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PAL/G/19

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PAL/G/19

ORGANISATION C.C.R.R. LIAISON OFFS Reports

Feb. 5, 1946 - July 5, 1946

315
3315

5 B.C.U.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report.
TO : Major RAYNE,
GCHQ, Section, WMLA.

11 British Liaison Unit
Tel. 11323, Palermo.
GCHQ/SIC/101/2.

5 July 1946.

16A

Monthly report for the month of June 1946 of the 5th, GCHQ, Brigade.

1. STATISTICS.

	Authorized.	Affective.	Present.
(a) Palermo Legion	4515	3969	3638
Messina Legion	3343	3115	3016
Mobile B. Palermo	523	583	491

(b)

	Palermo	Messina	Mobile B.
Percentage on leave	5%	0.60%	4%
Percentage on extr. duties	1.5%	0.11%	

2. ORGANIZATION.

Nothing to report.

3. INTELLIGENCE.

There appears to be a general dissatisfaction regarding the trend of the proposed peace negotiations for Italy. Public opinion is that insufficient is being paid to the Italian war effort after the armistice.

No serious demonstrations have taken place, neither at the election period nor after.

4. TRAINING.

Normal.

3345

5. ADMINISTRATION.

Discipline. Nothing to report.
Pay. Nothing to report.
Personnel. Lt. Col. PIERRO Antonino free

Legion of Honor to Legion of Messina.

	Authorized.	Effective.	Present.
(a) Palermo Legion	4515	3960	3638
Messina Legion	3343	3116	3016
Mobile B, Palermo	523	583	491

	Palermo	Messina	Mobile B.
Percentage on leave	5%	0.60%	4%
Percentage on extra duties	1.5%	0.11%	

2. ORGANIZATION.
Nothing to report.

3. INTELLIGENCE.
There appears to be a general dissatisfaction regarding the trend of the proposed peace negotiations for Italy. Public opinion is that insufficient effort is being paid to the Italian war effort after the armistice.

No serious demonstrations have taken place, neither at the election period nor after.

4. TRAINING. Normal.

3395

5. ADMINISTRATION.
Discipline. Nothing to report.
Pay. Nothing to report.
Personnel Lt. Col. PIGNO Antonio from Legion of Genoa to Legion of Messina.

6. GENERAL DEPLACEMENT.
Clothing situation generally satisfactory. The following items are stated to be still required.
Palermo Legion.

- Shirts..... 4,000
- Woolen under-vests..... 4,000
- Handkerchiefs..... 4,000
- Shirts..... 2,400
- Under-pants..... 1,500
- Complete khaki uniforms..... 1,000
- Khaki overcoats mod. 45..... 5,000

Reserve Legion.

Handkerchiefs.....	6,000
Towels.....	2,000
Under-pants.....	1,500
Shoes, pairs.....	1,500

7. MORALE OF CC.NR.

Satisfactory. I have heard of no cases of personnel wishing to resign owing to the advent of the Italian Republic. The general sentiment seems to be that the CC.NR. will carry on, provided that their basic organization is not subject to violent changes, of a political order.

8. CRIMINAL SITUATION.

Bad. Even the local newspapers are commenting on the situation.

There have been several cases of daylight kidnaping in the centre of Palermo itself. Banditry, murder and conflicts between police and armed law-breakers continue.

A meeting is about to be held between the Divisional General of CC.NR., a representative of the Ministry of Interior, and local police authorities to discuss what further measures can be taken.

GENERAL.

It is my opinion that re-inforcement of the police agencies on this island is necessary. Furthermore a more equitable distribution of efficient transport is required. So far this Brigade has fared badly, in comparison with other Brigades of the CC.NR. --

3344

M.C. Law

8. FULLA BATTERY DIVISION.

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A 3394

A.C. Lane

W. J. JAGGER, Major,
GGER. (L.S.) 11 B.L.U.

6/19

SUBJECT: Monthly Report.

11 British Liaison Unit
Tel. 11393. PALERMO
CCHB/SIC/

15A

5 June 1946.

TO : Lt. Col. H. MICHALL
CCHB. Section, MILA.

1. Herewith monthly report for the month of May 1946 on the 6th. CCHB. Brigade.

1. STATISTICS.

	Authorized.	Effective.	Present.
(a) Palermo Legion :	3958	3793	3721
Messina Legion :	2550	3078	3012

includes mobile battalion figures.

(b)

Palermo	Messina
Percentage on leave : 4 %	MIL 3343
Percentage on extr.duties: 2 %	1 %

(c)

Mobile Battalion.	Authorized.	Effective.	Present.
Palermo Mobile Battalion:	540	568	499

(d)

Percentage on leave	MIL.
---------------------	------

2. ORGANISATION.

1. Herewith monthly report for the month of May 1946 on the 6th. COBR. Brigade.

1. STRENGTHS.

	Authorized.	Effective.	Present.
(a) Palermo Legion :	3958	3793	3721
Messina Legion :	2550	3078	3012

includes mobile battalion figures.

(b)

Palermo Messina

Percentage on leave : 4 %

Nil 3393

Percentage on extr. duties: 2 %

1 %

(c) Mobile Battalion.

Authorized. Effective. Present.

Palermo Mobile Battalion: 540

568

499

(d) Percentage on leave

Nil.

2. ORGANISATION.

With the arrival of the 12 Staghound armoured cars, 6 new Spa trucks and 10 allied motor cycles, the mobile battalion has now been properly created.

3. INTELLIGENCE.

The month has been characteristic for considerable activity on the part of all political parties. Generally speaking there were no incidents of consequence.

During the month, supplies of flour in the black market were less, leading to an increase in the price of bread and pasta.

Public order apart from a few demonstrations against the excessive cost of living, has been fairly good.

4. TRAINING.

This is being conducted at Gruppi H.Q. During the month this covered about 400 men in the Brigade.

5. ADMINISTRATION.

Discipline.	Nothing to report.
Pay.	Nothing to report.
Personnel.	Nothing to report.

6. GENERAL DEFICIENCIES.

A list of current deficiencies of material allocated but not yet received is attached. Cannot something please be done to accelerate its arrival?

7. MORALE OF CC.RR.

Satisfactory.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY SITUATION.

This is still unsatisfactory, crimes of murders and robbery being widespread. The bandit "Giuliano" and his companions appear to be as elusive as ever.

During the month, 1 CC.RR. was killed and another wounded - this was attributed to the activities of "Giuliano".

Among the most serious crimes reported are.

<u>Murder</u>	13
<u>Armed Robbery</u>	6
<u>Kidnapping for purpose of extortion.</u>	16

The cases of kidnapping for purpose of demanding a ransom in some cases involve lire to the value of several millions.

9. GENERAL.

The figures for serious crimes given in the previous paragraph can hardly be viewed with complacency. In any normal civilized country, they would be the subject of considerable public interest, particularly when it's citizens are held to ransom or murdered. In Sicily, the situation seems to be accepted as a matter of course - and a short notice on the back page of the paper.

A list of current deficiencies of material allocated but not yet received is attached. Cannot something please be done to accelerate its arrival?

7. MORALE OF CC.HR.

Satisfactory.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY SITUATION.

This is still unsatisfactory, crimes of murders and robbery being widespread. The bandit "Giuliano" and his companions appear to be as elusive as ever. During the month, 1 CC.HR. was killed and another wounded - this was attributed to the activities of "Giuliano".

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Armed Robbery	6	
Kidnapping for purpose of extortion.	16	3342

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W. A. Lackey

W. A. LACHEY, Major
CC.HR. (L.O.) 11 B.L.U.

DISTRIBUTION.
CC.HR. Section 2.
O.C. B.L.U. 1.
File 1.

6/14
14
14

CO. HR. SECTION,
11. S.S.B.

1st. April 1946.

Ref. No. 105 HR./319/101/7.

Subject Monthly Report.

TOT
G.S.C. 1.
CO. HR. SECTION,
H.Q. M.M.I.A.

1. STRENGTH.

Authorized.	Effective.	Present.
3958	3579	3559
2550	3244	2896

Palermo:

Messina:

Palermo.	Messina.
5%	2%
2%	1%

Percentage on leave.
Percentage on extraordinary duties.

Mobile Battalion as yet unformed.

