldiers proceeding west of "Mantua" and "Pola" lines. We are
unable to ascertain the geographical position of these lines, and consequently feel
that possibly certain Italian personnel are not getting the full benefit of the
concessions allowed.

May we please have this information as soon as possible?

CUC

- 3 -

11. Reduction of Pay

I think that the reduction in the daily rate of pay since the termination of hostilities may be having a serious effect on morale.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
L.M. Taylor

TO: Major-General L. TRENKLE, CB, OBE, MC,
14th Army Sub-Corps, 40 (SMA).

Copy to: Major-General L.M. TAYLOR, OBE, MC,
Commander 2 District.

8003

From: Lieut-Col J. S. H. DUNGLAS,
The Lomb Scouts.

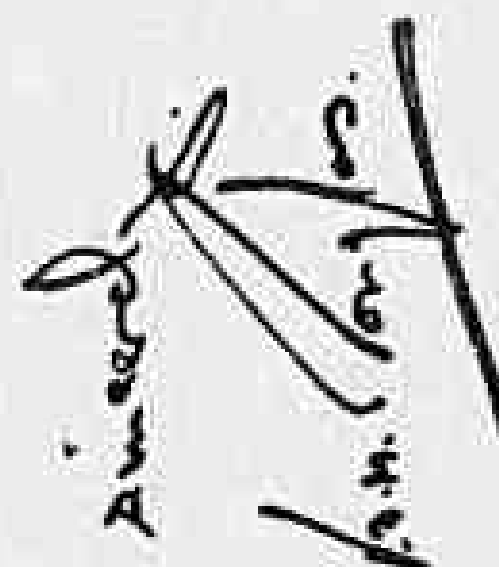
52 British Liaison Unit,
CIP.
10 July 45.
G/63/25

Dear /

I have received a letter of which I attach a copy, from Colonel MUFFILI who commands the 11th Artillery Regt in the Italian LOMBARD Gruppo with whom my Liaison Unit operates. The contents of the letter are, I think, self-explanatory.

Unfortunately having been away from the Army now for some months I do not know where anyone is located. I should be more than grateful therefore if you could pass this request to the appropriate quarter, and I know that my assistance you can give to relieve the inevitable anxiety of this officer will be very greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



To: DADSB,
110 Ross 5th Army.

Copy to: Colonel MUFFILI (for info)
11 Army Regt.
110 Ross 5th Army.

8002

TO: DADMS,
1st REGT 11th ARMY.

Copy to: Colonel BRUNELLI (for info)
11 Arty Regt,
11TH ARMY GROUP.

6002

OBJ.

11th Regimiento Artilleria 'Leguano',
II Comandante.

19455 13 July 45

My Dear Colonel,

An officer of my Regt, namely Lt Rodrigo HERRIS is very anxious to have news about his family and especially about his mother, Lucrecia HERRIS, address: ZUMBI, 14. Nive. Maricao P.R. Puerto Rico.

If you would be so kind as to find a way, unofficially, through some acquaintance of yours in the vicinity of the 11th Army located in the vicinity of Miami, to know something about this officer's family, you would do something that I should appreciate very much.

I hope you will excuse me for this bore and you will accept my sincere regards.

Yours, (signed) Col. BRUNELLI.

To: Lt-Col J.S.F. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts.

Yours sincerely,
J.S.F. Douglas

11° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA "LEGNANO..

IL COMANDANTE

P.M. 155, 13-7-'45

My dear Colonel,
an officer of my Regiment, namely Lt. Lodovico LUPPIS
is very anxious to have news about his family and
especially about his mother, Luisa LUPPIS, address:
FIUME, 14 Riva Emanuele Filiberto.

If You would be so kind as to find a way, unofficially,
through some acquaintance of Yours in the Units of the
Eight Army located in the vicinity of Fiume, to know
something about this officer's family, You would do
something that I should appreciate very much.

I hope You will excuse me for this bore and You will
accept my sincere regards

Yours

To LtCol. J H S Douglas
The Lovat Scouts

W. H. S. Douglas

3001

Douglas

44

From:- Lt. Col. J.S.H. Douglas
52 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit
C.M.F.
19 July 45

G/63/44

Dear Mordaunt,

Herewith an account of the origin of the Legnano Gruppe and the actions in which it has taken part. I hope it is not too long-winded but I think it at least contains most of the relevant facts, and I hope it is on the lines of what the General wants.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas

To:- Lt. Col. Sir N.J. Mordaunt. Bt.
HQ No;2. District.
C.M.F.

7999

From Lt Col. Sir W. S. M. Jordan.

H. Q. Co. 2 DISTRICT,
C. M. F.

Dear Douglas.

Thank you for your letter G/63/42 of 13 July.
I am so sorry about my previous letter, D0/2004/1 of 12 July
to you. I had of course received copies of your two
forthrightly reports to General Browning, and my letter
which was addressed to the other B.L.V. Commanders
also, should not have gone to you at all. I'm so
sorry for the mistake.

General Nares has of course seen
your two reports.

I would much appreciate it if you could send
me, in written form only, a short history of
the Teguanos Gruppe. I hope that General Nares
will be paying the Gruppe a visit before long, and
he would like some facts on which to base any
speech he may make to them.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. M. Jordan.

.933

To: Lt Col. J. S. H. Douglas.
52 British Liaison Unit.

'LASHMAN' COMPANY GROUP

The origin - actions in which it took part - centered with
Partisan formations.

Until war was declared against Germany, the problem of a large scale
intense participation of our troops on the side of the Allies was regar-
dered with great insistence by Marshal BUDAKOV. Political, spiritual
and technical reasons, however, did not permit our valiant aspirants to
materialize immediately in the desired degree.

Our flag re-appeared for the first time on battle-fields in Dec 43
with the 1st Motorized Group. The group consisted of 2 Div of 67 Inf
Regt, 1 Bn of Bersaglieri skills in training, 1 Mech A Bn, 11 Army Regt
(4 boys) and 51 Regt Bn. With the exception of 67 Regt which was relieved
of in Jan 44 by 68 Inf Regt, the remainder of these gallant formations are
today part of 'LASHMAN'.

The 1st Motorized Group was brought into the line on 8 Dec 43 without
any previous notice, under the code of I. Russian Corps; barely 24 hrs
after having fought in a heavy preliminary action. The objective was
M. LINDO, a pre-digitation crest which had to be attacked from the plain &
low line of GARDING. The objective was situated in a well fortified
line assault, but the gallant fighters found themselves in a tactically
hopeless situation and during the three sides, had to withdraw.
A few days later the attack was resumed on a larger scale and they isolated
the tri-color finally on the objective on 16 Dec 43. Losses were heavy
and the Group had to leave the line for re-grouping.

The 1st Group, reinforced and retrained, appeared on the battlefield
again on 8 Feb 44 in the VILHARD sector and was incorporated in the
Fourth Expeditionary Corps.

It is only just to pay homage to the generous spirit in which the
French welcomed our troops on their side, fighting for the common cause
as if we were old comrades of BLAISE and FLAVI. It was with them that
the gradual upward climb began: success after success brought the 1st
Group to the front, then beyond the GARDING HILLS, then LASHMAN ('G.L.')

The 1st Motorized Group was brought into the line on 8 Dec 43 without any previous notice, under the code of 2d American Corps; hardly 24 hrs after having fought in a heavy preliminary action. The objective was M. 11100, a powerful concrete crest which had to be attacked from the plain a few kms S of CASSEBO. The objective was situated in a very disadvantageous situation and during the first three days, had to withstand a ferocious assault, but the gallant fighters found themselves in a tactically hopeless situation and during the first three days, had to withdraw. A few days later the attack was resumed on a larger scale and they violated the D.M.-color finally on the objective on 16 Dec 43. Losses were heavy and the group had to leave the line for re-equipping.

The 1st Group, reinforced and retrained, appeared on the Italian front again on 6 Feb 44, in the VENTURIO sector and was incorporated in the French Expeditionary Corps.

It is only just to pay tribute to the generous spirit in which the French welcomed our troops on their side, fighting for the common cause as if we were old comrades of BULGARY and POLAND. It was with them that the gradual upward climb began: success after success brought the 1st Motorized Group (which then became the GRUPPO ITALIANO DI LIEPERAUBIA (100.1)) up to the victorious conclusion of the Adriatic battle on the MAREC line of latitude. At the same time the group grew in strength and by successive reinforcements reached a strength of 3,000 men, armed and equipped from Italian sources. The French General JULLI was called to other duties and left the sector in March. Even that this transfer and for the duration of the campaign we were under command of 8 Army, Army-Commanded directly with the Polish Corps, then 10 Corps and 5 Corps and once again with the Polish Corps. Moreover he sent the Italian soldiers to fight with understanding, cordiality, comradeship and recognition. Even though in other fields the atmosphere of understanding is unfortunately not so hearty, it is a great comfort to know that at least in the field of military collaboration mutual understanding was always full of confidence and based on the equality of danger and circumstances.

The operational cycle of '100.1' was continuous until 1 Sept 44. The group went into action as already stated, on 3 Feb with only two hrs, namely, 185 Paratroopers and 29 Bersaglieri Bn, in an advance into area. It was successively reinforced by 68 Inf Regt, 1 Battalion (later assuming the name of 13 Assault Bn), 35 Bersaglieri Bn and 'Mazzanti' Assault Bn. The latter, in an admirable feat, climbing a precipitous wall of rocks 1,000 meters high, took by a surprise attack, 11 March on 31 March and during the night of Easter Sunday. With indomitable tenacity they held the heights against the furious attacks of the enemy.

In the meantime, closed to giving the troops on a higher level, including the supply train with military equipment and supplies. The latter provisions are used a way as to enable a closer control with the life. Also, the the closed groups were born. These of which: (1) the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

It entered the 11th between 1941 and 1942 of work. This called in time to should finish together with time to other of this. Included to the the 11th and 12th; the 13th was under the period of several 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945, remaining after 16 weeks with the veterans of the 11th and an entered with a cordially he could be preferred enough for.

For enter was the 11th valley, the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

When the offensive finally started, the the 11th with 1941 and 1942. Was often ally, the word since, they success probably, one day earlier and held a way the in the context like being a great hold of the the very presence.

The strategy of the 11th Army, always a democracy to advance the 11th, brought in after a thing through limited valley, after several difficulties of 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100.

Let us now talk about our interest with the decision formation and the of voluntarism of liberty.

Page 3

What is the way to get a people in line?

What are the conditions of the situation of the country and the people?

At the end of the war, the country was in a state of chaos. The people were suffering from the effects of the war. The government was weak and corrupt. The economy was in a state of collapse. The people were hungry and homeless. The situation was desperate.

The way to get a people in line is to give them a sense of direction. To show them that there is a way out of their misery. To show them that there is a future for them. To show them that there is a way to build a better life for themselves and for their children. To show them that there is a way to get a people in line.

1930

Copy of a D.O. letter written by Col
Hoakes to Lt Col. Webb-Carter.

Colonel F. J. HOAKES, OBE,
Land Forces Sub Com. A.C.
(M. M. I. A.) ROME

11 July 1945

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Southby as it answers
also your A 1/8 of 4 Jul. The G.O.C. fully appreciates your point
especially that of the Gruppe School but the C.A.O. was quite clear
that the mine clearance racket was top priority.

~~Lt. Col. B.E. WEBB CARTER, DSO
51 BEU~~

Copy to:

Lt. Col. J.S.R. DOUGLAS
52 BEU

For information

~~Lt. Col. J. TAYLOR, MC
53 BEU~~

~~Lt. Col. A.W. GIBSON
56 BEU~~

7991

Colonel F. J. HOAKES, CBS
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. M. I. A.) R O M E

July 1945

1. The G.O.C. has been considering carefully your letter A/5/2 of 5 Jul on the subject of provision of Italian Officers for parties of PW employed on mine clearance. WERS CANTON has written a similar note almost word for word as you as he also has been asked for the 7 officers. I am answering this DO as the G.O.C. is anxious for it not to be brought to a head.
2. FRIULI ICG is undoubtedly under Allied Comd for Ops and for all major Adm. but it is undoubtedly within the province of the War Ministry to run minor matters of internal Italian Adm. I think the posting of these officers might have quite reasonably been considered in this light.
3. The whole matter of this mine clearance is on the highest level of priority. The C.A.O. personally discussed this with the G.O.C. and stressed that everything possible must be done. The 7 Officers must go and must be good chaps. If we bring this to an "open fight" the Officers will still go and we shall have created a fuss for nothing and a fuss which is contrary to the C.A.O.'s expressed policy.
4. The whole question of Italian Adm control of Groups is between Districts/M.G.W./Territorial Hq/MBIA LG/BIU etc is being thrashed out now and the dope will come to you as quickly as possible.

Lt Col A.R.C. SOMERBY
SO BIU

7993

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit,
 OMF.

13 July 45.

G/63/42.

Dear Mordant.

I am somewhat surprised at your request in DO/2004/1 dated 12 July 45, as copies of each report so far sent to General BROWNING have been sent to you also. The reference numbers to the covering letters of these reports are as follows :-

Subject: Fortnightly Report - LEGNANO Gruppo: G/63/25 dated 19 June 45.
 " " " " " " : G/63/39 dated 8 July 45.

These are Confidential documents and the contents of them are strictly not for general consumption: if therefore, you have not received them, I would be very grateful if you would let me know. Being the initial reports of the series, they are rather more comprehensive than future ones will be, and therefore it will be as well if the General saw them as it would put him better in the picture.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas

To: Lieut-Col Sir N.J. MORDANT, Bt.,
 HQ No 2 District, OMF.

From : Lt Col Sir NJ MORDAUNT, Bt

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ No 2 District, CMT

DO/2001/1

12 Jul 45

Dear Douglas.

While visiting us last week, General BROWNING discussed with General NARES the question of the Confidential Reports on the Gruppe which you make personally to him.

General BROWNING said that he would be quite agreeable for copies of these reports to be sent to General NARES. General NARES would like this to be done.

Very soon after taking over from IV Corps I hope that I shall be paying you a visit.

Yours sincerely,

N. Mordeant

Lt Col JDH DOUGLAS,
GSO 1, 52 BLU.

7991

Colonel H.B. Finch, M.C.,

D.D.S.T.,

H.Q. No 2 District,

C.M.F.

7th July 45.

My Dear

Douglas.

Thank you for your D.O letter No G/63/56 dated 4th July. I fully sympathise and appreciate your difficulties. I myself was with the MIA at the very beginning as their Chief ST Officer for about 6 months. I fully realise the difficulty you have in trying to get the work out without putting the food in. However, I am afraid this is not really my pigeon. It is the sole right of 'Q' to decide how, when and how much, men will eat. They merely order me and I have to do what I am told. I am therefore passing your letter to 'Q' with my full endorsement. I agree with you completely that the Italians should have something equivalent to our British High Altitude Rations.

Knowing just a little bit about this, I would like to say I think you are asking a very difficult request, because in order to increase this ration, not only has 'Q', 'MED', and FINANCE to agree, but they have to put the case to the combined Chiefs of General Staff in Washington before anything can be done. Even then it is questionable as to whether the extra rations exist. We shall however, do our best.

Yours

as ever.

Southwell

Lt. Col. J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts,
52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

7989

52 British Mission Hall,
Cairo,
Egypt.

21 July 1953

1/63/102

Subject: Parsons - LETHALITY SERVICE.

RE: LETHALITY SERVICE.

The attached reply which I have received to my 10 letter
of 27/6 dated 4 July 1953 No 2 District on the subject
of increased notices for personnel needed at high altitude,
is forwarded for information.

