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56 BLU

WE + ORGANISATION

1st Cover

Jan. - Mar. 1945

3864
3875

Subject :- Organization of Infantry Battalion.

56 JUN
2/1 G

Trg Inc. (2) ARIANO 4
AKRABAI, DA 3

77A 13 Mar 45

1. Attached are detailed organization of an infantry battalion and a summary of weapons.
2. The organization is as the WE with the exception of the Pioneer Pl which contains a note explaining the difference.
3. The summary of weapons leaves a small surplus as compared with the WE. It is suggested that the 4 - 2" mortars should be allotted to the Regt 6 pr Coy for night firing (it has none at present) the remainder should be kept as a bn reserve for immediate replacement of damaged weapons.
4. Please forward your views on :-
 - (a) The allotment of weapons.
 - (b) Whether battalions are at present organized in this establishment.

In the Field.
AG/cc

[Signature]
Lt-Col.
G.S.

- 3875

67A
 HQ COMBAT GROUP MANTOVA.

Subject :- Re-organization of this Combat Group.

No 01/1272

EM 104 13 Feb 45

To all Units.

For information :- 56 BLU.

To alter this organization from a peace time to a war time basis.
 Speed up the functioning of this Group.
 Bring this organization in line with that of the Allies.
 Reduce the burden on the Chief of Staff.

I have decided that as from today the ~~3rd~~^{1st} the Groups's Headquarters shall consist of :-

Main Headquarters
 Rear Headquarters

Formation of Headquarters

(a) Main Headquarters will consist of :-

The General Commanding.
 The General Second in Command.
 The Chief of Staff.
 Intelligence and Operations Section.

Signal Platoon.
 99 Provost Section.

(b)

QMG
 Medical Director.
 Ordnance (Clothing and Equipment.)
 Transportation.
 151 Provost Section.
 104 AF0
 HQ Proper and HQ Office.
 Signal Platoon.

3674
 The second section will be attached to Rear HQ but will remain under the Chief of Staff. The 3rd Section will be attached to Main or Rear HQ according to the situation, but always being under chief of Staff.
Function of Headquarters.

(a) Main Headquarters.
 Operations and Intelligence.
 Training and Co-ordination.
 Control of Rear HQ.

(b) Rear Headquarters.
 Functioning of all Services.

Main Headquarters
Rear Headquarters

Formation of Headquarters

(a) Main Headquarters will consist of :-

The General Commanding.
The General Second in Command.
The Chief of Staff.
Intelligence and Operations Section.

Signal Platoon.
99 Provost Section.

(b) QMG
Medical Director.
Ordnance (Clothing and Equipment.)
Transportation.
151 Provost Section.
104 AF0
HQ Proper and HQ Office.
Signal Platoon.

3874

The second section will be attached to Rear HQ but will remain under the Chief of Staff. The 3rd Section will be attached to Main or Rear HQ according to the situation, but always being under chief of staff.
Function of Headquarters.

(a) Main Headquarters.
Operations and Intelligence.
Training and Co-ordination.
Control of Rear HQ.

(b) Rear Headquarters.
Functioning of all Services.
Training of Service Units.

Functions of various services, and detailed organization are shown in enclosure 1 & 2.

28 FEB 1945

-2-

Location of Headquarters.

- (a) Main Headquarters in I Marzani (S.GIORGIO)
- (b) Rear Headquarters in S.GIORGIO, (Via Principe Spinelli 76)

Additional Instructions.

For the time being the APO, the QMG's and the 2nd Section's office will continue to function where they are at present in view of the shortage of accommodation at Rear Headquarters.

Guido Bologna. Gen.

5073

ORGANIZATION OF THE REAR ADQUARTERSI. Details of duties of the DMAQMG (Italian)

- (a) Sign on behalf of the ~~Chief of Staff~~ ^{the Group Units with the words "by order Chief of Staff's Office"} subordinate offices, and for Report daily, whenever possible, to the Chief of Staff on questions of major importance and receives from the latter instructions for the general co-ordination of services.
- (b) Give directives to all services for respective functioning basing himself on instructions he receives from the Chief of Staff.
- (c) Receives direct from all unit Commanders, service indents for their requirements.
- (d) Acts as liaison officer with the DMAQMG (British).

II. Details of duties for the Medical Services and the 104 AFO. unchanged.III. Details of duties of the Commissariate.

The OC will be informed of all questions concerning the food supplies, clothing and equipment.

An officer will be responsible for food supplies, he will liaison with the DADST.

