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Policy General

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Jan. 7, 1946 - May 1, 1946

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

21

REF: HM/65 E

Florence, # May 1946

Subject : 7 C.A.R.

To : 7 Territorial Command

Dear Colonel

During my last visit to the C.A.R. at BIRMA I spent some time watching training and I forward these comments in the hope that they will be useful.

1. Equipment was badly fitting, more attention should be paid by HQs to see that belts fit tightly and well. The wrong type of ammunition pouch has been delivered in error, this fact has been reported and we hope it will be speedily rectified.

2. Instructors were inclined to pay too much attention to the individual soldier thereby not holding the attention of the remainder of the class : this was noticed particularly in the instruction on the "Cossack Crawl".

3. When feasible, recruits should be allowed to sit when receiving instruction. I noticed one squad who were kept standing for a whole period, they were fidgeting about from one foot to another, getting tired, and therefore not paying any attention to the instructor.

4. Painted cardboard targets are being used for instruction on aiming the rifle. I would suggest a more simple and better method would be to paint permanent targets on the walls of the barracks. This would save renewing the cardboard targets and would prevent them flapping about in the wind.

5. As a matter of principle, British Officers, while visiting troops during actual training or working periods, do NOT expect an instructor to interrupt his instruction by calling the squad to attention or paying any compliments. Should a visiting officer wish to talk to an instructor or recruits, then a clear signal will be given, and only

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in this case will the instructor be expected to cease and call the squad to attention and then himself salute. On the other hand, any supervising officer or N.C.O in the vicinity who is not actually instructing is expected to report to the visiting officer, state his name and duties, and the nature of the work or training which the troops are doing.

Needless to say, this only applies to occasions when the Senior Officer of the visiting party is British; naturally, when the Senior Officer is Italian, any visiting British officer will expect normal Italian custom to be followed.

I would be grateful if you would inform all concerned at the C.A.R. especially in view of Genl. BROWNING's forthcoming visit.

C.C.
C.C. MARGES
Lt. Col.
GSO I

Col. PICCINI
Chief of Staff
7 Territorial Command

7026

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

Ref : BLU / 35 / E

Florence, 12 April 1946

Subject : 7 C.A.R.

To : H.Q. 7 Territorial Command

1. During the visit of G. I. (Col. C.G. HARTOS) & DAA & JMG (Maj. D.S.L. GREGSON) to 7 C.A.R. on 10 April 1946, the following points were noted and are passed to you for such action as you may deem necessary.

2. (a) Construction of firing ranges was being held up as authority has not yet been granted for the requisition of land for this purpose. May steps please be taken to hasten this requisition as the ranges should be ready for use in the very near future and much work is necessary to complete them.

(b) The general standard of instruction appeared good but it is suggested that when classes are large they should be held in the open air. One class consisting of about 40 recruits was taking place in a very stuffy room where the men were crowded and uncomfortable and inclined to be sleepy and inattentive.

H
H.W. HAMILTON
Major,
G.S.O. II

7025

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

Ref: MU / 35e

Florence, 5 April 1946

Subject: Maintenance for Italian Troops in Siena.

To : 7 Territorial Command & Florence

1. During the course of his recent inspection of 7 C.A.R. the G.S.O. II (Maj. H.W. Hamilton) of this B.L.U. ascertained the following from Lt.Col. Sottili (Adj. C.A.R.):

- (a) 7 C.A.R. in Siena provides Canteens for soldiers on a scale of one per barracks. These Canteens sell cakes and wines etc. and provide writing rooms.
- (b) In the town itself a Communist Club has been opened which provides free meals, wine and dancing facilities for members of the Italian Armed Forces and their girl friends. It is reported that in this club much political propaganda is spread to the soldiers. An incident which took place on the evening of Saturday 30 March 1946 is typical. A crowd of recruits left the club singing the Communist Anthem "Bandiera Rossa".
- (c) The Commandant of 7 C.A.R. is seriously concerned over this propaganda which is causing unrest amongst the soldiers. Whilst not wishing to forbid the use of this club to troops under this command, and deprive them of free meals, wine and dancing he strongly urges that all measures should be taken to complete the Military Club at the "Ex Casa del Fascio". When this club is completed he can put the Communist Club out of bounds.
- 2. The building "Ex Casa del Fascio" is in course of being repaired but it is estimated that an additional grant of 1000,000 (one million Lire) will be necessary to complete necessary repairs and purchase furniture and stock to open this club.