Lt Col.
N. H. Stoddart

Copy to: Col. Lethal Service
Major Stoddart

Colonel N. H. Stoddart

21 July 1953

7 July 53

My dear Douglas

Thank you for your letter of 20 July 1953. I am sorry that
I am unable to give you the information you require at this
time. I fully appreciate and very much value your
concern with the well-being of the very high altitude
officers for about 6 months. I fully realize the difficulty you
have in trying to get the work out without making the
officers feel that this is not really of their own

Copy to: Comd. Spartan Det.
Major [Name]

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
[Address]
[City]
[State]
[Zip]

Dear [Name]

Thank you for your letter... I fully appreciate and appreciate your... I really realize the difficulty you have in trying to get the work out... However, I am afraid this is not really... I am sorry to hear that you are... I am sorry to hear that you are... I am sorry to hear that you are...

Knowing just a little bit about this... I would like to say... I would like to say... I would like to say... I would like to say... I would like to say...

Yours, as ever,

[Signature]

1st Det. [Name]
2nd Det. [Name]
3rd Det. [Name]

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Fortnightly Report -
LIRIVANO Gruppo.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.P.

8 July 45.

G/63/52

HQ 2 District.

Attached herewith for your information is copy of my DO letter
(G/63/57) dated 3 July 45, to Gen FROTHING.

TEL/AS

all
Lieut-Col.
G.S.

7935

SUBJECT: Policy Italian Army

FILE

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AG, (ISMA)

DO / H

4 Jul 45

TO : O.C., 50 B.L.U. Personal
 O.C., 51 B.L.U. "
 O.C., 52 B.L.U. "
 O.C., 53 B.L.U. "
 O.C., 56 B.L.U. "

Copy to: O.C., 'F' B.L.T.U., CESSANO Personal

Dear *John*,

1. General Browning has asked me to thank you for your DO letter which, added to the other BLU contributions, is exactly what he required to keep him posted on all Gruppi matters.
2. It is still quite impossible at this stage to give firm answers to the major questions that you will want to put to us about the future of the Italian Army. Nothing has yet been defined from on high either about the interim army or the post-peace-treaty army. At the same time, a lot is happening. US-ITI, BR-ITI and IPI-ITI ceilings are being severely reduced, cooperators are being turned over to the Italian Army, plans are being made to demobilise the older classes just as soon as possible without involving another call-up, and in the meantime I.S. commitments and desertions about keep pace. At any rate we will let you know policy about demobilisation and replacements as soon as we can.
3. We still have to go very carefully over matters of policy etc affecting the Gruppi still under ops control of Armies. When our advice is sought, we give it, but we have to tread warily. Over the question of BLU WEs, training incrs etc the position at AFHQ seems to be that they will agree to:-
 - (a) leave the conversion of BLU WEs until August 1 when the subject will be reconsidered;
 - (b) cut down the training incr to one or two officers;
 - (c) leave the ~~WEME~~ incr until August 1 when it will be reconsidered.

Italian Army. Nothing has yet been defined from on high either about the interim army or the post-peace-treaty army. At the same time, a lot is happening. US-ITI, BR-ITI and ITI-ITI ceilings are being severely reduced, cooperators are being turned over to the Italian Army, plans are being made to demobilise the older classes just as soon as possible without involving another call-up, and in the meantime I.S. commitments and desertions about keep pace. At any rate we will let you know policy about demobilisation and replacements as soon as we can.

3. We still have to go very carefully over matters of policy etc affecting the Gruppi still under ops control of Armies. When our advice is sought, we give it, but we have to tread warily. Over the question of BLU WEs, training incrs etc the position at AFHQ seems to be that they will agree to:-

- (a) leave the conversion of BLU WEs until August 1 when the subject will be reconsidered;
- (b) cut down the training incr to one or two officers;
- (c) leave the REME incr until August 1 when it will be reconsidered.

This has still to be confirmed by Brig. Anderson. Anyhow, before the conversion does take place I have told AFHQ that I hope you will be well and truly consulted.

4. General Browning has asked me to say that he hopes that whenever you visit Rome you will come and stay a night with him. Only give us some warning if possible!

This letter is now quite definitely my swan song and Philip Egerton arrives here on the 5th to take over as Senior Liaison Officer. I hope very much to see you again in England; in the meantime, good luck.

Yours ever

Henry

Lt. Col. The Hon. H.A.C. Howard,
Coldstream Guards,
Military Mission to Italian Army.

*Ed I must apologise for calling you boy you were
christian name for so long - can't think how it
came. Good luck & am never.*

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

From: Lieut-Col J. S. H. DOUGLAS,
52 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit,
Camp.

3 July 45.

9/63/37

Dear General,

I am sending you herewith a further report on the activities of the LECHEMPO Gruppo, during the last fortnight.

1. Locations.
(a) Ref Location Statement attached to my last letter (4/63/24, dated 17 June); locations of units remain unchanged, except for the following :-

I Pn 'GOING' (Dorsalieri) - now located as follows :

In HQ	-	BERNIO E3832
5 Coy	-	VAREMIA E3524
6 Coy	-	TADINO M.126
7 Coy	-	BELLARNO E3828
8 Coy	-	DESNIO E3832.

<u>11 Artillery Regt</u>	-	1 Bty	-	now located at	MUSTO AUSILIO J9981.
		3 Bty	-	"	" NINERO E7992
		5 Bty	-	"	" CENONICO E1806

- (b) The locations of the Auxiliary Units attached to the LECHEMPO Group were previously omitted, and are as follows :

3. Surgical Unit - BERGANO K6368
BERGANO K6368

2.

4. Operations.

(a) Following a civilian report concerning armed persons, III Bn Alpini (S. Aquila) 69 Inf Regt carried out a mop-up action on 23 June 45 in platoon strength in area of AREA Fess M646. Results - negative.

(b) During night 15/16 June 45, two rifle shots were fired at the sentry on duty at the dumps at area 6865 (S. P. Coy), without consequences. A patrol immediately searched the surrounding area, arresting several persons who were subsequently released after questioning.

(a) Following a report by 421 Bn that a party of armed soldiers of ex-Regiment "MAGGIORANA" were operating in the area AREA Fess M646 civilians in remote districts, a recon of the area was carried out with negative results other than that information was obtained that a maresciallo and two or three men of the "MAGGIORANA" had been in the area and were obviously desirous of obtaining identity documents for subsequent forging and use by themselves.

Yesterday (2 July) 64 Inf Regt started a comb-out of the area by means of three patrols, starting from AREA Fess M646 and AREA Fess M674.

5. Classified.

Ref 23 June 45 REGIMENT GRUPPO passed from area command of HQ 5 Army to area command of HQ 2 District, remaining under command of 14 (US) Corps.

6. Training.

Despite the very heavy guard and internal security commitments, we have managed to prevail upon the Gruppo to carry out some training the prospect. At present the scheme is roughly as follows :-

(a) 69 Inf Regt. - Guarding the frontier posts in the mountains of ROMANIA. By a system of rotation one platoon per day will start off with Recon's Individual and Section Trg (which I trust will include care of arms). Training concurrently and starting on 6 July each rifle company will return to the hills for three weeks finishing up with platoon and company level training.

area by means of three patrols, starting from ZONE K9893, VIATINE 20199 and VEZANW 10724.

5. Operations.

16th 25 June 45 MILANO Gr. pro passed from main comd of HQ 5 Army to adn comd of HQ 2 District, remaining under op comd of IV (US) Corps.

6. Training.

Despite the very heavy guard and internal security commitments, we have managed to prevail upon the Gruppo to carry out some training work, and now that they have got the idea of it they are very keen on the prospect. At present the scheme is roughly as follows :-

(a) 68 Inf Regt - guarding the frontier posts in the mountains N of SONDRIO. By a system of rotation one pl per Coy will start off with recruits Individual and Section sig (which I trust will include care of arms). Training concurrently and starting on 6 July each rifle Coy will return to the hills for three weeks finishing up with pl schemes and alpine sports.

(b) 68 Inf Regt, who are located in BORGIO and in the foothills in the vicinity, are to do their sig in the hills just S of BORGIO. There will be three sig areas, and starting on 15 July 45, one Coy per bn will undergo three weeks sig, interchanging sig areas each week. The 3rd mortar Pls will train with them as well as 4983 mortar Pls from the Regt mortar Coy. The Regt 4/1st Coy and 4983 4/1st Pls of this will be grouped together for intensive sig.

7. RE MAINTENANCE.

Attached as Appx 'A' is a copy of a letter on RE maintenance sent by my CO last to Gruppo HQ.

8. Maintenance of Small Arms.

Ref para 5 of my last letter. Copy of AIA's final report dated 3 July 45 on his inspection of Small Arms in the Gruppo is attached as Appx 'B'.

All items of cleaning materials have at all times been available in DADOS Dump and all units indents have been met. The AIA has reported that during his tour of inspection he found that one unit had marked out a tennis-court with '4.22'.

9. Medical.

The medical services of the Gruppo are functioning in their usual efficient manner although the demands on their services are not very great, as the sickness rate is low. Serious cases are admitted to the Military Hospitals in MILAN and BRUGLIA where there are more facilities available.

.....3

... the best of technology will come. Do not contribute, any of you, for this vegetable riddle."

The sentiments may be of Fascist origin or may be merely the outcome of some straight-thinking on the part of respectable citizens."

(b) On Sunday 1 July 45, the Italian Prime Minister, SIG FUMI, Lieut-Gen. ULLIO P. S. ... and Gen. ...

(c) A presentation of medals is contemplated to take place in the arena in Milan on 15 and 16.

(d) ski-sledding

On Sat 30 Jan 45 a ski-sledding was held at SMIWIO on the Italo-Swiss frontier, which was organized by the Alpini Club, and run in conjunction with the 25-days MZ Course for all ranks of alpinists which is being held by the 69 Inf Regt.

The course was laid out as follows :-

	<u>Alpini</u>	<u>Granatieri</u>	<u>Montini</u>
Time taken	3 1/2 hrs 52 mins	4 hrs 26 mins	4 hrs 7 mins

Team consisted of 3, one of whom did the climbing, 198, course-country, and was held the downhill run.

No. of Competitors - 51 (Total of 17 teams)

Civilian	- 42 (14 teams)
Military	- 9 (3 teams)

The military (Alpini) teams were placed as follows :-

3rd - 2nd consisted of 2 from "Piemonte" and 1 from "L'Aquila".

7th
11th

This was a highly satisfactory performance as the majority of the civilian competitors were professionals and in many cases champions. I am myself able to appreciate the value of this form of training being the ex-06 of a mountainier Regt (the Lovat Scouts) whom I took

4.

to CANADA to train in the Rockies for 4 months before bringing them over to IMAI. I was by at SULLIVAN myself for the meeting, and it shows he is being a popular and very well-organized show.

With kind regards -

Yours sincerely,
L.M. Longley

Major-General L. SULLIVAN, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

LEWIS FORCES SUB-COMMAND (IMAI).

Appx "A"

Subject: ME Road Discipline.

COPY

SC REVE,
52 British Liaison Unit,
CAF.

Ref No: EME/15/57.

25 June 45.

CIE HQ LEGNANO.

Copy to: DAA&QMG, 52 BLU.
DIME, 2 District.
DAA&QMG, LEGNANO.
OC ME Workshop.

1. Since the arrival of the Gruppo in the BERGAMO area, there has been an excessive increase in road accidents, the majority of which have been entirely due to careless driving and extremely poor road discipline.
2. This, together with the general decline in unit maintenance, has been responsible for an excessive increase in the ME Repair load and in the ME Workshops alone there are now 57 Motor cycles, 19 Utilities, 54 - 15-cwts and 57 - 5-tonners all awaiting repair.
3. The low standard of maintenance is confirmed by an examination of Workshop Inspections of Vehicles received for repair from which it has been verified that with 90% there has been no attempt at the maintenance and the cleanliness and lubrication have been completely disregarded.
4. This lack of road discipline, extremely poor maintenance and indiscriminate use of tpt by officers and ORs of the Gruppo will also have serious repercussions on the good name of the LEGNANO Gruppo and render invalid any requests for an increase of the Gruppo POL allotment.
5. It will be appreciated from the above that this is imposing an impossible and also unnecessary strain on the Gruppo ME repair facilities and immediate steps must be taken by Unit commanders to improve and enforce road discipline and also to improve unit maintenance, as unless such steps are taken, the Gruppo will find itself in serious difficulties regarding tpt.
6. It is emphasised that road discipline and unit maintenance are the direct responsibility of every Port officer and not merely the ME Workshop.

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5. It will be appreciated from the above that this is imposing an impossible and also unnecessary strain on the Gruppo ME repair facilities and immediate steps must be taken by Unit commanders to improve and enforce road discipline and also to improve unit maintenance, as unless such steps are taken, the Gruppo will find itself in serious difficulties regarding tpt.
6. It is emphasised that road discipline and unit maintenance are the direct responsibility of every Regt officer and not merely the Unit LPO. The necessary high standard can only be obtained by the maximum effort on their part and as in the past they do not appear to have exercised very much control over the men and tpt under their command, it is considered necessary that full instruction on this subject be issued to them and an immediate improvement demanded.
7. To assist with these instructions, the following principle points are given and the important GROs and ACIs referred to are listed in Appendix A with brief notes on their contents. The actual GROs and ACIs are available in this office for further reference.
- (a) Excessive Speeding - Ref GRO 299/45.
 This is the principle cause of all accidents and is also responsible for premature wear of vchs. It can be said that speeding alone would probably account for 50% of the present ME Whaps repair load and it will therefore be appreciated that the speed limits laid down in the above GRO must be strictly enforced.
 This applies particularly to jeeps and 15-cvts, where as a result of excessive speeding, engines are constantly being rendered unserviceable. In the case of jeeps, it should be borne in mind that due to their proposed withdrawal spares are rapidly becoming non-available and it will soon be necessary to BLR all jeeps requiring major overhauling.

Sheet 2(b) Overloading of Vehicles - Ref GRO 1082/44

There are definite limits laid down in the above GRO as to the maximum number of passengers to be carried in the various types of D Vehicles. This GRO also prohibits more than two persons (including the driver) from riding in the cab and also passengers from sitting on the sides or tailboards - both very common offences within the Group.

(c) Driving & Maintenance Discipline - Ref GRO 193/44, 346/44, 224/44.

Unnecessary damage is caused to transport by bad driving and maintenance discipline. Drivers should at all times observe traffic regulations and keep their vehicles technically sound by means of the test system of maintenance as laid down in GRO 346/44. All vans requiring repair should immediately be sent in to the appropriate LAD and any van not mechanically sound should not be allowed on the Road. This is of particular importance in view of the large number of "engine charges" made necessary by neglect of oil levels and also the accidents due to badly adjusted brakes, the seriousness of this matter will probably be more readily appreciated by an examination of the table of engine replacements for the period 29 March to 21 June 45 given below from which it will be seen that in the case of 67, replacement was made necessary by negligence on the part of the driver.

Engine Replacements - Period 29 March to 21 Jun 45

Type	Mileage of Defective Engine					Total	Replacements due to Negligence
	0-2000	2000-4000	4000-6000	6000-8000	8000-10,000 & above		
Trucks	7	-	1	-	2	10	8
Jeeps	-	1	-	1	-	2	2
Utilities	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
15-cvts	-	7	6	8	5	26	18

Type	Mileage of Defective Engine						Total	Replacements due to Negligence
	0-2000 4000	2000- 4000	4000- 6000	6000- 8000	8000- 10,000	10,000- & above		
Engines	7	-	1	-	2	-	10	8
Jacks	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2
Utilities	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
15-cvts	-	7	6	8	-	5	26	18
3-towers	2	2	3	5	4	6	22	12
Totals	9	10	10	15	6	11	61	41

Large Replacements due to negligence and poor Unit maintenance = 67%

(a) Traffic Accidents - Ref GRO 96/44, ACIs 2514/41 & 2277/42

These are far too frequent and too little importance is attached to them by the COs of the Gruppo Regts. Of the 53 vels received in Wags for repair after being involved in Traffic Accidents, only 4 were complete with Traffic Accident Reports. It should be impressed on all COs that the above GRO and ACIs make it compulsory that in the case of all accidents, full accident reports must be completed and necessary disciplinary action taken. In all cases the driver must be immediately placed on a charge and the case recorded for the CO.