An officer will be responsible for clothing and equipment he will liaison with DADOS through ST.

- (a) Will control quality, quantity and withdrawal of food supplies from the DID by the ST Composite Platoon and the indents placed direct by units to 104 ST.
- (b) Is the technical establishment which will advise the Combat Group HQ throughout inspections and control.
- (c) Will be informed of the food situation at the Composite Platoon.
- (d) In the event the bakery is attached to Combat Group he will control it and see that stocks are maintained and for this purpose draw ingredients when he deems it necessary from major units.
- (e) Will keep a record of the Commissariate's stock and of clothing issued to units.
- (f) Will ask through the ST officer (Italian) who acts as liaison ^{with the} Rear HQ the necessary transport for the distribution of material to the various units.

IV Duties of the "UFFICIO AUTO-MOBILITICO."

OC will be informed of all questions concerning motors, fuel and lubricants.

An officer will be responsible for transport and will liaison with the SO EME.

An officer will be responsible for fuel and lubricants and will liaison with DADST.

III. Details of duties of the Commissariate.

The OC will be informed of all questions concerning the food supplies, clothing and equipment.

An officer will be responsible for food supplies, he will liaison with the DADST.

An officer will be responsible for clothing and equipment he will liaison with DADOS through ST.

- (a) Will control quality, quantity and withdrawal of food supplies from the DID by the ST Composite Platoon and the indents placed direct by units to 104 ST.
- (b) Is the technical establishment which will advise the Combat Group HQ throughout, inspections and control.
- (c) Will be informed of the food situation at the Composite Platoon.
- (d) In the event the bakery is attached to Combat Group he will control it and see that stocks are maintained and for this purpose draw ingredients when he deems it necessary from major units.
- (e) Will keep a record of the Commissariate's stock and of clothing issued to units.
- (f) Will ask through the ST officer (Italian) who acts as liaison ~~with the~~ Rear HQ the necessary transport for the distribution of material to the various units.

IV Duties of the "UFFICIO AUTOMOBILITICO.

OC will be informed of all questions concerning motors, fuel and lubricants.

An officer will be responsible for transport and will liaison with the SO EME.

An officer will be responsible for fuel and lubricants and will liaison with DADST.

- (a) Is the establishment which directs transport services at Combat Groups.
- (b) Is part of the HQ staff and will be commanded by a senior transport officer.
- (c) Acts as technical adviser to the Combat Group HQ in transport matters.
- (d) Issue directives of a technical nature to the transport service and look after transport in general, upkeep of vehicles, training of drivers etc.

- (e) Will keep an up to-date record of vehicles on charge (Italian and Allied) to all units of the Group, recording particulars such as make, registration no, motor no etc.
- (f) Will inspect and ascertain state of vehicles in all units.
- (g) Will visit at least once a week all unit workshops and ascertain the amount of repairs done. Will also control the amount of spare parts indented for at the 56 BLU through the Group workshops.
If and when necessary will instruct Group workshops as to the priority of repairs to be done.
- (h) Will control the distribution of fuel and lubricants to all units.
- (i) Will collect all the material beyond repair which may be lying in all the unit workshops.
- (j) Will deal with all matters concerning transport.
- (k) Will act as technical adviser in the case of motor accidents.
- (l) Will indent with the operations and intelligence sections for specialised personnel for the workshops.

V Duties of the ST Liaison Officer.

- (i) Will be acquainted with all matters purporting the ST office.
 - (a) Location of Platoons, supplies, ammunition, fuel and lubricants distribution.
 - (b) Details of shortage of personnel and material.
 - (c) Details of supplies, ammunition, fuel and lubricants.
 - (d) Details of state of vehicles.
- (ii) Will comply with requests from all services for transport.
Only in the case of important requests transport will require the authorization of the DAAQMG (Italian).
- (iii) All questions relating to transport will be dealt with through this officer and never direct with the ST.
- (iv) Is the liaison with the DADST.

387

Subject :- Organisation of Inf Regt HQ.

SECRET

56 BLU
2/16

25 Feb 45.

HQ Combat Group, MANTOVA.

Copy to :- Trg Inc.

1. Now that the Combat Group Headquarters has been reorganized it is suggested that the organization of the Infantry Regimental HQ should be reviewed. It is thought possible that a small adjustment in the allocation of duties to staff officers might bring the Regimental HQ into line with the Group HQ, and thereby insure a co-ordinated system throughout the Group. At Appendices A & B are two alternative proposals as to how this could be done.

