

785020

ACC

10000/120/4224

DO/1/LO

10000/120/4224

DO/1/LO

D.O's etc.7552
7561

Jan. - Ap. 1945

Tel:- BARI 11458

Liaison Office,
Land Forces, Sub Comm.
A.C.(MMIA).

~~BASE/NO/1/10~~

29 April 45.

Dear Stuart:

Many thanks for your letter of 21 April 45.

I am settling down quite happily here, though this is NOT the part of Italy I would have chosen for myself!

My chief occupation has been chasing unauthorized units and surplus personnel, but there has been a certain amount of excitement over the forming of the A.C. S.T. Coys. I think it is essential, when BR ITI units are formed, for British Cadres of some sort to be on the spot from the start, to deal with the various British commitments which arise.

I have written officially about 541 Div.

ST. ANDREW'S CAMP is an institution about which I would be very grateful for full information as to policy etc.

By mid May it will be six months since my last leave. Would you agree to my having a week's leave in ROME 14-22 May? I can then take the opportunity of reporting progress to date in person.

I understand I was MBE'ed in the New Year.

Kindest regards
Yours.

Cibber

Lt. Col. S.M. Ingledeu OBE
Military Mission to Italian Army
CMF

DO/6

Lt. Col. S.M. INGLEDEW
MILITARY MISSION TO ITALIAN ARMY
CMF

21 Apr 45

Dear *George*,

I hope you have settled down all right and are liking it in BARI. Was glad to learn that no MIA personnel was hurt in the recent explosion.

Officially your northern boundary is as far north as 1 District southern boundary but there has not been much for us to do in the Ortona and Pescara area in the past. Your western boundary is western boundary of 54 Area or such other mutual arrangement as you like to make with Thrupp.

The latest order of battle which has been forwarded to you shows all authorized WEs together with actual strengths. There are, I agree, a few units held in the reinforcement category which have no official WEs. The Signal School will be absorbed into CESANO next month while we are now considering a WE for St Andrews Camp and will notify you shortly. In the meantime please work on "actual" strengths. If there are any other queries just phone us up and we will straighten them out.

Will you please let us know officially whether HQ 541 Regiment is still necessary. Personally I think the work should be done by 230 Division.

The date for closing of 230 Division has NOT been fixed. Please phone up if the Italians propose to take unilateral action.

Kindest regards.

Yours,

Stuart M. Ingledew

Officially your northern boundary is as far north as 1 District southern boundary but there has not been much for us to do in the Ortona and Pescara area in the past. Your western boundary is western boundary of 54 Area or such other mutual arrangement as you like to make with Tarupp.

The latest order of battle which has been forwarded to you shows all authorized WEs together with actual strengths. There are, I agree, a few units held in the reinforcement category which have no official WEs. The Signal School will be absorbed into CESAMO next month while we are now considering a WE for St Andrews Camp and will notify you shortly. In the meantime please work on "actual" strengths. If there are any other queries just phone us up and we will straighten them out.

Will you please let us know officially whether HQ 541 Regiment is still necessary. Personally I think the work should be done by 230 Division.

The date for closing of 230 Division has NOT been fixed. Please phone up if the Italians propose to take unilateral action.

Kindest regards.

Yours,

Stuart M. Englebert

147 Camp Marine

Major G.P. HOLT
Senior Liaison Officer
META
c/o 54 Area

P.S.

Have you?

an MBE?

If so, we need it. I want you to

7560

785020

CONFIDENTIAL

Col. W. Pidsley, DSO MC
H.C. M.M.I.A. ROME.

DC/GPH/1
8 Apr 45.

Dear Colonel,

A problem has arisen with regard to the Commander of 806 B.A.D. TRAFI, which BIRD is going to discuss with you.

2. According to the WE CM/730/1 the appointment is for a Lt. Col., tho' with our agreement War Ministry have made an arrangement whereby it can be held by a Col. if already in Command when the WE was promulgated.

