

785020

ACC

10000112014565

10000/120/4565

G/25

LOS INSPECTION REPORTS

MAY 10, 1946 - AUG. 26, 1946

3423
3432

TRANSLATION C.P.

11 Territorial H.Q.

Ref 5468/03/C.

Palermo 26 August '46.

Subject:- Military Prison - Catania.

To:- 11 B.L.U.

P A L E R M O

Further to our folio 5175/01/C. of 8.8. '46.

Herewith copy of letters 14153/S/1 of 5.8.46 and 14479/S/1 of 20.8.46 from Min. of War about this H.Q. suggestions for ration increasing of military prisoners.

Corn of those suggestions have been already fwd to 11 B.L.U. attached to the a/q letter.

By Order
The Vice Chief of the Staff.
(I. Inghilleri Lieut. Col.)

3432
56
G/30-2.

TRANSLATION O.P.

C O P Y

Min. of War - Commissariato
General Directorate.

Ref. 14161/3/1

Rome 14 Aug 46.

Subject: Rations for the military prisoners.

To : 11. Territorial H.Q.
PALERMO

Ref your folio 5010/03/C. of 5 Aug 46.

With reference of the subject of the a/q letter, this Ministry cannot increase the rations of the military prisoners owing to a special scale designed by the Food Authority with agreement of Justice Ministry and Allied Authorities.

Any steps the Food High Commissariat would give negative result, because the same has already denied to increase the ration scale of the internees in Leterina Concentration Camp, that is the same of the Military Prisons.

The Minister:
/s/ Pelligrà

P. O. C.
L'UFFICIALE SUPERIORE ADDETTO
/s/ Ten.Col.G. Pirraldo

3431

TRANSLATION C.F.C O P YMin. of War - Commissariato
General Directorate

Ref. 14479/S/1

Rome 20 Aug 46

Subject: Rations for the Military prisoners.To : 11. Territorial H.Q.
PALERMO

Ref your folio 5176/03/C. of 8 Aug 46.

3A.

This Ministry confirms what communicated to you with letter 14163/S/1 of 14 inst. i.e. the impossibility to increase the ration scale for the military prisons owing a special scale designed by the Food Authorities in agreement with the Justice Minister and the Allied Authorities.

The Minister.
Pelligrà.

TRANSMISSION C.P.

11 Territorial H.Q.

Ref 5115/03/C.

Palermo 6 August '40.

Subject:- Military Prison - Catania.

to : 11 B.L.H.

P A L E R M O

Ref your 5/23 dated 2/1/40. — 2A.

All what has been remarked by G.S.O.II -11 B.L.H. during his inspection at the Military Prison - Catania, it was already known by this Head Quarter, but so far no action has been taken to remove those difficulties for the following reasons:

- a) The building belongs to the civil prison, and the military prison is only a branch of it. Therefore no works for a considerable sum can be done by the Military Administration in non military buildings
- b) The military prisoners are subject to the regulations of the civil prison, that allow them with one hour of air in the yard daily.
- c) The food deficiency has been already signalized several time to the Min. of War, but always unsuccessfully, because the rations ~~examined~~ examined by the Sanitary Officers, has been found sufficient.

Anyway this H.Q. with the letters fwd. to you in copy, has again again interested the Ministry, in order to have increased the rations to obtain at least two hot meals daily.

It is in examination the abolition within this year of the Military Prison in Catania, posting the prisoners in the Military Prison of Palermo, we could obtain in this way a better accommodation for the hygienics, and they could have the possibility to follow the training and be granted with more air.

By Order
The Vice-Chief of the Staff.
(G. Piraino Lieut. Col.)

3430

SEE 51
6/10-2

translation C.P.

11 Territorial H.Q.

Ref 5010/03/0.

Palermo 3 August 1940.

subject:- Rations for the military prisoners.

To : Min. of War.
Commissariato Vexeral Directorate.

R O M E

The O.C. 11 B.I.U. inspecting the Military Prison in Catania, remarked that the prisoners are too much weak for lack of food.

