Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 785020

100000/120/4808 G 10

ACC

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

0000/120/4808 G 10 SCHOOLS. R.T.C. (47)

MAR. 2, 1945 - JUNE 15, 1945

COPY

11 JUN 1945

372

SUBJECT:- Administration

'H' BTI IRTC ICF

Ref: BTI/A.1/265

7 June 1945

Comd.,
No.3 (Genio) Regiment,
BRACCIANO.

Comandante,
Scuola Artieri

From the Scuola Artieri point of view, I have anumber of important administrative remarks to make about the Genio barracks.

1. MESSES.

After four months there are still no messes for the men to sit down and have their food in a definite place. At present nearly all food is eaten in sleeping quarters, refuse is left all over the camp and washing up facilities are without organisation. With a proper mess close to the cookhouse all waste and untidyness can be prevented, washing up facilities can easily be organised and the men are thousand times more comfortable. I know it is very difficult to obtain tables, forms and tents at this time but other schools have done it. I feel sure that with sufficient effort and continued applications to higher authority, decent messes could soon be inaugurated.

2. BARRACK TIDYNESS.

There are quantities of unwanted stores, bricks, odd pieces of wood, derelict German equipment, broken china urinals, remains of old motor cars, etc, etc, all over the camp. It would appear that the daily cleaning up parties use the presence of the contractors as an excuse for doing nothing. I think it is possible to make the BRACCIANO Genio barracks smarter than any other barracks I have seen in ITALY. The old signs above the entrances to the blocks MUST be removed and the SCUOLA ARTIERI and SCUOLA COLLEGAMENTI put in their places.

3. HYGIENE.

The latrines were very good and really well dug when last seen. But urinals and latrines are not always used. On May 30th the Orderly

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down and have their food in a dumbarc prison. No pressed meat [illegible] is eaten in sleeping quarters, refuse is left all over the camp and washing up facilities are without organisation. With a proper mess close to the cookhouse all waste and untidyness can be prevented, washing up facilities can easily be organised and the men are thousand times more comfortable. I know it is very difficult to obtain tables, forms and tents at this time but other schools have done it. I feel sure that with sufficient effort and continued applications to higher authority, decent messes could soon be inaugurated.

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3. HYGIENE.

The latrines were very good and really well dug when last seen. But urinals and latrines are not always used. On May 30th the Orderly Officer was noticed to pass by a man urinating against a wall without even checking him. Somehow more discipline must be enforced.

4. TURNOUT.

The standard of turnout has deteriorated. There is now plenty of headgear available and no one should be allowed to walk about the barracks without a hat on.

/s/ JC. BLAXLAND,
Major RE
SORE

JCB/asj.

For Action/For Info.

G.S.O. II	G.S.O. II
L.O.	F.G.O.

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6 JUN Recd
344.

SUBJECT:- Regimental Situation

'H' BTI IRTC ICF

Ref: BTI/A.10/260

5 June 1945

Comd.,
'F' BLU IRTC ICF
OC, 'G' Trg Unit

The following is a translation (modified) of a letter from OC No.2 Regiment.

"The actual strength of the Regiment as it appears in the daily returns does not present a true picture of the number of men available for training or posting.

The following is an explanation.

1. Establishment and Control.

To carry out its proper functions the Regiment needs the following staff.

	Officers.	NCOs and Men.	
Regimental H.Q.	17	38	
HQ Company.	5	54	
Drivers & Pioneers		40	
Band		51	
Soldiers for various duties. (Cook, batmen, barbers, storemen, waiters, shoemakers, etc, etc).		52	
Battalion HQ.	5	21	(i)
Each Company. (5 Platoons)	6	37	(ii)

(i) Clerk, Telephonists, runners, mess batmen.

(ii) Section Commanders, Instructors, barbers, Buglersm room clerks, etc.

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Each Company. (5 Platoons)	6	37	(ii)

(i) Clerk, Telephonists, runners, mess batmen.

(ii) Section Commanders, Instructors, barbers, Buglersm room orderlies, storemen, clerks, etc.

Total. Officers. 109

NCOs & Men. 742"

NOTE:

It will appear that much of the above is excessive.

(1) The band is not essential.

(2) Regiment HQ appears overstaffed. It must however, be realised that

(i) The 40 Pioneers are necessary because no contractors work on the building.

(ii) The drivers etc of the specialist school are on the strength of No.2 Regiment.

(iii) There are an immense number of officers who use CESANO as a transit camp and are always posted to No.2 Regiment.

For Action/For Info
GSO II
Date File A.2

2./.....

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2. Guards and Duties.

The following daily squads are found by the Regiment for which the men in para 1 cannot be touched.

	Senior NCO.	Junior NCO.	Men.
(1) Guard on Barracks.	1	1	6
(2) Carrier and Gun Park.		1	3
(3) Regimental transport.		1	3
(4) Div Clothing Store.		1	3
(5) Div Petrol Store.		1	3
(6) Div Ammunition Dump.	1	3	12
(7) Regiment.	1	3	9
(8) Posto di Blocco, Ponte MILVIO.	1	1	8
(9) Patrol at ANGUILARA.	-	-	12
(10) " " CESANO.	-	1	3
(11) 3rd Lotto (Internal).	-	2	-
(12) Div Magazini	1	2	4
TOTAL.	5	17	66

Working on the normal rule that a man must have only one Guard every three days, this needs:-

Senior NCOs	15
Junior NCOs	51
Soldiers.	198

That is - 264 GRs.

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(7) Regiment.	1	3	9
(8) Posto di Blocco, Ponte MILVIO.	1	1	8
(9) Patrol at ANGUILARA.	-	-	12
(10) " " CESANO.	-	1	3
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TOTAL.	5	17	66

Working on the normal rule that a man must have only one Guard every three days, this needs:-

Senior NCOs	15
Junior NCOs	51
Soldiers.	198

That is - 264 ORs.

To this must be added that there is always about 20% of the Regiment on leave, sick or in hospital, let us say 317 men.

Taken all round 1,059 men is needed to actually run the Regiment and do the Guards.

3. Actual Number of Men (Employment)

NCOs and Men in the Regiment 1461. These may be divided as follows:-

(i)	Group (At School or at courses)	207
(ii)	In training - 1st week.	40
	6th week.	265
(iii)	Group available for duties, permanent staff, etc.	588

The departure of 167 men for CREMONA and 37 Grenadiers for FRIULI (drawn partly from the third and partly from the second groups) has so diminished the number of men that it is necessary to touch the men of the first Group.

The result/.....

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The result if there is nobody available for courses, schools, reinforcements and the other various requests of officers and Commanders.

NOTE:- A lot of the above is exaggerated, but definitely the situation is highly unsatisfactory.

Major GSO.II
Inf Training

WLP/asj

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

GHQ

SUBJECT:- Training.

'H' BTI RTC ICF

Ref: BTI/A.10/100

3 April 1945

Comd,
'F' HLU

'G' Trg Unit.

The following points and remarks are made as at present the organisation of training and the general discipline are such that it appears to be a waste of time for me to act in my present capacity as GSO.II Infantry Training.

1. Anti-Tank Firing.

It was arranged that the Infantry School would fire A/Tk guns at 10 AGRA range at CIVITAVECCHIA today, Tuesday, 3rd April. I personally took, last Thursday, a representative (the A/Tk officer of the Infantry School) down to meet 10 AGRA representative and also to look at the range. I found 10 AGRA extremely helpful in that they took responsibility for safety precautions and for the general conduct of firing particularly, out of the hands of the Italians in a way which would not have been done for a corresponding British Unit. It was agreed with the officer from the Infantry School that he would fire at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 3 April and that the firing would be supervised by Capt CAMWOOD of the 10 Trg Team RA, who would also supply 2 Sgts to assist in the Firing Point instruction.

These arrangements were confirmed in writing to the Infantry School and to HQ, RTC ICF. Being somewhat nervous as to whether the arrangements made were fully understood and fully appreciated, on Monday 2 April I went along to the Infantry school but could find no officer. I then went along to see Col SIVO who ordered Major CORRADO to check up on the arrangements of the Infantry School and HQ, RTC ICF. I was assured that all was prepared. Still not being particularly happy, later in the day I checked up with the transport arrangements with Capt VILLANI and Major CORRADO both of whom assured me and to my own satisfaction that things really were prepared.

