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REPORTS

1769
1773

Dec. 1946

CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT : Visit to Sardinia.12 B. L. U.
C. M. F.

(Tel : ROOM 489031 Ext : 545)

G. 34.

30 December 1946.

To : H.Q.
Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (M.M.I.A.).
-----TWO SPARE COPIES ATT. *Att.*Herewith two copies of the report by Lt. Col. Gibbon
on his visit to Sardinia.

AWG/gm.

Att
Lt. Colonel,
G.S.

1773

CONFIDENTIAL

12 B. L. U.
C. M. F.

(Tel : ROME 489081 Ext : 545)

30 December 1946.

VISIT TO SARDINIA

By Lt. Col. A.W. GIBSON, O.B.E.

16/24 Dec. 46.

1. UNITS VISITED

H.Q. SARDINIA BRIGADE.
H.Q. 59 Inf. Regt. and 1 and 2 Bns
H.Q. 60 Inf. Regt. and 1 Bn.
2 Bn. 60 Inf. Regt.
Military Prison
14 Repair Unit
Arty. Ord. Depot

CAGLIARI
"
SASSARI
MACOMER
ORISTANO
ABBIADURA
NUORO

2. BARRACKS

The barracks are all in poor condition and are in need of repairs. It is said that some of them are unfinished and that all of them were looted by various occupants during the war. It is thought that the troops could considerably improve the barracks if they tried.

3. WELFARE

Welfare facilities hardly exist. The troops are almost all Continental Italians, and must find life in SARDINIA pretty miserable. The lack of welfare facilities appears to be mainly the fault of the Ministry of War and 8 Territorial Command for failing to provide money and equipment. The officers on the spot are also to blame for not trying to improvise.

4. NOTES

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H.Q. SARDINIA BRIGADE.
 H.Q. 59 Inf. Regt. and 1 and 2 Bns
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CAGLIARI

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SASSARI

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4. M.T.

There is an almost complete lack of M.T. and spares.

5. CLOTHING

The men were in many cases dressed in rags, with no overcoats and with worn out boots. Many of the items most badly needed are in stores in the Island, but no one has issued them. The attention of 8 Territorial Command has been drawn to this.

6. WEAPONS

The Infantry have been issued with British weapons.

7. STRENGTH

Units are at 50% strength, and there is a chronic shortage of officers. Service in SARDINIA is unpopular, and officers go there with reluctance.

8. TRAINING

There are excellent training areas, but they are little used. Training appears to be unprogressive.

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9. STORAGE

There are large dumps in the Island awaiting disposal orders. See annexure 1.

10. VISITS

- a. No senior Italian officer has visited the Island recently.
- b. Gen. GOLDI REILLI says that he intends to visit the Island shortly.
- c. During my visit I was treated with the greatest courtesy and hospitality by the Italian Officers when I met.

11. MILITARY PRISON

The prison at ORISTANO is a terrible place. It is said to be moving shortly to better accommodation in CAGLIARI.

12. CONCLUSION

- a. The garrison of MUDIMIL is below the standard of the remainder of the Italian Army.
- b. This is due partly to neglect by the Italian Military authorities in ROSE, and partly to the blackness of the officers in the Island.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Frequent and searching inspections by senior officers from ROSE.
- b. Substantial improvement of amenities.
- c. Rotation of officers and O.N.'s between MUDIMIL and ITALY.

12. CONCLUSION

- a. Thearrison of LIOBHIA is below the standard of the remainder of the Italian Army.
- b. This is due partly to neglect by the Italian Military authorities in ROME, and partly to the slackness of the officers in the island.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Frequent and searching inspections by senior officers from ROME.
- b. Substantial improvement of amenities.
- c. Rotation of officers and O.R.'s between SASSINIA and ITALY.

LAC/gm.

*William*Lt. Colonel,
C.S.

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CONFIDENTIAL12 B. L. U.
C. M. F.

(Tel : ROUTE 489081 Ext : 545)

30 December 1946.

VISIT TO SARDINIA

By Lt. Col. A. W. GIBSON, O.B.E.

16/21 Dec. 46.1. UNITS VISITED

H.Q. SARDINIA BRIGADE.
H.Q. 59 Inf. Regt. and 1 and 2 Bns
H.Q. 60 Inf. Regt. and 1 Bn.
2 Bn. 60 Inf. Regt.
Military Prison
14 Repair Unit
Arty. Ori. Depot

CAGLIARI
"
SASSARI
MOLLE
ORISTANO
MILITARIA
NUORO

2. BARRACKS

The barracks are all in poor condition and are in need of repairs. It is said that some of them are unfinished and that all of them were looted by various occupants during the war. It is thought that the troops could considerably improve the barracks if they tried.

3. WELFARE

Welfare facilities hardly exist. The troops are almost all Continental Italians, and must find life in SARDINIA pretty miserable. The lack of welfare facilities appears to be mainly the fault of the Ministry of War and 8 Territorial Command for failing to provide money and equipment. The officers on the spot are also to blame for not trying to improve.

U.S. VISITOR

H.Q. SARDINIA BRIGADE.
H.Q. 59 Inf. Regt. and 1 and 2 Bns
H.Q. 60 Inf. Regt. and 1 Bn.
2 Bn. 60 Inf. Regt.
Military Prison
14 Repair Unit
Arty. Ori. Depot

CAGLIARI
"
SASSARI
MACOMERA
ORISTANO
ALBAGIATA
NUORO

2. BARRACKS

The barracks are all in poor condition and are in need of repairs. It is said that some of them are unfinished and that all of them were looted by various occupants during the war. It is thought that the troops could considerably improve the barracks if they tried.

3. WELFARE

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- 2 -

9. STONES

There are large dumps in the Island awaiting disposal orders. See Annexure 1.

10. VISITS

- a. No senior Italian officer has visited the Island recently.
- b. Gen. SOLDANI says that he intends to visit the Island shortly.
- c. During my visit I was treated with the greatest courtesy and hospitality by the Italian Officers whom I met.

11. MILITARY PRISON

The prison at OLIVINO is a terrible place. It is said to be moving shortly to better accommodation in CAGLIARI.

12. CONCLUSION

- a. The garrison of SASSINIA is below the standard of the remainder of the Italian Army.
- b. This is due partly to neglect by the Italian Military authorities in ROME, and partly to the slackness of the officers in the island.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Frequent and searching inspections by senior officers from ROME.
- b. Substantial improvement of amenities.
- c. Rotation of officers and O.N.'s between SASSINIA and ITALY.

12. CONCLUSION

- a. The garrison of SARDINIA is below the standard of the remainder of the Italian Army.
- b. This is due partly to neglect by the Italian Military Authority in Rome, and partly to the slackness of the officers in the island.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Frequent and searching inspections by senior officers from Rome.
- b. Substantial improvement of amenities.
- c. Rotation of officers and O.R.'s between SARDINIA and ITALY.

A. J. G. M.

*(Signature)*Lt. Colonel,
G.S.

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