4 3391

2. ORGANIZATION.

Instructions have now been received that Mobile Battalion is to be formed in Palermo. 300 recruits are expected to arrive from Rome and upon arrival the M.B. will be formed. The Companies at Palermo and Catania which are at present attached to Military Caserma are to be withdrawn to form the nucleus of the M.B. together with the men at present forming the drivers and mechanics etc of the armoured section (as present known as the reparto autocarro).

3. INCIDENTS.

Last week saw the return to Palermo of Finocchiaro Aprile a leading figure of the Separatisti. Large numbers of people went to the airport to welcome him back and a demon-

1. STRENGTHS.

	Authorized.	Effective.	Present.
Palermo:	3958	3579	3559
Messina:	2550	3248	2596

	Palermo.	Messina.
Percentage on leave.	5%	2%
Percentage on extraneous duties.	2%	1%

Mobile Battalion as yet unformed.

2. ORGANIZATION. 3391

Instructions have now been received that a Mobile Battalion is to be formed in Palermo. 300 recruits are expected to arrive from Rome and upon arrival the M.B. will be formed. The Companies of Palermo and Catania which are at present attached to Military Units are to be withdrawn to form the nucleus of the M.B. together with the men at present forming the drivers and mechanics etc of the armoured section (at present known as the reparto motocorazzato).

3. INTELLIGENCE.

Last week one the return to Palermo of Finco Chiaro Aprile a leading figure of the Separatisti. Large numbers of people went to the airport to welcome him back and a demonstration was made in the town. He made a speech and although it had been reported in the Press before his return that he had moderated his ideas, he made many ambiguous remarks which could have been taken as encouraging active opposition, rather than passive. The elections are going forward each Sunday without interference or incident.

4. TRAINING.

Owing to the heavy calls upon personnel in the island it has been decided to stop the concentrating of men at Gruppi Headquarters. This was weakening the number of men available at Cassinas and also the men were not getting along with training at Groups because they were being used for services.

Mercantellos have been instructed that they must carry

out the daily hour of instruction as prescribed. Written record of the hours of instruction and subject discussed has to be kept and officers have been told to examine this regularly and see that it is being carried out.

It is noted that in the allocation of ammunition no provision is made for supplies for training purposes. With the arrival of automatic rifles it is essential that all should have practical training in the use of the weapons. This cannot be done unless ammunition be provided for this purpose.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE

- Discipline. Nothing to report.
- Pay . Nothing to report.
- Personnel . Colonel Calabro has now taken over command of Vich. Brigade and Lt. Col. Scallero has taken command of the Palermo Legion. This believes the Colonel of trying to run Brigade and Legion and should be beneficial to the service.

6. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Great satisfaction has been expressed at the arrival of clothing and arms.

7. Morale of 11. SS. Good. The issue of automatic arms and arrival of clothing has had a good effect.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY SITUATION

Generally the situation has ^{improved} ~~been~~ ~~down~~. There is however a feeling of tension that there may be reprisals for the arrest of the mother and sister of Giuliano which was effected in Palermo.

Further to my report on crisis of the 23rd March a third of the 11. SS. who were ambushed has now died, bringing the figure now for that incident to three killed and one wounded.

During the week ending 10th, March the body of another 11. SS. was found near Scorsalo, Palermo. He had been shot and referred to his case note that stated: "So die those who are

Discipline. Nothing to report.
 Pay . Nothing to report.
 Personnel . Colonel Calabrò has now taken over command of Vth Brigade and Lt. Col. Bellitto has taken command of the Palermo Legion. This relieves the Colonel of trying to run Brigade and Legion and should be beneficial to the service.

6. GENERAL DISPOSITION.
 Great satisfaction has been expressed at the arrival of clothing and arms.

7. Morale of 21st. Good. The issue of automatic arms and arrival of clothing has had a good effect.

8. INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION.
 Generally the situation has ³³³⁴¹been ~~been~~ down. There is however a feeling of tension that there may be reprisals for the arrest of the mother and sister of Giuliano which was alleged in Palermo.

Further to my report on crime of the 23rd March a third of the 21st. who were embusied has now died, bringing the figure for that incident to three killed and one wounded.

During the week ending 30th. March the body of another 21st. was found near Monreale, Palermo. He had been sent and referred to his son a note that stated: "Se Dio vuole who spy on Giuliano". No arrests have been made.

There is a good deal of talk as a result of the broadcast a few days ago that C. M. should NOT vote in the election and now an order has been issued that they may vote.

Copy to OC. H. B. C. U.

Provisional sign
 E. JOSEPHSON,
 MAJOR.

6/19 to

OO:RR, SECTION.
11. B.L.U.

22nd. March 1945.

SUBJECT: Correction of report.

To : G.S.O. 1.
OO:RR, Section,
HQ. N.M.I.A.-

Copy to: OO. 11. B.L.U. -

11. B.L.U. -

1. With reference to the detailed situation report on the OO:RR. submitted by this office an error has been discovered in the information given.

2. In para. 7 (Arms and Ammunition) it is stated that the Machine Legion are in possession of

Beretta automatic rifles mod.38 cal.9 - 326
Breda automatic rifles mod.30 cal.6.5 - 58.

This should read.

Beretta automatic rifles mod.38 cal.9 - 58
Breda light machine guns mod.30 cal.6.5.- 325.

Since the report was issued 700 Beretta automatic rifles mod.38 cal.9 have been delivered to Machine Legion and 600 to Palermo Legion.

3359
F. Goodborn
Major

F. GOODBORN

11/22/53

1. With reference to the detailed situation report on the OJ.R.R. submitted by this office an error has been discovered in the information given.

2. In para. 7 (Arms and Ammunition) it is quoted that the Messina Legion are in possession of

Beretta automatic rifles mod.38 cal.9 - 125
Breda automatic rifles mod.30 cal.5.5 - 53.

This should read.

Beretta automatic rifles mod.38 cal.9 - 58
Breda light machine guns mod.30 cal.5.5 - 125.

Since the report was issued 700 Beretta automatic rifles mod.38 cal.9 have been delivered to Messina Legion and 500 to Palermo Legion.

T. J. ...
33369
Major

T. J. ...
Major.

11/22/53

CC.RR. SECTION
11. S.L.U.

Subject: Progress Report.

To : J.S.O. I.
CC.RR. Section,
HQ. S.M.I.A.

1st March 1946.

1. SYRACUSE.

Legion Palermo.

Authorized	Effective	Present
3282	4039	3250

Percentage on leave : 5% .

Percentage on extraneous duties 1.9% .

Legion Messina

Authorized	Effective	Present
2550	3433	2995

Percentage on leave : 5% .

Percentage on extraneous duties : 1% .

ORGANIZATION.

It must again be brought to notice the fact that the mobile battalion has never been formed in Sicily. It is useless sending special equipment for something which does not exist. Strong representation should be made at a high S.M. level to see that mobile battalions are properly formed and that they do this duty and no other. The small number of men at present being trained as lorry and tank drivers are performing other duties and are still expected to carry out their training.

ATTACHMENTS.

Authorized Effective Present
3982 4039 3250

Percentage on leave : 2% .
Percentage on extraneous duties 1.5 % .

Legion Messina
Authorized Effective Present
2550 3433 2995

Percentage on leave : 5% .
Percentage on extraneous duties : 1 % .

ORGANIZATION.

It must again be brought to notice the fact that the mobile battalion have never been formed in Sicily. It is useless sending special equipment for something which does not exist. Strong representation should be made at a high C.I.R.R. level to see that mobile battalions are properly formed and that they do this duty and no other. The small number of men at present being trained as lorry and tank drivers are performing other duties and are still expected to carry out their training.

3389

INTELLIGENCE.

Often the articles written about use of mines, plants and pipe-bombs in the local press the commander of the "Garibaldi" troops wrote a letter clearly stating that the articles were untrue. Since then the tone of articles has been much lower. The clearing out of the "rebel" area still continues and over 400 persons have been arrested. Large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosive have been found.

TRAINING.

Nothing to report.

see 10

- 4 -

ADMINISTRATION.

Certain allocations of clothing have been made and I am at present awaiting details of these from the Commission. The difficulty is that some allocations are at Milan. If we are unable to collect our-selves I will send in an application in compliance with circular of the 19th. Feb. 1945 on clothing and equipment.

MOBILES OF G.I.'S.

Good.

PUBLIC SAFETY SITUATION.