As it turned out, the transport was so late that ~~the officer of 10 Trg Team had refused to allow the firing party~~ to proceed to the range, ~~considering it a waste of time.~~ firing did not take place.

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It is not felt that these instances are the fault of any individual officer but goes to show that when an order is given it is not carried out.

2. Physical Training.

This has been a constant source of trouble since I have been here. I have stated that my Physical Training Instructors are willing to take physical training anywhere and at any time a Regimental Commander may desire. Numerous arrangements have been made in the past with comparative satisfaction from No.1 Regiment but none whatsoever from No.2 Regiment.

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2. Physical Training (Cont'd)

At 0700 hours this morning, Tuesday, 3 April, my Physical Training Instructors went to No.1 Regiment to view and assist PT of No.1 Regiment in accordance with their programme. There was none! It is pointed out moreover that No.1 Regiment have submitted to me a training programme giving work on Monday. This regiment knew perfectly well that no work was likely to take place on Monday. To submit a programme in this manner is a waste of paper. It shows no interest whatsoever on the part of the Regimental Commanders and unless I am certain the training will take place or at least attempted at the times and dates stated, I can be of no assistance whatsoever.

3. Hygiene.

The Medical Officer, assisted by British WO.IIs, has been attempting to improve the standard of hygiene throughout the camp and have received great co-operation from the Italians, particularly from the Medical Officer of No.1 Regiment. However, during the Easter break the hygiene standards previously achieved have sunk once again to the lowest of levels and the habit of leaving excreta in the Regimental lines has once again crept in. The whole of the front of No.2 Regiment has the appearance of a refuse dump.

4. Training in General.

At approximately 0930 hours this morning I walked through the camp to see any training that might be in progress. It was noticeable that the standard of dress and turnout has fallen since the Easter break. There was training in No.1 Regiment; there was training at the Infantry School; as I passed No.2 Regiment there was shooting inside the building (the PETTINA) and as I returned a further shot was fired from inside the building. There did not appear to be any great amount of training in the No.2 Regiment area.

5. Carrier Instruction.

On approximately 17 March 1945, 42 carriers were collected from TOR SAPIENZA by a party from this Centre. They were handed over to Major CORRADO together with certain tools and spare parts. BTU/B1/190 refers. It will be noticed that in para 4 spare parts and accessories were, it was suggested, to be divided as far as possible among the carriers. These parts etc, are still in the stores and no effort has been made to divide this equipment, and further on the 28 March 1945, BTU/B1/222 draws attention to the fact that the associated carrier stores are still in the store house. They are still there. These Instructions are in addition to verbal conversations Major Corrado - Capt Southurst.

A further letter concerning general carrier policy has been written by me. It is hoped that this will be acted upon forthwith as at present, owing to petty pilfering, no fewer than 35 of the 42 carriers lack batteries and the vast majority of the carriers have had their electrical equipment tampered with. All carriers had batteries at TOR SAPIENZA.

It does not seem to be fully realised that some-one will pay for this.

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6. Infantry Specialists School

This should have been started today. Owing to lack of co-operation the Commander - Major VIGNINI - found this morning that neither his students, instructors or any of his accommodation was ready for him to start.

7. General.

Of 10 Private soldiers and Corporals spoken to by me this morning, 10 admitted that they had nothing to do. These soldiers were a fair cross section of the men at this centre here at CESANO. It is difficult for me to give an accurate figure as to how many officers and how many men had not returned from leave. I am informed by DADOS that in his department about 50% was the answer, and I myself throughout the morning saw numerous officers and men returning from leave.

It was understood that Monday was to be the day of collection and of organisation so that we could start normal training today, Tuesday, 3rd April. It is only too apparent that yesterday, Monday, 2nd April, was considered the 4th day of the Easter break and that in some cases a fifth day has been granted.

The above headings and remarks are not universal but are wide spread. The Infantry School was functioning well and a guard of the 1st Regiment absolutely excellent. It is, however, only too apparent that many officers are keener on 7 days leave than on producing a new Italian Army. This is to be accepted. But, when petty pilfering of ropes, the magnetic parts of some types of mines and of other material, erected by British Personnel, takes place, it makes one believe that this Centre is a mine for the Black Market rather than a training Centre, and has a most depressing effect on any Italians or British who have worked to try and make this a good show.

W. Price

Major GSO.II,
Inf Training.

WLP/asj

G BTN G10

X

SUBJECT: Civilian Constructional Contracts at CESANO, PIACCIANO and MANZIANA, and their Influence on Training.

1st MIL. GOVT. BDE.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (MMIA) BDEF.

Ref: G.1/1/100

29 March 1946.

To: H.Q.
Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (M.M.I.A.). (2 copies).

1. It is unfortunate but inescapable fact that the progress of training, and in some cases the actual opening dates of Schools of Instruction, are being seriously delayed by the relatively slow progress in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the buildings in the area covered by the 1st M.G.B.

2. All contracts have been placed by the Director General of Engineering, S.M.E.E. Gen. Cortelesse, with various civilian contractors, and while the standard of work varies and the degree of progress is inconsistent, it may be said generally that the majority of contractors have done very well indeed in the face of almost insuperable difficulties. The list of firms employed is given at Appendix 'A'.

3. These difficulties are mainly those of building supplies and transport.

(a) The position with regard to building material appears to be that all material, without exception, is controlled by M.E. authorities under the jurisdiction of M.M.A.C. Civilian contractors requiring stores or material have, in the first place, to obtain release of the requisite building material through M.E. channels. The only alternative is to purchase in the open market which, in the present state of Italian industry, involves prohibitive cost.

(b) The next problem is to transport such requisitioned material to the site. There are virtually no motor lorry types available in Italy and very elaborate procedure is required to enable contractors to obtain partly worn types through M.E. channels.

Hence, coupled with the delay in obtaining the initial release, another delay is caused by the frequent breakdown of the worn-out and inadequate transport available.

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5. These difficulties are mainly those of building supplies and transport.

(a) The position with regard to building material appears to be that all material, without exception, is controlled by R.E. authorities under the jurisdiction of R.A.A.C. Civilian contractors requiring stores or material have, in the first place, to obtain release of the requisite building material through R.E. channels. The only alternative is to purchase in the open market which, in the present state of Italian industry, involves prohibitive cost.

(b) The next problem is to transport such released material to the site. There are virtually no motor lorry types available in Italy and a very elaborate procedure is required to enable contractors to obtain partly worn tyres through R.E. sources.

Hence, coupled with the delay in obtaining the initial release, further delay is caused by the frequent breakdown of the worn-out and inadequate transport available.

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4. C.R.E., R.A.A.C. has authorised the release of a large quantity of building material and fortunately a considerable proportion of this has already on the site, but such supplies are rapidly becoming exhausted and the problem referred to in the preceding paragraph is now becoming increasingly serious.

5. In an endeavour to improve matters, the writer made a direct approach to C.R.E. with a request that his Department should take a direct interest in speeding up the contracts and appoint an R.A. officer generally to supervise the work.

6. C.R.E. ordered a general survey of the contract position to be made, the result of which a comprehensive report was prepared.

7. It is understood that this Report was discussed with the British Commander of R.A.A.C.

8. At a meeting in Rome on 26 March, the writer was informed that it had been decided that, in view of the immense extent of the work involved, C.R.E., R.A.A.C. was unable to meet the requests referred to in paragraph 5, and, in fact, was unable to do anything more than at present, to assist in speeding up the completion of the work.

...../...

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9. The target date for the basic completion of all contracts is believed to have been 1st April 1943, as on that date it was anticipated that all training and schools of instruction would be able to proceed, unhampered by deficiencies in buildings. This is not the case and it is considered essential that G.L.M. of Forward Group should be informed that the supply of trained reinforcements will be materially limited until facilities for training are substantially improved.

10. The following are the main factors which impede the progress of training :-

(a) The approach road to CERMO is rapidly becoming impassable and as it is the only practicable route to ASEB and to BRACCIANO and MANZIANA, all vehicles are compelled to use it. Its condition is such that vehicles are deteriorating very rapidly and the strain on the repair facilities at the Centre (19 Port Workshops has now left) is excessive.

(b) The same applies equally to the road between Bracciano and Bracciano.