Satisfactory Limit 7901

Sheet 3

Vehicles involved in accidents should not be repaired in IIE Wsps unless completed Traffic Accidents Reports (AF A 3681) are produced, these reports to show that disciplinary action (if necessary) has been taken and SC REE will not permit vchrs involved in accidents and rendered Class III to VI (and therefore BLR) to be backloaded or struck off charge until evidence is produced that correct accident procedure has been complied with and the very necessary disciplinary action taken.

(c) Driving Ability - Ref ACI 2567/41, GRO 329/43

The general driving ability and IIE knowledge of the Gruppo drivers is exceedingly low and now that the time and opportunity is available immediate steps should be taken to improve this. COs of Units should appoint a suitably qualified Officer for the purpose of examining and testing this Unit drivers and the driving of MD Transport should be restricted to qualified personnel. The qualification necessary for a driver is set out in the Appendix.

8. It is stressed that the above points should be given immediate attention by all concerned and a section of 30 Carabinieri under the command of British CIPs formed for patrolling the Gruppo area and enforcing road discipline and checking vehicle documentation and maintenance.

Any instruction required on documentation and maintenance will be provided by SC REE.

(Sgd) P.H. Nolson
Captain,
SC REE.

Appx "B"

COPY

Subject: International B.A. 6.112.

Ref 7/11/36
7/11/36
7/11/36
7/11/36

GENERAL REPORT ON THE SMALL ARMS AND MACHINE GUNS OF THE UNITED STATES

The inspection of small arms has now been completed, and reports sent to all concerned. The general condition of the weapons was 'GOOD', the ability to back of maintenance. The actual figures are :-

REMUM No 4	Revised	2700	WAR	616	=	27%
Remum Thompson	"	1010	"	456	=	45%
Guns M/C Ives	"	313	"	31	=	10%

- The reason for the variation in the percentages WAR of these weapons may be explained as follows:
- (a) M/C Ives - A reliable, useful weapon, but lacking the size power of the Remum.
 - (b) Remum Thompson - A very much diminished weapon. Unreliable, bulky and necessitating the carrying of large quantities of loaded magazines.
 - (c) Guns M/C Ives - This gun is extremely popular in the Cayman and was exceptionally well maintained.

It would therefore appear that the small arms in this Group are maintained according to possibility.

The following points are proposed for implementation and action of all concerned.

- 1. Items were not in possession of all items of clearing national.
 - (a) Items should be informed of the contents of their Action cards.
 - (b) Items should be informed of the terms of the items Action cards.
- Issued in their AG-103 and there they should be }
AG-103

(c) Gas 1/c item - This gun is extremely popular in the Congo and was reasonably well maintained.

It would therefore appear that the small arms in this Congo are maintained according to popularity.

The following points are proposed for information and action of all concerned.

1. Units were not in possession of all items of cleaning material.
(a) Units should be informed of the contents of their action boxes.
(b) Units should be informed of the use of the items listed in their AMMOSS and where they should be kept.

2. The registered numbers of these gun barrels did not correspond with the number on the gun.
(a) All seven guns controlled by PML are returned to stock with two barrels correctly fitted and marked as the gun. PML should ensure that no change is made before issue.

(b) Units should ensure that all guns issued in future have two barrels, the numbers of which agree with that on the body of the gun.

3. In some cases, rifles No 4 (7) were not equipped with their correct telescopes. Units reported no change since issue. Action should be taken as per para 10.10.10, also see 271 serial 9 of 4/65.

4. Amateurs reported that they were not permitted a regular quarterly inspection of small arms.
Regt Regs Pt 1 states that all guns will be examined by an officer every 3 months irrespective of whether an error or is, or is not, on the establishment of the unit.
This regulation also states that Amateurs will render a report to their COs showing the general condition of guns and making any suggestions for their improvement. COs should then act on the advice given by the Amateurs.
A copy of the Amateurs Report should be retained by the unit for examination by an SA at his quarterly visits.

Action only

Action
All Units

Action
All Units

Action all
Units with
Amateurs.

.....2

2.

- 5. Officers and NCOs require instruction in the care and inspection of small arms as laid down in SAI Vol 1 Pamphlet No 1. } Action
} All
} Units.
- 6. Armours require instruction in the inspections and repair of small arms. They also require instruction in their duties. } Action
} }
} Arrangements should be made to have all Armours sent to shops for instruction under the British Armours. } CTR.
- 7. Arrangements should be made for the inspection of the small arms of the Gruppo at the end of one month. } Action
} }
} } 2 District.

Attached to this report are some notes for the guidance of Armours in their instruction to officers referred to in para 5.

Lieut. All.
74 Inf Pps Yorkshire, F302.

Distribution :

- DDMS HQ No 2 District.
- CTR HQ Legation
- WOI 22 HAU
- DADON 52 HAU (Report only)
- CC 740 Inf Pps Yorkshire.

Ident. IIA
7-1 Int Tps Workshops, IIAE.

Distribution :

- DDMB HQ No 2 District.
- OSU HQ Memo
- OOI 52 IIA
- DA303 52 IIA (Report only)
- OG 781 Int Tps Workshops IIAE.

1978

From: Lieutenant Colonel J. A. E. DUMAS,
The Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CIS,
6 July 62.

WJL/26

Dear Colonel,

Although I fully appreciate the reason for the reduced ration scale, I am nevertheless venturing to ask if special consideration can be given to the case of 255 of our Allied soldiers in the LIAISON Group who are gunning the Indo-Chinese frontier posts at 250,000 and other such places, and who are living at a height of over 6,000 ft. There is still deep snow at 250,000, and I can vouch for it myself as I was up there skiing last week-end, and I understand it remains there throughout the year.

I speak as the co-0 of a North-West Regt (The Lost Border) when I had the privilege to take to Canada for four months training in the Rockies, prior to bringing them over to Italy. Whilst living at the high altitudes, it was found necessary to apply for a considerable increase in the normal ration scale: this, incidentally, was strongly supported by G. La Proulx, Captain of Mount Westport Regt, who was one of our instructors, and who himself fell ill whilst with us through lack of adequate nutrition in the normal rations for the conditions under which we were living. The application was approved and a very appreciable increase in the ration was authorized for the entire unit.

In view of this, I feel fully justified in earnestly requesting that further consideration be given for an increased ration to be authorized for this small number of Allied who are operating in the high mountains. I attach herewith a copy of a letter from the LIAISON Group which shows their recommendations for amendments to the present ration scale.

I myself am convinced from personal experience that this request is a reasonable one: if it were not so I would not take the liberty of suggesting an increase in rations at a time when we are all anxious to save what food we can for the starving people of the liberated countries. I hope therefore, that it may be possible to arrange to

of the... the... you... through
lack of adequate nutrition in the... ration to be arth-
which we were living. The application was approved and a way
appreciable increase in the ration was authorized for the entire unit.

In view of this, I feel fully justified in earnestly requesting
that further consideration be given for an increased ration to be arth-
ordered for this small number of Aquiri who are operating in the high
mountains. I attach herewith, a copy of a letter from the LAMUNTO
Camp which shows their recommendations for increments to the present
ration scale.

I myself am convinced from personal experience that this request
is a reasonable one. If it were not so I would not take the liberty
of suggesting an increase in rations at a time when we are all anxious
to have what food we can for the starving people of the liberated
countries. I hope therefore, that it may be possible to accede to
my request.

Yours sincerely
L.M. Lopez

1977

To: Colonel R. BASTIAN MD
16 of 302,
2 District.

Copy to: GOC LAMUNTO
Comd Specials Dept
Major P. P. P. P.
Major T. T. T. T., Services Section.



REGGIMENTO FANTERIA SPECIALE
"Legnano"

p.m; 155

Jun 27 1945

Dear Colonel,

I have received your kind letter and I must tell you how much I regret that Lt. Col. The Hon H.A.C. HOWARD is going to leave MIA offices.

I am very sorry that he is unable to tour the Gruppi before going home, because I should have been very glad to see him, once again, here within "Speciale" Regiment.

Will you kindly let him know that I wish him good luck and I regret very much not to have the possibility to farewell him before he leaves.

Always I will remember Lt. Col. Howard with my best sympathy.

With much pleasure I have received the news that Maj. Egerton is to become Senior Liaison Officer MIA .

Will you please forward him my personal congratulations.

I am sure that certainly we will soon be seeing something more of him.

With kind regards.

Yours very sincerely

Col. SCARPA

7976

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTI "LEGNANO"

IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE

P.M. 155. 27 Giugno 1945.-

Caro Colonnello Douglas,

apprendo
dalla Sua lettera del 25 corr.m.
che il Ten.Col. the Hon.M.A.C.
HOWARD lascerà il suo posto pres-
so la MMIA nel mese entrante. Al
dispiacere per la partenza, vera-
mente sentita, di un così apprez-
zato ufficiale si contrappone la
notizia gradita che a tale alto
incarico sarà chiamato il Maggio-
re EGERTON che ho avuto la fortu-
na di conoscere e stimare duran-
te la sua permanenza alla "Legnano".

Cordialmente

Col. F. Garofoli



Lieut. Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS
the Lovat Scout
52 B L U

7975

11° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA "LEGNANO,,

IL COMANDANTE

P.M. 155, 27 June '45

Dear Colonel,

I beg You thank very much Lt.Col. The Hon. H.A.C. Beward who is going to leave his place in M.M.I.A. of having been so kind in sending me his farewell and his good wishes.

Give to him, please, my good luck for his future and the same to Maj. Egerton, who is taking over his job in M.M.I.A.

With kind regards

Col Maxwell
Col Maxwell

Tenente Colonnello
J. S. H. DOUGLAS
THE LOYAL SCOUTS

7974



IL COLONNELLO

P.M. 155 - 28 giugno 1945

Caro colonnello,

La ringrazio della sua cortese comunicazione in data 25 u.s., con la quale mi partecipa che il ten.col. The Hon M.A.C. HOWARD of the Coldstream Guards lascia la carica di ufficiale di collegamento Senior della M.M.I.A. e che il maggiore EGERTON probabilmente lo sostituirà nella stessa funzione.

Le sarò molto grato se vorrà far pervenire ad entrambi gli ufficiali suddetti il mio fervido augurio.

L'occasione mi è gradita per porgere a Lei le espressioni della mia viva cordialità.

(colonnello Edmondo De Renzi)

Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS

The Lovat Scouts

52 BLU CMF.

1975

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CZF.

3 July 45.

9/67/35.

Dear

Further to my letter of 26 June 45, herewith copies of some more messages from senior officers of this Group.

Yours

Col Douglas

To: Lieut-Col The Hon H. A. C. HOWARD,
The Colchester Guards.

MAJOR P. MANJONIMES IGHAVON,
Lava Force Sub Comd AG (MIA).

DMZ.

GRUPPO DI CEMENTAMENTO "LAVIANO".
IL CAPO DI STAFFO MAGGIORE

DM155. 27 June 45.

Come Colonnello Douglas,

apprendo dalla sua lettera del 26 corr.u. che il Ten Col the Hon H. A. C. HOWARD lascerà il suo posto presso la MFLA nel mese entrante. Al dispiacere per la partenza, veramente sentita, di un così apprezzato ufficiale mi contropeso la notizia gradita che a tale alto incarico sarà chiamato il Maggiore IGHAVON che ho avuto la fortuna di conoscere e stimare durante la sua permanenza alla Laviano.

CONF.

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "LEONARDO".
IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE

RM155. 27 June 45.

Care Colonnello Douglas,

appreso dalla Sua lettera del 25 corr.u. che il Ten Col the Hon H.A.C. HOWARD lascia il suo posto presso la MILIA nel mese entrante. Al dispiacere per la partenza, veramente sentita, di un così apprezzato ufficiale si contrappone la notizia gradita che a tale alto incarico sarà chiamato il Maggiore BRYSON che ho avuto la fortuna di conoscere e ammirare durante la sua permanenza alla Legazione.

Cordialmente

(Signed) Col F. GARIBOLDI.

Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
 The Levat Scouts, 52 BLU.

CONF.

11 REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA "LEONARDO"
IL COMANDANTE.

RM155. 27 June 45.

Dear Colonel,

I beg you thank very much Lt-Col The Hon H.A.C. HOWARD ⁷⁹⁷⁷ who is going to leave his place in MILIA of having been so kind in sending me his farewell and his good wishes.

Give to him, please, my good luck for his future and the same to Major BRYSON, who is taking over his job in MILIA,

With kind regards,

(Signed) Col GARIBOLDI.

Tenente Colonnello J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
 The Levat Scouts.

COPY

GRUPPO CATERACTORIBUS "LEONARD"

IL COLONNELLO

RM155. 28 June 45.

Caro Colonnello,

La ringrazio della sua cortese comunicazione in data 25 mag., con la quale mi partecipa che il ten col The Hon H.A.C. BURNARD of the Coldstream Guards lascia la carica di ufficiale di collegamento Senior della BMA e che il maggiore BURNARD probabilmente lo sostituirà nella stessa funzione.

Le sono molto grato se vorrà far pervenire ad entrambi gli ufficiali suddetti il mio fervido augurio.

L'occasione mi è gradita per porgere a lei le espressioni delle mie vive cordialità.

(Signed) Col R. De BERTI.

Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts, 52 H.H.

COPY

GRUPPO CATERACTORIBUS "LEONARD"

IL COLONNELLO

RM155. 27 June 45.

Dear Colonel,

I have received your kind letter and I must tell you how much I regret that Lt Col The Hon H.A.C. BURNARD is going to leave BMA's office.

COPY

RODOLFO FARRERIA SPECIALS
"LEGHANO".

RM55. 27 June 45.

Dear Colonel,

I have received your kind letter and I must tell you how much I regret that Lt Col The Hon H.A.O. HOWARD is going to leave MIAA offices.

I am very sorry that he is unable to tour the Camp 1 before going home, because I should have been very glad to see him, once again, here within "Spécial" Regiment. Will you kindly let him know that I wish him good luck and I regret very much not to have the possibility to farewell him before he leaves. Always I will remember Lt Col Howard with my best sympathy.

With much pleasure I have received the news that Major Egerton is to become Senior Liaison Officer MIAA. Will you please forward him my personal congratulations. I am sure that certainly we will soon be seeing something more of him.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) COL SCHAFA

7971

DO/DEPT/11/11/11CONFIDENTIAL

From: Lt Col J. Peddie, DSO,
D.M.T. A.F.M.C.
C.M.F.

25th June, 1945

Dear

Rayles

The Brigadier has given me instructions to answer your DO letter of 20 June (reference G/63/27) in approximately the following terms. He flew northwards a few hours after getting your letter and so could not write himself.

MIIA originally recommended the disbandment of the training units to the GURFI on the 5th June w.s.f. 1st June. We got this stopped: suggested they found out the views of Armies and postponed the date of disbandment to 1st July.

The present feeling is that the training increments should be disbanded but no firm decision has been reached pending the recommendations of FIVH and EIGHTH Army. Your point of the necessity of continued control by British officers is certainly understood by us, but ~~the~~ theory that the Italians should not be spoon fed, and the decreased importance of the training aspect of the training officers' jobs now that operations have stopped, the Brigadier thinks it probable that the Training increments will go.

