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35. Territorial Training Center (CARS)

Jan. 8, 1946 - Oct 18, 1946

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7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE
Tele: 293618-23

REF: FLU/35A

18 Oct. 1946

Subject : Maps of G.A.R. for Training Handbook
To : 7 Territorial Command

1. Will you please forward two 1/25000 scale maps marking clearly the following particulars in respect of the 3rd Bn. 7 C.A.R. at AREZZO.
 - (a) Exact location and name of barracks
 - (b) 30x Ranges, giving numbers of targets on each
 - (c) Open ranges " " " " " "
 - (d) Areas for grenade throwing, PIAT firing and 2" Mortar firing
 - (e) Tactical training areas
 - (f) Field firing areas
 - (g) Any other useful training information
2. These maps are required for photographing and printing and subsequent insertion in the Training Handbook.
3. Your prompt action in this matter would be appreciated.

H
H.W. HAMILTON
Major
GSO II

7880

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

32

REF: BLW/35 A
12 July 1946

Subject : Accommodation - 7 C.A.R.
To : HQ. M.M.I.A.
Copy 7 Territorial Command

1. Ref. This HQ. letter of even ref dated 6 July 1946.
2. G.S.O.I and G.S.O.II of this BU on 11 July '46 made a thorough inspection of DANFEMA Barracks ARREZZO, where one Bn. of the C.A.R. will be accommodated for the next recruits course. The Command Engineer representative (Major VERGILIO) and the works contractor were both present.
3. This barracks has recently been vacated by one Bn. of the NEMBO Regt. (now concentrated at PISTOIA) and it was only to be expected that the essential water, lighting etc plants were already functioning.
4. Certain parts of this Barracks remain considerably war-damaged, and the general appearance of the buildings, parade-square and surrounds is somewhat "blitzed" and untidy.
5. Now, however, there is quite an army of workmen, masons etc hard at work building, plastering, painting, plumbing and generally tidying up the barracks. Major VERGILIO (who superintended so successfully similar work at the SIENA C.A.R.) is confident that all the necessary work now in hand will be completed by the target date 16 July (and it would appear even to a foeman that he has good reason for his confidence)
6. (a) Accommodation for one Bn. and services is adequate. The bk rooms are tiled, spacious and clean; and all windows are glazed.
(b) Kitchens. are now being fitted with new cooking-stoves and will adequately cater for the required numbers.
(c) Dining-hall. One spacious and bright dining hall will hold all the personnel.
(d) Latrines and ablutions are numerous, up to date, clean and in working order.
(e) Baths. There is an efficient hot-water plant which provides centrally for the adequate number of modern, tiled shower-baths.
(f) Men's Canteen with bar counter and water laid on, is being prepared; also necessary store-room.
(g) Messes, Officers' and N.C.O.'s, when complete will provide most suitable accommodation including separate kitchens. These occupy a floor of the HQ. block of the Bn.

- 2 -

- (h) Offices are adequate, and are on the second floor of the Hq. Block.
- (i) Officers sleeping quarters are adequate, and on top floor of Hq. Block.
- (j) Classrooms. An adequate number of indoor classrooms are being constructed by bricking-up in sections the ground-floors of two of the men's barrack blocks. Two tiered lecture rooms already exist.
- (k) Garages. An M.T. Shelter is under construction and will be adequate to hold the required number of vehicles at one side of the central parade ground.
- (l) Parade ground is now being cleared of rubble and debris, and will then be levelled.
- (m) M.T. Room, Sick Bay
- (n) Coy etc Offices and stores
- (o) Men's Recreation, Reading Room

Although the eventual allotment of accommodation is not yet decided there exists adequate accommodation to provide for all the above.

7. Married Families. No provision at present but authority is sought from H. of W. to start repairs on another barracks in AMRSO (not visited on 11 July) which should eventually provide for a considerable number of families.

C.C.
C.C. BARRIES
Lt. Col.
GSC I

0378

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

REF: BLU/35.A

6 July 1946

Subject: Accommodation 7 C.A.R.

To: M.M.I.A.

Reference your Trg/41/1 ^{Para 28.} dated 29 May 46.