3. TRAFI was Commanded by one Col. SALVONI, who has recently been on leave. During his absence Cord was assumed by a Lt.Col. BERTAZZONI.

4. THEOPHILUS, CC BR. Increment, much prefers BERTAZZONI on the grounds that he is energetic, gets things done and is easy for him to work with. SALVONI he regards as a Charming and honest man, but finds him in-efficient and difficult to work with. He would like to have him removed as soon as possible and have BERTAZZONI appointed in his place.

5. BIRD will give you his and O'DONNELL's views on these two Officers, which does NOT all-together accord with those of THEOPHILUS.

6. Personally I feel that it is probably a question of in compatible temperaments. It would probably be unwise to encourage THEOPHILUS to put in an adverse report on SALVONI, but, as THEOPHILUS is largely responsible for the successful running of the Depot, it would be better for him to have somebody he gets on with in Command. Accordingly I feel that the best solution would be to get TM to post SALVONI elsewhere, which I understand SALVONI would welcome, and to put BERTAZZONI in Command.

7. I would be very grateful if you would let me know what you decide, so that I can tell THEOPHILUS whether or not he has got to reconcile himself to the present position. If it is decided to post SALVONI away, I feel that this should be done as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

CWA

Senior M.M.I.A. L.O.
EAST ITALY (54 Area).

recently been on leave. During his absence some has assumed by Lt.Col. BERTAZZONI.

4. THEOPHILUS, CC Br. Increment, much prefers BERTAZZONI on the grounds that he is energetic, gets things done and is easy for him to work with. SALVONI he regards as a charming and honest man, but finds him in-efficient and difficult to work with. He would like to have him removed as soon as possible and have BERTAZZONI appointed in his place.

5. SIRD will give you his and O'DONNELL's views on these two Officers, which does NOT all-together accord with those of THEOPHILUS.

6. Personally I feel that it is probably a question of in compatible temperaments. It would probably be unfair to encourage THEOPHILUS to put in an adverse report on SALVONI, but, as THEOPHILUS is largely responsible for the successful running of the Depot, it would be better for him to have somebody he lets on with in Command. Accordingly I feel that the best solution would be to get "M" to post SALVONI elsewhere, which I understand SALVONI would welcome, and to put BERTAZZONI in Command.

7. I would be very grateful if you would let me know what you decide, so that I can tell THEOPHILUS whether or not he has got to reconcile himself to the present position. If it is decided to post SALVONI away, I feel that this should be done as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

WPA

Senior M.M.I.A. I.O.
EAST ITALY (54 Area).

7552

Maj. G. Bird
M.M.I.A. L.O.
B A R I

DO/JGB/2

2 Apr 45.

Dear *Colonel.*

Reference your DO/RAC/1, I tried a trick on Territorial HQ in order to gain information. In other words I told them that all repatriated PsW should go normally to S. Andrews.

The reply shows that their THREE Reception Centres are as follows :-

No.1	BARI	(two authorised)
No.2	LECCE	(Authorised)
No.3	ROCCAFORZATA (near TARANTO)	(Not authorised).

It appears that these camps do receive repatriates incl. civilians, who are sent home. (300 arrived yesterday in BARI). The repatriates received civilian rations, and they are screened, documented, selected, and despatched to TRANI, ASTRONI, CESANO or FROSINONE in the same way as personnel received into S. Andrews. It would further appear that repatriates received into these camps are not repatriated through normal channels, but by JUGOSLAV Authorities, by the Italian themselves with small craft, and by various missions over there - generally without notice.

In view of the fact that the closing of S. Andrews seems an imminent probability, I would suggest that the work, which is identical, except that there is no British Cadre, should be taken over by these Reception Centres.

I would further suggest that ONE Reception Centre only in BARI is continued, but that ROCCAFORZATA is authorised instead of LECCE, as being easier to keep an eye on. But this matter depends whether Reception Centres such as these are intended for the future large scale repatriates that are bound to take place, or whether that will not be an Army Commitment.

Lt.Col. R.A.Curtis.
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(MMIA). ROME.

