

10000 | 120 | 4758

ACC

10000/120/4758

BTU / A 11 / 1

RFTS

6087
6102

Feb. - June 1945

JUN 1945
396REG. GEN. ADDIZIONAMENTO GENIO
COMANDO SERRAVALLO

(15)

M. 02/432/SA di Prot.

P.M. 92, li 9 Giugno 1945

MAJOR R.E. SORU

DIARLAND CHRISTOPHER
ENGLISH H.Q.

= C E S A N G =

Ref. B T I/C.6/262

Subject: I.C.F. Artieri Reinforcements.-

General MATTIOLI has communicated that in Trevignano there are now only 40 genieri of different specialities, not available, because they have to be for some time isolated in cause of some cases of epidemic parotite which have been found there.-

GIL (Training).

Ref above.

In the last 4 weeks we have had only 1 party arrive for training & the prospects of further parties in the future appear very slight.

Very shortly there will be no sappers under training at all.

May the fact that no "trained" men ⁶¹⁰² ~~6002~~ yet been posted be taken up at a high level (LONDON-WASHINGTON or preferably BIG THREE !!!).

13 JAN 46. AB. SORU

For A:	Info:
2504	
Date	File A11

(11) (14)

SUBJECT :- Reinforcements for GRIMONA.

'G' Training Unit to the Italian Army
C. M. F.

Ref HUV/1.11/384

20 May 45.

Lieut-Col L. H. MACKAY
HQ HUV TPTC HQ.

1. At present the maximum number of men suitable to be posted is 500 - this number could be increased if the Guards etc in GRIMONA at present were returned.
2. It is thought likely that these reinforcements required should include some Artillery, Genio etc, which would make up the additional number.
3. When applying for these recruits the numbers required of each Arm will no doubt be stated.

HMK/rav

W. M. M.
HMK
CS

1. At present the maximum number of men suitable to be posted is 500 - this number could be increased if the Guards etc in KOREA at present were returned.
2. It is thought likely that these reinforcements required should include some artillery, Genio etc, which would make up the additional number.
3. When applying for these recruits the numbers required of each Arm will no doubt be stated.

HMA/rav

Maj
GG6101
6001

SUBJECT: Signal Reinforcements.

C Training Unit to the Italian Army
C. M. F.

Ref HCU/A.11/368

16 May 45.

INC ICE.

MAJ SWINERTON GSO II (SIG))
SO.IG TH HCY INC ICE.

Further to your letter R492/LI 15/5/45. The following arrangements have been made with Major SWINERTON GSO II (SIG).

1. Trained Signal Operators. Approximately 50 trained signal operators will be available this week end and it is understood from Major GLANDI these can be posted direct to the Group.
2. Intake of personnel for training. Your recent letter confirming the number to be posted from TREVIGIANO to the Centro will provide a fair number, but Major SWINERTON will first test all students as suitable for signal training, which will probably mean a larger proportion of this number will eventually go to Engineers. In order to make up the number of students now required with the increased amount of accommodation, Major SWINERTON'S Signals Officers are arranging to visit both TREVIGIANO and OSMANO with a view to interviewing likely students i.e. making sure they are suitable before making for them to be posted.
3. The exact day and the time of these visits will be arranged direct to your office by Major SWINERTON.

RUC 107.

MAJ SWINERTON GSO II (Signal)
SO. 100 H. H. H. H. H. H. H.

Further to your letter H92/LI 15/5/45. The following arrangements have been made with Major SWINERTON GSO II (Signal).

1. Trained Signal Operators. Approximately 50 trained signal operators will be available this week end and it is understood from Major GILBERT these can be posted direct to the Group.
2. Intake of personnel for training. Your recent letter confirming the number to be posted from TREVIGLIANO to the Cambo will provide a fair number, but Major SWINERTON will first test all students as suitable for signal training, which will probably mean a larger proportion of this number will eventually go to Engineers. In order to make up the number of students now required with the increased amount of accommodation, Major SWINERTON'S Signals Officers are arranging to visit both TREVIGLIANO and CAMBO with a view to interviewing likely students i.e. making sure they are suitable before asking for them to be posted.
3. The exact day and the time of these visits will be arranged direct to your office by Major SWINERTON.

HMK/rmw

6440

MAJ
GSO

7. MAY 30
91

A11

26 MAY Recd

SUBJECT :- Engineer Reinforcements.

12

'H' Br Trg Incr IRTC ICF.

Ref BTI/G.6/193.

GSO II (Trg) 'H' Br Trg Incr IRTC ICF.