1. On 19 June 46 a reconnaissance of ROVEZZANO barracks, FLORENCE was made in company with Col. GILANTOFFI (Chief of Staff 7 Terr. Comd). The question of moving one Bn. of 7 C.A.R. into these barracks was discussed.
2. Gen DE SIMONE, Comd 7 Terr. Comd. has now decided against this move and has recommended to the MINISTRY of War that one Bn. should move to GALLERIA barracks AREZZO.
3. This reasons for this decision are :-
 - (a) that GALLERIA barracks are in a better state of repair than ROVEZZANO barracks and can be made ready for occupation in a few weeks,
 - (b) that better facilities exist in AREZZO for the accommodation of married families,
 - (c) that training grounds are more accessible.
4. It is estimated that approximately six weeks work is necessary to prepare ROVEZZANO barracks for occupation at an estimated cost of 70,000,000 (seventy million) lire. In view of the lack of time available and the reasons given in para 3 above the move to AREZZO is considered desirable.

C.C.M.
C.O. MARKES
Lt. Col.
GSO I

1077

29

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

REF: BLU/35 A

Florence, 29 May 1946

Subject : Maps of CARs for Training Handbook

To : M.M.I.A.

Rec 29

1. Ref. your Trg /34 dated 21 May 46, herewith
 - (a) one copy of 1/25000 Scale map covering 7 CAR and its training areas.
 - (b) One unmarked copy of same 1/25000 scale map.
2. Ref. para 4 (c) of your a/quoted letter, map of Arezzo area will be forwarded if and when a decision is given to move part of 7 CAR.

CE/for info
662

H

H.W. HAMILTON
Major
GSO IX

5976

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

Ref: MEM/75 A

Florence, 24 May 1946

Subject: Accommodation C.A.R.

To: M.M.I.A.

MIA letter Ref Trg/44 dated 14 May 1946 to Ministry of War (copy this M.) refers.

1. ROVINZANO Barracks are situated on the AREZZO road on the outskirts of FLORENCE. These barracks are at present occupied by 10th Military Prison. (Br). The O.C. prison states that he will most probably have vacated them by the end of June next.
2. An inspection of these barracks was carried out on 18th May and it is estimated that by using double bunks some 1400 - 1500 Italian recruits could be accommodated. In addition there is a block suitable for officers and another block suitable for an officers Mess. In this latter block are a number of bedrooms which could be utilised for single officers quarters. Class rooms are also available.
3. It is suggested that this location would be more suitable than AREZZO to accommodate one Recruit Bn as it would be directly under the eye of 7 IG and 7 BII.
4. There is a good parade ground in the barracks itself and being on the outskirts of the town, suitable training areas could probably be found at no great distance from barracks.
5. In addition to the accommodation referred to above there are a number of other large buildings that have been more or less seriously damaged by bombing. It is estimated that if these were repaired the total capacity of the barracks would be 2500-3000 recruits. It is for consideration as to whether at some future date, it would not be advisable to move the Bn. of the CAR and 2 Recruit Bns to Florence, leaving only one Bn. at an outstation.

6. Pending a policy ruling on this subject from HQ. MIA, the matter has not been discussed with 7 I.C. nor is it known if any other plans for making use of these

Subject : Accommodation C.A.P.

To : M.M.L.A.

Ref 24

MIA letter Ref Inv/4/A dated 14 May 1946 to Ministry of War (copy this H.) refers.

1. ROVINANO Barracks are situated on the AREZZO road on the outskirts of FLORENCE. These barracks are at present occupied by "G" Military Prison. (Dr). The G.C. prison states that he will most probably have vacated them by the end of June next.
2. An inspection of these barracks was carried out on 13th May and it is estimated that by using double bunks some 1400 - 1500 Italian recruits could be accommodated. In addition there is a block suitable for officers and another block suitable for an officers mess. In this latter block are a number of bedrooms which could be utilised for single officers quarters. Glass rooms are also available.
3. It is suggested that this location would be more suitable than AREZZO to accommodate one Recruit Bn as it would be directly under the eye of 7 TC and 7 BM.
4. There is a good parade ground in the barracks itself and being on the outskirts of the town, suitable training areas could probably be found at no great distance from barracks.
5. In addition to the accommodation referred to above there are a number of other large buildings that have been more or less seriously damaged by bombing. It is estimated that if these were repaired the total capacity of the barracks would be 2500-3000 recruits. It is for consideration as to whether at some future date, it would not be advisable to move the HQ of the GAK and 2 Recruit Bns to Florence, leaving only one Bn. at an outstation.
6. Pending a policy ruling on this subject from HQ. MIA, the matter has not been discussed with 7 T.C. nor is it known if Genl. DE SIMONE has other plans for making use of these barracks.

ends /.