2. It is requested that these proposals may be examined, and if it is agreed that any alteration is desirable, a conference may be held to discuss the question. It is suggested that the conference should take place early in March, and should be attended by officers representing :-

HQ Combat Group.
HQ 76 and 114 Inf Bdegs.
56 BLU and Training Increment.

3. It is requested that you will state :-

- (a) If you think a conference on this subject is desirable.
- (b) If 1500 hrs 6 Mar is a suitable time and date.

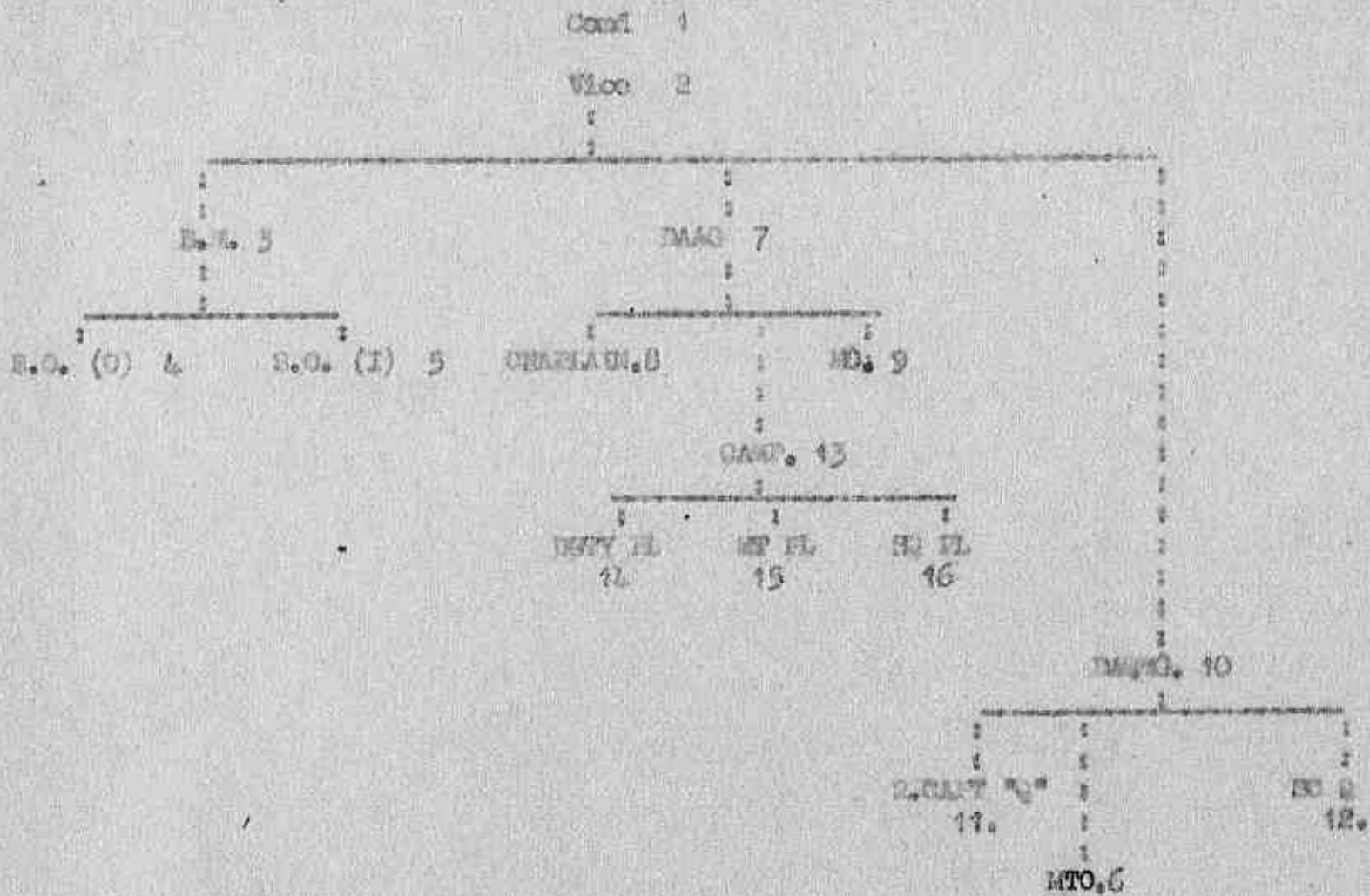
In the Field.
AWG/ec

3870
A
Lt-Col.
CS.

Attached :- Appx A & B - Proposed Org of Inf Regt HQ.