In this case, if we agree to let you hold MILLIKEN and HILL after the date of disbandment, they can only be held on the X (iv) list and must drop their rank after 61 days as there is no pool or other war establishment to which we could have them posted. This, I know you will agree, is a bad thing, as we will try and do our best for them when eventually they have to go.

There is no indication yet of the future policy in regard to British responsibilities in continuing to train the present Italian Army.

11/63/33

control by British officers is certainly understood by us, but ~~the~~ theory that the Italians should not be spoon fed, and the decreased importance of the training aspect of the training officers' jobs now that operations have stopped, the Brigadier thinks it probable that the training increments will go.

In this case, if we agree to let you hold INTEGRITY and UNIT after the date of disbandment, they can only be held on the X (iv) list and must drop their rank after 64 days as there is no pool or other war establishment to which we could have them posted. This, I know you will agree, is a bad thing, as we will try and do our best for them when eventually they have to go.

There is no indication yet of the future policy in regard to British responsibilities in continuing to train the present Italian Army.

Yours sincerely

James Leddie.

Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders,
550 I 52 British Liaison Unit,
C.I.F.

1970

GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "LEGNANO..

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE

P.N. 155, 26 June 1945

Dear Colonel,

I am very sorry that Lt.Col. the Hon. H.A.C. Howard is going to leave us early in July, and I regret not to be able to wish him good bye.-

His collaboration has been very useful and I have in many occasions personally appreciated it.

I am however sure that Major Egerton who has been associated with the "Legnano" will carry on his task in the same spirit of friendly comradeship.-

I will be grateful if you will kindly transmit to both these officers my personal feelings.-

With kind regards,
yours very sincerely

Lt.Col. J.S.H. Douglas
The Lovat Scouts
52 B. E. U.

(Gen. Umberto Utali)

Uff. Utali

62/32

1945

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H.DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CEF.

27 June 45.

G/63/31.

Dear *P.H.J.*

Col CHAVASSE at HQ 5 Army tells me you are taking over HOWARD's job when he goes: we are all delighted to hear it and look forward to seeing you very soon. I enclose a message from the General which speaks for itself, and which shows how welcome you will be.

Breakspear informs me that Col PIOSI is due to leave the Gruppe soon and is looking for a job: he would therefore like any assistance that can be given him and mentioned your name in this connection: if there is anything that you can do I should be more than grateful, as the old man has really done a very good job of work and deserves every consideration. I understand that Breakspear is going to write to you himself, as he knows better what type of job is required than I do.

Many thanks indeed for your letter. I am afraid the Prince's photo is not yet forthcoming - I am afraid he must have forgotten about it by now. So glad you are seeing something of your relations, which must be some compensation for an office existence: I do hope that you will remember me to them when you see them next.

Hope you will be a Lieut-Colonel when we meet again.

Regards

Yours ever,

Loch.

To: *MAS.R.*
P. MARJORIE BANKS-EGERTON,
Land Forces Sub Comm AC (ISLA)
ROME.

7953

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

28 June 45.

C/63/30.

Dear Henry,

Very many thanks for your letter: I am only so sorry that we shall not have the opportunity of seeing you again before you leave, or of taking you for another "swan" round our frontier posts.

I passed your message to the General, Chief of Staff and Regimental Commanders, and I enclose herewith the General's reply.

Best of luck, and I look forward to meeting you again one of these days. Many thanks for all your help.

Regards.

Yours ever,

Col.

To: Lieut-Col The Hon H. A. C. HOWARD,
Coldstream Guards.

7957

Major William J. ...
The ...

Dr. ...
...

Dear

I have today received a letter from ...
... of the ...
... to be due to go ...
... in ...
... to let you know how very much he regrets that he
will be unable to bear the ... on a farewell visit.

He has asked me therefore, to wish you good luck on his behalf,
and to tell you how sorry he is not to be able to see you before he
leaves.

I believe that Major ... who as you will remember was
recently attached to this ... is to take over his job and leave
Major ... I hope therefore, that we will soon
be meeting someone new of his.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,
John ...

and to tell you how sorry he is not to be able to see you before he
leaves.

I believe that Major Walker, who as you will remember was
recently attached to this HQ, is to take over his job and become
Senior Liaison Officer (SLO). I hope therefore, that you will not
be making anything more of this.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,
John Conroy

To: General U. B. WALKER, 680 Legation Avenue,
Colonel G. F. WALKER, 680 Legation Avenue,
Colonel P. C. WALKER, Chief of Staff, Legation Avenue,
Colonel R. W. WALKER, 680 Legation Avenue,
Colonel G. W. WALKER, 680 Legation Avenue,
Colonel H. W. WALKER, 680 Legation Avenue.

9567

63/28

102

LAND FORCES SUB - COM. A.C. (MELIA)

DO/E

17 June 45

TO : C.O. 50 ELU
 51 " ✓
 52 " ✓
 53 " ✓
 56 " ✓
 * * * RTG, ICF

Dear *Caroline*

1. As I am due to go home in early July and am in the meantime sitting in ROME as GI (SD) for Stuart Ingledew, and until he returns, I want to ventilate one or two subjects and to say how sorry I am that I shall be unable to tour the Gruppi on a farewell visit to you and to them.

2. In confirmation of what was said by me at GARDOME to CC's 50, 52 and 53 ELU will all Gruppi ELU commanders please let General Browning have a personal D.O. letter once a fortnight setting out

- (i) location of ELU HQ and Gruppi HQ's down to regts.
- (ii) summary of employment role of Gruppi formations.
- (iii) main lines of interest such as efficiency, discipline and morale.
- (iv) any outstanding problems.

Dear ~~Staff~~

1. As I am due to go home in early July and am in the meantime sitting in Rome as CI (SD) for Stuart Ingleton, and until he returns, I want to ventilate one or two subjects and to say how sorry I am that I shall be unable to tour the Gruppi on a farewell visit to you and to them.

2. In confirmation of what was said by me at GARDONE to CG's SO, SE and SS ELU will all Gruppi ELU commanders please let General Browning have a personal D.O. letter once a fortnight setting out

- (i) location of ELU HQ and Gruppi HQ's down to regts.
- (ii) summary of employment role of Gruppi formations.
- (iii) main lines of interest such as efficiency, discipline and morale.
- (iv) any outstanding problems.

The point of this D.O. letter is to keep General Browning up to date on Gruppi activities and problems and (as agreed) provided nothing is included which has not already been divulged to Army it seems pointless to send a copy to anyone else.

3. Regarding the training responsibilities of the ELU's I enclose a copy of AFHQ letter AG 358/151 CCT-0 dated 16 April 48 which is the last directive on the subject and which sets out training responsibilities of 15 Army Group and MIA.

However MIA may be said to have an interest in the continued training of all Gruppi by ELU's on British lines because eventually when Army Gp and Army cease to function Gruppi will come under comd of District and training them will become our responsibility.

Finally with the Gruppi heavily committed to guard and frontier duties etc, and dispersed as they are, obviously the possibilities of training will be limited, but training programmes should be made up as far as possible with an eye to the internal security duties which will probably be the eventual function of all Gruppi.

..... 2

..... 2

4. I should be most grateful if you would send a personal message to all Gruppi GCC's, COS's and regtl com's personally known to me wishing them good luck and saying how sorry I am not to be able to see them before leaving.

Yours

over

Henry

Lt Col The Hon H.A.C. Howard,
Coldstream Guards
M.M.I.A.

JW

Coldstream Guards
M.M.I.A.

1967

JW

CONFIDENTIALCOPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
AFHQ 512

AG 353/131 OCT-0

16 April 45

SUBJECT: Responsibility of Training - Italian Army

TO : All concerned

1. OBJECT The object of this instruction is to define the responsibility for the training of the Italian Army, less those troops maintained by US authorities (US - ITIS).

2. DMT, AFHQ Director of Military Training, Allied Force Headquarters will direct training in accordance with the policy laid down by SAC.

3. MMIA MMIA will control, and supervise the training of the Italian Army in accordance with the policy laid down by AFHQ, under the general direction of DMT, MMIA will be responsible for the following duties:

a the transmission of Allied instructions to the Italian War Ministry in proper form.

b advice and assistance to Italian War Ministry in the organization of training.

c representation where necessary of Italian War Ministry's views to AFHQ.

d supervision of training in Italian units and establishments, except those under command 15th Army Group, by the following means:

- (1) through British Liaison units or training staffs where they exist.
- (2) with the assistance of British administrative cadres where they exist; part of whose duties will therefore be the control of training.
- (3) by direct contact with the Italian staff where no British staff exists.

DMT, MIA will be responsible for the following duties:

- a the transmission of Allied instructions to the Italian War Ministry in proper form.
- b advice and assistance to Italian War Ministry in the organization of training.
- c representation where necessary of Italian War Ministry's views to AFHQ.
- d supervision of training in Italian units and establishments, except those under command 15th Army Group, by the following means:
- (1) through British Liaison units or training staffs where they exist.
 - (2) with the assistance of British administrative cadres where they exist; part of whose duties will therefore be the control of training.
 - (3) by direct contact with the Italian staff where no British staff exists.
- e the control and supervision of training of EMI - III Service troops.
4. 15th ARMY GROUP 15th Army Group has the same responsibility for the training of Italian formations and service units under command as for formations and units of other national armies under command. Any matters necessitating reference to higher Italian military authority will be referred by 15th Army Group direct to MIA. Any question of general training policy will be referred direct to AFHQ.
5. Specialist training EMI-III Service Troops In view of the deficiencies of tradesman in service units, MIA will ensure that adequate provision is made for the trade training of service troops subsequent to their basic training at the base depots.
6. DIST. COMDS. District, Area and Sub-Area commanders will not be responsible for the training of Italian troops (except insofar as local adm assistance can be provided) unless specifically ordered by AFHQ. They will, however, be prepared to assist MIA in the training of service troops insofar as is possible.

..... 2

CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr AFHQ AG 353/131 GGT-0
dated 16 Apr 1945 (cont'd)

7. ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. The implementation of training schemes, the provision allocation and training of instructors will be the responsibility of the Italian War Ministry under the supervision of MMIA as in paragraph 3 above.

8. US - ITIS Where the training of US - ITIS requires coordination with the Italian War Ministry, this will be done through MMIA.

EDMUND R. SHUGART
Colonel, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION

1 - SACS	1 - G2E
1 - CAO, AFHQ	1 - Vet & Remount
1 - G-1 (B)	1 - CG 15th Army Group
1 - G-2	1 - MMIA
5 - G-3	1 - GOC No. 1 Dist
1 - G-4	1 - GCV No. 2 Dist
1 - DME	1 - GOC No. 3 Dist
1 - Hq RAC	1 - RAAC
1 - Engr Sec	10- G-3 Tag (Er)
1 - Hd Arty	2 - AG Records AF
1 - Signal	1 - AG M & D
1 - Hq Inf	
1 - AA SCD	
1 - Liaison	
1 - RSME	
1 - Ord	
1 - S & T	
1 - Surgeon	

Jw

7982

From: Lt. Col. F. B. H. DORRIS,
THE SPANISH HIGH COMMAND.

52 West Lakeside Drive,
San Diego, CA 92105

~~SECRET~~ 9/23/77

Dear Brigadier,

I am writing to you to about my training matters as I have now received information from 3 Army in their letter 125/3/77 dated 14 Jan 75 (not referred to you) that Lord James has been asked to have recommended the Government of training advice for British Army and this in our case is the "C" training movement. The training movement as such however has been broken up for some time now. Originally I retained the G 2 (Training) and 2 Liaison, but since Major-General G 2 (Training) was posted to 1st I have had only two Majors - J. W. Hamilton, the Duff's and J. G. Hill, the Swansons, I.e. one with each Infantry Regiment in the Group, though actually now I have got J. W. Hill, J. G. Hill, as well as the one sent back here quite recently.

The future policy with regard to British responsibilities for training in Cyprus has not yet been laid down, but if we are to continue to maintain any form of control (and it is to be eventually hoped that we do) then it is, in my opinion, essential that we should have a training major with each Infantry Regiment i.e. a total of 2 majors. These, therefore, Hamilton and Hill are considered for other employment elsewhere. I would like to retain them at least till a ruling is received about the training policy. Hamilton is in release group 26 and Hill is in 27, and both are anxious to return here.

The review of these affairs within the regulations is valuable from every aspect for they have access to sources of information on a lower level which provides us with information which I could not otherwise acquire.

though certainly now I have got N.F.D. Ryan, RMD B., as well who was sent back here quite recently.

The future policy with regard to British responsibilities for training in Germany has not yet been laid down, but if we are to continue to exercise any form of control (and it is to be frankly hoped that we do) then it is in my opinion, essential that we shall have a training major with each infantry regiment i.e. a total of 2 majors. Indeed, therefore, Hamilton and I are committed for other employment elsewhere I would like to remain here at least till a ruling is received about the training policy. Hamilton is in release group 26 and will be in 57, and both are anxious to remain here.

The presence of these officers within the regiments is valuable from every aspect for they have access to sources of information on a lower level which provides me with information which I could not otherwise acquire.

Yours, sincerely,
L.H. Taylor
1961

To : Brigadier G.H. BISHOP, ICG, GMR,
Directorate of Military Training,
GMR, GMR.

Copy to : 5 Army, East Ind.
2 District.

From : Lt. Col. J. S. H. DOUGLAS
THE LOYAL SCOUTS

52 Brit Liaison Unit
CMF.
20 Jun 45

C/63/26

My dear Major Quercio,

I write to thank you sincerely for the intensely enjoyable evening we had at your dance last night. It was the very greatest fun and we very much appreciated your kindness in asking us.

Very many thanks indeed.

With my kindest regards.

Yours, very sincerely,
John Douglas

To : Major QUERCIO,
Comd. GOITO Battalion (Bersaglieri),
LEGNANO Group.

7950

CONFIDENTIALSubject : Fortnightly Report - Liaison Group.52 Brit Liaison Unit
GIF.19 Jun 458/63/25HQ 5 Army (Brit Inc)Ref Serial 15 of Minutes of Gruppo Conference held at HQ 5 Army
on 11 Jun 45.Attached herewith for your information is copy of my IO letter
(8/63/25) dated 17 Jun 45 to Gen. BROWNE.

TEL/433

f ^{dl}
Lieut-Col.
GS.Copy to HQ 2 District.
(less location statement and trace - already handled to
Major CALDWELL on 19 Jun 45.)

7959

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

From: Major-General J. S. H. HUGHES,
22 British Liaison Unit.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CAMP,
17 Jun 45
9/53/2h

Dear *General,*

I am sending you this report on the activities of the Legnano Gruppo, ref Serial 15 of minutes of the Gruppo Conference held at HQ 5 Army on 11 Jun 45.

1. Locations

(a) The attached list shows the locations of the units of the Gruppo, as at 15 Jun 45.

(b) 52 RU is located as follows :-

HQ - Via Fr. Orsini,
RIVIGNANO,
OCCORRENSA Mass - Villa Pinardi,
Viale Vittorio Emanuele,
MURIGNO.

2. Duties

(a) The Sector allotted to the Gruppo is shown on attached trace (Ref Italy Map, Sheets 2 and 5 - 1/250,000).

(b) In general, the duties allotted to the Legnano are as follows :-

- (1) Guarding and patrolling of Swiss-Italian border.
- (2) Guarding of Army of capture of captured enemy material.

(b) 52 RM is located as follows :-

RM - Via Po, Orlandi,
VERONA.
Opposite house - Villa Marzani,
Viale Vittorio Emanuele,
MANTOVA.

2. Duties

(a) The sector allotted to the Gruppo is shown on attached trace (see Italy Map, Sheets 2 and 5 - 1/250,000).