75

7. Should the scheme be approved by you in principle, a more detailed inspection will be made, when such matters as the exact amount of accommodation available, water supply etc. will be gone into.

8. General BROWNING discussed this question with Gen. DE SLONNE during his visit to 7 T.O. H.Q. on 20 May.

B.L. Gresson

B.S.L. GRESSON
Major,
DIA & QMG

6873

24

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
PLANNING

REF: HUN/25 A

Florence, 10 May 1946

subject : Accommodation C.A.R.

To : M.M.I.A.

1. The overcrowding at the C.A.R. SUSA has been pointed out in various reports from this HUN and was stressed in DUMM'S SUSA report forwarded with his letter H/6/183 dated 6 May. *folio 33A FILE 25*
2. In view of the available accommodation in SUSA, 7 T.C. originally suggested that one bn. of the C.A.R. should be located in ANZEO. For difficulty in training and several other reasons, this suggestion was turned down and instructions were given for all the C.A.R. to be billeted in SUSA.
3. In view of the medical report referred to in para one and the approach of the hot weather, information is requested as to whether the whole of the C.A.R. will continue to be located in SUSA or some portion of it transferred elsewhere.
4. If there is any question of "thinning out" at SUSA it is requested that as much warning as possible be given in order that the necessary moves may be carried out.

See 25

D.S.L. GREGORY

D.S.L. GREGORY
Major
DAA & SD

Internal: GHO II
RANC.
L.O. HAD.

273

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

(22)

REF: ELU/35A

Florence, 15 April 1946

Subject : Accommodation

To : M.N.I.A.

1. Ref. your HQ. Q.001 of 4 April 1946.
2. Information required in para 2 of your a/q letter is attached herewith as Appendices 1, 2, and 3 (Translations of original reports from 7 Territorial Command)
3. These reports and recommendations by 7 T.C. are in the nature of "long term policy". What are considered necessary, however, are measures which remedy immediately the present, unsatisfactory conditions of married families accommodation, most especially in permanent garrison towns and C.A.R.'s. It is felt that this can be achieved only by a reasonable system of family allowances.
4. At the C.A.R. for instance, married officers and O.R.'s receive a Family (or separation) Allowance only while they are separated; this allowance ceases while the family is living in the same station, even though there is no provision of military or requisitioned accommodation. This system would appear only to discourage the presence of the family and to encourage instead the maintenance of a local levy!
5. It is considered, further, that the question of single officers' accommodation should be seriously considered in conjunction with that of married families, as being an equally important factor in the efficiency, Morale and Prestige of the "New" Italian Army.
6. Where no military accommodation is provided for single officers (as is frequently the case) considerable financial hardship *and* embarrassment is suffered by the individual officer. For instance, in large cities such as ROME and FLORENCE accommodation is at a premium and accommodation for a single officer would cost him an average of L. 2500 and L. 1800 respectively. This high rate leaves an officer, especially a single subaltern living on his pay alone, a negligible margin for dress and

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- 2 -

entertainment, a factor which inevitably lowers his own morale and also his prestige as an Army officer in the eyes of more affluent civilians. It is considered most important that the New Italian Army should start on the right foot from this aspect, and that the Army officer should not be considered (as in the pre-war British Army) as either a penniless idiot, or an idiot who is prepared to pay out of his own pocket for the privilege of leading a noble life! In short, if Italy wants a decent Army she should pay for it, even if it means sending the bill to her Mayfair.

7. The following are therefore recommended as immediate measures:

- (a) a reasonable and permanent system of allowances for all ranks (bachelors and married) seconded from their units in stations where no military accommodation is provided.
- (b) the requisitioning of adequate accommodation for local military needs on a permanent basis (houses, hotels, or pensions)
- (c) complementary to (b) above, the purchase by the Italian Government of adequate local accommodation to be maintained permanently by the Army and to be handed over to the Military occupant, whose pay could be adjusted accordingly.

8. As permanent or long-term policy the following are suggested:

- (a) immediate repair of damaged military buildings
- (b) building of new and suitable Army accommodation
- (c) purchase by the Government of suitable accommodation which Army personnel would then be given the opportunity to purchase on reasonable terms, rather on the lines of an English Building Society but without the profit-making motive. This scheme would have the advantage of encouraging an officer or O.R. to save money by investing his savings in property so that he may have a house or apartment of his own which would serve either as a home, or at least as a source of income during and after his military service.

