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S.O.R. 1. ADMIN

1826
1833

June 17, 1946 - July 5, 1946

SUBJECT : War Establishment

12 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
for the
ITALIAN CENTRAL MILITARY SCHOOLS
(Tel : ROME 478808)

Ref : SO/1/

July 1946

To : Comd. 12 B.L.U.

Reference your AQ/60/1826 dated 2 July 46.

1. In view of the agreed policy that the Instructor R.Sigs of the H.Q. shall not be replaced upon the departure of Major D.R. Skinner, the question of Officers required does not arise.
2. The only Signals O.R., Sgt. Wetton will be departing on Python within a few days. If he can be replaced by an Italian speaking Sgt., it is considered that he could do valuable work at the Signal School at Cecchignola. If he cannot be replaced by an Italian speaking Sgt., it is not considered worth while to implement the establishment.
3. The Sgt. could be accommodated, as at present, with 64 Coy R.A.S.C. at Cecchignola.

R. Skinner

Major R. Sigs.
Instr. R. Sigs.
12 British Liaison Unit for the
Italian Central Military Schools
1833

Internal

File

DRS/ap

Subject:- Personnel.

(5)

12, B.L.U. for the Italian
Central Military Schools.

Tel:- ROME 478808.

Ref:-ORD/5/37.

Date:- July 5th 1946.

To:- Commander,
12 B.L.U. ✓

Reference AQ/6C/1826 of 2 July 1946 para 3.

Minimum requirements of training and administrative personnel
are as follows.

(a) 1 Clerk.

1 Storeman.

(b) It is considered that they should live centrally.

THS/vg.
File.

T. H. Shorthose
Major, D.A.D.O.S.
(T.H. Shorthose)

1632

(5/7)

(3)

SUBJECT: Code Sign. Extracts.

12 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
for the
ITALIAN CENTRAL MILITARY SCHOOLS
(Tel : ROME 478808)

Ref: SO/1/1161.

3 July 1946.

To: S.O. R.Sigs.
H.Q.
Land Forces Sub. Comd.
A.C. M.M.I.A.

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter reference X502/2
dated 1 July '46.

Major H. Staffs.
Comd. 12 British Liaison Unit for the
Italian Central Military Schools.

1831

WLP/mg

Internal.

File.

SUBJECT : Progress Report No. 17-

CONFIDENTIAL

12 BRITISH LEARNER UNIT
for the
ITALIAN NATIONAL MILITARY SCHOOLS
(Tel : ROME 470008)

Ref : 130/4/

24 June 1946

To : Comd. 12 B.L.U.
GSO III. 12 B.L.U.

To : S.O. N. Sigs.
H.Q.
Land Forces Sub Com.
A.C. (M.M.I.A.)

Ref. 12 B.L.U. Letter G/A3/960 dated 25 June 46.

1. Herewith Progress report in respect of the Italian Signal School for the month of June 1946.

(a) GENERAL PROGRESS

Progress during the month has been disappointing. This can be attributed almost entirely to courses arising from the state of uncertainty created by the elections and the subsequent prolonged doubt regarding the fate of the monarchy. The re-constituting of the barrack accommodation has suffered and the main block of classrooms, which should have been ready for occupation by 1 June, are still uncompleted. It is now hoped that they will be finished by 30 June.

(1) COURSES

No new courses have been commenced during the month and none has been completed. All the recruits courses have continued and the exact two months' duration for Switchboard Operators, Linemen and Telegraph Operators are due to finish on 15 July.

1830

1. Herewith Progress report in respect of the Italian Signal School for the month of June 1946.

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Progress during the month has been disappointing. This can be attributed almost entirely to causes arising from the state of uncertainty created by the elections and the subsequent prolonged doubt regarding the fate of the monarchy. The re-conditioning of the barrack accommodation has suffered and the main block of classrooms, which should have been ready for occupation by 1 June, are still uncompleted. It is now hoped that they will be finished by 30 June.

(b) COURSES

No new courses have been commenced during the month and none has been completed. All the recruits courses have continued and the course two months' duration for Switchboard Operators, Linemen and Telegraph Plots are due to finish on 15 July.

(c) REMARKS REGARDING THE VALUE OF COURSES

For a period of ten days over 1500 students were away on guard duties in connection with the elections. About 200 were away for a considerably longer period. Nearly 60 INO instructors have been away for approximately three weeks on duties with wireless communications established to control the elections. Consequently training has suffered throughout the month and in addition, little progress concerning the reduction of the size of classes has been possible.

(d) OTHER MATTERS

Steady progress has been made by the team of personnel engaged in the unloading and assembling of the equipment issued to the school. Some of the equipment has been found to be in a bad state and a detailed report will be submitted when the assembling has been completed.

Initial

Filed

IRS/ed

By
Haj. R. M. S.
Instr. R. S. S.

Ref. 12 B.L.U. Letter C/A3/960 dated 25 June 46.