(b) In general, the duties allotted to the Gruppo are as follows :-

- (i) Guarding and patrolling of Axis-Italian border.
 - (ii) Guarding of depots of captured enemy material.
 - (iii) Collection and evacuation of enemy PWs within sector.
 - (iv) Organization of Italian (Colleges) Transit Centre at MILANO, TORINO, GENOVA, and ROMA.
- Brief details of duties are given in summary column of attached location statement.

3. Remarks

I am trying to induce the Gruppo RM to arrange some form of training for the Inf Div, such as weapon bay and kitchen exercises, and I hope to get something started soon. At the present I have 3 Inf Majors of "C" Inf Regiment, Majors MARINELLI, WATTS, and HILL, and they will do their utmost to get it going, but I have just received information from HQ 5 Army (196/8/41(2)) dated 1/3 Jan) that "C" Inf Regiment is to be disbanded. I feel that it will be very difficult to get training going without them, particularly as the RM is shortly reorganizing on to a new Inf, and I recommend strongly that at least 2 Inf Majors (one per Inf Regt) are retained.

7958

.....2

(2)

The Div. has been very reluctant to accept any vacancies on courses at the All Arms Instructor School at BARRACKS. He gave us a reason for this that, as he had not received any information regarding the future of the Group or my license scheme, he did not think we were in a position to select. After some persuasion, the Group accepted a proportion of the vacancies as under :-

Courses commencing 14 May - 6 Oftrs and 10 NCOs. (2 Oftrs & 11 NCOs).
 " " 13 Jun - 2 Oftrs and 8 NCOs. (16 Oftrs & 6 NCOs).

Note. Vacancies in brackets show total vacancies allotted to Group.

4. Description.

The following description of Group may be of interest :-

1 Oct 44 - 28 Feb 45	763, of which 139 returned.
1 - 31 Mar 45	208, "
1 - 30 Apr 45	254, "
1 - 31 May 45	157, "
	<u>1477</u>
	204

5. Leave.

As 3 Jun 45 the number of personnel on leave was :-

Officers - 35 Ofcs - 1124

6. Welfare.

The following are extracts from a report on welfare submitted by Group HQ :-

Interestment - It was only during the period in which the Group was located in BARRACKS that troops were able to see theatre and cinema shows. My trips to BARRACKS were organised (300 - 400 men on each trip), and on these trips, in addition to visiting the principal amusements in the district, we were able to visit shows.

5. Leads.

At 3 Jan 45 the number of personnel on leave was :-

Officers - 25 ORs - 1124

6. Notes.

The following are extracts from a report on welfare submitted by Gruppo III :-

Entertainment - It was only during the period in which the Gruppo was located in (Mussolini) area that troops were able to see theatre and cinema shows. They trips to hotel were organized (200 - 400 men on each trip), and on these trips, in addition to visiting the principal entertainments in the hotel, men were able to visit shows.

This GPO possesses a mobile cinema and with it we have been able to give the troops cinema shows. Recently this mobile cinema returned from a long tour of the hills of 99 km long, which, owing to their location have a great need for this type of entertainment.

Sports - Lack of kit has impeded the taking up of any kind of sport. Football is most popular in Italy, but unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain footballs from civil sources.

The USPENSIO cinema has recently succumbed to the fire use of the public swimming pool by the Gruppo for 3 days in the week, and 900 men will visit the bath each week.

Newspapers - The two newspapers "La Patria" and "L'1/957" have always been distributed free. Distribution was interrupted during the advances from the Apennines, but is now regular again. "La Patria" is

paper which is popular with the men, is drawn every day from MILAN in the evening, and distributed to units the following morning.

.....5

(3)

Rest Camp - owing to lack of materials this Camp has never been able to set up a Rest Camp, and, in addition, the continuous rains and bad areas in which the Camp has operated would not have permitted the organization of such a Camp even of a very modest type. As far as was possible men were sent to the "Cuartel del Comandante" set up in HRF by the War Dept.

Cigarettes - A satisfactory solution to this problem has never been found. Most men had 5 cigarettes daily - 10 free and 5 on payment - and those of a poor quality. In addition, distribution was not always regular, the quantity is insufficient, and it is not possible to purchase from civilian sources due to the high prices. The problem has not worsened because the issue of 5 cigarettes per day on payment has been suspended.

Clothing on Payment - For months the setting up of a unit for supplying clothing on payment has been suspended. It is only today (14 Jan) that precise instructions have been received, and from these it would appear that this service will be available for only a short time.

Other Welfare Activities - Since sanitary problems have been found to concerning men, also funds allocated to their families if in need. This benefit employs a total of one million lire per month, and in addition to encouraging the soldier to give of his best is a considerable aid to those families who have suffered most from the war.

When communications between North and South were interrupted due to the war, this is substituted a message service through the Red Cross, the Vatican, and also by means of radio.

7. Morale

Attached is a copy of a letter which I sent to M. S. my last month on the subject of morale.

8. Detachment of 1941 Area

to observing men, also readily alluded to their families if by need. This benefit employs a total of one million live per month, and in addition to encouraging the soldier to give of his best in a considerable aid to those families who have suffered most from the war.

When communications between Berlin had both been interrupted due to the war, this is limited to a message service through the Red Cross, the Vatican, and also by means of radio.

7. Morale

Attached is a copy of a letter which I sent to HQ 5 Army last month on the subject of morale.

8. Maintenance of Small Arms

A complete inspection of all weapons types will be by 01 A.F. is now in progress, and extracts from his advance report (dated 30 May) are as follows:

(General Condition) - Poor
Percentage of Small Arms - 30%
Rifles - 50%

Reason for excessive

wear - Lack of care and attention
Rifles badly corroded.

I will include extracts from the final report in my next fortnightly letter. My DADOS considers that clothing materials (oil, flannel, etc., etc.) have always been available for issue, and that all demands from units have been met.

9. Miscellaneous

(a) A sewing school, organized by 69 Inf Regt, has been opened at Berlin (see A. 2770), and the first course began on 10 Jun 45. 50 sets of old-day equipment and clothing was obtained for this through Red Cross Inc. 5 Army.

7955

.....

(b)

(b) A number of officers and men of the Legnano Group have expressed a desire to volunteer for service in the Far East.

Also, when we first arrived in Manila, the 1st received a number of civilians who wished to find out whether they could serve in the Far East. Names of these volunteers have been recorded by AII.

(c) A team from Legnano Group took part in the 5th Army Inter-Divisional Athletics at the Rizal Stadium on 16 and 17 Jan 45, and finished 4th.

Participants MANRIKAZI was 1st in the 5000 metres, PERAGLIONE KAZLA was 2nd in the 10000 metres, and MARIKAZI was 3rd in the 10000 metres.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely
L.M. Gonyea

For Major Gen L. BRUNING, G-3, AFHQ,
Luzon Force Sub-Command A-2, (MIA).

Yours sincerely,
L.H. (Tony) Lee

To: Major Gen L. (SUNIL) K. CHAUHAN, CB, CDR, MC,
Army Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (AFSA).

7933

Ref. ITALY Photo
 2, 4, 5, and 7 (1/300,000)

LOCATION STATEMENT
 AS OF 15 JUL 45

UNIT	LOCATION	MAP REF	
Hq LIEINAP Group (Main & Rear)	BIRGARD	K 6408	
Hq 68 Inf Regt	BIRGARD	K 6408	
Regt Mortar Coy	BIRGARD	K 6408	
Regt A-TH Coy	BIRGARD	K 6408	Pinde guarda of
I Bn 68 Regt	POREANO	K 6408	the Coy at 6 in Pinde guarda of BIRGARD & 7
II Bn 68 Regt	BILAN	K 6503	Under BILAN Air Treaty Control
III Bn 68 Regt	GRANDE	S 8507	Coy at ARBESIO BIRGARD DE SAN
Hq 69 Inf Regt	SOBBRO	S 8139	
Regt Mortar Coy	PLAZZA	S 8537	
Regt A-TH Coy	TRELLI	S 2639	

LOCATION STATEMENT
AS AT 15 JUL 45

SECRET

REF ID:

ENCLOSURE

- R 6488
- R 6489
- R 6490
- R 6491
- R 6492
- R 6493
- R 6594
- R 6597
- R 8139
- R 8537
- R 9639

Finds guards on camp at FORTI S. PAVO K 5886 and GORRE K 6786.

One Coy at 6 hrs notice (for aid to civil powers).
Finds guards on camp at VIGNOLO K 5978, URMASO K 6677, and
MANTOVANO K 7274, and on PW Camp at GUSSELO K 8185.

Under MILAN AREA DIVISION. Finds staff for Italian Refugee
Transit Centre at MILAN.

Guys at ARONIGO K 8544, CASPARO K 8907, IMBITO K 9441 and S.
MANTOVA PI CARO K 8515.

(2)

I Bn "COIRO" (Piemonte)	BORGARO	E 648	One Coy at BRALIA E 5713. Remainder is for this bn to m
II Bn "PIEMONTE" (Alpi)	BORGARO	E 9856	Maintains road bloc E 4378 and CANTONE CHIAVERIA E 478, U
III Bn "L'AVOLA" (Alpi)	TIRAZ	A 953	Maintains road bloc Pass A 2377, I.VIA ROTE DI LORO A 3 A 2171.
Regt 11 Artillery Regt.	BORGARO	E 648	
I Bty	LONGAR	E 0573	Plato guards on dis and E 160692.
II Bty	OLGATE		Plato guards on dis
III Bty	BORGARO	E 648	
IV Bty	TURIN	E 0230	Plato staff of 16 E 0221) and guard
V Bty	ORZO	E 1802	Plato staff of 16 on disp at E 17403
VI Bty	BORGARO	E 648	

7953

(2)

K 6488

One Coy at BELLAIR E 3727, finding guard on duty at MARINELLO E 3713. Remainder of ln in BELLAIR in lty reserve. Intention is for this ln to move about 20 *km* to BELLAIR area.

M 5876

Maintain road-blocks, patrols and guards on frontier at SPADUA E 4378 and CANTAVIGNA E 3588. Coy located at TALAMONA E 6036, CHIARVIGNA E 4758, ZEREN E 5049, and GEMMA E 3626.

A 0543

Maintain road blocks, patrols, and guards on frontier at SERRAIO Pass A 3377, DIVIERE A 0479, and TIRRENO A 0543. Coy located at FORTI DI MARCO A 5247, MARCO A 1838, TIRRENO A 0543, and MARCO A 1771.

K 0488

K 0579

Find guards on duty at SERRA MARCONA I 0090, MARCONA E 0533, and E 16092.

Find guards on duty at MONTICHI E 0381, and E 135700.

K 0488

K 0250

Find staff of Italian Refugee Transit Center at TORRE (RICHIALETTI E 0821) and guard on duty at E 355610

K 1802

K 0488

Find staff of Italian Refugee Transit Center at CORO and guard on duty at E 17493.

.....3

(3)

Reg 51 Ang In	PAVIA	K 2032	
3 PA Coy	HANSEN	K 6599	Wings guard on G
51 PA Coy	PAVIA	K 2032	Wings guard on G K 6931, and J 9015
51 Sig Coy	BERGHO	K 6488	
51 Mech Sec	BERGHO	K 6488	
214 PA Hosp	EVANS	K 7586	
332 PA Hosp	TRUCKER	K 7686	
51 S & P Coy	CARASAGIA	K 6065	
6th MI Park	BERGHO	K 6488	
Medn Workshops	ROBERT A. ROSE	K 5788	
39 Sec OO. IN.	BERGHO	K 6488	
51 Sec OO. IN.	BERGHO	K 6488	

(3)

K 2058

K 6599

Plants grown on dunes at HERRINGHILL J 7105.

K 2058

Plants grown on dunes at HERRINGHILL J 8623, PARIA E 1924, WILSON CRUISE
K 6931, and J 7149.

K 6438

K 6438

K 7636

K 7636

K 6066

K 6438

K 5782

K 6438

K 6438

C O P YSUBJECT:- Morale ReportsCONFIDENTIAL

52 British Liaison Unit.

CME

26 May 45AG/11/230

To:- "A" Branch
 British Increment
 HQ Fifth Army Rear

Reference your letter 55A of 4 May 45, herewith

morale report as called for.

The morale of this Gruppe has never, at any time, been anything but high, and from the time that it arrived in the line has steadily increased.

It will be appreciated that the losses of many of the soldiers, more particularly in the Alpin units, are in the area which has recently been liberated, and in some cases close to the area in which they are now stationed. In nearly every case therefore these soldiers have had the opportunity to visit their homes, and in the majority of cases have found conditions very much better than they had ever dared to hope for. They are quite prepared therefore, once they have satisfied themselves that all is well at home, to settle down cheerfully again to soldiering, where their pay, food and clothing is at least assured: under such conditions too they have a reasonable chance to support their families.

The end of hostilities in Italy was perhaps rather inevitably looked upon as an end to all disciplined soldiering: the burn-out lapsed to a very low level, troops were allowed to "swarm" about in M.I. all over the country, no parades either for smartening or for anything appear to have been even contemplated, while the

which has recently been liberated. In nearly every case area in which they are now stationed. In nearly every case therefore these soldiers have had the opportunity to visit their homes, and in the majority of cases have found conditions very much better than they had ever dared to hope for. They are quite prepared therefore, once they have satisfied themselves that all is well at home, to settle down cheerfully again to soldiering, where their pay, food and clothing is at least assured: under such conditions too they have a reasonable chance to support their families.

The end of hostilities in Italy was perhaps rather inevitably looked upon as an end to all disciplined soldiering: the turn-out lapsed to a very low level, troops were allowed to "swam" about in M.I. all over the country, no parades either for smartening up or training appear to have been even contemplated, while the urgent duties of taking over the partisan commitments and the mopping up of prisoners were given only secondary consideration.

This period, however, has now, I think, come to an end, and they have started again to set about their duties in a more serious and less slovenly manner; individuals are now checked if they appear improperly dressed in the town, and all troops are very fully employed on operational commitments: those employed on frontier posts sway up in the mountains assure me they are very happy to be there in surroundings which are familiar to the Alpini, away from the flesh pots of the cities: I would not however say as far as to say that this would be true of troops in the Gruppo from other districts.

I consider the state of morale in this Gruppo to be highly satisfactory at the present time.

(signed) J.S.M. Douglas.

JSD/AN.

Lt. Col.
C.S.C.I.

From : Lieut Col J.S.H. Douglas,
The Levat Scouts

52 British Liaison Unit
CMF

16 June 45

G/63/23

My dear Major Levi:

I write to thank you for your very generous hospitality on the occasion of the anniversary of the Battle of Plave. It was a great honour for me and my officers to be invited to lunch with you and your officers and men on the anniversary of such a memorable occasion. It was very much appreciated by us all.

Very many thanks indeed.

With kind regards.

Yours very sincerely,
Jack Douglas.

To : Major Marie Levi
Comd I Group 11 Artillery Regt.

1959

From : Lieut Col J.S.H. Douglas,
The Levat Scouts

52 British Liaison Unit
CMF

16 June 45

G/63/22

My dear Colonel,

I write to thank you for asking me and my officers to your very impressive ceremony on the occasion of the anniversary of the Battle of Piave. It give us the very greatest pleasure to be with you on such a memorable occasion and your very generous hospitality was much appreciated.

Very Many Thanks

With kind regards

Yours very sincerely,

Jack Douglas

To : Col Brunelli
Comd 11 Artillery Regt.

7945

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. Douglas,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

52 British Liaison Unit
CEF.

13 June 45

C/63/21

My dear *Colonel*,

Very many thanks indeed for your very kind invitation for the 15th June to the Commemorative Ceremony of the Battle of the Plave in 1918.