Contracts for (a) have been placed some time ago, but owing to lack of materials and transport, virtually nothing has been done. It is believed that as this is now classed as a military road it falls within the jurisdiction of 104 C.R.E., who actually placed the contract

(c) MANZIANA - Central Training Schools.

Six large huts for the Women Training School require erection; only three are actually completed, but progress is continuing rapidly. The large private house for the Station School requires conversion; work has only just started. The earliest date, if adequate materials are available, is 30 April. Another hut is required for the School of Administration.

(d) BRACCIANO. Engineers and Signals School.

Doors are required for all rooms - the numbers are given in the C.R.E's. report.
There are virtually no windows and the walls consist of a large number of holes. Latrines and washing accommodation are not yet completed.

(e) BRACCIANO - Artillery Barracks.

Work is proceeding well and although a great deal remains to be done, it is not seriously affecting training.

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Contracts for (c) have been placed some time ago, but owing to lack of materials and transport, virtually nothing has been done. It is believed that as this is now classed as a military road it falls within the jurisdiction of 104 C.A.R., who actually placed the contract

(c) MANZIANA - General Training Schools.

Six large huts for the Women Training School require erection; only three are actually completed, but progress is continuing rapidly. The large private house for the Tactical School requires conversion; work has only just started. The earliest date, if adequate materials are available, is 30 April. Another hut is required for the School of Administration.

(d) MRACCIANO. Engineers and Signals School.

Doors are required for all rooms - the numbers are shown in the C.E.E's. report.
There are virtually no windows and the walls consist of a large number of holes. Latrines and washing accommodation are not yet completed.

(e) MRACCIANO - Artillery Barracks.

Work is proceeding well and although a great deal remains to be done, it is not seriously affecting training.

(f) Mechanics School - CERVARO.

Deficiencies of cement, transport and man power are seriously impeding the completion of the essential buildings, though quite astonishing progress has been made in the face of immense difficulties.

(g) Drivers School - CERVARO.

The same remarks apply to this School while, in addition, the water supply is not yet completed.

Nevertheless, it is hoped that both these Schools ((f) and (g) above) will be operating, though not at maximum efficiency or output, by 8th April.

(h) C.C.R.R. School - CERVARO.

The construction of a palace, which is essential, although surveyed has not yet commenced.
Repairs to doors and windows, and small structural alterations still remain to be carried out, but these are not seriously affecting the state of training.

...../3.

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(j) Nos.1 & 2 Infantry Bdts. and The Infantry School, GEZANO.

Some of these buildings have no windows or doors. The former have been bricked up, with the result that barrack rooms are depressing and dark. The replacement of these brick walls by opaque, artificial glass is an enormous task, but is considered essential if the morale of the troops, who live and work in these buildings, is to be maintained.

Progress in bodily and training is steadily improving, but on the principle of "mens sana in corpore sano", the task is made a great deal more difficult by the lack of decent amenities.

Cooking accommodation, washing and latrine facilities are improving, but an immense amount of constructional work remains to be done.

Finally the electrical contract is in itself an enormous undertaking and as there appears to be a complete absence of essential electrical equipment, it is very much feared that this will never be completed, unless the matter is taken up at a higher level.

Conclusion.

11. In order to minimise over-crowding and to enable buildings originally designed for living to be utilised as class rooms, the maximum use is being made of tents. Each school or group has now a small tented annexe, where surplus students are accommodated, but the supply of tents is inadequate to meet all demands. The position would be greatly improved if huts could be provided for class-rooms and mess rooms, and with this in view, application has been made for the supply of :

292 - 180-lb. Tents (100 have been released 23 March).
and 66 - Nissen (or equivalent) Huts.

Of the latter six have been released but have not yet arrived.

12. It is felt that the most serious consideration should be given at a very high level to the problems of the Contractors, and that further consideration might well be given to the advantages which would accrue if the full resources of the R.E. were devoted to assisting these Contractors in the completion of the immense tasks which they have undertaken. All buildings in the area are now being surveyed and it is the intention, as soon as [illegible] can be placed, to utilise these for accommodation in lieu

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Lieut-Col. R.A.

LT:/ah.

Internal.

'G' DEM MTC EXE (2 copies)
'Q' DMT " " (1 copy) ✓
'M' DTI " " (5 copies)
File.
Plot.
War Diary (2)

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APPENDIX 'A' to
'P' BLU G.1/1/168
dated 29 Mar.1945

Impresa	CORNETTO ING. GIUSEPPE.	-	-	CESANO
"	GERNASI ING. MARIO.	-	-	CESANO
"	VERNICCHIO CESARE	-	-	CESANO
"	FIORONI ANGELO	-	-	CERANO
"	VITTORI VITTORIO	-	-	CERANO
"	ANSALDO	-	-	CASERMA FUNZIONALE, BRACCIANO.
"	LABOR	-	-	BRACCIANO.
"	FERREMONTI	-	-	CASERMA COSENZ BRACCIANO
"	FERREMONTI	-	-	MANZIANA.
"	CAPELLINI	-	-	MANZIANA.

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"	VITTORI VITTORIO	-	-	CESANO
"	ANSALDO	-	-	CASERMA FUNZIONALE, BRACCIANO.
"	LABOR	-	-	BRACCIANO.
"	FERREMONTI	-	-	CASERMA COSENZ BRACCIANO
"	NERREMONTI	-	-	MANZIANA.
"	CAPELLINI	-	-	MANZIANA.

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~~F.W.B.T.O.T.A.F.T.~~

SUBJECT:- Italian School of Administration.

"H" British Trg Unit
ITTC IGF

Ref: BTI/G.1/49

21 March 1945

Lt Col N.E.O. Watts,
DMT, AFHQ.

1. Ref your DO/DMT/17/1/MT1 dated 14 March 45.

2. Replies to questions contained in para 2 of CMTC School of Adm letter TS/1 are as follows.

(a) Yes. There will be a school of hygiene but it is felt that it may take longer to get going than some of the schools. The School of Administration will, therefore, start with a Medical Officer attached giving lectures.

It would be of assistance if DMT could suggest a scale of equipment for the School of Hygiene based on that of the CMTC. This will assist in indenting for equipment.

(b) It is not proposed initially to run a Camouflage course but we will attempt to build up on the basis of a museum something on the lines of the CMTC.

(c) Mountain Warfare equipment is being indented for. As regards the mule aspect of Mountain Warfare, we are already well off for these and the Italians are experienced in this and should present no problems.

(d) This is being discussed.

(e) Great difficulty has been encountered in finding out what the function of an Italian School of Administration is. It is intended to teach administration on British lines so that the Gruppi can function efficiently in the line on the British supply system, and that the hygiene standards shall be the same as for the corresponding British formation.

No interference will be made with the Italian conception of Military Law.

The School, it is hoped, will start with 30 students on a Unit Administration course with a further 20 on the School of Hygiene when this functions.

(f) It is hoped that at least a proportion of the officers will be able to do this.

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(g) The opening day of the school of Administration is entirely dependent on constructional progress by civilian contractors and the efforts which the Italian staff are prepared to make. It is felt that this school could start before the 8 April 45 but it is more likely to be about 15 April 1945.

3. As regards your personal comments on the progress of the School of Administration. The English and Italian system being so different, it is felt that some small adaptations must be made to the system as taught at Benevento. This will be based on the experience of the Gruppi.

Major, GSO.II,
Inf.Training.

WLP/asj.

CTII BT UCIO

SECRET.

MAR 1945

X

(18)

HQ B.Inf., B.A.O., B.A.F.
c/o Land Transport Sub-Depot.
A.P. (BRIA) Rome.

Ref: 2.1/1/22

22 March 1945.

MINUTES OF THE PRELIMINARY MEETING OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF MONTHLY, ON MONDAY 19 MARCH 1945, AT 10.30 HOURS.

Present: Col. W. Lindsay, M.C., R.E. - B.A.O.
Lt.Col. [illegible], R.A. - 5th Army.
Major J. Bolton, R.E. - H.M.L.A.
Major [illegible], R.A. - 1st C.A.A.

MINUTES.

A number of suggestions and proposals have been submitted to H.M.L.A. during the course of the past few days and these were considered in detail prior to D.A.T.D/39 of 17 March 45.

(1) These were carefully considered and it was agreed that any alterations should be based on the following requirements :-

(a) That the existing establishment should be kept.