There still continues to be armed hold ups and robberies but nothing from the "separatists" who are no longer feeling the effects of the large scale action against them.

GENERAL.

Nothing to report.

T. Doodachis

Copy to OC. H. B. L. U.

T. DOODACHIS,
Major.

12/13

3307

N. O. B., PALERMO, SICILY
ORIGINATOR'S MESSAGE

DATE 1500 hrs. 28. Feb. 46.

ORIGINATOR:	FROM: <u>11 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT.</u>
RELEASED BY:	ACTION: <u>M.M.I.A. (CG. RR SECTION)</u> <u>ROME.</u>
PRECEDENCE: <u>IMMEDIATE.</u>	INFO:
CLASSIFICATION: <u>RESTRICTED.</u>	

DT/GR

PAI/6/19. REF YOUR CG. RR/Q/3/1 DATED 27 FEB 46.
 FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED RETURN. (A) PALERMO 1998 MESSINA 1226.
 (B) PALERMO 233 MESSINA 326. (C) PALERMO 621 MESSINA 53.
 (D) NIL.

TOR CODING ROOM _____
 CODED BY _____ TOD _____
 SYSTEM _____ TOT _____ DISTRIBUTION _____

3306

∞	Exec.	Op.	COM & PH B	Supply	Repair	R & S	Comm.	Radio	Maint.	Inst.	Ord.	Perm.	Med.	Dist.	FPD	Pub.	CWO
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3/19 C

N. O. B., PALERMO, SICILY
INCOMING MESSAGE

DECODED BY 135-R
TIME

FROM: MMIA	ACTION: CCR LIAISON OFFICERS 1 BLU - 10 BLU 3 BLU - 11 BLU 8 BLU
PRECEDENCE: OP OP OP	INFO:
CLASSIFICATION: RESTRICTED	
DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 1946	

DT/GR 271140A

REF: CCR/Q/3/1

SIGNAL BY RETURN HOLDING OF FOLLOWING WEAPONS PBY LEGIONS X
 A X AUTO PISTOLS BERETTA MODEL 34 CAL.9 X B X AUTOMATIC RIFLES
 BERETTA MODEL 38 CAL.9 X C X LMG BRED A MODEL 30 CAL 6.5 X D X
 HAND GRENADES X MOBILE BNS TO BE SHOWN SEPERATELY X VERY URGENT XX

See 9

Applied 27/2 AM

(Signature)

TOR
TOT
CWO

DISTRIBUTION

Action	ROUGH ROUTED														3385				
Info	CO	Exec.	Op.	COM & PHL B	Supply	Repair	R & S	Comm. Radio	Med.	Intel.	Ord.	Per.	Med.	Dist.	FPO	Pub	CWO	EDUC. SERV.	271140A

4

Handwritten initials and scribbles

CC.HR. SECTION
II. B.L.U.

Subject: Detailed Situation Report on CC.HR.

TO : G.S.O. I,
CC.HR. Section,
HQ. M.M.I.A.

Copy to: CC. II. B.L.U.

I.(a) SUMMARY.

Due to the special emergency at present existent in Sicily the strength and allocation of CC.HR. is at variance with normal times. This has also resulted in the diversion of men who were to form the mobile battalions into ordinary duties with the result that the mobile battalions are practically non-existent.

There are also at present time in Sicily reinforcements from the mainland as follows :-

From Bari	: 364
Florence:	112
Total	: 476.

Details of all personnel are given in appendices 1 and 2.

An added complication to the allocation is the fact that men have been allocated to the Inspector General of Public Safety for the island to carry out special duties for combatting bandits. These men depend for service to the Inspector General but for administration to the CC.HR. Command.

(b) MOBILE BATTALIONS.

33b4

As already stated these are not formed but there are both in Palermo and Messina a motorised section "gruppo motorizzato" who train, maintain and operate the armoured section. In Palermo there are also 100 men attached to the Territorial Command and used with Military for special emergencies. These men will be part of the Mobile Battalion.

In Messina Legion there are similar conditions, 62 men form the motorised section and approx. 100 are attached to the Territorial Command of Catania.

(c).

It has been laid down that the percentage on

normal list. This may also result in the diversion of men who were to form the mobile battalions into ordinary duties with the result that the mobile battalions are practically non-existent.

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(b) MOBILE BATTALIONS. 3384

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In Messina Legion there are similar conditions, 62 men form the motorised section and approx. 100 are attached to the Territorial Command of Catania.

(c). It has been laid down that the percentage on leave shall not exceed 5% and this is adhered to. There are however considerable numbers of personnel on convalescent leave, 233 in Palermo Legion and 62 in Messina Legion. On checking the reason for the high figure for Palermo I was told that it was the result of men being out day and night during the very wet season and as they had no change of clothes or uniform there was a high percentage of sickness.

The amount of personnel involved on extraneous duties is very low. It will be impossible to withdraw them as they all are performing duties which CC.MR. are reasonably expected to perform. eg. Tribunale di Guerra, Ispettorato del Lavoro.

It is laid down that CC.HK. shall perform a minimum of eight hours duty. At the present time they are performing 12 to 15 hours per day. This is due to the special emergency existing. There has also been a control put upon free hours. Men are only permitted to leave the Caseres one day in three. This answers that there is always a strong force of men available to be sent out upon demand.

2. UNIFORMS and CLOTHING.

There is here, as in other parts of Italy, a great shortage of all items of clothing. The great majority have only the uniform in which they stand with no change of shirt or under-clothing. This lack of change has no doubt a great bearing on the amount of illness in the island. At present this involves 523 men. Assignments of shirts have been made from stores at Naples and boots from Bari. No action has been taken from this command to send for the items which are urgently required but they appeared to be content to wait for them to arrive. Now, as a result of my bringing the matter forward, transport is being dispatched to fetch the goods.

The following is a list put forward by the Messina and Palermo legions of their requirements:

	Palermo	Messina
Gray-green tunics:	5000	2500
Gray-green trousers:	5000	2500
Shoes :	4000 pairs	3500 pairs
Shirts :	5000	5500
Under pants :	4000	5500
Socks :	7000 pairs	7000 pairs
Wollen under vests:	5000	3500
Ties :	4000	1000
Handkerchiefs :	4000	3000
Lapel insignia :	5000 pairs	5000 pairs
Net badges :	5000	4500
Puttees :	4000	4000
Hats :	4000	4000
Leggings :	1000	1000.

It is realised that there is little likelihood of obtaining the items as quoted but these are what are required to bring the force up to the present standard plus a reserve.

3. MOBILITY.

The mobility of the CC.HK. bears little relation

boots from Bari. No action has been taken from this Command to send for the items which are urgently required but they appeared to be content to wait for them to arrive. Now, as a result of my bringing the matter forward, transport is being dispatched to fetch the goods.

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Under pants :	4000	5500
Socks :	7000 pairs	7000 pairs
Wollen under vests:	6000	3500
Ties :	4000	1000
Handkerchiefs :	4000	3000
Level insignia :	5000 pairs	5000 pairs
Hat badges :	5000	4500
Puttees :	4000	4000
Hats :	4000	4000
Leggings :	1000	1000

3303

It is realized that there is little likelihood of obtaining the items as quoted but these are what are required to bring the force up to the present standard plus a reserve.

3. MOBILITY.

The mobility of the CO.BR. bears little relation to the number of vehicles that they have because the large majority are out of use. Detailed lists of all types of vehicles in the possession of the Legions are attached appendices (3 and 4) It will be seen that tyres are the first requirements right the way from the heavy trucks down to the bicycles. The vehicles in the possession of Legions are either what have been recuperated or were requisitioned after the operational period in the island. At that time many of the vehicles were in poor conditions and are now worn out.

Repairs to tyres are carried out by private vulcanizing shops. Mechanical repairs are carried out by the drivers or the Legion repair shops. Major repairs are carried out in the repair shops of the "Direzione d'Artiglieria" under an arrangement made with the Territorial Commander. Lack of spare parts has resul-

In a number of vehicles being completely out of service. It appears that on the 15th. Sept. 1945 the General Command HQ. issued a circular No 58/10 laying down certain establishments for transport. In compliance with this circular the following are the requirements to bring the Legion up to standard:

	Palermo	Messina
Motor cars :	7	20
Motor lorries (heavy):	3	19
Motor lorries (light):	42	58
" (P.H.type):	1	3
Motor tricycles :	3	7
Motor cycles (2 seats):	765	604
Motor cycles (solo): :	-	41
Bicycles :	2000	-

Both Legions have large numbers of bicycles which are out of use by reason of no tyres (details given on appendices 3 and 4). The chief requirements are tyres of all sizes and spares. If any further transport does become available it is recommended that the 15 cm. size is the one likely to be most useful in Sicily.