Yours Sincerely
G. Bird

7550

MMIA LO 54 Area.Memorandum for Comd.10 Jan 45.1. Sick, convalescent, and wounded from North Italy.

The Italian Military authorities will continue to hide such personnel in depots etc, as they have no alternative place for them. It is suggested that the Italian Government be pressed to make Convalescent Camps and homes for such personnel under A.C. arrangements, until they can be sent to their homes.

2. Change over of Comd.

It has been believed that various "rackets" have grown up in this area, in conjunction with the Commissariato. No proof, however, has appeared to substantiate this. It is suggested therefore that a review be made of the length of time that senior or key officers have been in their particular jobs, and in the interest of efficiency by "new broom" methods, changes should be made. This would break up "rackets" involving military personnel.

3. Blankets.

The present blanket posn is as follows.

at LA ROCCA	Comforters 23,837	Blankets 18,000
"Casernaaggio		Blankets 9,000

Other blankets are held in depots in Lecce but the records are kept by MMIA, ROME.

J.G. Bird
J.G. BIRD Major.
Senior MMIA LO.
c/o HQ 54 Area.

another Adm Div for DISTRO? It would give them resources for development, and anticipate the inevitable.

Major J.G.BIRD
Senior M.M.I.A. L.O.
c/o H.Q. 54 Area.
DO/1/LO

9 Jan 45.

Dear

Colonel

I have been somewhat perturbed at the extreme difficulty of getting stuff up to Col Moriarty. For six weeks we've had an ever mounting dump of clothing waiting to go to him. We've tried ship, rail and now are awaiting fore phantom C.T.Coy. Meanwhile the ORD part has had the mortification of seeing a normal ST maintenance Bid go through by rail from BARI to JESI on the ordinary FOM.

At the risk of everything, I have therefore sketched a proposal for a similar type of Maintenance Bid for Clothing. Perhaps we may fall below what I've termed "Standard Maintenance". Anyhow I've little doubt my Appx 'A' will be shot into "A.C. Salvage".

The main point is, however, that co-operative as movements are, willing as we are, anxious as you are, nothing can continuously or successfully be achieved in the movements line, unless we play with their normal FOM. If we overbid well MOVEIT won't mind having the extra wagons, and it will also give Guthrie a chance to get his new Italian railway Det. (ex Fort) operating on the right lines i.e. tying up bids, tonnage allocations, Commissariat sups, wagons, despatches, receipts etc.

In order to give my Appx 'A' a boost, I've added an Annexure 1 of present BRIT stocks, and an Annexure 2 of Repair Production. Naturally I can't conceal the real drawback to the whole scheme, which is that our BRIT and Allied clothing repair programme this side is based in BARI. Now if we could send BRIT and Allied stuff to FASANO, LECCE, or CONVERSANO, we would not have to meet the British and US competition for workpeople and we could boost production. This is however dependent upon having extra vech to play with. But let me hastily add we could also maintain the same wastage replacement rate for III-III. My one fear there is, that we will bust the LA ROCCA walls with over production soon, and in view of the shortage of warehouse space our one hope is to have a large and continuous turnover, and little actual stock in hand.

On this assumption, I am convinced we can keep our end up - if we continue to get enough Grade III from 500 AOD. and if we don't, we will bust LA ROCCA into paying high dividends! So any way you look at it, it is worth trying. Can we please?

Yours Respectfully,

J.G.Bird

Col. F.J. Noakes.
H.Q. M.M.I.A.
ROME.

P.S. I hear on good authority that 2 District will be getting...

The main point is, however, that co-operative as movements are, willing as we are, anxious as you are, nothing can continuously or successfully be achieved in the movements line, unless we play with their normal PCM. If we overbid-well MOVEIT won't mind having the extra wagons, and it will also give Guthrie a chance to get his new Italian railway Det. (ex Port) operating on the right lines i.e. tying up bids, tonnage allocations, Commissariat sups, wagons, despatches, receipts etc.