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Progress during the month has been disappointing. This can be attributed almost entirely to courses arising from the state of uncertainty created by the elections and the subsequent prolonged doubt regarding the fate of the hierarchy. The re-conditioning of the barracks accommodation has suffered and the main block of classrooms, which should have been ready for occupation by 1 June, are still uncompleted. It is now hoped that they will be finished by 30 June.

(b)

COURSES

No new courses have been commenced during the month and none has been completed. All the recruits courses have continued and the course two months' duration for Switchboard Operators, Linesmen and Inspector Officers are due to finish on 15 July. 1830

(c)

FAIRNESS OPERATING AND THE VALUE OF COURSES

For a period of ten days over 1500 students were away on guard duties in connection with the elections. About 200 were away for a considerably longer period. Nearly 60 HCO instructors have been away for approximately three weeks on duties with wireless communications established to control the elections. Consequently training has suffered throughout the month and in addition, little progress concerning the reduction of the size of classes has been possible.

(d)

OTHER MATTERS

Steady progress has been made by the team of personnel engaged in the unchecking and assembling of the equipment issued to the school. Some of the equipment has been found to be in a bad state and a detailed report will be submitted when the assembling has been completed.

Initial

Filed

123/ap

Maj. R.Sigs.
Instr. R.Sigs.

SUBJECT : Activity at the Infantry School.

12 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
for the
ITALIAN CENTRAL MILITARY SCHOOLS
(Tel : ROME 478808)

Ref : G.I./4140

17 June 1946

To: H.Q. Central Military Schools.

1. Commencement of Courses.

The Courses which are scheduled to begin during the first week of July will contain a number of officers of fairly senior rank from the R. Aeronautica and R. Marina.

It should seriously be considered whether the accommodation and facilities of the Infantry School are sufficient to avoid unfavourable comment by the students.

As is well known to your Headquarters, the water supply at CERRANO is still far from satisfactory and that there is particular trouble in that part of the Camp where Officer Students are normally accommodated.

This water shortage has already been the probable cause of a number of cases of Scabies. It would be a bad advertisement for the Army if students of other branches of the services were to contract diseases of this nature during their stay at the Infantry School.

Moreover the living conditions for single officers and other ranks are still far from adequate. There is still no electric light in many of the quarters, the lavatories in many cases are only half built and cooking facilities for other ranks are still most primitive.

While a great many of the points raised are already covered by 829 contracts for repair work, there is little hope of any work being started alone finished, before the courses are due to commence.

Again, the transport held by the Infantry School is still only for assistant courses.

July will contain a number of officers of fairly senior rank from the U. S. Aero-nautics and R. Marina.

It should seriously be considered whether the accommodation and facilities of the Infantry School are sufficient to avoid unfavourable comment by the students.

As is well known to your Headquarters, the water supply at CESANCO is still far from satisfactory and that there is particular trouble in that part of the Camp where Officer Students are normally accommodated.

This water shortage has already been the probable cause of a number of cases of Scabies. It would be a bad advertisement for the army if students of other branches of the services were to contract diseases of this nature during their stay at the Infantry School.

Moreover the living conditions for single officers and other ranks are still far from adequate. There is still no electric light in many of the quarters, the lavatories in many cases are only half built and cooking facilities for other ranks are still most primitive.

While a great many of the points raised are already covered by 829 contracts for repair work, there is little hope of any work being started, alone finished, before the courses are due to commence.

Again, the transport held by the Infantry School is still only about one half of that allowed on the war establishment. If efficient courses are to be run there must be no worries about the availability of transport or undue restriction on petrol.

It is therefore again stressed that unless vast changes occur in the next three weeks, courses will be far below the standard required both from the administrative and training point of view.

2. Rifle Ranges.

The rifle ranges at the Infantry School are, if it is possible, worse than they were before. As has been pointed out before, what will do for a temporary effort in time of war is not suitable in peace time for a Central School. If ranges have no telephones, stop butts, properly built firing points etc., instruction becomes bad and false lessons are taught.

While Engineer built ranges must be provided the ranges could and must be improved far beyond their pre-war standard by local labour.

3. Road to Ranges and training area.

This can easily be made by the bulldozer at present at CESANCO.

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

- 2 -

Other works already referred to should take precedence. The repair of roads and squares in the Camp itself however remains an urgent problem. Good Drill and Smart Soldiers cannot be produced in CESANO as it is at present.

4. Permanent Staff.

The School Commander has informed us on several occasions that he has attempted to change officers who are unsatisfactory without any success. Without having the same intimate knowledge as the School Commander, it has been obvious to me that there are many Officers at Cesano who are not pulling their weight. It is essential that the permanent staff at Cesano is composed of the best Infantry Officers available in the Italian Army. It has been said in this respect that there are many good officers who refuse to go to Cesano on account of the poor living conditions there. This is a problem however that must be solved by other than the School Commander, either by improving the conditions at CESANO or by compulsion by disciplinary measures.