The training of drivers and instructors for maintenance severely restricted due to the fact that the mobile section has never been properly formed and personnel are very busily engaged in the clearing up of the bandits situation. The instructors themselves are handicapped by lack of tools and demonstration charts. This has slowed the programme. In detail the course seems very adequate and consists of 240 hours of lectures and practical inside work and 20 hours practical outside work. (this has been shortened to conserve fuel). At the end of the course personnel undergo a theoretical and a practical examination.

4 P.O.L. # 338

All supplies are obtained on a monthly bid through the Prefect at Legion level. The mobile battalion vehicles direct by the Legions and obtain their requirements from Legion supplies. Buoni are issued to each group who draw it from C.I.P. in their towns. It is not possible to separate the accounts for general use and mobile battalion for reasons quoted. Present allocations are:

" (M.H. type):	3
Motor tricycles	7
Motor cycles (2 seats)	504
Motor cycles (solo):	41
Bicycles	-

Both Legions have large numbers of bicycles which are out of use by reason of no tyres (details given on appendices 3 and 4). The chief requirement is tyres of all sizes and spares. If any further transport does become available it is recommended that the 15 available is the one likely to be most useful in Sicily.

The training of drivers and instructions for maintenance severely restricted due to the fact that the mobile section has never been properly formed and personnel are very basily engaged in the clearing up of the bandits situation. The instructors themselves are handicapped by lack of tools and demonstration charts. This has slowed the progress. In detail the course seems very adequate and consists of 240 hours of lectures and practical inside work and 20 hours practical outside work. (this has been shortned to conserve fuel). At the end of the course personnel undergo a theoretical and a practical examination.

33b

4. P.O.L.

All supplies are obtained on a monthly bid through the Prefect at Legion level. The mobile battalion vehicles direct by the Legions and obtain their requirements from Legion supplies. Buoni are issued to each Group and draw it from O.I.P. in their towns. It is not possible to separate the amounts for general use and mobile battalion for reasons quoted. Present allocations are:

Palermo Legion 33,000 litres of petrol and naphtha.
 Messina Legion 18,000 litres of petrol and naphtha.
 There has been no difficulty in obtaining supplies which are adequate for present amount of efficient transport.

4. COMMUNICATIONS.

In the Legion the switch boards are operated and there are private lines to the Internal Groups. There are no private lines between towns.

(a). The following are the numbers of CC.RR. stations without telephones:

Palermo Legion	Messina Legion
118	180

(b). Number of stations with part time service only:

Palermo Legion	Messina Legion
45	45

(c). The only private lines are from Legion HQ. to Group Interno and do not pass outside the town involved.

(d). Motorcyclists are used as dispatch riders to those sections without communication. For messages from such stations men have often to be dispatched on foot to take messages to a higher command.

(e). As it is extremely difficult to obtain telephone equipment and these are very subject to disruption by the cutting of wires it is strongly recommended that radio transmitters should be applied. It would be impossible to equip every station (which would be ideal) but a careful survey would show where they could be placed to the best advantage. A motor cyclist attached to this station would ensure quick delivery to nearby stations without communications. It is suggested an initial supply of 50 transmitters for each Legion and a more powerful one for Legion HQ. to cover the whole island.

5. RATIONS. # 3381

These are drawn from Italian Military sources. There are no difficulties to report. Where Gruppi have a Military dump in their town they draw direct at that level. Where they have not the rations are drawn by Legions from the dump in their town and it is then delivered in CC.RR. transport to Gruppi and Companies. Stations draw from the Company HQs.

The suggestion has been put forward that on behalf of the mobile battalion there should be a special reserve allocation of canned foods and if possible field cookers to take with them when operating at large distances from HQ in order to save the weight of the equipment. Detailed with this is a request

(d). Motorcyclists are used as dispatch riders to those sections without communication. For messages from such stations men have often to be dispatched on foot to take messages to a higher command.

(e). As it is extremely difficult to obtain telephone equipment and these are very subject to disruption by the cutting of wires it is strongly recommended that radio transmitters should be supplied. It would be impossible to equip every station (which would be ideal) but a careful survey would show where they could be placed to the best advantage. A motor cyclist attached to this station would ensure quick delivery to nearby stations without communications. It is suggested an initial supply of 50 transmitters for each Legion and a more powerful one for Legion HQ. to cover the whole island.

5. RATIONS.

3351

These are drawn from Italian Military sources. There are no difficulties to report. Where Gruppi have a Military dump in their town they draw direct at that level. Where they have not the rations are drawn by Legions from the dump in their town and it is then delivered in CO.MR. transport to Gruppi and Companies. Stations draw from the Company Hqs.

The suggestion has been put forward that on behalf of the mobile battalion there should be a special reserve allocation of canned foods and if possible field cookers to take with them when operating at large distances from HQ. in uninhabited parts of the country. Coupled with this is a request for tents to make the battalion entirely self supporting as a striking force and able to operate anywhere for any length of time.

6. ACCOMMODATION.

At the present strength, with reinforcements from other Legions, there is insufficient accommodation. The HQ. buildings are good but many of the stations in country areas are private houses. Many lack, light, water and heat. This is very bad hygienically and also for the morale of personnel. These are privately owned buildings and the owners will not carry out any repairs or improvements because they are operating

under very old contracts with rentals that are far too small to admit any expenditure. Many were damaged by the war and have not been repaired. Contractors for the supply of Caserma equipment are unable to carry out the requirements due, either to the non availability of goods or else the exorbitant black market prices asked. It is however, the C.C.R.R., men who suffer for their pay does not permit them to make purchases so that they live under very bad conditions. This is bound to undermine their health and efficiency.

Government owned premises are maintained through the Provincial Administration and conditions are better. Lack of materials does seriously impede repair work being carried out. Office equipment of stations is a very serious problem. Yearly grants are made to Legions with which they have to provide all stationary, pen, ink, typewriters ribbons, repairs to typewriters and even the rent on telephones. Many of the forms used are of special types and have to be specially printed. From the Messina Legion is quoted that ordinary outside stations are given 250 lire per month from which they are expected to deal with all the items mentioned. Palermo Legion quote that they received 900 thousand lire for the year 1943. The actual expenditure with the most rigid economy enforced was 1,270,000 lire. Prices are still rising and the work increasing and it is quite impossible to efficiently run the office on the grant given.

7. ARMS and AMMUNITION.

At the present time there is no reserve stock of automatic arms at the Legions. Following are the details of issue:

(a). Automatic weapons

Issued.	Palermo	Messina
Beretta automatic rifles cal.9:	233	320000
Breda automatic rifles cal.6,5:	521	58
Pist machine gun model 35 :	9	12
Breda machine gun model 37 :	45	17
Beretta automatic pistols model 14-cal.9 :	1998	1225

Government owned premises are maintained through the Provincial administration and conditions are better. Lack of materials does seriously impede repair work being carried out. Office equipment of stations is a very serious problem. Yearly grants are made to Legions with which they have to provide all stationary, pens, ink, typewriter ribbons, repairs to typewriters and even the rent on telephones. Many of the forms used are of special types and have to be specially printed. From the Messina Legion is quoted that ordinary outside stations are given 250 lire per month from which they are expected to deal with all the items mentioned. Palermo Legion quote that they received 900 thousand lire for the year 1945. The actual expenditure with the most rigid economy enforced was 1,270,000 lire. Prices are still rising and the work increasing and it is quite impossible to efficiently run the office on the grant given.

7. ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

At the present time there is no reserve stock of automatic arms at the Legions. Following are the details of issue:

(a). Automatic weapons

Issued.	Palermo	Messina
Beretta automatic rifles cal.9:	233	230
Breda automatic rifles cal.6.5:	521	58
Pist machine gun model 35 :	9	12
Breda machine gun model 37 :	45	17
Beretta automatic pistols model 34-cal.9 :	1998	1226
Brixia mortar 45 m/m :	26	19
Mortar 81 m/m :	8	10

Ordinary weapons.