Myself and four artillery officers will be delighted to attend, and much appreciate your kindness in asking us.

With best regards

Yours

very sincerely,
J.S.H. Douglas.

To: Colonel Brunelli,
Coast 11 Artillery Regt.

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

PERSONAL

52 British Liaison Unit
C.E.F.

13 June 45

G/63/22

My dear *General*,

Acting on a report received last night from Lt. Brizio of some commotion in the apartments adjoining these premises I have to-day had the matter enquired into. It appears that unknown to me the three R.E.M.E. (Wk/Shops) officers have been living in these apartments and resented being asked to leave. I have however informed them that they have no right whatsoever to be there, and have given them instructions to quit the building forthwith.

The incident is much regretted both by myself and the officers concerned and suitable disciplinary action has been taken against them.

Yours

very sincerely,
J.S.H. Douglas.

To: General UMBERTO UTILI,
Comd Legation Greece.

7947

ARMY FORM 2126 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call Ser. No. Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)

Originator

Date-Time at Origin

52 III For Action

131500 P

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

OFFICE DATE STAMP

Message Instructions

OR

Originator's No.

GS 63 (.) CONFIDENTIAL (.) Personal for Col. WILSON from DOUGLAS (.)
 Ref my DG letter GS/63/20 dated 10 June 45 (.) Very strongly recommend
 Capt MURKIN as prospective Senior Staff Officer, Ops and Int Section this
 Gruppo to replace Major SCARATI (.) MURKIN most co-operative level-headed
 and very able (.) This is my personal opinion and not necessarily that
 of Gruppo Comd

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 INDICES OF PRIORITY
 IMPORTANT

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR		
19		
Time checked		

SIGNED

SIGNED

Michael Maj

GPO: 1945 O-492277-700 (Rev. 1-45) U. S. Gov. Print. Office

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
The Seaforth Highlanders.

CONFIDENTIAL

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

2 June 45.

G/63/12

Dear Colnd.

I am answering your A38, of 31 May 45 on the subject of "British Officers - Confidential Report" by DO letter as it is rather a ticklish one to do.

When Egerton was posted away from us we were still engaged in active operations, or rather in point of fact immersed in internal security problems and political intrigue in BOLOGNA; and his wide knowledge of conditions in this country was therefore invaluable.

Eighth Army however, did not release GAZMEX until about ten days after he was due here, with the result that he did not arrive until the 9th May: i.e. after the cessation of hostilities, by which time we had moved on to BERGAMO. Since his arrival there has frankly been very little for him to do, but I cannot help feeling that had he possessed enterprise and initiative he could have done much more than he has. What little I have asked him to do he has made very heavy weather of: he is a nice chap but I shall say completely inexperienced and quite out of his depth beyond welfare, and I couldn't therefore honestly recommend him as a Liaison officer with Italian troops.

This is a grand part of the world we have got to: I visited both Foligno and Friuli recently, and will be seeing their GIs at Howard's conference this week.

Regards.

Yours sincerely

John Douglas.

To: Colonel W. PETERLY, DSO MC,
Lead Forces Sub-Comm AC (MIA),
Rome.

Copy to DAA & CMG.
J.S.H.

~~Pass to Dan Duff~~
~~FILE~~

63/12

From: - Colonel G.H. HUNT, OBE.PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Military Secretary's Branch,
Allied Force Headquarters,
C.M.F.

DO/25886/MS14 Jun 45Dear *Jack*

Thank you for your letter G/58/15 dated 30 May 45.
Certainly put up TAYLOR for G III (I). He will in any case be entitled
to the rank and pay during the time he has been doing the job.

Yours *over**G.H. Hunt*

Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 BLU.,
CMF.

7944

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. DWIGLAS
The Seaforth Highlanders.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

52 British Liaison Unit,
 CEF.

2 June 45.

6/58/17

Dear *Bingdis*,

I am afraid I have been in rather a quandary about the question of Honours and Awards as since receiving your NO letter of 21 May 45 on the subject I have received a further official letter from your HQ dated 25 May, giving me a definite allotment of 1 Award and 1 Mention for the 'C' Training Increment, and have today sent in my recommendations on this scale. Incidentally I am afraid they will be late arriving as I only received the letter two days ago and I was absent from my HQ on duty till yesterday: I hope however that they will still be in time.

This Training Team did an extremely good job of work, which was fully borne out by the successful activities of the Legnano Gruppo in the line. Hope Johnstone, Royal Fusiliers, was outstanding and I hope that my citation speaks for itself: he was untiring in his efforts: having won the highest respect of even the most senior of Italian officers as well as all ranks, he set about instructing them by friendly co-operation, and made his team do the same: there is not the slightest doubt that this method paid good dividends - they were a very happy, hard-working team and they got excellent results by modelling themselves on his example.

It is hard to single out one of them in particular for a mention, but I have excluded those who have received an award already in this war, and after due consideration the lot has fallen on Hamilton of the Buffs: he is obviously intensely interested in the Gruppo and has spared himself nothing to give them every assistance and support, and was probably the most outstanding of them all during the period in the line: he is one of the two who has remained with us throughout: he is very well liked by the Italians and intensely enthusiastic: he is very tactful and diplomatic and has been of the greatest value to me in getting the "low down" on delicate matters which it is hard for me to approach.

Heak was a tremendously live-wire and go-getter: his enthusiasm was

borne out by the successful activities of the Legnano Gruppo in the line. Hope Johnstone, Royal Fusiliers, was outstanding and I hope that my citation speaks for itself: he was untiring in his efforts: having won the highest respect of even the most senior of Italian officers as well as all ranks, he set about instructing them by friendly co-operation, and made his team do the same: there is not the slightest doubt that this method paid good dividends - they were a very happy, hard-working team and they got excellent results by modelling themselves on his example.

It is hard to single out one of them in particular for a mention, but I have excluded those who have received an award already in this war, and after due consideration the lot has fallen on Hamilton of the Buffs: he is obviously intensely interested in the Gruppo and has spared himself nothing to give them every assistance and support, and was probably the most outstanding of them all during the period in the line: he is one of the two who has remained with us throughout: he is very well liked by the Italians and intensely enthusiastic: he is very tactful and diplomatic and has been of the greatest value to me in getting the "low down" on delicate matters which it is hard for me to approach.

Peak was a tremendously live-wire and go-getter: his enthusiasm was unbounded, and his judgement sound.

Edmunds probably had the most difficult job of the lot as he had a very backward battalion to look after, and it is greatly to his credit that he brought them up to the high standard that they attained, for by the time that they reached the line they were certainly not backward in battle: it was a very good effort on his part.

Evans and Hill have both received awards previously. Evans was exceptionally good, and both he and Hill were thoroughly sound and enthusiastic.

Kewley had an easy battalion to look after: he did the job well but was perhaps not quite as outstanding as the remainder.

I hope that this is on the lines that you require, but if there is anything more you would like to know I hope that you will ask me.

Yours sincerely

J.M. GOSWAMI

To: Brigadier S.M. GOSWAMI, D.O., CBE,
Directorate of Military Training, A.M.S.

SF/16

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIALDC/DMT/17/MU1.

From: Brigadier S.H. SHOCSMITH, TSO, CBE.
 Directorate of Military Training,
 AFHQ, C.M.F.

Tel: 16950.

21st, May 1945.

Dear *Douglas,*

I am writing to you on the subject of Honours and Awards. I have been asked to put in my recommendations for Awards and Mentions in Despatches. This will probably be the final list of recommendations for Honours and Awards during the actual operational period of the war in ITALY.

I am given a block allotment to include training establishments, training increments etc. I would be very grateful therefore, if you would forward me as soon as possible any recommendations you wish to put forward for Awards or Mentions in Despatches from the personnel comprising your Training Increment. I am not responsible for the personnel of the H.M. and any recommendations you have in this connection you will presumably forward through the normal channels. You will appreciate that these recommendations are for Periodic Awards and not for Immediate Awards. If you have forwarded any recommendations for Immediate Awards for any personnel in the Training Increment you should take this into consideration when forwarding me your recommendations.

I would be grateful if you would bear in mind when considering this problem the fact that, although these are Periodic Awards, I think it is an occasion when one should try to ensure that any officer should be considered for an Award, who through bad luck, or for any other reason, has failed to get one previously.

Citations for Awards should be on the usual form, and I have no doubt you have received a copy of the MS letter explaining how these forms should be completed.

You will appreciate that I shall have to make the final decisions in this office when I have received recommendations from all sources. But I am very anxious to ensure that none of your officers who are deserving of an Award fall between two stools by virtue of their present appointments. I am not, therefore, giving you a definite allotment, but would ask you to forward a D.O. letter together with the citations giving any other additional history or particulars of the case in question, in order to assist me in coming to a fair decision, vis a vis all my commitments.

Yours sincerely,

Lt Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS X
 52 B.L.H.
 C.M.F.



CONFIDENTIAL.

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DORRIS,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CEF.
30 May 45.

9/59/45.

Dear Colonel,

You may remember some time back (actually my letter was dated 13 Feb 45), I wrote a IO letter asking if Lieut Footen of the Lovat Scouts could be appointed as my GIII(I) as you had told me that there was no one available with the necessary qualifications. You ultimately agreed, but CG Lovat Scouts had then changed his mind and said that he was unable to release Footen.

Consequently I have never yet had a GIII(I) appointed and one, 273093 Lieut D.C. TAYLOR, The Foresters, has performed the job very adequately ever since the appointment was authorised. It seems only fair therefore, that this officer should receive the rank and pay of this appointment, back-dated to the date of its authorisation. I would be very grateful if you could let me know if an application by me to this effect would receive your blessing.

I don't know yet what the future holds in store for a ILL, but it seems highly probable that before long we shall be reduced to the revised establishment, and I would like to get this put through before this happens.

This is a lovely part of the world we have got to: I gather though, that the Scouts are well placed too now. My brother, Archie, is home after many years abroad, and is thankful to see his family again despite the inevitable reversion to //substantive rank.

Regards.

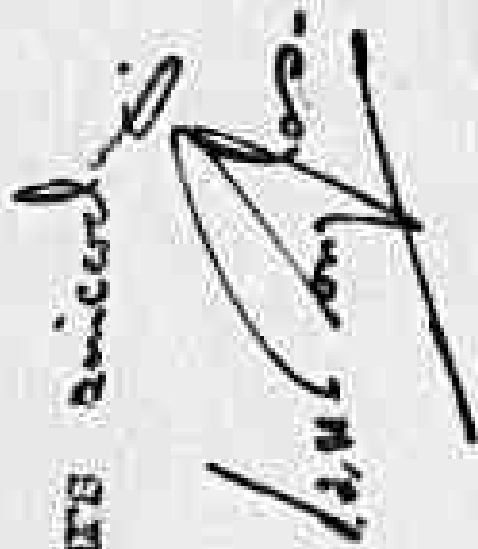
Consequently I have never yet had a bill (I) appointed and one, 273093 Lieut D.C. TAYLOR, The Foresters, has performed the job very adequately ever since the appointment was authorized. It seems only fair therefore, that this officer should receive the rank and pay of this appointment, back-dated to the date of its authorization. I would be very grateful if you could let me know if an application by me to this effect would receive your blessing.

I don't know yet what the future holds in store for a LLU, but it seems idly probable that before long we shall be reduced to the revised establishment, and I would like to get this put through before this happens.

This is a lovely part of the world we have got to: I gather though, that the Scouts are well placed too now. My brother, Archie, is home after many years abroad, and is thankful to see his family again despite the inevitable reversion to W/substantive rank.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,



To: Colonel G.H. HUNT, CRE,
Military Secretary's Branch,
AFHQ, G.I.F.

7911

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. DUCKWAS,
The Loyalt Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CIT.

21 May 45

9/28/45

Dear R.R.L.,

I am writing this note in explanation of what I hope Capt Davies
my representative will explain to you.

As no doubt you are aware, the Legions Group (for whose welfare I am
responsible) have been having difficulties with regard to their bread ration.
On 17 & 18 May - they could not eat the bread as issued, but did not return
it as they were informed that there would be an improve-
ment in the next issue.

On 19 & 20 May - there was a slight improvement, but it was still unfit for
consumption, and it was accordingly returned together with
a report from Major Binfold (M.B.F.) and a certificate from
Col. Heald, the H.Q. of the Division, to say that it was
unfit for consumption.

On 21 & 22 May - the only result of the above was a note to say that a
board consisting of a Capt B.A.C. and a Capt R.W.D. had ex-
amined the bread and considered it fit for issue, and it
was therefore returned for consumption.

It seems to me a very strange thing that the opinion of two captains
can over-ride that of a Full Colonel and a Major B.A.C. (incidentally by
NAME, Major Lealie, also inspected the bread and considered it unfit).
The fact remains however, that the soldiers of the Group have now had no
bread fit to eat for six days, and this in all the more serious with an
Italian unit rationed from British sources, since a very large proportion
of their ration consists of bread.

I would ask you therefore if you would be kind enough to intervene on
our behalf. I am sending Comd Capt Davies to explain the situation, and
ration trucks will accompany him in the hope that it will be possible for
you to make an immediate issue, as the situation is now rather critical.
It will be appreciated if they could have two days bread ration, and in
addition biscuits for at least one of the days that they have eaten no
bread. If bread is not available, perhaps they could have biscuits in lieu.

UNIT FOR COMBAT

On 21 & 22 May - the only result of the above was a note to say that a board consisting of a Capt RASC and a Capt RASC had examined the bread and considered it fit for issue, and it was therefore returned for consumption.

It seems to me a very strange thing that the opinion of two captains can over-ride that of a Full Colonel and a Major General; (incidentally my DADSA, Major Leslie, also inspected the bread and considered it unfit). The fact remains however, that the soldiers of the Gruppe have now had no bread fit to eat for six days, and this is all the more serious with an Italian unit rationed from British sources, since a very large proportion of their ration consists of bread.

I would ask you therefore if you would be kind enough to intervene on our behalf: I am sending down Capt Davies to explain the situation, and ration trucks will accompany him in the hope that it will be possible for you to make an immediate loan, as the situation is now rather critical. It will be appreciated if they could have two days bread ration, and in addition biscuits for at least one of the days that they have drawn no bread. If bread is not available, perhaps they could have biscuits in lieu.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. C. Davies

To: Lieut-Col RINDLER,
NO. 5

Copy to: Legation Camp, O.

1941

FROM :- Lt. Col. G.R. TUFF.

*Gi Seen
Refer note sent to G. 58/13*

G-3 (Brit),
HQ PIPER Army, CEF.

7 May 1945.

Dear *Douglas*

Brigadier JONES asked me to reply to your D/O letter G/58/12 dated 5 May 45.

We have two WEASELS left in 19 Veh Pk and I enclose the release note for them. 6 SA Armd Div had some WEASELS and I will try and get them for you as well. I am afraid that we cannot help over captured GERMAN MT as AMIQ have issued very strict orders that it is all to be handed in.

Yours *sincerely*

G.R. Tuff

Lt. Col. J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
THE LOVAT SCOUTS,
52 BILU, CEF.

7939

From : Lieut - Col J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts

SECRET

52 British Liaison Unit
 CMB

5 May 45

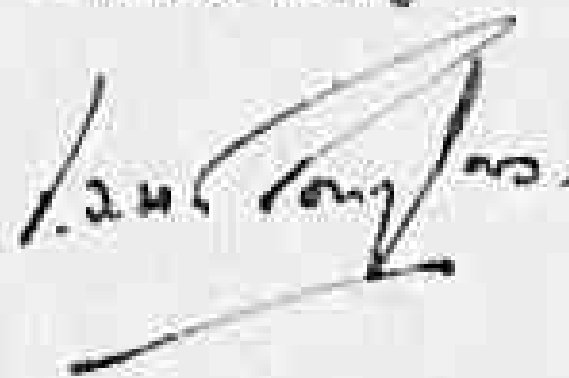
G/58/12

Dear Brigadier.