- 5 MAY 1945

Information only.

1. There are now four parties of theoretically 55 (approx 40) 'trained' Artieri at BRACCLANO awaiting disposal instructions and daily further training.
2. Intake has been at a standstill for nearly four weeks, in spite of many protests to the Italians. Only 3 parties are now under training, and there is no sign of further intakes arriving.

3.

JCB/raw

Maj RE
SO. RE.*Leaving*

6099

103.

7 MAY 1945

(AID)

C O P YTo keep H. J. King
for 1000

(11)

SUBJECT / E & ME Rfts for
Italian Combat GroupsLand Forces Sub Com. A.C.
(LMIA)

G/Trg/19

'F' BLU6 May 45

1. DMT states that DME, AFHQ has made the following rulings in respect of E & ME rfts being posted to Italian Combat Gps :-

- (a) All E & ME rfts will be trade tested at the Mechanics School, RTC ICP, before posting to the GRUPPI.
- (b) Those who fail to qualify as equivalent to British Class III Tradesmen will be retained for further training up to this standard.

2. Please take the necessary steps to ensure that these instructions are carried out.

(Sgd)

J. M. Scott
Lt Col GS

for

Major General
LMIA

jtl

Internal : 'A'
DADME

6098

2000

SUBJECT:- Reinforcements.

'H' BTL INTO ICF

Ref: BTL/G.6/125

13 April 1945

'F' ENJ INTO ICF

'G' Trg Unit to Italian Army

1. The situation regarding reinforcements is at present very unsatisfactory from the Infantry standpoint.

2. When I arrived in the centre there was a mass of "Infantry" occupying the space of No.1 and No.2 Regimental Areas. Many of these men were not Infantry but drivers, engineers, artillery, etc. However, they occupied room and space and while at OESANO must, from my point view, be considered as Infantry. Now they have been posted away to BRACCIANO, MANZIANO, etc.

3. Besides this, there has been a tremendous wastage of sick, absentees, increase of permanent staff to meet new camps, etc. Also there have been the normal postings which have fallen entirely on the Infantry. The result is that now there are only about 3,500 Infantry under training.

4. The recruit camp is empty, except for artillery personnel classed as undesirable by the Italians and awaiting transfer to a labour Bn. News of a draft of 1,200 men has been received and it is expected that a large proportion of these should be Infantry.

5. It is considered impossible to supply more than about 300 Infantry who can be called trained, or even half trained. At any rate, to send more would only affect subsequent drafts.

6. It is considered of primary importance that

(a) more Infantry are posted here immediately

(b) that the burden of drafts and duties be shared more equally among Infantry, Engineers and Sappers.

MENZIANO, etc.

3. Besides this, there has been a tremendous wastage of sick, absentees, increase of permanent staff to meet new camps, etc. Also there have been the normal postings which have fallen entirely on the Infantry. The result is that now there are only about 3,500 Infantry under training.

4. The recruit camp is empty, except for Artillery personnel classed as undesirable by the Italians and awaiting transfer to a labour M. News of a draft of 1,200 men has been received and it is expected that a large proportion of these should be Infantry.

5. It is considered impossible to supply more than about 300 Infantry who can be called trained, or even half trained. At any rate, to send more would only affect subsequent drafts.

6. It is considered of primary importance that

- (a) more Infantry are posted here immediately
- (b) that the burden of drafts and duties be shared more equally among Infantry, Engineers and Sappers.
- (c) that fatigues be cut to the minimum to ensure that all Infantry do training.

7. It is also considered of primary importance that the whole system of call-ups be reviewed and accurate forecasts of numbers by arms, required as reinforcements, be prepared. At present it would seem that another Infantry Regiment is required and that the sappers and gunners might well be halved. Also that call-ups be at the rate of 1,000 a week, and not in widely separated lumps as at present.

6097

WLP/asj

WLP
Major, GSO.II
Inf Training.

21 APR Recd

SECRET.

(9)

Subject: Specialist Reinforcements.Ref: 16/D/825.To: CC. 'G' Training Unit to the Italian Army, CMF.

Reference your BTU/D3/4 dated 10 Apr 45.

DMT have referred to us your above-mentioned letter. If, as is presumed, reference is to the training of rfts in 3" mortar and 6-lber A tk, then the answer to your enquiry is that no fixed percentage has been laid down by O2E in these two cases.

For your information, we have, for the past year, trained on the average every fortnight 50 - 60 students on the 6 lber A tk and 30 - 40 students on the 3" mortar. During this period we have trained rfts, including those converted from other Arms, of an average strength of 10,000. No deficiencies in trained personnel on these weapons have been reported from the front line on this basis.