There is a reserve of 1016 muskets held in reserve at Palermo Legion HQ.

Issued	Palermo	Messina
Muskets mod.38 cal.6.5 :	4027	2880
Muskets mod.91 :	-	545
Revolvers mod. 81 :	1335	723

(b) Information has been given that an assignment of 1300

automatic arms has been made to the Legions. This has not yet arrived but will adequately deal with all arms requirements.

(d). Considerable quantities of ammunition are being expended both in action and for practice purposes. Request has been made for allocation of ammunition sufficient for 10 days fire and also the requirements for the annual training courses of personnel. Details as follows:

Requirements for 10 days fire.

Arms	Palermo	Messina
Musket mod.38 cal.6.5	3,244,300	1,720,000
Pistol automatic Beretta mod.34 cal.9.	1,073,582	122,500
Rifle automatic Beretta cal.3.	1,824,250	4,238,000
" " Breda mod.30 cal.6.5:	5,075,258	754,000
Machine gun light cal.8		58,000
" " Breda mod.37	1,512,038	
" " Fiat mod.35		
Mortars 81 m/m	10,000	20,000
Ballistics cartridges for 81 m/m	20,000	40,000
Mortars 45 m/m	43,000	38,000
Ballistics cartridges for 45 m/m	86,000	76,000
Hand Grenades	150,000	102,200

Ammunitions required for annual training of personnel:

Arms	Palermo	Messina
Hand Grenades	4,000	4,000
Musket mod. 91 cal. 5.5	-	337,800,000
" " 38 cal. 5.5	48,324	-
Beretta auto-pistol mod.34 cal.9	55,378	40,000
Machine gun light cal.3	25,000	35,000
Revolvers mod.39 cal.10.35	-	25,000
Automatic rifles cal.6.5	40,000	17,000
Beretta auto-rifle cal.9	15,660	12,000

	Palermo	Messina
Musket mod. 38 cal. 6.5	3,244,300	1,720,000
Pistol automatic Beretta mod. 34 cal. 9	1,073,582	122,500
Rifle automatic Beretta cal. 9	1,824,250	4,238,000
" " Breda mod. 30 cal. 6.5	5,075,258	754,000
Machiko gun light cal. 8		
" " Breda mod. 37	1,512,038	58,000
" " Fiat mod. 35		
Mortars 81 m/m	10,000	20,000
Ballistic cartridges for 81 m/m	20,000	40,000
Mortars 45 m/m	43,000	38,000
Ballistic cartridges for 45 m/m	85,000	76,000
Hand Grenades	150,000	102,200

Ammunitions required for annual training of personnel:

Arms	Palermo	Messina
Hand Grenades	4,000	4,000
Musket mod. 91 cal. 6.5	-	337,800,000
" " 38 cal. 6.5	48,324	-
Beretta auto-pistol mod. 34 cal. 9	55,376	40,000
Machiko gun light cal. 8	25,000	35,000
Revolvers mod. 29 cal. 10.35	-	25,000
Automatic rifles cal. 6.5	40,000	17,000
Beretta auto-rifle cal. 9	16,660	12,000
Mortar bombs for 81 m/m	1,500	3,000
" " ballistic cartr. for 81 m/m	3,200	1,000
Mortars bombs for 45 m/m	5,200	3,000
" " ballistic cartr. for 45 m/m	10,400	3,000

(4). In respect of training all personnel in turn are sent to Group HQ in the case of Messina Legion and to Legion HQ. in the case of Palermo, where they are given one month training in the use of all types of arms. The numbers are so arranged that each year all personnel pass through the course. The requests

For ammunition in para (c) are to enable this to be carried out.

3. MOBILE BATTALIONS.

(a) VEHICLES. The following is a list of vehicles attached to the mobile battalion (reparto motociclistas) Palermo.

	No	
Heavy trucks Fiat 625	9	
Light trucks Isotta I.2.	2	
" " SPA 38	4	
Small utility truck Fiat 1100	1	
Solo Motor cycles	14	
Motor cycles with pillion seats	7	
Medium tanks type "M" 15/41 Spa Ansaldo	4	
" " " "M" 14/41 " "	8	
Light tanks type "L" 33-35 Fiat Ansaldo	12	
Armoured cars. Tarsan Auto Union (recovered)	1	
" " " "Spa mod. 41	3	

Vehicles attached to mobile battalion Messina. No separate list was given of ordinary transport but it was included in Legion transport. It consists of:

Solo motor cycles	15
Motor cycles with pillion seat	5
Cars (saloon)	2
Armoured vehicles.	3378
Tanks light Spa Ansaldo 33-35	11
" " medium Fiat Ansaldo M. 13/42	4
" " medium Fiat Ansaldo M. 13/43	4

The source of all armoured cars is not certain but 12 light

Small utility truck Fiat 1100

- Solo Motor cycles 14
- Motor cycles withillion seats 7
- Medium tanks type "M" 15/41 Spa Ansaldo 4
- " " " " 14/41 " " 8
- Light tanks type "L" 33-35 Fiat Ansaldo 12
- Armoured cars. German Auto Union (recovered) 1
- " " " Spa mod. 41 3

Vehicles attached to mobile battalion Messina. No separate list was given of ordinary transport but it was included in Legion transport. It consists of :

- Solo motor cycles 15
- Motor cycles with million seat 5
- Cars (saloon) 2
- 3378
- Armoured vehicles.
- Tanks light Spa Ansaldo 33-35 11
- " medium Fiat Ansaldo M. 13/42 4
- " medium Fiat Ansaldo M. 13/43 4

The source of all armoured cars is not certain but 12 light tanks came from Messina (Briandisi); twelve medium tanks from Rome and three armoured cars from the Central Recruiting Depot, Rome.

(b). The training of personnel is not proceeding very satisfactorily for the following reasons:

- (1) The mobile battalion have not been properly formed, so that personnel are not available.
- (2) The men are constantly being called out and are also performing other duties.
- (3) The instructors state that they are badly handicapped by reason of lack of instructional charts, tools for practical training and parts.

The training is given by specially trained officers and N.C.O.s and during normal times takes 40 days for mechanics and lorry drivers. It consists of 240 hours of class room and work shop training and 20 hours on the road. The practical driving has been reduced to conserve fuel.

Tank drivers are recruited from the lorry drivers and undergo a further 20 days course on tanks. They study all mechanical functions of the Tank and are also specially trained in the use of the arms.

At the end of both courses examinations both written and practical, are taken. The examination is set and marked by a technical officer from the Military Transport Company in Palermo.

(c) State of vehicles.

For the state of ordinary transport reference may be made to the appendices 3 and 4. With regard to armoured vehicles in Palermo five medium tanks are in running order but are not reliable. The remaining seven are out of order and need batteries, injection pumps and other spare parts.

Of the twelve light tanks eleven are in order and one needs repair. These vehicles however are very small and not suitable for the work.

Three armoured cars are in running order but one of these, the German Auto-Union is not reliable. The fourth armoured car is awaiting a differential which has been ordered from Turin.

Of the armoured vehicles at Messina Legion all eleven light Spa Ansaldo tanks are in fair running order but are not suitable vehicles. All of the eight medium tanks are out of order and lack a variety of equipment. 3377

(d) Small maintenance repairs are done by the Messina Legion themselves but major repairs are effected by Palermo who have better facilities. Palermo do their own repairs and also receive assistance from the 11th. Transport Company of the Territorial Command.

... ..

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(d) Small maintenance repairs are done by the Messina Legion themselves but major repairs are effected by Palermo who have better facilities. Palermo do their own repairs and also receive assistance from the 11th. Transport Company of the Territorial Command.

The CC.RR. work shops do well for the means at their disposal and considering the age of the vehicles at their disposal they do well to keep them on the road. The great trouble is tyres and they do lack adequate vulcanising equipment. The Italian Army appears to have sufficient workshops to deal with the amount of work but suffer badly as do the CC.RR. from lack of spare parts.

(e) There is a complete lack of spare parts and tyres in Sicily. Urgent requests have been made to the General Command Rome but practically nothing has been forthcoming.

(f) Documentary records of vehicles. When a vehicle goes out the driver is issued with a proper trip ticket which he has to scrupulously keep. These are carefully checked upon his return on mileage, fuel used, time etc. These are standard forms used through the C.C.HH. service. With each vehicle there is also kept a book in which are entered all details of mileage, servicing, repairs etc.