(b) That overheads (i.e. G.S. Cons Transport Platoon staff) should be kept to the minimum.

(c) That organisation and its direct responsibility to H.M.L.A. should not lose sight of this fact by [illegible] to assist the functions of the H.M.L.A. general. The main function is to advise and not to assume responsibility for executive decisions.

(d) [illegible] should be approved [illegible] establishment should be [illegible] to, although additional staff may be [illegible] requirement [illegible] in order for the D.A.T. Memorandum, DAT/D/39 of March, which endorses the [illegible] of H.M.L.A. Headquarters, should be applied for to meet the [illegible] of the H.M.L.A.

(2) It was decided that the general set-up of the D.A.T.D. should rather the form indicated in the draft organisation attached hereto. This allows for :-

(a) A location cadre (G.S. no number) at FORTNOTO (transferred

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(1) These were carefully considered [illegible] should be based on the following requirements :-

(a) That the maximum simplification should be aimed at.

(b) That overheads (i.e. administrative and training staff) should be kept to the absolute minimum.

(c) That organisation and training is primarily an Italian responsibility and that '[illegible]' [illegible] should not lose sight of this fact by undertaking to usurp the functions of the Italian command. [illegible] function is to advise and not to assume responsibility for executive decisions.

(d) That as far as possible the approved War Establishment should be adhered to, although additional staff and training equipment generally as called for in A.F.H.Q. [illegible] [illegible]/35 of 6 March, which envisaged the formation of a 4th Regiment, should be applied for to meet the increased [illegible] of the R.T.C.

(2) It was decided that the general set-up of the R.T.C. should follow the [illegible] laid down in the chart at Appendix 'A' hereto. This allows for :-

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(a) A Reception Regiment (with no number) at [illegible] (transferred from [illegible]) with a maximum holding capacity of, (including permanent staff). - - - - 2,500

(b) No.1 Infantry Regiment of 3 Bns. each with 4 Companies, (H.Q. [illegible] or Specialist Coy and three Infantry Coys.) with a maximum strength of, (including permanent staff) - 3,500

(c) No.2 Infantry Regiment, identical in every respect with No.1 Infantry Regiment, with a maximum holding capacity of, (including permanent staff) - - - 3,500

Note 1. No.2 Regiment is at present organised on a Five Coy. basis per Battalion and it has been found that this places too great a strain on the regimental organisation, and [illegible], in fact, does not comply with the approved War Establishment for [illegible]. By reducing the number of Coys. and making this Regiment identical with No.1 Regiment, the problems of the two Regiments will be identical and the standard of training and [illegible] in them both should not vary.

................/2

Note 2. The principle of a separate and independent Specialist Bn. is NOT approved. It was decided that specialists should always form an integral part of the regiment to which they belong, and will be administered in all respects by their own Regiment. They will, however, be concentrated in a Headquarters (or Specialist) Company, corresponding to the practice in the British Army, and in accordance with the approved War Establishment of a Tank Corps.

TRAINING will, however, be conducted at a Central School (The Specialist's School) which will be established within the STALAG area and in which Specialists from all sub-battalions will be concentrated for daily training. The School will have no administrative function other than the care and maintenance of the specialist training equipment. The Specialist School staff will be found from the additional personnel asked for under the heading "Specialist Bn." in the above mentioned G.H.Q. Memorandum 717/G/35. Authority for the required increase of establishment under that heading will be sought by G.H.Q. and G.O. Infantry Training will submit his requirements for trainees and instructors through D.C.A.O., G.H.Q.

(d) The Artillery Bn. will be a separate entity commanded by Col. M Polin, who will be directly responsible to General Sittidi, Director of Training, at the G.H.Q.
The maximum strength will not exceed (excluding Permanent Staff) - 1,000
A training camp in the vicinity of MASUBAO Artillery Barracks is being created to hold the special personnel for their concentration as not available in the Barracks, and this camp will be administered in all respects by the personnel of the Artillery Bn.

(e) No.3 Engineer Regiment will comprise the Pontoon only and will be commanded by Col. FIAZZI. The Pontoon Bn. will consist of Engineers (Sappers) only, and will be modelled on the present establishment. The maximum strength (excluding permanent staff) will not exceed - - - 500

The second Bn. will consist of Sappers only and it will be organised and administered by personnel of the present 3d Field Coy., reinforced by those expected to arrive from Egypt at the beginning of April. It is not anticipated that any additional staff will be required. The maximum strength (excluding permanent staff) will not exceed - - 500

If, owing to an excess of intake, the numbers of either the Engineers or Sappers, exceed the number authorised, strength will have accordingly to be increased in the Pontoons or not

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(b) The Artillery Bn. will be a separate entity commanded by Col. [illegible], who will be directly responsible to General Bottiglia, Director of Training, at the G.H.Q.
The maximum strength will not exceed (including permanent staff) - 1,000
A tented camp in the vicinity of MASCHIO Artillery barracks is being erected to hold the surplus personnel for which accommodation is not available in the barracks, and this camp will be administered in all respects by the personnel of the Artillery Bn.

(c) No.3 Engineer Regiment will organize two battalions only and will be commanded by Col. MIAZZI. The first Bn. will consist of sappers (pioneers) only, and will be undergoing from its present constitution. The maximum strength (excluding permanent staff) will not exceed - - - 500

The second Bn. will consist of 3 pontoon only and it will be commanded and maintained by personnel of the present 3d Pontoon School, reinforced by those expected to arrive from MONFALCONE towards the beginning of April. It is not anticipated that any additional staff will be required. The maximum strength (excluding permanent staff) will not exceed - - 500

If, owing to the course of events, the numbers of either the Engineers or Pontoniers Bns. exceed the maximum authorized strength and hence accommodation in the barracks is not available, G.H.Q. should organize a tented camp on the same lines as that being organized by the Artillery Bn. to hold surplus personnel, until it is possible to absorb them into the training schools. While in this camp, they will receive elementary instruction in their chosen subjects.

(d) The former 'CLOTH' Bn. which originally formed part of the Engineer Regiment will be re-designated the 'MARITIMO' Bn., and will be transferred to a tented camp in the vicinity of TRIESTE Station. The Commander of the Bn. will be directly responsible to the Director of Training. The maximum strength (including permanent staff) will not exceed - - - - - 1,000

(e) The problem of the disposal or training reinforcements prior to their allocation to Allied Armed Bns. has been under consideration since long time. It is proposed that when the time comes forward, it will probably be necessary to establish the equivalent of a G.H.Q. in the forward zone. In the meantime, a reinforcement holding regiment (without number) will be established at MONFALCONE with a maximum holding capacity of - - - - - 2,500

...../2.

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Its administrative staff and training equipment will be furnished by implementing the application contained in MTI/35/35 in so far as it relates to the original First or 'Patrioti' Bn. Authority will be sought for this by M.M.I.A.

At a later date the whole Reinforcement Holding Regiment, complete with its staff and equipment, will be transferred to the forward zone as soon as circumstances warrant.

Major LEAHY will be responsible for providing supervision in the establishment of both the camps for the SERVIZIO Bn. and the Reinforcement Holding Regt.

3. Thus the total strength of the R.T.C. for which accommodation will be provided will amount, (inclusive of permanent staff) to 15,000, which is considerably in excess of the paper ceiling, but it should be borne in mind that :-

(a) It is improbable that the Reception Camp will be at its full capacity of 2,500, and

(b) The Reinforcement Holding Regt., although administered and commanded by the R.T.C., is definitely surplus to Establishment and was not contemplated in the original ceiling of 11,250 (plus administration and training staff).

4. By this means the grave problems of accommodation which have hitherto seriously hampered training, appear to be overcome and every effort will be made to put these decisions into effect as soon as possible. Requirements of tentage and hutting and accommodation stores will be prepared by the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. and the necessary indents submitted through the proper channels.

5. It is understood that the personnel of the Garibaldi Division, the subject of proposal No.3, sub-paras. c and d of Appendix 'B' to G.1/1/39, will be diverted elsewhere and that no provision for their accommodation at CESANO need be made.

6. The foregoing clears up all the points raised in Memorandum G.1/1/39 of 17 March with the exception of Proposal No.4 (f) - (Assessment of holding capacity) which it is understood to be a purely Italian matter and the final authorisation of the new War Establishment for the B.L.U. at CESANO, which is being held in abeyance until after the 23 March, when the new War Establishment of M.M.I.A. is being considered.