Appendix 'A' to 56 1141
 Letter 2/1 3 dated

Feb 45.

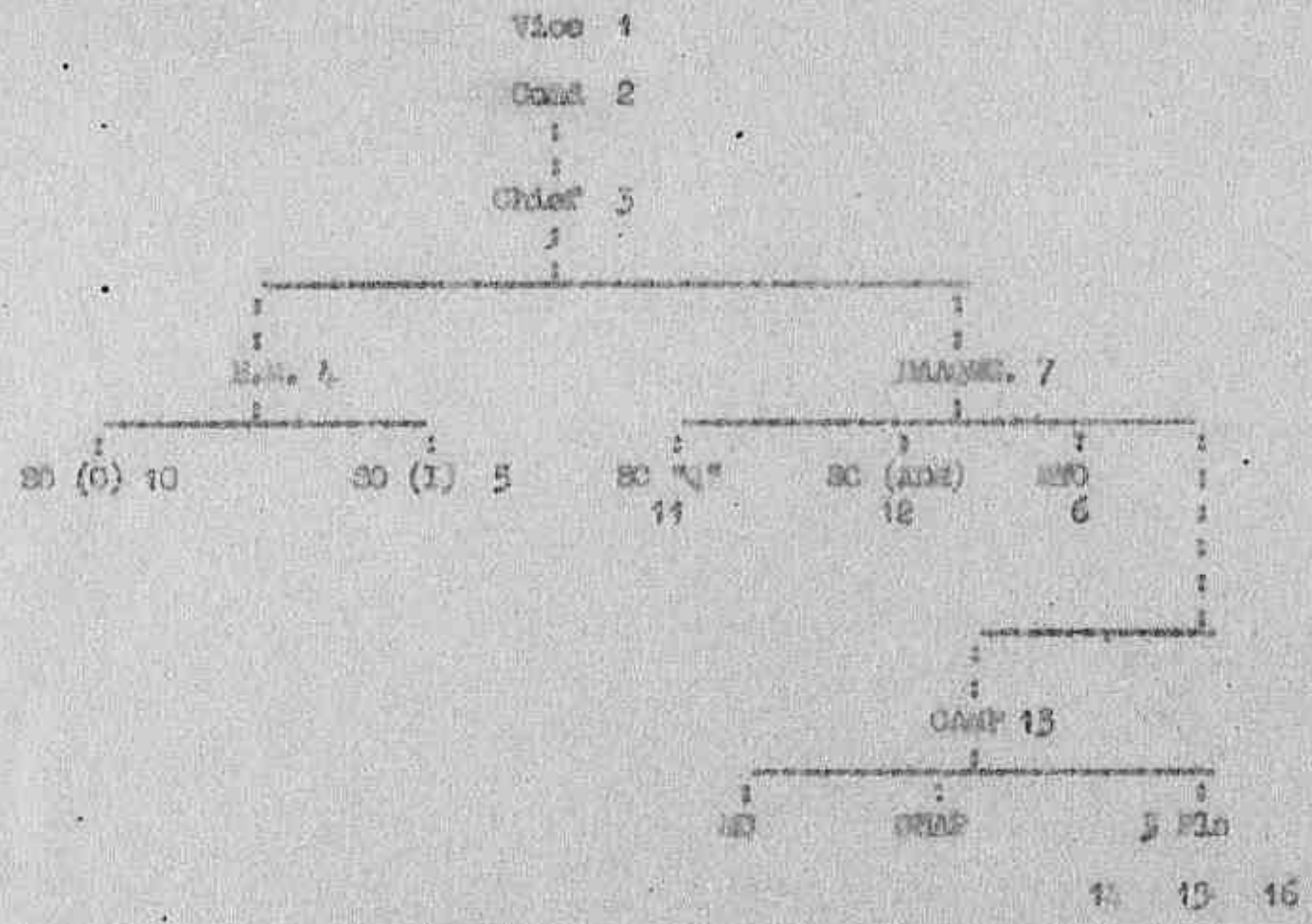


- 3. Senior Officer Gen duties.
- 4. Adjutant Major.
- 5. ID
- 6. MTO
- 7. SQ legal.
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. HQ Coy.
- 11. Admin Off.
- 12. SQ
- 13. CO. 1st Pl. Sub.
- 14. CO. Duty Pl. Sub.
- 15. 2nd Pl. Sub.
- 16. WO.