(g) Mobile battalions are not properly constituted. Tank crews are used only for maintenance and use of their vehicles. Other personnel who are in training as lorry drivers etc are used for other duties. They are being used as guards at Military and Civil Tribunals also as reinforcements of Prison guards due to the threat of attacks on prisons. The hours vary but it has delayed their training considerably. This is entirely due to the special conditions at present in Sicily and not through inefficiency by training officers or interference by senior commanders for the services of the men. It is impossible however to expect men to be on duty all night and then attend lectures during the day and to practical work in the afternoon.

(h) It cannot be said that the mobile battalion is completely inefficient because the number of personnel available have, and are doing some good work. They are severely handicapped by their vehicles and fall short of the standard of northern Italy. They do however work very closely with the Territorial Command and the section of 100 men both in Palermo and Catania (Mazzina Legion) are available as a striking force. They always, however, go out with military personnel. They are then no longer a C.C.HH. force, but a military force.

K 3376

9. GENERAL SUPPLIES.

The idea as suggested in the pro forma under this heading that all supplies be issued through Italian Army channels has much to commend it. At the present time the Commissariate at Rome have certain depots of goods but when an allocation is made to a Legion they have no transport with which to move it. The distress for Legion to send trucks is unmechanical. Goods have therefore to wait for rail transport. This takes a very long time. The Army have better facilities for movement of goods and Legions would very easily be able to withdraw their allocations

for other duties. They are being used as guards at military and Civil Tribunals also as reinforcements of prison guards due to the threat of attacks on prisons. The hours vary but it has delayed their training considerably. This is entirely due to the special conditions at present in Sicily and not through inefficiency by training officers or interference by senior commanders for the services of the men. It is impossible however to expect men to be on duty all night and then attend lectures during the day and to practical work in the afternoon.

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The idea as suggested in the pro forma under this heading that all supplies be issued through Italian Army channels has much to commend it. At the present time the Commissariato at Rome have certain depots of goods but when an allocation is made to a Legion they have to transport with which to move it. The distances for Legion to send trucks is unworkable. Goods have therefore to wait for rail transport. This takes a very long time. The Army have better facilities for movement of goods and Legions would very easily be able to withdraw their allocations from local Territorial Command depots. Care must be taken to see that CC.RR. are informed of allocations so that they are able to withdraw goods before they get diverted to Army use. It is recommended that allocations be carried out at Legion level as they are the only ones who have storage and administrative staff to deal with such things.

10. NEUTRAL STATIONS.

Due to the attacks on isolated units of CC.RR. in Sicily, all temporary stations (posti fissi) have been closed down. Under present conditions in Sicily it is not advisable to close down any of the permanent stations. This would give the

rebels the opportunity to proclaim a moral victory by the withdrawal of CC.MB. from one of their stations. It would possibly have a serious reaction in the minds of the public. I am therefore, at present, against the closing of any stations. It therefore remains to so improve communications by the allocation of telephones, motorcycles, radio transmitters, and improved arms to strengthen the CC.MB. physically and morally to withstand attack. By the proper formation of the mobile battalion to be able to dispatch a strong striking force anywhere in the area at once.

*Thomaine
Major*

T. HODDACHRE,
Major,
CC.MB. Section,
II. B.L.U.

3375

Appendix 1 -
ORGANIC, EFFORTIVE and PRESENT STRENGTH
OF THE DIVISION OF PALERMO

GROUP.	COMPANY.	Organic strength	Effective strength	Present strength.
Palermo Intergo	Palermo Interna	455	543	435
	Palermo Suburbano	252	193	180
	Monreale	207	251	231
Palermo Esterno	Palermo Esterna	157	112	104
	Terracini Imerso	188	200	187
	Cefalà	220	203	175
	Corleone	135	101	98
Agrigento	Agrigento Interna	286	203	184
	Agrigento Esterna	248	208	171
	Sciacca	203	181	150
Trapani	Trapani	267	186	159
	Marsala	185	170	162
	Alcamo	152	160	138
Caltanissetta	Caltanissetta Interna	203	250	215
	Caltanissetta Esterna	175	218	168
Compagnia Comandi	-	100	448	169
	-	548	-	-
Mobile Battalion	-	-	155	145
	-	-	101	80
Mobile Armored section.	-	-	151	106
	-	-	-	-
Public Order Attachment	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Training nucleus	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total		3982	4039	3255.
				3374

Appendix 2

22.22. LEGION OF MESSINA
ORGANIC STRENGTHS, PRESENT STRENGTH

REF ID	COMPANIA	Organic strength	Effective strength	Present strength
Messina Interno	Messina Interna Messina Esterna Training nucleus	305 203 -	316 230 -	332 289 100
Messina Esterno	Patti Nistrutta	199 206	192 171	120 100
Catania	Catania Interna Catania Esterna Acireale Caltagirone Public Order Pitao Training nucleus	200 171 201 173 - -	276 197 272 219 - -	275 133 234 171 98 100
Siracusa	Siracusa Noto Training nucleus	183 101 -	260 126 -	188 102 50
Ragusa	Ragusa Vittoria Training nucleus	136 184 -	156 99 -	105 85 50
Enna	Enna Micosia Training nucleus	176 122 -	182 123 -	142 85 50
Comandania Comandio	-	90	520	198
	Total	2550	3439	2988

3373

Appendix 3.

LIST OF TRANSPORTATION OF FALLEN LEADERS

Type of vehicles	Make of vehicle	Number	Trifoliated	Not trifoliated of types	Not trifoliated of types
Heavy trucks	Lancia 3 AC	2	1	1	1
"	Fiat 566	1	1	-	-
"	Fiat 626	1	1	-	-
Light trucks	Spe 35 H	2	2	-	-
"	Lancia 1 Z	4	2	2	1
Military Lorries	Spe 35	2	1	1	1
Light Lorries	Fiat 514	1	-	1	-
	Total	13	8	5	2
AUTOMOBILES	Fiat 518 Adria	1	1	-	-
"	Lancia Artens	1	1	-	-
"	Lancia Augusta	1	1	-	-
"	Fiat 1100	13	8	4	1
"	Fiat 508 N.	1	1	-	-
"	Fiat 506 Berlina	18	12	6	-
"	Fiat 508 Spyder	23	2	3	18
"	Fiat 500 Popolo	6	2	2	2
	Total	64	28	15	21
MOTORCYCLES	Benelli 500	6	2	2	2
"	Guzzi 500	1	-	1	-
"	Gilera 500	3	2	1	-
"	Garzi 500	1	1	-	-
MOTORCYCLES with FILLING SEAT	GILERA, BENELLI	27	16	4	7
	GUZZI, SUZUKI, BIANCHI.				
	"	89	55	21	13
	Total motorcycles	118	71	25	20

3372

Light trucks	Sps 350	2							
"	Lancia 12	4							
Military carrier	Sps 30	2							
Light carrier	Fiat 514	1							
	Total	10	8	3	2				
AUTOMOBILES	Fiat 518 Adite	1	1						
"	Lancia Artens	1	1						
"	Lancia Augustal	1	4						
"	Fiat 1100	13	9	4	1				
"	Fiat 508 N.	1	1						
"	Fiat 508 Berlina	13	13	6					
"	Fiat 508 Spider	23	2	3	18				
"	Fiat 500 Topolka	6	2	2	2				
	Total	64	28	15	61				
MOTORCYCLES	Benelli 500	6	2		2				
"	Guzzi 500	1		1					
"	Gilera 500	3	2	1					
"	Guzzi 500	1	1						
MOTORCYCLES with FILLING SEAT	GILERA, BENELLI	27	16	4	7				
	GUZZI, SPYKER, BIANCHI.				3				3372
ONE SEAT MOTOR CYCLES	" "	99	55	21	13				
	Total motorcycles	116	71	25	30				

<u>Bicycles.</u>	Efficient	Inefficient	Total
Property of the Ministry of War	37	84	115
" " " Ministerio	24	293	319
	55	379	434

LIST OF TRANSPORTATION AT MESSINA LAGOON Appendix 4.