In order to give my Appx 'A' a boost, I've added an Annexure 1 of present BRITI stocks, and an Annexure 2 of Repair Production. Naturally I can't conceal the real drawback to the whole scheme, which is that our BRITI and Allied clothing repair programme this side is based in BARI. Now if we could send BRITI and Allied stuff to FASANO, LECOS, or CONVERSANO, we would not have to meet the British and US Competition for working people and we could boost production. This is however dependent upon having extra vehs to play with. But let me hastily add we could also maintain the same wastage replacement rate for ITI-III. My one fear there is, that we will bust the LA ROCCA walls with over production soon, and in view of the shortage of warehouse space our one hope is to have a large and continuous turnover, and little actual stock in hand.

On this assumption, I am convinced we can keep our end up - if we continue to get enough Grade III from 500 AOD. and if we don't, we will bust LA ROCCA into paying high dividends! So any way you look at it, it is worth trying. Can we please?

Yours Respectfully,

G. J. Noakes

Col. F. J. Noakes.
H.Q. M.M.I.A.
ROME.

P.S. I hear on good authority that 2 District will be setting up soon, sandwiched between 1&3 Districts, and taking in ROME and 200 Sub Area. (District (East Det) will then close down. Will you be setting up another Adm Div for DISMO? It would give them practice for future developments, and anticipate the inevitable.

H 7500

0704

BRITI Clothing Maintenance System.

Draft Proposal

1. Object.

To provide a machinery whereby BRITI units can be maintained on a regular maintenance system, through bidding for rail space in advance of requirements at the normal POM Conferences.

2. Method.

a) Basis of Maintenance.

i) All BRITI Div Sub Depots will be based for maintenance on either Naples or Bari as follows:-

On NAPLES

227 Div.
261 Div

? Div (to maintain 2 District Britis when allocated)

On BARI

230 Div
209 Div
228 Div

ii) Normally both NAPLES and BARI BRITI main depots will be stocked from the proceeds of their respective repair installations. This will provide a target and incentive to production. Inter depot transfers will however be necessary from time to time in order to balance stocks according to maintenance responsibility and available surpluses.

b) Calculation of Div. Sub Depot Requirements.

Div Sub Depots will be stocked every 14 day period. Requirements will be calculated in advance on a fixed percentage of wastage and according to the number of troops maintained from each Div Sub Depot. (a form of calculation is att at Apix 'A') This will be called Standard Maintenance.

1) All BRIT Div Sub Depots will be based for maintenance on either Naples or Bari as follows:-

On NAPLES

227 Div.
231 Div

? Div (to maintain 2 District Britis when allocated)

On BARI

230 Div
209 Div
228 Div

1i) Normally both NAPLES and BARI BRIT main depots will be stocked from the proceeds of their respective repair installations. This will provide a target and incentive to production. Inter depot transfers will however be necessary from time to time in order to balance stocks according to maintenance responsibility and available surpluses.

b) Calculation of Div. Sub Depot Requirements.

Div Sub Depots will be stocked every 14 day period. Requirements will be calculated in advance on a fixed percentage of wastage and according to the number of troops maintained from each Div Sub Depot. (a form of calculation is attached at Appx 'A') This will be called Standard Maintenance.

c) Bidding for Rail Space.

All bidding for rail space which entails movement across Italy or forward of AFHQ northern boundary will be made by HQ MMIA through the Ministry of War. Such bids will be made at each POM conference and will normally be made for standard maintenance for Div Sub Depots. Where reductions or increases on the Standard Maintenance are required, HQ MMIA through the Ministry of War will bid for the necessary tonnage and will

will/

Naples

notify MMIA and Commissariato and/or Bari respectively the amounts of article decreased or increased thereby. Similarly HQ MMIA through the Ministry of War will bid on AFHQ for all transfers NAPLES - BARI and BARI - NAPLES, the calculation of tonnage being made at HQ MMIA, and the breakdown notified to MMIA LO Naples or Bari.

a) Physical movement of stocks.