The ration scale, checked by the same Officer and reported to M.M.I.A/ Rome, is the exact scale as fixed by this Ministry, confirmed with folio 6113/S/1 of 4/4/40, as reply to the monthly report relating the inspection to the Units with civilian rations. It has been reported by the monthly inspections that the Prison H.Q. tries to do all what it is possible to get better the prisoner meals, but it is always insufficient.

Will you please take in consideration again the matter to find the possibility to increase the prisoner ration scale.

The O.C.
M.E. de Castiglioni.

3429

TRANSLATION C.P.

11 Territorial H.Q.

Ref 2710/03/C.

Palermo 6 August 1946.

Subject:- Military Prisoners.- Ration Scale.

To:- Min.of War.
Commissariato General Directorate.

R O M E

Further to our folio 5010/03/C. of 5/8/46.
Will you please examine the possibility to increase the ration
scale for the military prisoners in the following way:
Pasta:from 70 grammes to 140 gr. (owing to the better grain
situation.)
Olive Oil:from 10 grs. to 20 grs. (owing to the small number of
prisoners :100 in all Sicily)

With such increasing it would be possible to cook two hot meals
daily, giving therefore the possibility, especially to the
youngest prisoners to get better from the always increasing
weakness.

This also to give the possibility to the recruits, expiating
short punishments, to be fit to start again the training when
they will be back to the C.A.R.

The G.O.C.
M.L. de Castiglioni.

3428

Subject: Military Prison Catania.

11 British Liaison Unit

Tel. 15557 PALERMO

6/25.

To : Land Forces Sub Com. A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.

27 July 46. (2A)

Copy to: 11 Mil. Terr. H.Q.

On July 22 I visited the Military Prison at Catania and found conditions there to be somewhat disturbing.

The Prison is situated in the centre of Catania in a building which appears have done duty as a prison for some hundreds of years.

There is no separate cell accommodation, the prisoners sharing rooms which contain about six beds each; all these rooms communicate with a separate corridor and on the occasion of my visit were all open, allowing prisoners access to the corridor, and to each others rooms.

The rooms were so dark that it was impossible to see whether they were clean.

One room is set aside for prisoners who are sick - the only thing which distinguished this room from any others was this fact.

I was informed that an M/O visits these sick prisoners every four days.

The cookhouse is situated off the central courtyard of the prison - it is a dark dirty building and the only illumination came from the open doorway and the light of the fires.

On the occasion of my visit there were 65 soldiers under sentence - all for periods of at least 12 months. Seven of these were in the sick room.

The prisoners are allowed to exercise in the courtyard from 0800 to 0900 hrs daily, after this they are shut up until the following morning. They do no work or training as they are too weak from lack of food.

The physical appearance of the prisoners was unhealthy but not emaciated.

3427

- 2 -

I obtained a list of rations for July 22. I have worked this out in ounces of food per man and it is as follows:

Bread	14	ozs.
Pasta	2.5	"
Beetroot	3.5	"
Tomatoes	7.9	"
Peas	3.5	"
Onions	4.5	"
Oil	.3	"
Coffee	.25	"
Sugar	.3	"

The sick men received the same ration with the addition of about an ounce of milk powder per man.

Copy of ration list untranslated to 11 C.B.T.

WS
W. SYKES, Major
C.B.O. II.,
11 B.L.U.

WS/SI

3426

COMANDO CARABINIERI MILITARI CATANIA

Buono prelievamento viveri detenuti per il giorno 22. 7. 1946

Sani
forza n° 58Ammalati
forza n° 7T.B.C.
forza n°

generi	quantità	generi	quantità	generi	quantità
Pasta	✓ Kg. 4.060	Pasta	✓ Kg. 0.595	Pasta	Kg.
Carbide	✓ " 5.800	Pomodori	✓ " 0.700	Zucchini	"
Pomodori	✓ " 2.280	Pomodori	✓ " 0.280	Pomodori	"
Pomodori	✓ " 5.900	Pomodori	✓ " 0.200 + 0.50	P patate	"
Olio	✓ " 0.580	Olio	✓ " 0.140	Olio	"
Frutta	"	Frutta	"	Frutta	"
Cipolle	✓ " 0.580	Cipolle	✓ " 0.070	Cipolle	"
Caffè	✓ " 0.464	Caffè	✓ " 0.056	Caffè	"
Zucchero	✓ " 0.520	Zucchero	✓ " 0.275	Zucchero	"
Pesce	"	Pesce	✓ " 0.350	Pesce	"
Cipolle	✓ 6.960	cipolle	✓ 0.840		
Pomodori	✓ 10.440	Pomodori	✓ 4.260		

P. 3425

Subject: C.A.R.