9. The importance of this aspect of Army Service cannot be stressed too strongly. Any remedies how ever small of the present situation are bound to have favourable repercussions throughout the Army and that at a period when morale and welfare considerations must count for so much.

C.C. Markes

C.C. MARKES
Lt. Col.
G S O I

(21)

Subject : Rations to U.A.R.

7 British Liaison Unit
Florence,
BLU/35/A
16 April 1946

To : A.D.S.T. , M.M.I.A.

1. Your SE/140 dated 11 April and addressed to the Ministry of War refers.
2. Scale No.27 (Table of Equivalents) of GHQ Ration and Fuel Scales determines that when M & V ration is issued as an alternative to Meat Preserved the daily issue should be increased from 5 oz. to 7 oz.
3. The issues to all IPI-ITI units in this Area have been and are being made at the rate of 5 oz. per day irrespective of whether the rations comprise whole meat products or meat and vegetables.
4. If a deviation from scale 27 has been agreed with D.S.T. GHQ in respect of rations for Italian Armed Forces may reference to the appropriate amendment please be given.

See 23


G.A. MORROW
Capt. R.A.S.C.

270

1910

file

7th BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

16

REF: 35A/BLU

Florence, 11 Feb. 1946

Subject : Maintenance & Repair of Italian Army Barrack

To : HQ. Territorial Command

Herewith copy of MIA letter Q 002 dated 5 Feb. 1946, for
your information.



D.S.L. GREGSON
Major
7 BLU

0569

1911

7TH BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

Ref: MW/ 18

12 February 1946

Subject : Accommodation - "La Manora" Barracks.
To : 7th Territorial Command - Florence.

It has been agreed that work can commence w.e.f. 13 of February on the building previously used by 16 L. of C Sigs as an Office and Medical Inspection Room (Conversation S/Capt. Q 211 Sub Area. O.C. 16 L of C Sigs. Maj Downing 7th B.L.U. of 11 February confirms this.)

As soon as further accommodation becomes available on vacation by small Allied Det., you will be immediately informed.

all 9

Downing

R. DOWNING
Major,
7th B.L.U.

Copies : 211 Sub Area
16 L. of C. Sigs

5968

191

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

Use

Ref: BLU/35

Florence, 26 Jan 1946

10

Subject : C.A.R. SIRNA

To : M.M.L.A.

*See folder 10A
10B*

Ref. MHA letter TRG/1 dated 12 January 1946.
Enclosed are the following:-

1. Folio 1. Plan of Training & Field Firing Areas.
2 Maps 1/100,000. Sheets P 113 & P 120.
Brief description of Areas.
2. Folio 2. Detailed plans of LA MARCORA barracks.
3. Folio 3. Detailed plans of Prince URSINO barracks.
This is the same as MAZZINI and is referred to by both names.
4. Folio 4. Detailed plans of PIAVE barracks.
5. From the above it will be seen that the following approximate numbers can be accommodated.

(a)	LA MARCORA	=	3300
(L)	MAZZINI	=	330
(c)	PIAVE	=	400
	Total	=	<u>4030</u>

The accommodation in LA MARCORA is subject to the provision of double tier beds.

(b) These plans have only been discussed in general terms so far, but a detailed inspection of all barracks and training areas will be made immediately after the Rome Conference.

D.S.L. GREGSON

D.S.L. GREGSON
Major
7 BLU

7TH BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FOR ENCE

9

Ref : BLU/35

26 January 46

Subject : Accommodation - "LA MARMORA" Barracks, Siena.

To : 211 Sub Area.

- 14

1. Both during the visit in person to the above barracks & at subsequent telephone conversation (Lt. Col. MIDDLTON - Maj. GREGSON) it was agreed between the Area Commander & Maj. Grégson, that the near garage would continue to be occupied by personnel of the R.Sigs.
2. This agreement was made as the cost of repairing alternative accommodation in the CASA DEL PASCIO was prohibitive (£400-0-0).
3. It now transpires that another building is occupied by a small detachment of RME, 5 ORs & 2 recovery waggons. This latter accommodation is also used for housing casual ORs & vehicles spending a night in Siena.
4. As this second building is required urgently by 7 T.C. for the "Call Up" could instructions please be given for the RME detachment to close up with the R Sigs or to evacuate the premises may it cease to be used as a casual parking place.

211 15

D.S.L. GREGSON

D.S.L. GREGSON
Major,
7th B.L.U.

1914

Subject : Accommodation - "LA MARMORA" Barracks, Siena.