3869

Appendix 'B' to 56 MLD
Letter 2/1 8 dated

Feb 85.



3868

Subject: Amendments to War Establishment

0 File 54A

56 HBU
2/1 C
10 Feb 45

Hq. Combat Group, "MARETTA"

Attached is copy of latest Amendments to W.A. received from M.M.I.A.

Passed to you for information.

Please return when finished with or if a separate copy has been received through Italian channels.

In The Field.
M/col

[Handwritten Signature]
for Lt. Col.
Col.

3867

51A

SUBJECT: War EstablishmentsLand Forces Sub Com. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
S/G/29/20/1
4 Feb 45TO : 56 B.L.U. /

Ref your letter 2/1G dated 29 Jan 45. 50A

Para 1. This matter is being examined. In any case the published A.F.H.Q. W.E. is the final authority.

Para 2. S.M.R.E. has issued a new bi-lingual proforma (Proforma Mod. "A") which should answer this problem. Ref our signal SD 2237 dated 3 Feb 45.

Para 3. We regret that amendments are always very slow but this matter has nothing to do with M.M.I.A.

R. S. A. Groom-Raines
Captfor Major General
M.M.I.A.

2/19 3866

17 FEB 1945

SECRET

56 MLU
2/1 G

29 Jan 45.

Subject :- War Establishments.MIA.

1. A comparison of the WE's of an Italian Combat Group as held by this Bq in English and as issued by SM WE has been made with the following results :-

English version	Italian version
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(a) (1) Clerks 14	Infantry Regiment WENIA/526/1	Clerks 8
(11) Signallers Corporals 1 Privates 3		I Sec 6

(b) (1) Signallers Corporals 1 Privates 2	Infantry Battalion WENIA/527/1	Observation Personnel 4
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(11) A tk Platoon Motor cyclists NIL		Observation Personnel 3
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(11) Signal Platoon Drivers 5		Motor cyclists 1
(c) (1) 17 pr Troop Motor cyclists 1	Artillery Regiment WENIA/525/1	Drivers 4

(No motor cycle is allotted to the troop)

(11) Orderlies and batmen 17 (There are 93 officers on the WE)		Motor cyclists NIL
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(11) 15 cmts are translated as 1 1/2 ton trucks.		Batmen 93
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(1) Mechanist Sergeant Major 1		3865
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(1) Mechanical Engineers Platoon WENIA/539/1		
(1) Administrative		
Bgts 2		

1. A comparison of the WE's of an Italian Combat Group as held by this HQ in English and as issued by SM KE has been made with the following results :-

English version	Italian version
(a) (1) Clerks 14	Infantry Regiment WEMA/526/1 Clerks 8 I Sec 6
(11) Signallers Corporals 1 Privates 3	Observation Personnel 4
(b) (1) Signallers Corporals 1 Privates 2	Infantry Battalion WEMA/527/1 Observation Personnel 3
(11) A tk Platoon Motor cyclists NIL	Motor cyclists 1
(111) Signal Platoon Drivers 5	Drivers 4
(c) (1) 17 pr Troop Motor cyclists 1 (No motor cycle is allotted to the troop)	Artillery Regiment WEMA/525/1 Motor cyclists NIL
(11) Orderlies and batmen 17 (There are 93 officers on the WE)	Batmen 93
(111) 15 cwts are translated as 1 1/2 ton trucks.	
(d) (1) Mechanist Sergeant Major 1 Mechanist Staff Sergeant 1	Mechanical Engineers Platoon WEMA/539/1 Administrative Sgts 2

on. May a ruling be given as to which establishment is to be worked

-2-

2. Great difficulty is experienced in arriving at the exact description of a British army trade in Italian. The translations in the WEs are in many cases inexact. The various grades of mechanical tradesmen i.e. artificer, fitter, vehicle mechanic etc. in particular, give much trouble. It would be of great value if a list of all the trades shown in the WEs with their exact Italian counterparts could be issued through both British and Italian channels.
3. No official numbered amendments have yet been received in this office. The amendments detailed in your S/G/29/20 dated 23 Nov 44 and 20 Dec 44 have been noted although the disposal of the surplus men and vehicles arising from the abolition of the Scout Pl of the infantry battalion is somewhat obscure. A recent indent on 10 Publications Depot only produced copies of the original WEs including the obsolete WE for a Field Company.

In the Field.
AC/ec

[Signature]
Sgt Lt-Col.
CS.

3064

[2024]