11 British Liaison Unit
Tel. 15372 PALERMO
G/25

To : 11 Territorial H.Q.
PALERMO

10 May 45.

On my first visit to the C.A.R. yesterday afternoon I was very much impressed by the design and quality of the building work which has already been carried out and by the progress which has been made in spite of many difficulties. I am sure that the accommodation is quite up to the standard provided in our own "Sandhurst Block" design in barrack construction which was the design used in the new barrack's which were being built in U.K. between 1936 and 1940.

There are however a few points on which I should like to make suggestions.

Accommodation now occupied by military.

I appreciate that it is difficult to produce a high standard of cleanliness and maintenance in buildings on which constructional work is still in progress but I do think that great efforts should be made to bring those buildings which are now complete up to the highest possible standard of cleanliness, in order to demonstrate to the recruits now in training what will be expected of them when they join their regiments.

The points that I have particularly in mind are

- 1) The floors and windows of the Administration Block.
- 2) Barrack room floors and windows.
(It was noticed that in one ablution room the wet sawdust which had probably been used to clean the floor had been swept into a cupboard.)

3424

Barrack Square.

This is now fairly clear and with a little work in clearing up the large stones, and sweeping, would provide a fairly satisfactory parade ground. I would suggest that if at all possible the whole surface of this square should be treated with a light spraying of Diesel oil which provides a good and dust free surface for a surprisingly long period.

subsequent block design in Barrack construction which was the design used in the new barrack's which were being built in U.K. between 1936 and 1940.

There are however a few points on which I should like to make suggestions.

Accommodation now occupied by military.

I appreciate that it is difficult to produce a high standard of cleanliness and maintenance in buildings on which constructional work is still in progress but I do think that great efforts should be made to bring those buildings which are now complete up to the highest possible standard of cleanliness, in order to demonstrate to the recruits now in training what will be expected of them when they join their regiments.

The points that I have particularly in mind are

- 1) The floors and windows of the Administration Block.
- 2) Barrack room floors and windows.

(It was noticed that in one ablution room the wet sawdust which had probably been used to clean the floor had been swept into a cupboard.)

3424

Barrack Square.

This is now fairly clear and with a little work in clearing up the large stores, and sweeping, would provide a fairly satisfactory parade ground. I would suggest that if at all possible the whole surface of this square should be treated with a light spraying of Miesel oil which provides a good and dust free surface for a surprisingly long period.

Cookhouse, and Latrines and Medical Inspection Room.

If possible light wire mesh screens should be provided for all doors and windows to keep out flies. Those covering the door openings should be constructed on the principle of a "swing door" so that they are self closing.

The worst "fly season" has not yet started but there were already hundreds of flies in the cockhouse.

Medical Inspection Room.

There were a number of patients in the hospital wards -

these young men appeared to have absolutely nothing to do - I feel that this is wrong and that every effort should be made to provide books, newspapers, or some form of games or pastimes.

Safeguarding of Arms.

It was noticed that Sub Machine Guns were kept in Barrack Rooms - although I understand that no ammunition for these is officially in possession of recruits in training I think that the possibility of a recruit obtaining a few rounds of 9 m/m ammunition from outside sources and subsequently experimenting with a Sub Machine Gun in barracks, to the danger of himself and comrades, cannot be overlooked.

I am sure that you will agree that these weapons should be under the care of a responsible person.

WB/SI

W. Sikes
W. SIKES, Major
G.S.O. II.,
11 B.L.U.

3423

| 6 0 2 |