When bids have been approved at the POM conference, MMIA LOs NAPLES and BARI will be responsible that the respective Commissariato loads and dispatches supplies, proportionate to the tonnage allocated. On each occasion, MMIA LO's will signal MMIA and the MMIA LO to Italian Div, the breakdown of items dispatched, the date of despatch, and the wagon numbers. The MMIA LO Italian Div will always signal to MMIA LO Naples/Bari when these are received.

APEX 'A'

Standard Maintenance.Calculation Table

ITEM	WASTAGE Percentage (per 14 days)	WASTAGE per 1000 men per 14 days	Weight in lbs	Weight in Cubic Tons.
6				
101B	15%	150	300lbs	$\frac{3}{4}$
102B	15%	150	306lbs	1
103B	15%	150	326lbs	1
etc				
etc				

NOTE.

0709

1

825lbs

150

15%

103B

etc

etc

NOTE.

colns 'd' and 'e' empirical not scientific.

75

Annexure 1.PRESENT STOCK STATE.BARI BR-ITI DEPOT

	On hand 9 Jan 45	Allocated and awaiting shipment.	Balance remaining
103 Boots	4697	3000	1697
107 Drawers Wool	405		405
105A Shirts Cotton	1010	750	260
108A Mackinaws	5469		5469
106A Socks Cotton	2116		2116
109A Com'orters	6349		6349
111A Belts Web	2195	1500	695
123A Undershirts Wool	2031	1000	1031
101B Blouses	4200	3000	1200
102B Trousers	4080	3000	1080
124B Socks Wool	1600		1600
122B Drawers Wool	1440		1440
106B Socks Cotton	800		800

109A	Comporters	6349	
111A	Belts Web	2195	
123A	Undershirts	2031	1500
101B	Wool Blouses	4200	1000
102B	Trousers	4080	3000
124B	Socks Wool	1600	3000
122B	Drawers Wool	1440	
106B	Socks Cotton	800	

Annexure 2.

1. British material Sorted & ready for repair at GIORDANO.

Blouses B.B.	12076
Trousers BD	20009
Shirts Cotton	150
Shirts Wool	456
Caps FS	6400
Undershirts Cotton	690
Undershirts Wool	2170
Drawers Wool	5010
Overcoats	4335
Berets	150
Rifle Covers	78
Blouses Cotton	130
Belts Stomach	260

plus Boots (Grade III) 10000 (now being received from 500 ACD) but unsorted.

2. At the present time we are repairing 12,000 BRITI and Allied garments per fortnight. On Jan 15.45. this production will be increased to 35,000 garments per fortnight.

3. With the proposed plan of turning FASANO into a BRITI depot for repair and LECCE into an ITI-ITI repair depot the above production will be increased to 100,000 BRITI and Allied garments fortnightly.

4. In 14 working days up to 30 Dec 44, 20,000 prs Boots were repaired. These

Undershirts Cotton	690
Undershirts Wool	2170
Drawers Wool	5010
Overcoats	4335
Berets	150
Rifle Covers	78
Blouses Cotton	130
Belts Stomach	260

plus Boots (Grade III) 10000 (now being received from 500 ACD) but unsorted.

2. At the present time we are repairing 12,000 BRITI and Allied garments per fortnight. On Jan 15.45. this production will be increased to 35,000 garments per fortnight.
3. With the proposed plan of turning FASANO into a BRITI depot for repair and LECCE into an ITI-ITI repair depot the above production will be increased to 100,000 BRITI and Allied garments fortnightly.
4. In 14 working days up to 30 Dec 44, 20,000 prs Boots were repaired. These were mainly 1st Class American boots. With the inclusion of British and American Grade III Boots, production will be increased to 25,00 prs per fortnight, under the new programme. It is not possible yet to give an estimate of the rate of repair of Grade III Boots.
5. The above mentioned plan is only possible if there will be allotted to this programme 15 trucks to transport material from the sorting depot to repair plants.

0714