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[illegible] and was not contemplated in the original ceiling of 11,250 (plus administration and training staff).

4. By this means the grave problems of accommodation which have hitherto seriously hampered training, appear to be overcome and every effort will be made to put these decisions into effect as soon as possible. Requirements of tentage and hutting and accommodation stores will be prepared by the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. and the necessary indents submitted through the proper channels.

5. It is understood that the personnel of the Garibaldi Division, the subject of proposal No.3, sub-paras. c and d of Appendix 'B' to G.1/1/39, will be diverted elsewhere and that no provision for their accommodation at CESANO need be made.

6. The foregoing clears up all the points raised in Memorandum G.1/1/39 of 17 March with the exception of Proposal No.4 (f) - (Assessment of holding capacity) which it is understood to be a purely Italian matter and the final authorisation of the new War Establishment for the D.L.U. at CESANO, which is being held in abeyance until after the 23 March, when the new War Establishment of M.M.I.A. is being considered.

Lieut-Col. R.A.

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LMM/ah.

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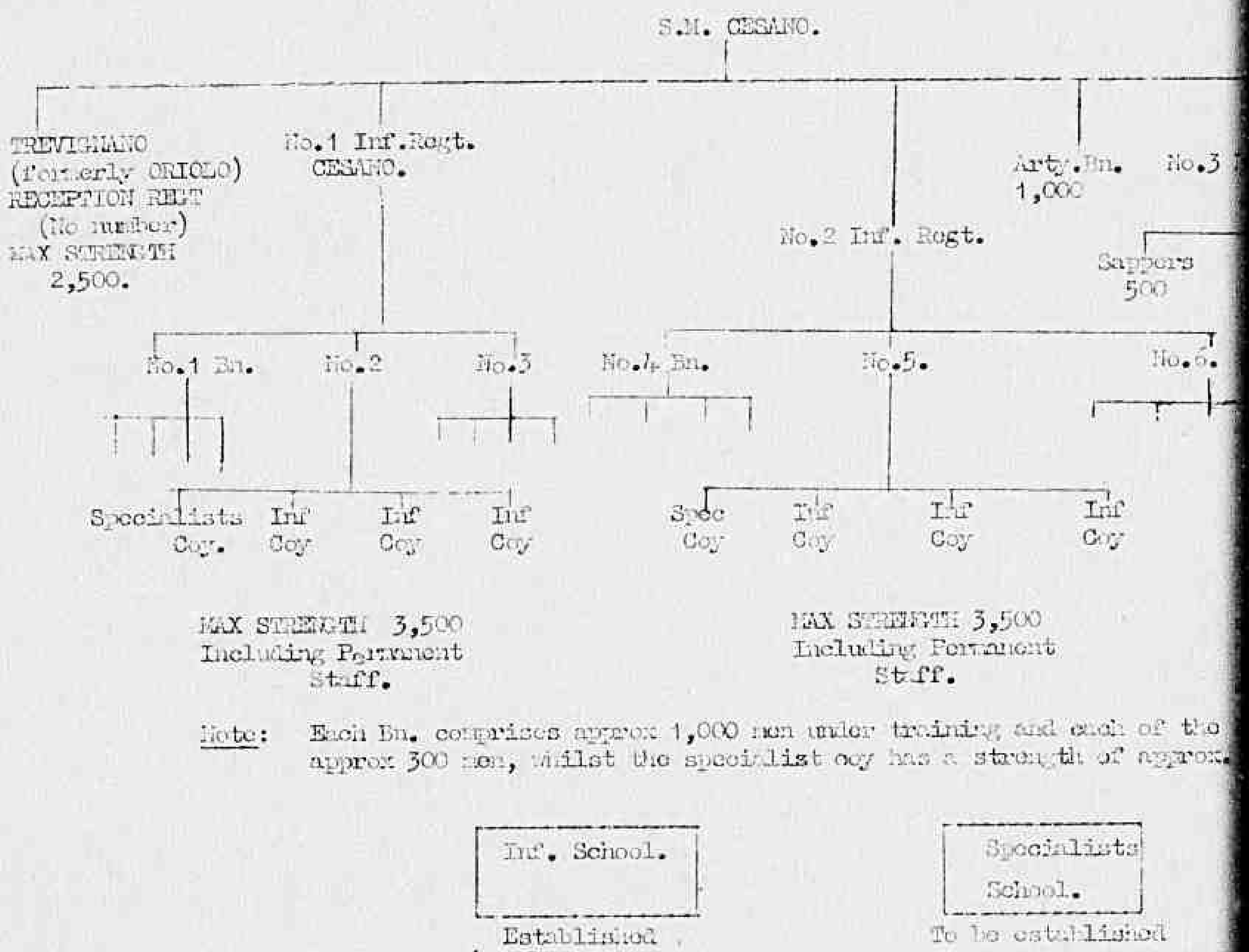

Note: Each Bn. comprises approx 1,000 men under training, and each of the approx 300 men, whilst the specialist coy has a strength of approx.

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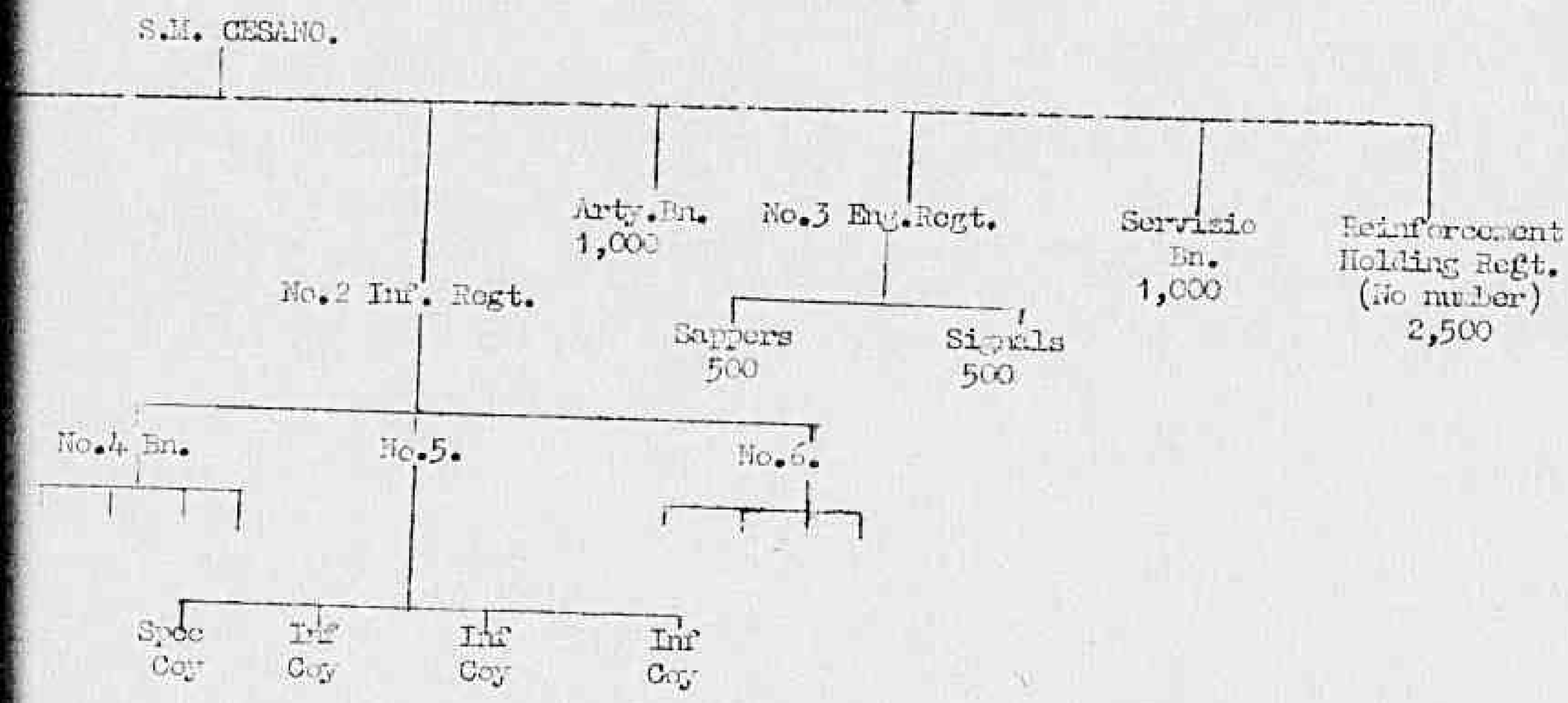

MAX STRENGTH 3,500
Including Permanent
Staff.

approx 1,000 men under training and each of the Inf Coys
lst the specialist coy has a strength of approx. 100 men.