If you require further information and the above is not sufficient I shall be very pleased to assist you in any way possible.

Field.
17 Apr 45.
GEG/GJ.

Commandant, Infantry Rfts. Training Depot.

Copy to:-

DMT. AFHQ.

6096

(21)

FILE

(8)

SUBJECT :- Personnel - RUC HGP.'G' Training Unit to the Italian Army
C. H. F.

Ref LRU/D3/8

17 Apr 45.

Capt GRASSET, RMIA.

Herewith wall chart as requested, together with
chart showing original and revised ceilings and numbers of
personnel in this Centre on 12 April 45.

A/rw

W. L. Price

Maj
CS

K. H. H.

6095

Subject. Intake of Personnel.

AM

RESTRICTED.

Italian Signal Training Centre.

14 APR Recd

11th. April '45.

'F'BLU RTC ICF
(attention Maj. King)

Ref: conversation KING-SWINNERTON of 10th. April. '45.

- 1; The training of the projected April Intake of personnel may commence at any time after the arrival of the School at BRACCIANO.
2. The sole difficulty in acceptance of the April Intake is that of accommodation. Double tier beds are understood to be on order - until they arrive there will be insufficient bed-space in the BRACCIANO barracks.
3. Acceptance of the May Intake will be delayed accordingly.

John Swinnerton
MAJOR.

S.O. R. Signals.

6094

FILE

13 APR Recd

ALL5

SUBJECT :- Arrivals at RTC ICF

'P' BLUETOOTH ICF
AQ/7/1/198

12 Apr 45

Capo di Stato Maggiore RTC ICF

1. Cases have been reported of new arrivals coming to this Centre, being posted direct to either No 1, 2 or 3 Regiments. This is absolutely contrary to the arrangements which have been agreed and creates confusion and serious inconvenience to these Regiments.
2. All OR personnel joining the Centre will invariably be attached to the Reception Regiment at TREVERMANO and will remain there until they are posted officially to one of the three Regiments. The only exception to this ruling will be where special categories for the Servizio (Misto) Battalion are sent to the Centre for special training. These may, if it is more convenient be posted direct to the Servizio Battalion without passing through the Reception Regiment.
3. Will you please issue the necessary orders to ensure that there are no further cases of casual posting direct to the Training Regiments.

W. H. H. H.

Lt-Col RA

LM/cil

Internal

Maj KING ✓
 Maj GRIBBLE
 File
 Float

6093

AH

FILE

H

SUBJECT :- Specialist Reinforcements.[C] Training Unit to the Italian Army
C. I. S.

Ref HQ/03/4

10 Apr 45.

D.M.T.

1. In planning the training of reinforcements for the Infantry Battalion Support weapons, it is difficult to arrive at a percentage figure without knowing something of casualties up to date.

2. It is understood the British IRO work to a scale laid down by G2H, carefully prepared after considering present establishments against losses to date. Although our establishment will be different, no doubt their figures would be a useful guide for the future.

3. Could you obtain these figures as a guide for us to work to?

DMT/rm

Maj
CS. 6092

DMT.

F AT.

AN

3

SUBJECT:-

Movement of Personnel.G Trg Unit to Italian Army
Ref: ETC/D3/3

RTC IOP

F BLJ

22 March 1945

1. Will you please arrange that the tpt which will collect the students from the RTC who complete the Anti-Malaria course at CMTC, BENEVENTO, 25 March 45, also collects the following who attended the same course:-

- 3 Junior officers of RIULI GP
- 3 Junior officers of CRUNCI GP
- 3 Junior officers of FOLCORE GP

2. Please accommodate the above 9 officers at the RTC and arrange for them to be sent forward with the next draft of reinforcements to rejoin their units.

3. 15 Army Group and CMTC have been informed.

AVG/aaJ.

Major,
CS

6091

SUBJECT:- CESANO Futures - Rfts.

All Offrs. B.L.U.
" " Trg Increment.

The following is an estimate of Futures for the months of Feb and Mar. It is emphasised that these figures are only approx:-

Source.	Feb.	March.	Total.	Remarks.
1. PATRIOTS ex FLORENCE.) ex APRESSO.)	2500	1000	3500	
2. Call-up APULIA	2000	1500	3500	
3. SARDINIA.	500	3000	3500	
4. VITERBO.	100	-	100	
5. Various Sources at 500 per day.	1500	1500	3000	
6. Ex PICENO. ROME. BARI ORTONA.	750 450 450	- - -	750 450 450	
Totals.	8,250	7,000	15,250	

M.M.I.A. R.T.O. I.C.F.
Ref No 7/103.
Feb 45.