Type of vehicle	Make of vehicle	Number	Efficient	Not efficient for lack of tyres	Not efficient for lack of tyres and spare parts.
Heavy trucks	Fiat 626	8	2	4	2
"	C.M. Taurus	1	1	-	-
"	Spa Savanque	3	-	-	-
Light trucks	Spa 38	8	1	6	1
"	Fiat 613	1	1	-	-
"	Bianchi S/S	1	1	-	-
"	Fiat 621 G.	2	-	1	1
"	Lancia I N.	2	-	1	1
	Total	25	6	12	7
Military lorries	Spa L/38	2	1	1	-
AUTOMOBILES	PIAT 1500	2	2	-	-
"	PIAT 1100	16	7	9	-
"	PIAT 500	5	5	4	-
"	PIAT 500	23	5	10	18
"	Bianchi S/B	1	1	-	-
"	Lancia Augusta	1	1	-	-
	Total	48	16	23	9
MOTORCYCLES	Guzzi 500	23	17	6	-
"	Guzzi 250	1	-	1	-
"	Bianchi 500	8	2	6	-
"	GILERA 500	17	2	9	6
"	Bicchi 250	1	1	-	-
"	Benelli 500	12	3	7	2
"	Benelli 250	1	-	1	-
"	H.S.U. 250	1	-	1	-
"	C.M. 350	1	-	1	-
"	Sartum 500	2	1	1	-
"	Sartum 250	2	1	1	-
"	Horton 500	1	-	1	-
	Total	71	27	36	8
MOTORCYCLES with MILLIAM 500T.	Guzzi 500	1	-	1	-
"	Alice Guzzi 500	5	2	3	-
"	Bianchi 500	23	3	13	-
"	Gilera 500	15	3	9	-

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Category	Model	Quantity	Condition	Location	Total	
Military Vehicles	FIAT 811 G.	2			2	
	Lancia 1 Z.	2			2	
	Total	25			25	
	AUTOMOBILES	FIAT 1500	2			2
		FIAT 1100	16			16
		FIAT 500	5			5
		FIAT 508	23			23
		Lancia 3/3	1			1
	Total	48			48	
	MOTORCYCLES	Guzzi 500	23			23
Guzzi 250		1			1	
Bianchi 500		8			8	
GILERA 500		17			17	
Bighi 250		1			1	
Benelli 500		12			12	
Benelli 250		2			2	
M.S.U. 250		1			1	
U.M. 350		1			1	
Sertum 500		2			2	
Sertum 250		2			2	
Horton 500		1			1	
Total		71			71	
MOTORCYCLES with PILLION SEAT.		Guzzi 500	1			1
		Alice Guzzi 500	5			5
	Bianchi 500	23			23	
	Gilera 500	15			15	
	Benelli 500	3			3	
	Sertum 500	4			4	
	D.M. 500	1			1	
	Total	52			52	
	MOTORBIKES	Guzzi 500	3			3
		Benelli 500	7			7
C.M.		1			1	
Gilera 500		12			12	

3371

Property of	Efficient	Inefficient	Total
the Ministry of War	-	54	54
" " " Ministry of Interior	-	82	82
		136	136

CC.M. Section
II. S.L.U.

19th. Feb. 1946.

Subject : Progress report.

To : S.S.O. I
CC.M. Section
M.A.I.A.
CC. II.S.L.U.

STAFF

Palermo Legion.

Authorized. 3434. Effective. 3632. Present. 2924.

Percentage on leave: 5%.

Percentage on extraneous duty: 7%.

Mobile Battalion.

Authorized. 548. Effective. 407. Present. 331

M.B. Mobile Battalion not formed. See details in para. organization.

Messina Legion.

Authorized. 2550. Effective. 3439. Present. 2988.

Percentage on leave : 5%.

Percentage on extraneous duty : less than 2%.

ORGANIZATION.

The "Mobile Battalion" as it is known in northern Italy has never been formed in Sicily. An organic strength of 548 was given to them but about three months or so ago instructions were received to suspend it's formation. Instead there was formed the "reparto motocorromoto" or motorised armoured section. This comprises 155 men who are drivers, mechanics, radio operators, etc of the armoured vehicles supplied to the Legion of Palermo, and 52 for the Legion of Messina.

These men are still undergoing instruction but it is interfered with by reason of the calls upon their services and also because they are used for special duties such as guards at Tribunales, both Civil and Military and reinforcing Prison

3370

3

Percentage on leave: 2%
 Percentage on extraneous duty: 7%.

Mobile Battalion.
 Authorized. Effective. Present.
 543. 407. 337

M.E. Mobile Battalion not formed. See details in para. organization.

Messina Legion.
 Authorized. Effective. Present.
 2570. 3433. 2988.

Percentage on leave: 1%
 Percentage on extraneous duty: less than 2%.

3370

ORGANIZATION.

The "Mobile Battalion" as it is known in northern Italy has never been formed in Sicily. An organic strength of 543 was given to them but about three months or so ago instructions were received to suspend it's formation. Instead there was formed the "reparto motocarrozatore" or motorised armoured section. This comprises 155 men who are drivers, mechanics, radio operators, etc of the armoured vehicles supplied to the Legion of Palermo, and 52 for the Legion of Messina.

These men are still undergoing instruction but it is interfered with by reason of the calls upon their services and also because they are used for special duties such as guards at Tribunales, both Civil and Military and reinforcing Prison guards.

It therefore appears to me that there must be representation made to the Central C.I.M. Command that the Mobile Battalions should be activated on a parity with those of northern Italy and that they be maintained for the specific purpose for which they were designed, and only under very extraordinary circumstances be used for other duties.

In each of the towns of Palermo and Catania a special force of 100 men each is held at local Military Caserms. These do duty with Military personnel when called upon only.

These personnel are to be incorporated into Mobile Battalions when these are activated properly.

INTELLIGENCE.

I would like to state an opinion on this arrangement at this stage. It appears that the responsibility for public order seems to have been taken from the hands of the J.C.R. and is now shared with the military. When demonstrations have occurred which have not been out of the powers of J.C.R. to control this special section has been called on, and accompanied by military personnel have attended. I am sure this has a bad effect on the public morale. On large scale operations such as are at present in course against bandits (including the political elements) by all means use the military, but not against small demonstration and the like.

There also seems a need for greater liaison between the units taking part in the present large scale round-ups. There should be nominated a Supreme Commander who shall be in charge of all operations and all sections of military or police agencies taking part. At present all seem to be working separately and the reports received are very conflicting and one section seems to have no idea of the presence, actions or results of any one else.

TRAINING.

Owing to the outside activities of J.C.R. and armoured section training has been interfered with. The training course appears to be very adequate for the mobile section but the instructors inform me that they suffer badly from lack of demonstration charts, parts and tools for practical work. The men themselves appear enthusiastic but the ordinary J.C.R. higher command appear to think that the training of these specialists is a thing to be taken as for secondary importance to the men being available for ordinary duties.

Training of ordinary personnel in the use of arms is carried out at Group level. All men in turn attend a course lasting one month and covers the use of all types of arms. Within one year every man will have carried out his training course.

3369

ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Discipline. The conduct of the Corps is good and there appears to be no serious breach of discipline cases are dealt with by own Command or crises by the Military Tribunal which is operating in Malacca.

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TRAINING.

Owing to the outside activities of CC.MB. and armed section training has been interfered with. The training course appears to be very adequate for the mobile section but the instructors inform me that they suffer badly from lack of demonstration charts, parts and tools for practical work. The men themselves appear enthusiastic but the ordinary CC.MB. higher command appear to think that the training of these specialists is a thing to be taken as for secondary importance to the man being available for ordinary duties.

3369

Training of ordinary personnel in the use of arms is carried out at Group level. All men in turn attend a course lasting one month and covers the use of all types of arms. Within one year every man will have carried out his training course.

ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) Discipline. The conduct of the Force is good and there appears to be no serious breach of discipline cases are dealt with by own Command or crime by the Military Tribunal which is operating in Palermo.
- (b) Pay. There appears to be no difficulty to report.
- (c) Personnel. There are no changes to report.

GENERAL DEFICIENCIES.

There is a general deficiency of uniforms, underclothing and boots. With recently made allocations it is hoped that the position will soon improve. There is a shortage of automatic weapons but with the arrival of arms which are somewhere on route this will adequately deal with all requirements. Ammunition is in short supply. Request has been made for sufficient for ten days fire and for monthly training requirements.

MOBILISATION OF STAFF.

This is good and there is the feeling that,

adequately equipped they themselves will be able to deal with any situation that may arise.

PUBLIC SAFETY SITUATION.