As you no doubt know our role includes to "Clear all enemy from zone north of the general line BRESCIA-BERGAMO, to the Italian Border, and to patrol critical roads in the north of zone, so as to prevent any enemy from infiltrating across the Italian border". Our front lines vary roughly between eastings A.30 and E 40; and in this area we meet deep snow long before we meet the border. Two of the main passes (STELVIO A2070 and SPLUGA E4070) which it is essential for us to reach are quite inaccessible by normal M.T. As you probably know I took my own Bn out to Canada to train in exactly similar conditions in the Rockies, and almost through-out the period our life-line for supplies was the WEASEL (I think officially named the M 10) , which was specially designed for snow, and not to be sacriledged in the mud etc., where it has been used (effectively) during the past months. My 2 i/c (Sandy Weddeburn since deceased) was the co-designer of it and I always feel therefore that I have some claim on them. I have my own driver here who was with me in Canada and could explain to the Italians, ^{in detail} though they are so simple that it would be hardly necessary. If we could have some here - say even half dozen (or for that matter even two!) I am sure they would be invaluable.

We still have no tidings of any official release of German captured M.T.; so far we have managed to raise about 16 vehicles from COMO but that is all.

Yours Sincerely



Brigadier Jones,
(Brit 1nc)5 Army

7938

Do
158

SENIOR LIAISON OFFICER
ARMY SUB COMMISSION, A.C.
M.M.I.A. R O M E
Do/H

23 April 45

TO : O.C. 50 BLU,
O.C. 51 BLU,
O.C. 52 BLU,
O.C. 53 BLU,
O.C. 56 BLU,
O.C. "F" BLU, RTC ICF.

INFO: Col. W. PIDSLEY, D.S.O. M.C.

Dear Douglas:

During my visit last month to the FOLGORE, FRIULI and CEMONA the BLU Commanders and I agreed that there was not the contact of understanding there should have been between the Combat Groups (and BLUs) on the one side and the RTC ICF at CESANO on the other.

Since the problem of reinforcements is of primary importance to the Gruppi and in order to establish the necessary contacts, MMIA propose that when I visit 5 and 8 Army HQ's within the next fortnight I should suggest to them that one officer per BLU and, say, five per Gruppo be sent down to CESANO for two days in order to get acquainted with the RTC ICF, its organization and problems. The idea at present is that these 30 officers should meet at CESANO about the 15 May 45, but I shall fix up all details during the course of my forthcoming visit to the Gruppi and Army HQ's.

I realize that it may be difficult to spare officers for even two days during the present operations, but I believe that the ends achieved will be worth the inconvenience.

Please regard this as a proposal which will have to be agreed with 5 and 8 Army before it can be put into effect.

Yours ever

Henry Howard

Lt Col the Hon H.A.G. HOWARD
Coldstream Guards
M.M.I.A. 7937

ok

From: Lieut-Col J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.
20 Apr 45.

S/53/10.

Dear *Dehn.*

Very many thanks for letting us have S/Ten BLAGE to help with the training of our fitters. I gather that two weeks should see us through, and if for any reason he is available to return to you before that, I will see that he does so: I am only so sorry that it has necessitated a curtailment in your training.

Yours sincerely,

J.S.H. Douglas

To: Lieut-Col R.A. Dehn RA,
Royal Artillery Training Team,
(Italian Forces),
C.M.F.

Copy to: Capt P.H. Nelson RMC.

7935

Royal Artillery Training Team
(Italian Forces)
C. M. F.


Lt Colonel R. A. Dehn R. A.

17 April 45

Dear Colonel,

In response to a request from the Artillery Section A F H Q I am sending up S/Ten BIAGI one of the interpreters on my staff to help train the fitters for your Gruppo. I understand that he will only be required for two weeks. If for any reason the projected course is not taking place I should be grateful if you would return BIAGI to me as soon as possible. In order to make him available we have had to curtail some of the training here, and his early return to us will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely
Roy A. Dehn

7935

58/94.

LAND FORCES SUP COY. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)DO/
1 April 45

ms

TO : MMIA LO 8 Army
MMIA LO 5 Army, Br Incr50 BLU,
51 Blu.
52 BLU, ✓
53 BLU,
Copies to: - 56 BLU,
"P" BLU

Dear Douglas.

Prompted by Lt. Col. HOWARD's Liaison report to GOC MMIA after his last visit to the Armies, I am taking this opportunity of putting you in the picture and answering certain specific questions which he raised.

Firstly the relationship of MMIA to the BLUs. As soon as a Combat Group comes under command of an army the BLU becomes rather like a British Div HQ entirely dependent on its next higher commander of all G and Q matters, but, being Italian, the A matters pass largely through Italian channels, so MMIA still comes in here. I attach a copy of AFHQ letter, AG 091.112/119 GCT-O of 20 December 1944, which is the latest order on the subject and must be obeyed, which means of course, you are no longer as much our child as you used to be!

Naturally we cannot help continuing to take a keen interest in children of our own begetting, but obviously must let their present employers have full control of them operationally and continue in the background to do our utmost for them as far as we are permitted.

Secondly the question of the method of trying men accused of serious crimes and the proposal to attach a legal officer to Group (or Adm Divs concerned) is being considered at this moment and a decision will be given you as soon as the investigations are complete. It is a question of fully qualified officers, there are also Italian legal questions involved.

Thirdly the question of stoppages of pay to make good losses of equipment is being examined. If the punishment is to have any deterrent value

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NNDG No. 785020

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Thirdly the question of stoppages of pay to make good losses of equipment is being examined. If the punishment is to have any deterrent value it would seem that certain items of personal equipment and attractive stores must be given a higher value than the actual cost price to the British Govt (in view of Black Market prices and their temptation); on the other hand the cost of damage to M.T. or armaments could obviously not be charged in full. We will give you guidance as soon as we can.

Fourthly the question of W.E.'s is entirely one for Armies concerned and we are not in a position to act on recommendations until the matter is referred to us by Army HQ.

Fifthly It is admitted that up to now the Reinforcements Training Centre at CESAMO has not been able to produce what the Groups wanted and reinforcements have inevitably been sent up badly clothed and not fully trained.

I should like to emphasize that the RTC is a very different thing now from what it was a few weeks ago. There are over 11,000 men there under training. As you can well realize, it has been quite a business starting CESAMO but Field-Marshal ALEXANDER visited it himself on May 12 and was very pleased and satisfied to find it a live and rapidly developing concern. A letter describing fully this organization and the kind of training ^{being} carried out is being sent to you. The equipment situation is well in hand now and as from the middle of April, all infantry reinforcements will have had at least eight weeks training.

- 2 -

In this question of reinforcements we are trying to establish the principle of direct contact between the Groups and the RTC. The same applies to the BLU's and "F" BLU at RTC. If Combat Group officers can visit the RTC and explain their reinforcements problems, so much the better, and Lieut/Col MACKAY, the commander of "F" BLU has told me that he will always be pleased to see officers of BLU's, whenever they can be spared. "F" BLU is on a similar W.E. to the Combat Group BLU with a GSO1 and a representation of each Service.

The best way of giving the Combat Group a direct interest in the RTC, as suggested by Lt/Col HOWARD, would be to organize the reinforcements according to the Groups, an Infantry Bn for example being allotted to each Group, and being trained by officers of that Group. An arrangement of this kind is being made for the Naval Personnel of the San Marco Regiment.

I will see what can be done to extend this principle at the RTC, but I am advised by Lt/Col MACKAY that it raises certain difficulties on the training side. Also, training at one central place is far better than individual efforts of Groups forward. There is one thing that Groups can do to help. The SMRE is withdrawing surplus officers from the Groups. It would help enormously if the Groups send back not the duds, but officers who would make good instructors, preferably those who did courses at the CMTC and have now had some battle experience as well. I understand the SMRE has already put this point to the Groups with a fair amount of response. On arrival at CES/NO these officers could also look after the interests of their old Group.

Sixthly the cigarette problem has been rather a headache but we are still plugging away at it. I tell me that "MACEDONIA" cigarettes are made in various grades in the same way as Allied make's. The "MACEDONIA" which is issued free is one of the cheap civilian brands (e.g. Woodbines). MILIT are slightly better grade and are usually the repayment brand. The quality of the free cigarettes will be checked with the government monopoly but they may have difficulty in raising the quality of the free issue (20% of their total output for the whole country). (In view of the quantities available for Br Increment BR-ITI tps, will NEWTON please say if Br Increment ST distribution for the 10 free per day is now satisfactory.)

Seventhly Withdrawal of Battle Dress from Combat Group Officers during summer. Orders for withdrawal of winter uniform will be issued by ARMIES. Suggest BLUs represent their views on this point through usual channels.

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Seventhly Withdrawal of Battle Dress from Combat Group Officers during summer. Orders for withdrawal of winter uniform will be issued by ARMIES. Suggest BLUs represent their views on this point through usual channels.

Eightly. Our Special Section ceased to exist on 31 March and we are having an internal reorganisation, as a result of which we hope to have distinct A and Trg branches as well as our present SD and AQ (which would become Q). I hope to send you a full "A" directive as soon as the proposals are approved.

Lastly The General who, as you know, takes a great personal interest in you all is very delighted that the Groups are making their mark and being so well spoken of, and sends his best wishes.

Yours

even

W. F. D. L.

Copy to: File G-51/8

ck

SECRET

C O P Y

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

.....
: S E C R E T :
: Auth: SACHT :
: Initials: PEF :
: 20 December 1944 :
:.....

AG 091.112/119 CCT-0

20 December 1944

SUBJECT: Responsibilities of Land Forces Sub-Commission
(MMIA) to Italian Gruppi.

TO : President, Allied Commission, APO 394
FOR: Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA)

1. In order to clarify the responsibilities of the Land Forces Sub-Commission towards the Italian Gruppi when the latter pass from under command of SIFE (General Staff Headquarters of the Italian Army) to that of Allied formations, authorization is made for the Land Forces Sub-Commission to communicate direct with ELUs attached to Combat Groups under command of Allied formations on the following points:

- a. All matters of purely Italian administration.
- b. Strengths and reinforcements.
- c. Discipline.
- d. Conditions of service, welfare, etc.

2. Copies of all correspondence on the above matters should be sent to the Allied Headquarters concerned.

3. All operational, executive and policy matters, also proposals by ELUs or Combat Groups for changes in organization will be made through normal staff channels to the Allied Headquarters concerned for decisions or recommendation to MMIA.

By command of Field Marshal ALEXANDER:

/s/ R. H. Frese

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- a. All matters of purely Italian administration.
 - b. Strengths and reinforcements.
 - c. Discipline.
 - d. Conditions of service, welfare, etc.
2. Copies of all correspondence on the above matters should be sent to the Allied Headquarters concerned.
3. All operational, executive and policy matters, also proposals by BLUs or Combat Groups for changes in organization will be made through normal staff channels to the Allied Headquarters concerned for decisions or recommendation to MMIA.

By command of Field Marshal ALEXANDER:

/s/ R. H. Frese
/t/ R. H. FRESE
Captain, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Addressee
- 1 - 15th Army Gp
- 1 - ALCOM
- 1 - G-3 Ops
- 1 - G-3 Org (B)
- 1 - G-1 (B)
- 1 - G-4 (B)
- 2 - G-3 (Org) Foreign
- 2 - AG Records
- 1 - AG M&D

7933

SECRET

DO/DME/17/1/MT1

From: Major H.M. FINDLATER,
DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ CME

Tel:11667

30th March 1945.

Dear *Col Douglas*

Thank you very much for your notes on the Trg Inc.
They will prove very helpful in placing these officers in new
appointments as they become available for posting.

So far as withdrawing the whole Trg Increment is
concerned this is a matter which has been left to 15 Army Group
but if you feel you do not need them any longer you should
represent that fact through the usual channels.

Yours *sincerely*

H. M. Findlater

Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS.
52 BLU. CME.

7932

52 British Liaison Unit.

C.M.F.

From: Lt-Col J.S.H. Douglas.

31 Mar 45.

My dear *General*,

I write to thank you for your very kind letter of 29 March, and to assure you that I can see nothing either 'ironic' or 'insulting' about your HQ letter 05/319 of 27 Mar. If any member of my staff has taken offence to it I can only say that he should be turned over and whipped like a naughty boy ! but I for my part as a Regular soldier have been in the Army far too long to be unable to appreciate the tone of official correspondence.

I can honestly say that I can see nothing in that letter to take offence to : if the Group consider that they have not got something to which they are entitled I trust that they will always inform us, for that is what the B.L.U. is here for.

I sincerely hope that the Group will always ask us for anything they want: it will be our pleasure to try and

1931

obtain it for them, but should we be unable to do so we shall not be afraid to notify them accordingly.

If you do not get every assistance from every department of the B.L.U. I trust that you will always let me know, so that I can take appropriate action. I regret very much that you should have been given any cause to suspect resentment, but I hasten to assure you that I will explain the whole matter to my DAA & QMG on his return today, as I am convinced that it can only have been due to some misunderstanding.

Yours

very sincerely
T. W. Taylor.

Gen Umberto STALLI.
Comd LINGBIANG Combat Group.

58/7

PERSONAL

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
G.P.

31 Mar 45.

C/SB/7.

Dear *General*

The officers and I sincerely appreciate your kind greetings, and join with me in wishing you and your staff a very happy Easter and the best of luck in the coming months which we so much hope will bring many of them nearer to their homes.

To this may I add a personal greeting from myself.

Yours very sincerely,
J.S.H. Douglas.

To: General Utili,
Comd. Legnano Gruppo.

1930

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts.

PERSONAL.

22 British Liaison Unit,
C.A.S.

27 Mar 45.

Dear *Brigadier.*

Very many thanks for forwarding your AFM's report on the move of the Group. As you say, we are actually all too well aware of their shortcomings in this respect.

However, rather than belittle the efforts of the Provost staff of No 1 District, what they have managed to achieve in a mere ^{ten days} for surpassed my wildest expectations. It was an Army commitment to train the Carabinieri, but as they were not forthcoming, No 1 District came to the rescue, so I think that one must give them full credit.

I am afraid the AFM is wrong in the assumption that explicit instructions were not issued before leaving, as I saw them myself. Orders, alas, are not always implicitly obeyed in an Italian unit, and that accounts for some of the vehicles running short of petrol. It will be appreciated that the Carabinieri have never functioned in the capacity of "policemen", nor has the Italian Army ever been mechanised to speak of. None was not built in a day, and quite frankly, under the circumstances, I think that it is remarkable that the chaos was not worse.

No DAFM is provided on the MS of the Gruppe and though I made strong representation for one in my letter of 27 Feb to S Army, it has been filed for consideration at some later date. Actually my Provost personnel from No 1 District submitted a very full report on the move when we arrived a week ago: I think the matter up very strongly then, and again gave the Gruppo a list of the more essential items to include in their movement and march discipline orders.

I feel therefore, that no useful purpose would be served by pursuing

Carabinieri, but as they were not forthcoming, No 1 District came to the rescue, so I think that one must give them full credit.

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I feel therefore, that no useful purpose would be served by pursuing the matter further at this juncture. The first report of all came from General UTILI himself (Comd Legnano Group) so I think they are fully aware of what is required: now that we are committed to action I feel that lectures by Staff Officers would be out of the question, though Mary thanks for the offer.

Yours sincerely
1929



To: Brigadier R.M.M. Jones,
Deputy Chief of Staff (British);
HQ Fifth Army, GAF.