5. Decentralisation of Transport.

While for normal purposes centralised transport is the most efficient for training purposes it is essential that sub Unit Commanders can call on the vehicles allotted to them on the war establishment. In any case it is essential that training and administration be divided, the same applying to the petrol allotment.

If this is not done the training use of vehicles suffers at the expense of the administrative and recreative use of transport.

6. Return of Personnel from Public Security Duties.

It is urged that personnel on Public Security Duties be returned as soon as possible. The number of men is very small compared to the total at ROME. Moreover these are not just ordinary soldiers but Officers and N.C.s. potential instructors who must recommence their course as soon as possible.

Equally important is the prompt return of the carriers at present at ROME and CIVITAVECCHIA. Otherwise these will become in the same appalling state as the Carriers at the old S.I.V.A.

1828

While for normal purposes centralized transport is the most efficient for training purposes it is essential that sub Unit Commanders can call on the vehicles allotted to them on the war establishment. In any case it is essential that training and administration be divided, the same applying to the petrol allotment.

If this is not done the training use of vehicles suffers at the expense of the administrative and recreative use of transport.

6. Return of Personnel from Public Security Duties.

It is urged that personnel on Public Security Duties be returned as soon as possible. The number of men is very small compared to the total at HOME. Moreover these are not just ordinary soldiers but Officers and N.C.O.s. potential instructors who must recommence their course as soon as possible.

Equally important is the prompt return of the carriers at present at HOME and CIVILIAN VEHICLES. Otherwise these will become in the same appalling state as the Carriers at the old S.I.V.A.

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7. General Progress.

While good progress has been made in the preparation of exercise programmes and instructors, for the rest, the Infantry School is in almost the same condition as it was six months ago.

Before any courses are projected it is suggested that a thorough inspection of the School, its facilities, and its personnel be made. From the 12 B.L.U. side every effort will be made to speed up the arrival of the outstanding training equipment.

W.H.

Major. G.S.O.II
Trg. & Inf. Trg.
12 British Liaison Unit for the
Italian Central Military Schools

WLP/mg

Internal.
File.
Float.

SUBJECT : Disposition of Recruits in Training Coys. - Italian Sig. School.

12 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
for the
ITALIAN CENTRAL MILITARY SCHOOLS
(Tel : ROME 478808)

Ref : SO/I/1144

17 June 1946

To: S.O. R.Sigs.
H.Q.
Land Forces Sub. Comd. A.C. (LAFIA).

Reference conversation Major MORTIMER - Major SCHUBER.

1. A table showing the allocation of recruits by trades to the various Coys of the Italian Signal School is given at Appendix "A" to this letter.
2. This allocation is not in strict conformity with the figures given in the U.R. of the School but has been found, in practise, to be more convenient than that envisaged in the written U.R.

Major Instructor R.Sigs.
12 British Liaison Unit for the
Italian Central Military Schools.

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DRS/mg

Internal.

File

Dist.

APPENDIX "A".No. 1. Telegrafisti Bn.

No. 1. Telegrafisti Coy.	Total strength.	Trades.
	180	Telegrafisti 135 Appar. Telegr. 45

No. 2. Telefonisti Coy.

Centralinisti	48
Guardafili	127
Motociclisti	35

No. 3. Telefonisti Coy.

Centralinisti	48
Guardafili	127
Motociclisti	35

No. 4. Telefonisti Coy.

Centralinisti	49
Guardafili	126
Motociclisti	35

No. 2. Marconisti Bn.

No. 5. Marconisti Coy.	220	Marconisti	220
No. 6. Marconisti Coy.	220	Marconisti	220
No. 7. Marconisti Speciali Coy.	135	Elettric. 35 Radiomontatori 55	

1826

No. 3.	Telefonisti Coy.	210	Centralinisti	49
			Guarlagli	127
			Notociclisti	35

No. 4.	Telefonisti Coy.	210	Centralinisti	49
			Guarlagli	126
			Notociclisti	35

No. 2. Marconisti Bn.

No. 5.	Marconisti Coy.	220	Marconisti	220
No. 6.	Marconisti Coy.	220	Marconisti	220
No. 7.	Marconisti Speciali Coy.	135	Elettric. Radiomontatori	35 55

1828

No. 3. 'Tele - Radio' Bn.

No. 8.	Arty. Regt. Sig. Coy.	280	Regt. Sigs.	280
No. 9.	Arty. Regt. Sig. Coy.	280	Regt. Sigs.	280
No. 10.	Inf. Regt. Sig. Coy.	#	Regt. Sigs.	*
No. 11.	Inf. Regt. Sig. Coy.	#	Regt. Sigs.	*

Notes.

a. No recruits have yet arrived for training by these Coys.

A. Tradecamen have been classified by ^{their} ~~these~~ Italian nomenclature in order to avoid possibility of confusion.

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