There are, at present time large scale operations all over the island by all police agencies to round up thieves and brigands. In the larger scale operations military are being used, and there have been large number of thieves arrested as well as suspected persons. In the last three days it was reported in the Press that over two hundred persons had been arrested. Some local Press has given highly colored pictures of the military activities (attached found article from "Giornale di Sicilia" of the 13th, Feb. 1945). There is a suggestion in this that flashbrowns might be used but there is no confirmation of this officially.

GENERAL.

Nothing to report.

H. Goodwin
Major

2. GOODWIN,
Major.
II.B.L.U.

3368.

6/2
6/2

CC.MR. SECTION
II B.I.U.

Subject: Preliminary Report.

5th. Feb. 1946.

To: C.S.C.I.
CC.MR. Section.
Rq. M.M.I.A..

I. GENERAL SITUATION. Whilst highway robbery by armed bandits continues there have been no large scale attacks on CC.MR. convoys or other establishments for some time. It is not anticipated that these have ceased but there is a general feeling that there is to be a large scale uprising in the near future. Towards the end of February is a period quoted for this to occur.

A meeting was held by the High Commissioner attended by Military Commanders and Heads of Police Services on the 4th. Feb. to formulate plans. I have not yet any information as to the decision taken. It appears that, up to the present there has been no prepared plan of action, particularly in regard to the action by military units when called in to assist Civil Police.

The moral of the CC.MR. is fairly good. It has been effected to some degree by the fact very few have any second uniform and during the recent heavy rains many have been wet through and unable to change. The result has been a lot of sickness. Also, the CC.MR. have practically no automatic weapons and feel their inferiority against the attackers who have automatic weapons and grenades.

Whilst the minimum hours laid down for CC.MR. is 8 hours per day, men are performing an average of 12 to 14. All leave has been stopped and men confined to Convoys being released one day in three. If this has to continue for a long time it may also affect moral.

3367

MOBILE BATTALION. In Sicily this is known as the "reparto motorizzato" and it is not concentrated at Brigade or Legion HQ as a striking force. A large number have been turned over to the General Inspector of Public Safety for special duties against bandits. These are dispersed in various parts of the island. There are approximately 100 stationed at Brigade HQ. These have been reinforced by CC.MR. from other parts of Italy - 36 from Bari and a further 100 expected from Firenze and 200 from Napoli.

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Whilst the minimum hours laid down for CC.M. is 8 hours per day, men are performing an average of 12 to 14. All leave has been stopped and men confined to Caserma being released out the day in three. If this has to continue for a long time it may also affect moral.

3367

MOBILE BATTALION. In Sicily this is known as the "reparto moto-carrozze" and it is not concentrated at Brigade or Legion HQ as a striking force. A large number have been turned over to the General Inspector of Public Safety for special duties against bandits. These are dispersed in various parts of the island. There are approximately 100 stationed at Brigade HQ. These have been reinforced by CC.M. from other parts of Italy - 360 from Bari and a further 110 expected from Firenze and 200 from Napoli.

ARMS. All CC.M. have a pistol and carbine and in a few cases automatic rifles are kept at Caserma for emergencies. Further automatic arms should be provided for defence of casernes or for manning road blocks or large scale actions against bandits. Suggested a minimum of 2 per station and as there are 500 in Sicily, it requires 1000 automatic rifles for this scale of issue.

AMMUNITION. Stocks are not good. It is requested that there should be an issue of sufficient for 10 days fire for all arms and further supply for training purposes. Details to be given in report to follow.

TRANSPORT. This is in short supply. Many vehicles are inefficient through lack of spare parts and, most important, Tyres. There are approx. 12 lorries in running order and these have to

be used on all types of work and are not allocated solely for mobile battalions.

ARMoured VEHICLES AND TANKS.

There are 10 medium tanks (Italian) in Sicily but only 4 are in state of efficiency. These are in Palermo. They dare not be sent out single for fear of breakdown. They are very slow and not suitable. The cannon mounted in the turret cannot be used (1) they have an order forbidding its use and (2) they have no ammunition. This leaves them with twin machine guns which have a restricted field of fire in a small arc forward. No spare parts are available. Cannibalisation could be carried out but they are not suitable.

There are 24 very small light tanks in Sicily. They are distributed in various parts but only a small proportion are in working order. They are armed with twin light machine guns firing forward only. It is stated that these vehicles bounce so much that it is impossible to aim the guns and they are useless for carrying personnel as they have only room for the driver and the gunner. No one wants them and they are used for training purposes only.

There are 4 armoured cars (3 Italian and 1 German) all held in Palermo. One Italian and the German vehicles are not in running order. The two in service are the most efficient arms of the battalion but are not very reliable. This type of vehicle is essential, not only for action against well armed bandits but for the escort of the lorries taking reinforcement. These are unarmoured on route. It is suggested that bullet proof steel sheeting should be supplied in order that trucks may be modified to give protection to the troops in them. The work can be carried out locally but there is no sheetmetal available in Sicily.

MOTOR CYCLES. There are available a small number of Italian motor cycles but more are urgently required. It is pointed out that if motor cycles are to be used for carrying reinforcements as well as for communications they should be filled with a pillow seat for a passenger who could use a weapon for protection of driver, as well as double the number of personnel that can be carried by means of motor cycles.

MAINTENANCE. There is a special section of C.C.M. who are responsible for maintenance and training of drivers etc. They have a small workshop which is not well equipped and is very restricted by reason of the lack of replacements and tyres. They

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MAINTENANCE. There is a special section of C.I.A. who are responsible for maintenance and training of drivers etc. They have a small workshop which is not well equipped and is very restricted by reason of the lack of replacements and tyres. They also receive assistance from the Italian Army workshop but they also are unable to supply spare parts.

F.O.L. Up to the present there has been no difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of F.O.L. which is obtained from A.C.L.I. on a monthly assignment basis through the Prefects.

RATIONS. These are obtained from military sources each 15 days at "Gruppi" level and the Mobile Battalion. No difficulty has been encountered but it is suggested that a reserve issue should be made to Battalion of tinned rations to be kept in reserve for operational use.

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They have no mobile feeding arrangements and tinned rations would ease the problem.

TRAINING. This is being carried out on a regular plan and each carabinieri carries out a course of firing with machine gun, automatic rifle and pistol and use of grenades. Further supplies of ammunition required.

COMMUNICATIONS. Many stations are without telephones and the majority of the remainder are on part time service. Exact lists to be submitted. In any case telephones lines have been cut and the only answer is for radio transmitting sets to be supplied. The question of motor cycles already dealt with. If possible bicycles should be supplied which would enable CC.RR. to carry out extended beat work particularly on perimeters of cities where robberies take place.

There is a great need for the issue of some type of lamp or electric torch for CC.RR. use. These are required in large quantities for night work, particularly at road blocks.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.

1. The immediate issue of 10 or 12 British armoured cars with trained personnel and ammunition for weapons. These would then be available for operational use at once.
2. Immediate issue of at least 1000 automatic rifles for distribution to stations for their defence. For large casermas and Legion command Hqs. an issue of machine guns - all with appropriate ammunition.
3. Immediate supply of trucks for mobile Battalion. As the roads are very mountainous and the surface bad, recommended that they be of the American 2 1/2 ton (6 X 6) type.
4. The supply of sheet steel for the modification of some trucks to protect personnel. This work can be done by CC.RR. personnel.
5. The supply of spare parts for repair of trucks already held by CC.RR. 3365
6. The supply of motor cycles, if possible fitted with pillow seats.
7. Strong representation for the installation of telephones at all casermas. The installing of private lines and the issue of 50 radio transmitters for use of isolated stations and Hqs.

The issue of further uniform to CC.RR. particularly shirts.

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5. The supply of spare parts for repair of trucks already held by CC.RR. 3365
6. The supply of motor cycles, if possible fitted with pillion seats.
7. Strong representation for the installation of telephones at all caesars. The installing of private lines and the issue of 50 radio transmitters for use of isolated stations and Hqs.
8. The issue of further uniform to CC.RR. particularly shirts, underclothing and shoes.

Information in detail as required in Appendix A to M.M.I.A. letter CC.RR./G/12 of 25th Jan. 1946¹⁹⁴⁵ collated. Further recommendations will be made in this report.

T. Godacre
T. Godacre,
MAJOR,
CC.RR. Section
II B.L.U.-

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