58/5

PERSONALBrigadier R H M Jones
Deputy Chief of Staff (British)
HQ Fifth Army, CEF

DCS 1

23 Mar 45
-----Dear *Douglas*.

Our APM who was watching the move of the LEGNANO GRUPPO has sent us the attached report. I expect you are fully aware of the state of affairs which he brings to light and I am sure you are doing all you can to improve their march discipline.

If there is anything we can do to help to get it across to the Gruppo by means of lectures by Staff Officers etc please let us know. On the other hand I feel you may prefer to deal with the matter in your own way.

Yours

*Sincerely**R. H. M. Jones*Lt Col JSH Douglas
52 BLU

7928

/COPY

SUBJECT: Movement of 'LEGHANO' Combat Group,
Italian Army

British Increment (AFM)
Rear HQ FIFTH ARMY
CAF

Phone No: Lightning Rear 176

Pro 7/1365/45
21 Mar 45

British Increment (A Branch)
Rear HQ FIFTH ARMY.

Copy to:- British Increment (Movements)
Rear HQ FIFTH ARMY

Herewith report of Movement of 'LEGHANO' Combat Group, Italian Army, as mentioned in my weekly report.

On 15, 16 and 17 Mar 45 this Group moved by road from South to North and passed through FLORENCE by Routes 2 and 65.

Route 2 is not normally policed by British Provost but in consequence of the nature of the move, arrangements were made for sufficient police to augment the American Provost in order to control traffic.

Flight 'A' was due to arrive in the Army Area at 1315 hrs on 15 Mar 45 and therefore arrangements were made for the Military Police to be on duty at midday. This was done.

No. 1 District had undertaken to see the convoy from the SP to the Army Area without the assistance of Army. At 1200 hrs on 15 Mar 45, this Office was informed that over 100 vehicles of the 'LEGHANO' Combat Group, Flight 'A' had already arrived at TCP 45 at 1140hrs.

I personally went on to Route 2 and at 1210 hrs stopped the second convoy which was 2 Bn 68 Infantry Regt and held it in FLORENCE until 1315hrs. The Italian Major in charge of the convoy informed me that he had been instructed to leave the SP 20 minutes after the first column which had apparently left at 1000hrs.

Due to this irregularity, subsequent serials continued to arrive in the Army Area before the time laid down in the March Table and at shorter intervals.

A TCP was set up at TAVERNIZZE (AR 9760625) and from this point, vehicles were released in blocks of 25 at 20 minutes interval but it was noted

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I personally went on to Route 2 and at 1210 hrs stopped the second convoy which was 2 Bn 66 Infantry Regt and held it in FIARENCE until 1315hrs. The Italian Major in charge of the convoy informed me that he had been instructed to leave the SP 20 minutes after the first column which had apparently left at 1000hrs.

Due to this irregularity, subsequent serials continued to arrive in the Army Area before the time laid down in the March Table and at shorter intervals.

A TCF was set up at TAVERNUZZE (AR 0760625) and from this point, vehicles were released in blocks of 25 at 20 minutes interval but it was noted that as soon as they were released, leading drivers increased their speed with the result that they caught up the previous block and therefore caused greater confusion just South of FIARENCE

This resulted in an additional TCF having to be established at the Gates of FIARENCE South of PONTE VITTORIO Bridge on Route 2.

Driving was bad, vehicles holding the centre of the road, ~~giving~~ to maintain their correct intervals, coasting down steep hills, for which 3rd or 2nd gear should have been engaged and a complete absence of any signals. The troops being carried as passengers were completely undisciplined. They stood on the sides and tails of vehicles and in many cases sat on the top of the drivers cabin. When vehicles halted for any reason whatever the troops jumped to the road and many entered houses on the route, while others stood about in groups on the wrong side of the road.

As the columns moved on, numbers of troops were left behind and had to be put on following vehicles. At about 1630hrs between 40 and 50 stragglers were rounded up, many under the influence of drink, at the commencement of Route 65 and had to be put on two American Vehicles proceeding North.

Large numbers of vehicles required to re-fuel before travelling beyond FIARENCE and arrangements had to be made to take them out of the convoy to the filling point and then despatch them onwards. A number of vehicles had to be towed by Military Police Jeeps. Four Military Policemen were employed on this task until 2350 hrs, by which time the last of the vehicles passed through.

Sheet 2...On 16 Mar

Sheet 2

On 16 Mar 45, arrangements were made for two Military Policemen and one Carabinieri to proceed to the SP to assist in the control. On arrival they were told by a responsible officer of No. 1 District that they were not required.

Again, either due to lack of control at the SP or bad driving on the part of the convoy, it was found that intervals between columns varied between 11 and 15 minutes. Although the move on this day was strictly controlled in the Army Area, it was again noticed that driving and discipline was extremely bad with one notable exception. Serial T, of Flight 'B' (ie 11 Artillery Regt) was extremely well conducted. Driving was excellent and at halts men who dismounted, kept to the correct side of the road and some of them assisted in the regulation of passing traffic in a proper manner.

On 17 Mar 45 a vast improvement was evident from the commencement. Correct intervals and LHM and VHM were maintained. The convoy was thus handled without difficulty. The last vehicle was clear of PEARANCE by 2030hrs.

Great difficulty was experienced in making Italian Convoy Commanders understand that they were only allowed to move in blocks of 25 and it appeared to be the intention of the Italian Officers to take complete units through in convoy regardless of the number of vehicles concerned.

It could therefore only be assumed that they had not received explicit instructions before leaving their concentration area.

It is suggested that in any future moves of this kind that the responsible officer for the move from the SP should insist on the complete fueling of vehicles prior to the commencement of the journey, thus eliminating much of the delay and inconvenience to other users of the road.

Field
JRL/PN

(Sgd) J.R. LANGFORD, MAJOR,
Assistant Provost Marshal.

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Field
JRL/PA

(Sgd) J. R. LANGFORD, MAJOR,
Assistant Provost Marshal.

7925

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

52 D.D.S. 6
C.M.S.

From : Lieut. Col. J. S. H. Douglas.

25 March 45.

Dear Fiddler,

I am forwarding herewith a brief report on each of the officers of the Training Increment as requested in your letter DO/ME/17/1/AM of 19 March. I have no hesitation in saying that they have all done a first-rate job of work, and as a team I should imagine that they are considerably above the average; at any rate, they seem to have produced results.

They have all been intensely keen and have instilled their keenness into the units to which they have been attached and they have put across the British methods of tactics and organisation in such a way that the Italians themselves have become thoroughly enthusiastic about them.

It has been a case of leadership rather than drive and these methods have proved an unqualified success. The Italian units have become very attached to their Training Majors and will be sorry to lose them; I feel however that the time has arrived for the 'Moster parents' to be removed from their family, for all the units are now fully capable of functioning efficiently on their own, and no useful purpose would be served by retaining them for longer; I suggest therefore that the whole lot be recalled v.e.f. 1 April.

Ian Hope Johnstone is likely to be going home on compassionate grounds, and as at present he is acting as Liaison Officer between the 1st Army Group and H.Q. American Corps I suggest that he is left at that job if possible until his posting comes through; he has been a great success as the G.I. (Trng). He has taken endless pains and held many lectures and discussions; perhaps his crowning achievement is their complete mastery of the echelon system of supply - no mean feat; he prepared a very successful scheme for the Group in the occupation of a defensive position and relief in the line; all his efforts have been a big success and he is very well liked by the Italians as well as by his own Training Team.

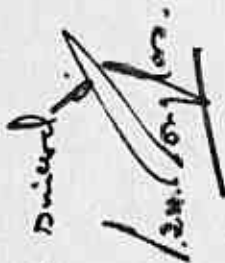
I hope these notes may be of some use to you.

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I hope these notes may be of some use to you.

yours sincerely



1923

To : Major H.M. Hindlater,
Directorate of Military Training,
A.F.H.Q., C.M.F.

CONFIDENTIAL.REPORTS ON C TRAINING IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS.Major E. I. M. Moore-Johnstone, R.F.S.

Has been an unqualified success as G II (Trng) and the high standard attained by the Gruppo is greatly due to his influence and perseverance. He has given many lectures and conducted many successful discussions; this has enabled the Italians to grasp the British principles of organization and tactics from the brigade level onwards, his own training achievement being their complete mastery of the location of the various echelons in the Supply System; furthermore he has shown himself thoroughly capable of commanding an exercise with troops on a high level.

Very popular with his Training Team, and admired and respected by all the Italian officers with whom he has worked.

Major K. F. B. Evans, M.C., Corps.

A quiet and efficient officer of the very best type. Much liked and respected by the Italian officers. Has learned a useful smattering of Italian. Recently judicially re-graded "B". Has done a first-rate job of work with his battalion.

Major R. H. Hilditch, Ruffs.

A very sound capable officer of considerable training ability. Much liked and respected by the Italian officers.

Major J. Edwards, U.D.F.

A conscientious officer who has done a good job of work in difficult circumstances.

Major H. O. A. T. Hill, Commandos.

A painstaking and very sound officer. Can be relied on to do a good

respected by the Italian officers. Has learned a useful smattering of Italian. Recently aptly re-graded "B". Has done a first-rate job of work with his battalion.

Major R. H. Miller, Staff.

A very sound capable officer of considerable training ability. Much liked and respected by the Italian officers.

Major E. Edwards, U.D.V.

A conscientious officer who has done a good job of work in difficult circumstances.

Major M. C. A. T. Hill, Commandos.

A outstanding and very sound officer. Can be relied on to do a good job of work on his own.

Major G. G. Teale, Staff.

A capable officer with great drive and bounce. Enthusiastic, and gets on well with the Italians.

Major T. E. Keenan, V. S. L.

Less experienced than the others, but sound and conscientious in his work. Gets on well with his Battalion officers. He is due for medical re-grading on 4 April 45.

The above are in priority of efficiency although the difference between the first and last is not very great, in that they are all good Training Officers, of proved ability.

25 March 45.

[Signature]

Lt. Col.
Comd. 52 B.L.U.

DO/DMT/17/1/MT1

From: Major H.M. FINDLATER,
DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY TRAINING
AFHQ CMF

Tel:11667

19th March 1945.

Dear *Col Douglas*

In the near future we expect to have to find new appointments for the Officers of your Training Increment.

Will you therefore please let us have a brief report on each of them. This report is for use in this office only as a guide to us in placing these officers and should not therefore contain any comment which should properly appear on an AF B194 E or F.

Yours *sincerely*

H.M. Findlater

Lt Col J.S.H. DOUGLAS,
52 BLU.

J...

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

26 Feb 45.

Dear *General*,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter; it was very good of you to bother to write. Alas, I am no longer with the Scouts, having relinquished command some three weeks ago, and am now looking after a different army altogether.

I have, however, forwarded your letter to my successor, Donald Cameron, who is still not very far away from me. I am sure that the Scouts will be only too happy to assist in any way that they can at any time.

Again many thanks.

Yours, *sincerely*

J.S.H. Douglas

To: Maj-Gen. C.F. Lockhart, C.D.E.
HQ 1st Division,
C.M.F.

1945

TOP SECRET.

From: Lieut-Col. J.S.H. Douglas,
The Lovat Scouts.

52 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.

26 Feb 45.

Dear *Donald,*

I have received a very charming letter from Comd 1st Division, and attach a copy herewith for your information. I have written to him and explained that you have now assumed command, and that I have passed his letter on to you.

I suppose you have no news yet of Pat being posted here, have you: we are getting rather urgently in need of our G. III(I) as there time is getting rather short and I foresee the greater part of the command being directed from this HQ, rather than across the passage.

Yours

led.

To: Lieut-Col. D.H. Cameron
Comd. The Lovat Scouts
C.M.F.

1921

From Lieut-Col. J. S. H. Douglas
The Lovat Scouts.

Personal and Confidential

52 British Liaison Unit,
HQ.

13 Nov 45.

G/10/46.

Dear Colnd,

I really feel very embarrassed of writing you again but if you don't ask you don't get. I do not know as what level the division I am going to get for is main, and quite possibly it is an 'A' Branch matter, but in any case I feel that it is easier to approach from a HQ aspect.

I have before me a letter from the (I No 1 District dated 24 Jan 45; this refers to the minutes of an AFHQ CE Committee meeting held on 1 Jan 45 which approved the addition to the HQ of a BIL, of a BIL (Intelligence). This appointment has not yet been filled as of 5 Feb 45 and I would like to recommend very strongly the appointment of No 113199 /Lieut S. A. Footton, the Lovat Scout (he also has a brother in the regiment).

I am sure you already know the "make up" of the Lovat Scouts: since they were converted to Mountain Regt all personnel must be medical category A1 plus. When we went to Canada to train last year, Pat Footton went over with the advance party in order to become one of the "leaders"; this necessitated undergoing a particularly strenuous course, and unfortunately before we even arrived he had already had a difference of opinion with a tree whilst sitting; this shocked up his tree and though it he is never likely to be A1 plus again. However, in the hopes that he might ultimately recover, I brought him overseas when we came abroad, and have been "nursing" him on jobs at my "see it", etc. He was naturally anxious through to take his full part in active operations and recently rejoined a Squadron undergoing ski-training at Aquila in order to put the lion to a real test, with the result that it has gone again. In my regiment other than the Lovat Scouts I'm only one "best-lion" he would have been a part in some years back, but he is not yet one and not likely to be one for some time as obviously promotion within the unit must be given to those carrying out an operational role.

He has considerable experience from the intelligence aspect as he worked with my IO during the greater part of the time that we have been in Italy, except for a brief period when I was a/Command 18 Lancers in Bde, during which time he assisted the IO at Bde. He has very considerable administrative capabilities, and a particular aptitude for getting on with the Italians, which is confirmed by my Italian IO.

they were converted to Mountain Regt all personnel must be medical category M plus. When we went to Canada to train last year, Sgt Footton went over with the advance party in order to become one of the "Fleeters"; this necessitated undergoing a particular, strenuous course, and unfortunately before we even arrived he had already had a difference of opinion with a true pilot sitting: this smashed up his knee and through M he is never likely to be M plus again. However, in the hopes that he might ultimately recover, I brought him over when we came aboard, and have been "nursing" him on jobs at the HQ, etc. He was naturally anxious through to take his full part in active operations and recently received a mission under very difficult conditions in order to put the team to a real test, with the result that it has gone again. In my regiment when the team comes in only one "captain" he would have been a Capt in some years back, but he is not yet one and not likely to be one for some time as obviously promotion within the unit must be given to those carrying out an operational role.

He has considerable experience from the intelligence aspect as he worked with us during the greater part of the time that we have been in Italy, except for a brief period when I was w/Comd 10 Lorried Inf Bde, during which time he assisted the IO at HQ. He was very considerable administrative capabilities, and a particular aptitude for working in with the Italian, which is confirmed by my Italian Lt.

From every aspect therefore, his duties would seem to be a suitable one. I saw Donald Cameron, my successor as CC Lovat Scouts, yesterday, and he is anxious that I should try and find Footton employment, as obviously now that he is definitely involved there is no job for him in a Mountain Regt.

Very sorry to hear for letter: I am sorry for worrying you again, but I am afraid you gave me the message when I visited you in Lima. It was indeed sad about Sandy Federsham: it was an irony of fate that a mountaineer of his calibre should have met his end in such a way.

I was greatly distressed to read the account of the Lovat Scouts: it is some consolation that it has made way for others, and I am more than delighted that Donald Cameron has got on again: I have no doubt though that this will turn out to be an interesting job.

Yours sincerely,
John Taylor
 7921

To: Colonel G.H. Hunt CB
 Military Secretary's Branch
 AFHQ, 1944.

Copy to: CC Lovat Scouts

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