School.

Linked

Specialists
School.

To be established

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S10 (26) 14

S E C R E T.

SUBJECT: Re-organisation of Units in CHUANG and MAKUYUANG.

'G' H.L.I., R.F.C., I.C.C.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (MLK) MOMB.

Ref: G.1/1/39.

17 March 1945.

To: H.Q.
Land Forces Sub Comm.AC (MLK) - 4 copies.

Copy for information, to:
H.Q., R.F.C., I.C.C. (2 copies).

1. The object of the present Memorandum is to indicate a means by which certain unsatisfactory factors which at present impede training and efficiency can be overcome, and to indicate the best means of absorbing and training new elements which it is anticipated may arrive in the near future.

2. The whole proposal is built on the framework contained in this office memorandum ref: MM/30/39 of 6 March, under heading "Proposed Increase of War Establishment at CHUANG".

3. To enable these proposals to be put into effect, definite authorization on a number of points is required and it is therefore suggested that a meeting should be called at the earliest possible date, when these proposals can be discussed and a reply given to the specific questions mentioned at the end of each paragraph. It is suggested that this meeting might be held at the L.I.A. Office in Kunming, to enable the responsible authority on each point to attend with the minimum of inconvenience.

4. The following gives a list of the main problems :-

(a) The present camp at CHUANG is too close to the Central School at HANZIANG, so that loud, untrained recruits are inclined to cause a disturbance and thus interfere with the concentration of the students. To overcome this, the camp is being moved during the course of the next ten days to a new location on the North shore of Lake Chaochang, in the vicinity of CHAYCHANG (MOMB), map ref: 5996. The requisite facilities for the formation of the camp, water, etc., are available. The camp is being formed to accommodate 2,000 recruits and the lo[illegible] ... however, as it is hoped

1. The object of this memorandum is to set out certain unsatisfactory factors which at present impede training and efficiency and to overcome, and to indicate the best means of absorbing and training new elements which it is anticipated may arrive in the near future.

2. The whole proposal is built on the framework contained in this office memorandum: NMI/55/35 of 6 March, under heading "Proposed Increase of War Establishment at CERANO".

3. To enable these proposals to be put into effect, definite authorisation on a number of points is required and it is therefore suggested that a meeting should be called at the earliest possible date, when these proposals can be discussed and a reply given to the specific questions mentioned at the end of paragraph 4. It is submitted that this meeting might be held at the N.M.I.A. Office in Rome, to enable the responsible authority on each point to attend with the minimum of inconvenience.

4. The following gives a list of the main problems :-

(a) The reception camp at CERANO is too close to the Central Schools at MANTIAM, so that plant, untrained recruits are inclined to create a disturbance and thus interfere with the concentration of the students. To overcome this, the camp is being moved during the course of the next ten days to a new location on the North shore of Lake Bracciano, in the vicinity of MANZIANO MONTE, map ref: 5596. The requisite facilities for the formation of the camp, water, etc., are available. The camp is being formed to accommodate 2,500 recruits and the long-term policy envisages its disbandment by mid-August, as it is hoped that the whole of the personnel will then have been absorbed into one or other of the training depôts.

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(b) The present set-up at CERANO - BRACCIANO is broadly as follows :-

No.1 Regiment of 3 Battalions, at CERANO, on Infantry training. There are no insuperable problems connected with this Regiment for which no solution can be found.

No.2 Regiment of 3 Battalions, at CERANO, on Infantry Training, to which the same remarks apply.

No.3 Regiment at BRACCIANO, comprising 1 Battalion of Artillery, 1 Battalion of Engineers (including Signallers) and 1 Mixto Bn. It is the problems connected with this Regiment which are the main subject of this discussion.

In addition, there are the various schools (D. & M. School, M.A.M. School, C.O.M.M.School, etc.) located at CERANO, which deal with Specialists. No serious problems other than those dealing with constructional delays in repair work are presented by any of these and this problem is being energetically handled.

...../2

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5. Proposal No. 1 :-

(a) That the Artillery Bn. be made a separate, independent battalion. (Ref. 4/1/1/11 of 1) Hqrs. Bn. Bn. and that it should serve all connection with No.3 Regiment.
Is this approved?

(b) That Col. [illegible], now commanding No.3 Regiment, should be given control of the Independent Artillery Bn., and that T/Col. [illegible], at present commanding, be transferred to a formed Group, where he is anxious to go and where it is understood a vacancy exists.
May these transfers be approved and put into effect forthwith?

(c) That authority should be granted by H.M.I.A. to S.M.R.E. to post the necessary small additional staff to the Independent Artillery Bn., to enable it to function efficiently as an independent unit.
Can this be done?

6. Proposal No. 2 :-

(a) That the present No.3 Regiment be re-organised on a two-battalion basis. This involves :

(i) The separation of the Artillery Bn. in the manner already suggested.

(ii) The removal of the 'Mixts' Bn. in the manner discussed in a later paragraph (6).

(iii) The division of the present composite Engineer Bn., into two separate battalions, one of which will be confined entirely to engineering, i.e. Sappers proper, and the other to Signals personnel, i.e. conversant to S.O.S., and specialist signallers for other units.

(b) The present battalion H.Q. staff of the composite Engineer Bn. will form the Bn. H.Q. of the 'Sapper' Bn.
Is this approved?

(c) A new battalion H.Q. staff under a new Lieut-Col. be formed to control the subsidiary new 'Signals' battalion. It is thought that the majority of the personnel and equipment required will become available when the whole of NOORA is transferred to MAGOLLIO. May authority be granted for this re-organisation and permission be granted S.M.R.E. to post the requisite personnel (if any are required), not provided by the NOORA staff?

7. Proposal No.3 : (Referred to in MXI/45/35 of 6 March).

(a) Application was made in the above mentioned memorandum for jurisdiction to [illegible] Regiment for power in specific purposes.

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This involves :-

(i) The separation of the Artillery Bn. in the manner already suggested.

(ii) The removal of the 'Minto' Bn. in the manner discussed in a later paragraph (6).

(iii) The division of the present composite Engineer Bn., into two groups to Battalions, one of which will be confined entirely to Engineers, i.e. Sappers proper, and the other to Signals personnel, i.e. equivalent to R.C.S., and Specialist Signallers for other arms.

(b) The present Battalion H.Q. staff of the composite Engineer Bn. will form the Bn. H.Q. of the 'Sapper' Bn.
Is this approved?

(c) A new Battalion H.Q. staff under a new Lieut-Col. to be formed to command and administer a new 'Signals' Battalion. It is thought that the majority of the personnel and equipment required will become available when the school at MOGEMA is transferred to IRACOLANO. May authority be granted for this re-organisation and permission be granted to S.M.F.S. to post the requisite personnel (if officers required), not provided by the MOGEMA staff?

7. Proposal No.5 : (Referred to ETI/15/35 of 6 March).

(a) Application was made in the above mentioned memorandum for permission to form a 4th Regiment for certain specific purposes.
Is this proposal approved in principle?

As circumstances now permit its formation, at any rate as a nucleus, essential, may this proposal be formally implemented forthwith and authority granted for the provision of the War Establishment equipment and training stores referred to in Appendix 'D' and 'E' of the above mentioned memorandum.

(b) The above mentioned memorandum visualised No.4 Regiment to comprise two Battalions, the first of which was to be devoted exclusively to 'Patriots', and the second to Specialists.
It now appears that the intention to train 'Patriots' as a unit to be sent forward, ultimately as a Rocco Unit, to one of the Groupi is not likely to be required, as the Officers have different ideas as to the constitution of the Rocco Groups. Hence, arrangements have already been made to sort the great majority of the patriots as normal reinforcements in the drafts going forward during the weeks ending March 17th and 24th respectively. Such patriots as remain will be a negligible factor.
It is presumed that this principle meets with the approval of M.M.T.A.