3. It is further suggested that ladies of the Italian Organisation C.A.F. (Corpo Ausiliare Femminile) be made available to run the club under the supervision of a senior officer of the C.A.R.

Subject : Welfare for Italian Troops in Siena.

To : 7 Territorial Command - Florence

1. During the course of his recent inspection of 7 C.A.R. the C.S.O. II (Maj. H.W. Hamilton) of this B.L.U. ascertained the following from Lt.Col. Sottili (Adj. C.A.R.):

- (a) 7 C.A.R. in Siena provides Canteens for soldiers on a scale of one per barracks. These Canteens sell calas and wines etc. and provide writing rooms.
- (b) In the town itself a Communist Club has been opened which provides free meals, wine and dancing facilities for members of the Italian Armed Forces and their girl friends. It is reported that in this club much political propaganda is spread to the soldiers. An incident which took place on the evening of Saturday 30 March 1946 is typical. A crowd of recruits left the club singing the Communist Anthem "Bandiera Rossa".

(c) The Commandant of 7 C.A.R. is seriously concerned over this propaganda which is causing unrest amongst the soldiers. Whilst not wishing to forbid the use of this club to troops under this command, and deprive them of free meals, wine and dancing he strongly urges that all measures should be taken to complete the Military Club at the "Ex Casa del Fascio". When this club is completed he can put the Communist Club out of bounds.

2. The building "Ex Casa del Fascio" is in course of being repaired but it is estimated that an additional grant of 1000,000 (one million lire) will be necessary to complete necessary repairs and purchase furniture and stock to open this club.

3. It is further suggested that ladies of the Italian Organization C.A.R. (Corpo Ausiliare Femminile) be made available to run the club under the supervision of a senior officer of the C.A.R.

4. In view of the permanent nature of the C.A.R. and the large numbers of soldiers in training it is strongly recommended that this additional grant should be speedily accorded to this very necessary work.

W. H. H. H.

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

Copy to :- H.Q. H.M.I.A.

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7TH BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

Ref : HJY/35 E

Florence, 13 March 1946

IMPORTANT

Subject : C.A.R. Circular.

To : Chief of Staff
7th Territorial Command.

Herewith copy of M.M.I.A. letter THY/27 dtd. 3 March 1946, for
your information & necessary action.

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

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C. L.

Florence, 12 March 1946

- See the 1st of Aug 1942 - March 46

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1. The attached training memorandum is forwarded for your information. - Let 2. 398
2. Will you please bring to the notice of units under your command.

Ms. A

kie,

G.S.O. II

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7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

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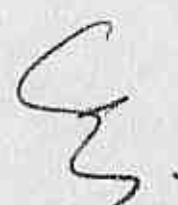
REF: BLJ/35 E

Florence 19 Feb. 1946

Subject : Opening of CAR

To : 7 Territorial Command

Herewith copy MIA letter TRG/27 dated 7 Feb. 1946, for your
information.

See 7

D.S.L. GREGSON
Major
7 BLJ

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7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE

REF: BLU/35 E

Florence, 18 Feb. 1946

Subject : Demonstration Platoons for C.A.R.

To : MBLA

Mid-month report as at 15 Feb. para 3 (b) forwarded under BLU/20 dated 18 Feb. 1946 refers.

1. As instructed at the MBLA conference of 28 & 29 Jan. a Demonstration Platoon for C.A.R. SIENA has been arranged for.
2. A second Demonstration Platoon has also been detailed in case this was required for a Territorial Command not having an Inf. Div.
3. Both these platoons will be provided by the POLIGORE .
4. Will you please state if the Platoon referred to in para 2 above will be required and should continue training.

Sec 10

D.S.L. Gregson
D.S.L. GREGSON
Major
7 BLU

7820

7th BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

FLORENCE

Ref: 7 BLU/81

Florence, 7 Jan. 1946

Subject : Chain of Command Inf Divs.

To : 7th Territorial Command

Herewith copy of MMIA letter G/1/1 dated
4 Jan. 1946 for your information.

D.S.L. GREGSON

Major
7 BLU

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