Del S.C.W.N.R.M.

2

(11)

2.	Call-up APULIA	2000	1500	
3.	SARDINIA.	500	3000	3500
4.	VITERBO.	100	-	100
5.	Various Sources at 500 per day.	1500	1500	3000
6.	Ex PICENO. ROME. BARI ORTONA.	750 450 450	- - -	750 450 450
Totals.		8,250	7,000	15,250
Departures		2,400	3,200	5,600
		5,850	3,800	9,650

Major R.A.
D.A.A. & Q.M.G. (Br).

6090

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: RHC CASANO

70 Feb 45

1. It is anticipated that the total holding in CASANO and BRACCIANO will at no time exceed 13,000 inclusive of Cadre Training Personnel and HQ Staff.

2. Steps have been taken to ensure that the excessive input anticipated in February and March will be rigorously controlled to ensure the ceiling figure not being exceeded.

3. Four types of intake are to be anticipated :-

- (a) Patriot undisciplined soldiers anxious to fight and of whom the majority are accustomed to the use of weapons, albeit not British.
- (b) Personnel of existing Gruppi returning from hospital etc., who are to a relative extent fully trained.
- (c) Call-ups who have seen service in the Italian Army at some time and are therefore accustomed to military discipline although out of practice in the use of arms.
- (d) Specialists, the numbers of whom will be selected from untrained recruits ex Call-ups in accordance with the demands indicated by the weekly 'Specchio' returns.

Every effort will be made to divert untrained non-specialist recruits with no military experience to another centre. These arrangements will be made by RHC in conjunction with SRR.

4. The object of this memorandum is to indicate a means by which the accommodation and facilities available at CASANO and BRACCIANO Area shall be utilised to the best advantage to ensure that the utmost

3. Four types of intake are to be anticipated :-

- (a) Patriot undisciplined soldiers anxious to fight and of whom the majority are accustomed to the use of weapons, albeit not British.
- (b) Personnel of existing Gruppi returning from hospital etc., who are to a relatively extent fully trained.
- (c) Call-ups who have seen service in the Italian Army at some time and are therefore accustomed to military discipline although out of practice in the use of Arms.
- (d) Specialists, the numbers of whom will be selected from untrained recruits or Call-ups in accordance with the demands indicated by the weekly 'Specchio' returns.

Every effort will be made to divert untrained non-specialist recruits with no military experience to another centre. These arrangements will be made by MIA in conjunction with SARE.

4. The object of this memorandum is to indicate a means by which the accommodation and facilities available at CASARO and BRACCIAIO Area shall be utilised to the best advantage to ensure that the utmost value is derived from the short period of training which is contemplated.

5. The present layout envisages the following :-

No 1 Regiment of 3 Battalions

located at CASARO, primarily devoted to documentation, provision of clothing and equipment and elementary training.

No 2 Regiment of 3 Battalions

located at CASARO, primarily intended as the Training Regiment for Infantry, from which all drafts to forward Gruppi are drawn as required.

No 3 Regiment of 3 Battalions

located at BRACCIAIO, comprises :-

6089

- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Artillery Battalion and
- 1 Special Services Battalion.

- 2 -

5. (continued)

These other arms will be trained in special schools now in course of organisation. Definite ceilings are laid down for the strength of each Battalion and hence those who are found unsuitable for training in a special arm will be transferred to the Infantry arm. The Italian GOC has already been granted powers to accept such transfers when necessity arises on his own authority.

6. It has been found that owing to the uncertain but considerable rate of intake, there is a tendency for the organisation of No 1 Regiment to be overwhelmed, whereas owing to the low standard of military knowledge of the recruits, it has not been found possible to draft adequate numbers to No 2 Regiment with any hope that they would be capable of assimilating the standard of training which it was hoped to establish in this Regiment. On the other hand the Artillery Battalion of No 3 Regiment is nearly 100% over strength and it appears probable that the less promising members of this Battalion will have to be transferred to the Infantry. The Engineer and Special Service Battalions of No 3 Regiment are receiving recruits much in accordance with anticipation.

7. As a temporary measure it has been decided to place Nos 1 and 2 ~~Battalions~~ on the same status and utilise both as Reception Units with a measure of primary training where circumstances permit. To implement this, some 2,000 recruits from No 1 ~~Battalion~~ have been transferred to No 2 ~~Battalion~~ thus equalising the strength of the two Battalions on a basis of approximately 3,000 each. It is realised that this is a compromise and does not enable the Training Staff to make fullest use of their equipment and of the personnel available.