(c) It is anticipated that within the next five to six weeks, from 800 to 1,500 soldiers of the disbanded Garibaldi Division, will be arriving at GEDANO. It is understood that it is the intention of M.M.T.A. that :-

(i) These men shall retain their individuality as members of the Garibaldi formation.

...../8

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(ii) That they will be trained as a unit, or, if the numbers exceed 600, as two units; each unit to be regarded as a battalion.

(iii) That they will have their own officers.

(iv) That, after training and equipping, they will be posted to a Forward Group, as complete additional Battalions.

(v) That a formation letter authorising the issue of the necessary stores and equipment will be issued in the near future.

(vi) That in the meantime these men will require clothing and training.

(d) It is therefore proposed :-

(i) To form Nos. 1 and 2 Battalions of No.4 Regiment with the personnel of the Garibaldi Division.
Is this agreed?

(ii) That the equipment asked for in Appendix 'F' of D.T.I. letter (originally destined for Patriot Recce Training Bn.) shall be devoted to the the new Garibaldi Battalions.
Is this approved and may authority be granted for the issue of the necessary War Establishment equipment?

(iii) It is believed that this equipment will be adequate for the training of the maximum number of 1500 Garibaldi personnel, but it is hoped that permission may be granted for the issue of further equipment, if required, when the exact details of the type of personnel in the Garibaldi Division ranks are known.

(e) The Specialist Bn. as detailed in the above mentioned D.T.I. letter is essential and in view of the great demand for specialists, no time should be lost in forming it.
Is this agreed in principle and may the War Establishment equipment asked for in Appendix 'F' to D.T.I. letter be authorised forthwith?

6. There remains the question of the 'Misto' Bn., to which reference is made in paragraph 6 above. This Battalion is at present located at BRACCIANO and administered by the H.Q. of No.5 Regiment. Nevertheless, the majority of the training of the personnel of the Misto Bn. is carried out either at CESANO, in the various schools located there, or in Specialist locations such as Hospitals, Ordnance Depots, etc. There are no facilities for training this class of Specialist in BRACCIANO and it is felt very strongly that the Misto Bn. should be located at CESANO. Further, owing to the nature of the training, only a very small proportion of the Battalion are actually serving with it, the majority being away on attachment under instruction.

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training of the maximum number of 150 Garibaldi personnel, but it is hoped that permission may be granted for the issue of further equipment, if required, when the exact details of the type of personnel in the Garibaldi Division Italia are known.

(c) The Specialist Bn. as detailed in the above mentioned N.A.I. letter is essential and in view of the great demand for specialists, no time should be lost in forming it.
Is this agreed in principle and may the War Establishment equipment asked for in Appendix 'D' to N.A.I. letter be authorised forthwith?

8. There remains the question of the 'Misto' Bn., to which reference is made in paragraph 6 above. This Battalion is at present located at BRACCIANO and administered by the H.Q. of No.3 Regiment. Nevertheless, the majority of the training of the personnel of the Misto Bn. is carried out either at CESANO, in the various schools located there, or in Specialist locations such as Hospitals, Ordnance Depots, etc. There are no facilities for training this class of Specialist in BRACCIANO and it is felt very strongly that the Misto Bn. should be located at CESANO. Further, owing to the nature of the training, only a very small proportion of the Battalion are actually serving with it, the majority being away on attachment under instruction.

Proposal No. 4 :-

(a) That the Misto Bn. be detached from No.3 Regiment at BRACCIANO and becomes an integral part of the Specialist Bn. of No.4 Regiment at CESANO.
Is this approved?

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(b) That the Bn. H.Q. staff and administrative staff of the Misto Bn. be absorbed into the new Specialist Bn. and form the nucleus with the additional staff asked for in Appendix 'D' of N.A.I. letter of the Administrative and Command staff of the Specialist Bn.
May authority for this be granted?

9. The new No.4 Regiment (i.e. Garibaldi Group and Specialist and Misto Bn.) will be located in a tented or hutted camp in the area to the East of Lake Bracciano, in the vicinity of Lake Martignano. A suitable site is now being found. At Appendix 'A' hereto is given the total requirements of additional tentage and hutting required to implement this proposal. May authority be granted for the release of the additional tentage and hutting at the earliest possible moment?

10. In my "Recapitulation" of 15 March, paragraph 1, I asked for four Administrative officers for attachment, to supervise administrative training. Incidents are still occurring which render the presence of these officers most essential. Can permission be obtained for the attachment of these officers, and can they be sent here as soon as possible?

...../..

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11. There seems to be some doubt as to the holding capacity of the buildings at CESANO and MRACCIANO. I think it would be a great advantage if an expert in quartering could make a survey of the available accommodation and settle, once and for all, how many Italian soldiers can reasonably be accommodated in the space available.

Can such an expert be provided?

12. A summary of the requests made in this memorandum is attached at Appendix 'B' and it is hoped that the meeting asked for may be called at the earliest date, in order to provide an answer to those problems, many of which are very pressing.

13. Proposals for the new War Establishment for the R.I.U. at CESANO are contained in this office letter ref: A/GR/9 of 14 March. In view of the greatly increased responsibility of the R.I.U., which now handles training as well as administration, it is felt that the additional personnel and vehicles asked for will be very urgently required, and it is hoped that energetic steps may be taken to obtain authority for their provision.

[illegible]

Lieut-Col. R.A.

LMH/ch.

Internal:

D.A.A.G.
Staff Capt.
G.II Training.
G.II Infantry Trg.
G.VII R.T.U.
G.II Signals.
S.O.R.E.
D.A.D.M.E.
D.A.D.S.T.
D.A.D.C.S.
Provost.

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may be taken to obtain authority for their provision.

Lieut-Col. R.A.

LDB/ch.

Internal:

DAA & QMG.
Staff Capt.
G.II Training.
G.II Infantry Tr.
G.III B.T.U.
G.II Signals.
S.O.R.E.
D.A.D.M.E.
D.A.D.S.T.
D.A.D.O.S.
Provost.
File.
Float.
War Diary (2)

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

APPENDIX 'A'.
To: G.1/1/99
dtd.17 Mar.49.

HUTS AND TENTS REQUIRED FOR TEMPORARY RECEPTION CAMP
AND FOR No.4 REGIMENT.

(1) Tented Reception Camp.

	Nissen Huts (a)	100-lb. Tents (b)
Strength - 2,500, all ranks.		
Camp H.Q. 3 Bns.	26	375
(2) No.4 Regiment.		
Strength - 2,500, all ranks.		
H.Q. No.4 Regiment. 5 Battalions.	26	375
TOTAL	52	750
Less 500 Tents in hand, of which 40 are permanently allotted.		500
TOTAL required.	52	250

Notes:

(a) Huts will be used for :- Messes.
Quarterhouses,
Lecture Rooms.
Offices.

(b) Tents are calculated on :- 1 Tent per Lieut-Col. and above.

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Strength - 2,500, all ranks.

H.Q. No.4 Regiment.		
3 Battalions.	26	375
TOTAL	52	750
Less 500 Tents in hand, of which 40 are permanently allotted.		140
TOTAL required.	52	610

Notes:

(a) Huts will be used for :- Messes.
Guardhouses,
Lecture Rooms.
Offices.

(b) Tents are calculated on :- 1 Tent per Lieut-Col. and above.
1 " " 2 Officers.
1 " " 4 Warrant Officers.
1 " " 6 Sergeants.
1 " " 8 Rank & File.

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APPENDIX 'A'
D.: 9.1/2/29
(Sd.) T. Ken. M.

S U M M A R Y.

Proposal No.1.

(a) May the Artillery Bn. of No.3 Regiment be formed into an independent unit?
(b) May Col. Pelle, C.O. No.3 Regiment, be transferred to command the Independent Artillery Bn., and T/Col. Kuntnack posted to a forward Gruppo?
(c) May the requisite additional staff for the Independent Artillery Bn. be authorised?

Proposal No.2.

(a) May the present Engineer (No.3) Regiment be re-organised on a two-Bn. basis; one Sappers and the other Signals, and a new Sapper Colonel be placed in command vice Col. Pelle?
(b) May the present staff of the combined Engineer Bn. be allotted to the new Sapper Bn.?
(c) May a new Battalion H.Q. staff, recruited from the personnel coming from NOCERA, and augmented as necessary, be formed to command the new Signals Battalion?