To : 211 Sub Area.

14

1. Both during the visit in person to the above barracks & at subsequent telephone conversation (Lt. Col. MIDDLETON - Maj. GREGSON) it was agreed between the Area Commander & Maj. Gregson, that the rear garage would continue to be occupied by personnel of the R.Sigs.

2. This agreement was made as the cost of repairing alternative accommodation in the CASA DEL FASCIO was prohibitive (£400-0-0).

3. It now transpires that another building is occupied by a small detachment of REME, 5 ORs & 2 recovery waggon. This latter accommodation is also used for housing casual ORs & vehicles spending a night in Siena.

4. As this second building is required urgently by 7 T.C. for the "Call Up" could instructions please be given for the REME detachment to close up with the R Sigs or to evacuate the premises may it cease to be used as a casual parking place.

211/15

D.S.I. GREGSON

D.S.I. GREGSON
Major,
7th B.L.U.

Copy to :- 7 T.C.

1915

FLORENCE COMMAND

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

File 81

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Office of origin 7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT Date 8 JAN. 1946
 Classification UNCLASSIFIED Telephone 1629
(Restricted - Confidential - Secret) (Originating office)
 Precedence ROUTINE
(Deferred - Routine - Priority - Operational Priority - Urgent)

To : HQ MMIA

CONVERSATION GREGSON - CHRISTIE TO DAY (.)
 SUBJECT ACCOMODATION IN SIENA (.) WITH AREA COMMANDER AND ITALIAN
 REPRESENTATIVE HAVE TO DAY VISITED AVAILABLE ACCOMODATION IN SIENA (.)
 FIRST (.) LA MANORA BARRACKS (.) THIS IS FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATION
 AND WAS BUILT AS A BARRACKS CMA AND WAS TWO MINATURE RANGES AND
 AMPLE SPACE FOR TRAINING (.) WILL ACCOMMODATE MINIMIUM TWO THOUSAND
 TWO HUNDREND WITHOUT DOUBLE TIER BEDS CMA IF DOUBLE TIER BEDS
 PROVIDED WILL ACCOMMODATE UP TO THREE THOUSANDS FIVE HUNDRED -
 FOUR THOUSAND (.) SECOND (.) PIAVE BARRACKS WILL ACCOMMODATE
 FIVE TO SIX HUNDREND (.) THIRD (.) MAZZINI BARRACKS WILL ACCOMMODATE
 THREE HUNDREND (.) FOURTH (.) S CHIARA BARRACKS (.) SEE NO REASON
 THAT SIENA DISTRICT HQS SHOULD MOVE FROM THESE BARRACKS CMA HAVE
 ARRANGED THAT THEY SHOUD CLOSE UP AND WHEN THIS IS DONE THESE
 BARRACKS WILL ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST THREE HUNDREND (.)

Distribution

authenticated by

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Signal Corps Message Center Number

(Do Not Write In This Space)

FLORENCE COMMAND

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Office of origin _____ Date _____
 Classification _____ Telephone _____
(Restricted - Confidential - Secret) (Originating office)
 Precedence _____
(Deferred - Routine - Priority - Operational Priority - Urgent)

To :

DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT ANY OF THE FOREGOING BARRACKS BE USED FOR MARRIED FAMILIES (.) HAVE ARRANGED WITH TOWN MAJOR SIENA THAT THE HOTEL RAVIZZA 25 ROOMS AND HOTEL EXCELSIOR 140 ROOMS WILL BE DEREGISTRATIONED BY ALLIES AND SUGGEST THESE TWO HOTELS GIVE AMPLE AND DESIRABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR MARRIED FAMILIES (.) LA MAMORA BARRACKS AT PRESENT OCCUPIED BY SMALL PALESTINE UNIT WHO ARE ENGAGED ON IMPORTANT AND CONFIDENTIAL WORK (.) DO NOT CONSIDER NECESSARY TO MOVE THEM BEFORE 15 JAN WHICH IS THEIR DATE OF EVAACUATION (.) HAVE EXPLAINED ON ALL LEVELS HIGH PRIORITY OF TTC AND ~~EXPERIN~~ THAT NO REPEAT NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY FAILURE

Distribution _____ Content and classification **D.S.L. GREGSON**
 authenticated by **7th B.D.U.**
 Copy to : 211 SOB AREA.
 7 Terr Command (by hand)
 Signal Corps Message Center Number _____
 (Do Not Write in This Space)

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