For
Battalion
and
Regiment.

8. It is understood that it is the function of the HQ to organise the allocation of the intake in such way that the Training Increment can produce the maximum number of soldiers trained to a given standard in the minimum time.

9. With this in view the following proposal is submitted for the consideration of Higher Authority.

Basically the proposal envisages the retention of Nos 1 and 2 Battalions in the form originally contemplated each with a maximum strength of 3,500 inclusive of Training Cadre. No 3 ~~Battalion~~ will also remain as originally contemplated. In addition, however, a fourth group will be

transferred to the Infantry. The Engineer and Special Service Battalions of No 3 Regiment are receiving recruits much in accordance with anticipation.

7.

As a temporary measure it has been decided to place Nos 1 and 2 Battalions on the same status and utilise both as Reception Units with a measure of primary training where circumstances permit. To implement this, some 2,000 recruits from No 1 Battalion have been transferred to No 2 Battalion thus equalising the strength of the two Battalions on a basis of approximately 3,000 each. It is realised that this is a compromise and does not enable the Training Staff to make fullest use of their equipment and of the personnel available.

For
Battalion
and
Regiment.

It is understood that it is the function of the BLM to organise the allocation of the intake in such way that the Training Increment can produce the maximum number of soldiers trained to a given standard in the minimum time.

9.

With this in view the following proposal is submitted for the consideration of Higher Authority.

Basically the proposal envisages the retention of Nos 1 and 2 Battalions in the form originally contemplated each with a maximum strength of 3,500 inclusive of Training Cadre. No 3 Battalion will also remain as originally contemplated. In addition, however, a fourth group will be formed to serve as a type of CBU to which will be drafted all those from the 2nd Regiment whose standard of training renders them suitable for posting to active service Gruppen. By this means congestion of No 2 Regiment will be reduced and the transfer of intake (after documentation and equipment) from No 1 Regiment to No 2 Regiment will be accelerated.

10.

With a widely varied standard of training which is inevitable in the four classes of recruits likely to be received, it is anticipated that the period spent in No 2 Regiment will vary considerably, in fact a trained soldier returned from hospital after a short period out of the line might pass direct from No 1 Regiment (where he is re-equipped) to the CBU. Considerable care will be necessary to ensure the maximum speed of throughput and to guard against the possibility of staleness due to repetition of elementary training which is entirely unsuitable to the Italian temperament.

6088

...../3

- 3 -

11. It is appreciable that the establishment of a fourth Unit - the CRU will necessitate drawing on the establishment of Nos 1 and 2 Regiment to provide the necessary permanent Staff and Training Instructors, but with the generous allotment of Instructors and HQ Staff to recruits (approximately 1 to 5) it is felt that this thinning out can be well afforded.

12. LOCATIONS

Nos 1 and 2 Regiment will remain in their present locations in CEBANO, each with a ceiling of 3,500. No 3 Regiment will remain at BRACIANO but it will probably be found necessary to place some limitations on the generous allotment of spaces originally contemplated. The maximum strength will not exceed 3,000 and will generally be below this figure.

The CRU will also be established in the BRACIANO area. There will be no ceiling other than the basic limitation of 13,000 placed on the KFO as a whole. The personnel will comprise men who may be said to be trained, that is who are amenable to discipline and hence some liberties, which would not be practicable with raw recruits, may be taken. It appears probable that it will be necessary to accommodate the CRU personnel in a comparatively large number of scattered buildings, but under experienced Officers and good NCOs, this dispersal should introduce little difficulty.

13. If this scheme is adopted in principle - new recruits will pass through No 1 Regiment at CEBANO and drafts to Gruppo will be drawn in all cases from BRACIANO, either from the CRU in the case of Infantry and from No 3 Regiment in the case of Other Arms. It is contended that this system will enable the Training Increment to impart the maximum standard of training in the shortest possible time and will greatly simplify the dispatch of trained soldiers to their Gruppo as required.

L.H. Mack

L.H.N. ~~MAC~~ MACKAY
Lt-Col BLU

10 February 45

DISTRIBUTION

Officer In Charge Special Section
Officer In Charge British Training Unit
G II+ British Training Increment
Lieut JAMESON (For Preparation of Translation and Submission to GOC HQ)
DAA & QMG (Br) BLU
Spare

6087

0767