Proposal No.3.

(a) May the formation of No.4 Regiment be approved forthwith and the necessary War Establishment equipment asked for be authorised?
(b) May approval be given and the necessary instructions issued, for the posting of 'patrioti' to forward Gruppi as vacancies become available?
(c) Is the appreciation of the intentions of M.M.I.A. with regard to personnel of the Garibaldi Division correct?
(d) May Nos. 1 and 2 Bns. of No.4 Regiment be formed from personnel of the Garibaldi Division as they arrive at CESANO?

(i) May the War Establishment equipment asked for in Appendix 'A' of D.T.L. letter be authorised and devoted to the equipping of the Garibaldi personnel in lieu of the 'patrioti' for which it was originally designed?

(ii) May further equipment be authorised if the numbers of the Garibaldi personnel exceed those originally catered for in 'patrioti'?

(e) May No.3 Bn. - the Specialist Bn. - of No.4 Regiment be formed forthwith

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(a) May the present Engineer (No.3) Regiment be re-organised as a two-Bn. Units, one Sappers and the other Signals, and a new Sapper Colonel be placed in command vice Col. Fabia?

(b) May the present staff of the combined Engineer Bn. be allotted to the new Sapper Bn.?

(c) May a new Battalion H.Q. staff, recruited from the personnel coming from NOCEM, and augmented as necessary, be formed to command the new Signals Battalion?

Proposal No.3.

(a) May the formation of No.4 Regiment be approved forthwith and the necessary War Establishment equipment asked for be authorised?

(b) May approval be given and the necessary instructions issued, for the posting of 'patrioti' to forward Gruppi as vacancies become available?

(c) Is the appreciation of the intentions of M.M.I.A. with regard to personnel of the Garibaldi Division correct?

(d) May Nos. 1 and 2 Bns. of No.4 Regiment be formed from personnel of the Garibaldi Division as they arrive at CESANO?

(ii) May the War Establishment equipment asked for in Appendix 'F' of B.T.L. letter be authorised and devoted to the training of the Garibaldi personnel in lieu of the 'patrioti' for which it was originally designed?

(iii) May further equipment be authorised if the numbers of the Garibaldi personnel exceed those originally catered for in 'patrioti'?

(e) May No.3 Bn. - the Specialist Bn. - of No.4 Regiment be formed forthwith and may the War Establishment equipment asked for in Appendix 'F' be authorised?

Proposal No.4.

(a) May the 'MISTO' Bn. be detached from No.3 Regiment and transferred to CESANO to form part of No.3 Bn. (Specialists) of No.4 Regiment?

(b) May the Bn. H.Q. of the 'MISTO' Bn. be transferred to No.4 Regiment to form the nucleus of the Bn. H.Q. staff of No.3 (Specialist) Bn.?

(c) May such additional staff as are required and asked for in Appendix 'E', be authorised for No.3 Bn., of No.4 Regiment?

(d) May additional tentage and huts asked for in Appendix 'A' hereto, be authorised?

(e) May the four officers required for administrative training be attached immediately?

(f) Can the holding capacity of the Centre be assessed by an expert?

PIGNATA:

May the new War Establishment for the D.E.U. at CESANO, contained in this office letter ref: A/6E/9 of 14 March be authorised and implemented at the earliest possible date?

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SUBJECT: No.3 Regiment.

'F' BLU. RTC. ICF.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm.
AC (MMIA) ROME.

Ref: G.1/1/8

2 March 1945.

To: Colonel S.C.W.W. Rea,
Comd. 'G' B.T.U., R.T.C., I.C.F.

Copy to: H.Q., Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (MMIA).

H.Q., R.T.C., I.C.F.

There appear to be three main problems connected with this Regiment which require fairly urgent consideration. These are :-

(1) The slow progress of the Engineering contract for reconstruction.

(2) The problem of accommodation.

(3) The difficulties associated with training.

(1) Engineering.

I visited General Cortelezza on the evening of 1 March and expressed my extreme dissatisfaction with the progress of the work and the inefficiency of the Contractor. The General promised to visit Bracciano on 2nd March and to put the fear of God into the Contractor, and if this produced no real results, to cancel the contract. I emphasized the futility of failing to make use of the large number of available soldiers - - actually only 16 are being employed, whereas 200 could be easily employed and the machinery for paying them already exists. The General has promised to give me a personal report after his visit. He has done so & has placed an additional contract with another Contractor & provided more efficient supervision.

(2) Accommodation.

Attached is a print of the Engineers' block at Bracciano. (Col Rea's Copy only)

The designed accommodation is as follows :-

Mixed Block 300 (The Schools building is not

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reconstruction.

(2) The problem of accommodation.

(3) The difficulties associated with training.

(1) Engineering.

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(2) Accommodation.

Attached is a print of the Engineers' block at Bracciano. (Gd Rear's Copy only)

The designed accommodation is as follows :-

Mixed Block	300	(The Schools building is not intended to provide living accommodation).
Signals Block	300	
Engineers Block	300	
	900	

48

In my opinion this estimate is too low, and provided I can obtain double tier beds I think each block should hold 500, giving a total accommodation of 1,500.

The actual accommodation at present is as follows :-

Mixed Block. (comprising Mechanical, Ordnance, Medical and Drivers).	-	Misto	-	359
Sigs. Block.	-	Artillery	262	
		Mech.Coy.	128	390
Engr. Block.	-	Engrs.	148	
		Sigs.	267	415
Engrs. School.	-	Engrs.	324	
		Scabies.	40	364

...../2

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This breaks down to :

Engineers - 472, all of whom could be accommodated in their proper block.

Signals - 267, who could be accommodated in their block, and leaving space for the influx from Nocera when that school is transferred to Bracciano.

Mixed - 359 Of these it appears that the Mechanics should be transferred to the Mechanics School at Cesano as soon as possible, and if accommodation for the whole number is not available, some tentage must be provided.

Ordnance should be farmed out to various Ordnance depots for training as it seems illogical to attempt to train Ordnance personnel in any other place than an Ordnance Depot. A small number could be trained at the Magazzino Centro and some attached to Regiment Ordnance stores in Cesano.

Medical.

These should obviously be trained in Hospitals and Convalescent Depots. A medical training without a supply of sick bodies to practice on seems difficult, though it might perhaps be necessary to run a short First-Aid Course at Bracciano in order to find out whether the men are in fact suited for their job. Some could be used as assistants to the British R.S.Ms. who are expected to supervise hygiene.

Drivers.

There is invariably a shortage of drivers in all arms, and all that should be needed at Bracciano is to retain such personnel for sufficient time to test their ability, when they can be posted to other Arms. Perhaps a short refresher course in British vehicles might be needed, but it is obviously absurd not to make the fullest use of a class of man urgently needed both in the Gruppi and the G.T. Companies.

By this means it appears possible to reduce the Misto factor in Bracciano very considerably, and a part of the building becomes available

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By this means it appears possible to reduce the Misto factor in Bracciano very considerably, and a part of the building becomes available for the overflow of Engineers and Signallers. Some will have to remain, but the present position whereby the Misto building becomes a dump for all those who are incapable of being trained as either Infantry, Engineers or Signallers, will be avoided.

There remains the Mechical Coy. 128, which I understand is in process of being broken up and its personnel drafted either to the Mechanics or Drivers' Schools at Cesano, or posted to other Arms. 47

Finally the Artillery 262. This was a compromise to tide over immediate difficulties. The prospect of their imminent return to the Artillery Battalion must be impressed on Col. Dehn and his G.II R.A. set about solving the problem, which is self evident that additional accommodation and training stores will be required to compete with an Artillery strength of some 1,300, with a designed basis of approximately 600.

3. Training.

Sufficient reference has already been made to the training of Misto personnel. It is felt that if these steps are put into effect at once, the Engineers and Signallers will have a better chance of getting on with their job in the manner originally intended. I think it should be submitted to S.M.R.E. that personnel of these Regiments who, after testing, show themselves to be incapable of technical training, should be transferred to L. of C. organisations not covered by the R.T.C. programme.

LHB/ah.

Internal: Major Blardland
(for information)
File.
Float.

Lieut-Col. R.A.

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